



RESOLUTION:

**Securing our vital economic interests**

*Adopted at the YEPP Congress in Dubrovnik on 29th April 2017*

**Recognizing that:**

- European farmers, industries and citizens have never been more dependent on overseas imports for their production and consumption.
- Foreign venture capitalist and hedge fund investment patterns have increased foreign ownership of European firms in vital economic sectors, such as food production, communications infrastructure and basic goods.
- The laissez-faire economies in which traditional Anglo-Saxon venture capitalists thrive does not resemble the unique European social market economy, and is at odds with the empowerment of workers, moderate labour unions and collective bargaining.

**Acknowledging that:**

- While free trade has indisputably increased consumer choice and lowered prices for some products, it has also increased European dependency on authoritarian regimes and potential conflict areas.
- Production of basic goods and foodstuffs have recently lead to large-scale pollution and deforestation in the developing world.
- Conflicts in the South China Sea, the Horn of Africa or the Middle East can easily put a chokehold on the recovering European economy and potentially rapidly raise prices, in particular for low-income families.
- European innovators and producers in many cases have proven to produce imported goods in a more environmentally-friendly manner, only to be pushed out of business by foreign government-sanctioned dumping or corporate raiding practices.

**YEPP calls on:**

- European legislators to use the upcoming reforms of the EU Financial Regulations and the Common Agricultural Policy to reduce Europe's dependency on precarious imports.
- Member states to use their established competition authorities to ensure that vital domestic interests are not compromised and remain competitive.
- National, regional and local governments to provide more facilities for young entrepreneurs, through training, finance opportunities and incubators, in line with earlier YEPP proposals to make Europe competitive again.