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YEPP
YEAR
BOOK
2010

01

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02

/Introduction

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Youth at work!

02.1

/Preface



The European Union Institutions have made significant signals toward the youngest citizens of our continent in the recent months acknowledging the key role that the youth represent in

European issues. YEPP contributes in multiple ways in these areas.

Five notable YEPP events took place in 2010 where many positions and papers were debated and adopted. The professional organisation of our hosts in Sofia, Riga, Sarajevo and Skopje, and the Chairmen's Conference in Paris, allowed YEPP to stage training sessions and to produce its contributions, which the Board then spread and promoted. These resolutions and White Papers were fundamental in contributing to the reports put together on the "New European Strategy for Youth" report (rapporteur MEP Giorgos Papanikolaou (EL)) and the "Draft Report on promoting youth access to the labour market, strengthening trainee, internship and apprenticeship status" (2009/2221(INI)) in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (shadow rapporteur David Casa (MT)) in the European Parliament, and in contributing to the EU 2020 strategy.

YEPP also submitted a contribution on pensions to the European Commission's "Green Paper towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pensions systems" and YEPP initiated a core debate on intergenerational solidarity in the EPP.

Our interlocutors have acknowledged in their turn the value that YEPP's contributions have made to their work. This was all possible thanks to YEPP's Member

Organisations' contributions, thanks to you!

Amongst its many active alumni, YEPP extends its strong support to former Board Members Fredrik Reinfeldt (SE) and Jan-Kees De Jager (NL) in recent elections and Jyrki Katainen (FI) in his coming elections.

YEPP is proud to see its former activists on the rise, former Vice President Sidonia Jedrzejewska (PL) actively participated in defining priorities for the upcoming budget of the Union, and making Youth, Mobility and Lifelong learning 3 key priorities.

But YEPP is also at work for its member organizations. With the launch of its Factbook, YEPP provided a new tool for you to continue to foster links and incentivise you to work together.

These evidences call on YEPP and its member organisations to carry on their efforts in providing their mother parties with people and thoughts. This encourages the policy work, the training work, and the networking and campaigning work of YEPP.

And to continue and develop YEPP's contributions to the Party, Commission and European Parliament in particular, the contributions of all member organisations are very welcome. Let us continue to make YEPP not only the biggest, but first and foremost the most influential Party Political Youth Organisation in Europe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Laurent Schouteten'.

Laurent Schouteten
YEPP President

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/Board 2009-2011

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President: Laurent Schouteten

(Jeunes Populaires, France) was born in 1981 in Tourcoing (Nord) and is an engineer. He graduated with a degree in process engineering and then worked as project engineer in the agro-food industry. After a post-graduate

degree in entrepreneurship, he has been working since 2007 as international project manager in the travel management industry.

After the merger of former center-right organisations and the creation of UMP in 2002, he has held responsibility for the Forum and European issues at Fédération du Nord of Jeunes Populaires. He was then appointed as a delegate to YEPP in 2005 before he was elected Vice-President of YEPP in 2007. During the Rome Congress in 2009 he was elected seventh YEPP President.

He takes care of the International Relations of Forza Italia Giovani since 2004.

He is member of the EPP Political Assembly on behalf of Popolo della Libertà. In 2009, at the EPP Congress in Warsaw, he was appointed Head of Forza Italia Delegation and, at the EPP Congress in Bonn, as Head of Popolo della Libertà Delegation (the youngest Head of Delegation in both occasions).

In 2005 and 2006 he was an elected Member, in the Group of Forza Italia, at the "Roma 2" Municipality Council. In 2008 he was candidate for the National Parliament on the list of Popolo della Libertà and, at the last European elections, he was the youngest candidate in his Constituency (Central Italy), with the unexpected high result of 24.665 personal votes. In March 2010 he was elected Member of the Regional Council of Lazio, where he is actually Vice-Chairman of the Popolo della Libertà Group and Vice-President of the Commission for European and International Affairs.



First Vice-President: Thomas

Schneider (Junge Union, Germany) was born in 1976 and is an economist. He works for the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. in Tallinn. He has been chairman of the international commission of Junge Union since 2005 and

member of the federal Board of Junge Union. He is also European Policy Advisor and member of the advisory Board of the World Security Network Foundation (WSN). In 1990 he joined JU with the founding regional organisation of JU after the iron curtain fell.

He chairs the YEPP Working Group 1 on European Policy, is representative to the EPP Working Group 2 on Social and Economic Policy and to EPP Working Group 6 on Eastern Partnerships and the Mediterranean. He is the contact person for YEPP alumni and represents YEPP toward Yalta European Strategy (YES).



Deputy Secretary General: Brenda

Furniere (JONGCD&V, Belgium) (born 1978 in Kortrijk) lives in Waregem. She studied political science in Gent and Palermo and did a Masters Degree in European Politics at the European Institute of the ULB in Brussels. Brenda

Furniere has worked as a parliamentary assistant in the European Parliament, the Flemish Parliament and the Belgian Senate, and in the cabinet of Flemish Minister for Mobility and Public Works, Hilde Crevits, as an advisor on waterways. Currently, she works as the Head of Office of the EPP President. She has been chair of the working Group 'International Affairs' of JONGCD&V and is also very active within the women's branch of her mother party. She was elected Deputy Secretary General of YEPP in 2009.



Secretary General: Carlo De

Romanis (F.I.G., Italy) was born in Rome in 1980 and studied in Rome, Connecticut and Madrid. He earned a degree in International Political Science at the University of Roma Tre.

He worked at the European Parliament from 2002 till 2008 and at the European Commission from 2008 and 2010, in the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani (EPP Vice-President).



Treasurer: Julian T. Farner-

Calvert (KrFU, Norway) (born 1986 in Oslo, Norway) lives and works in Oslo. He studied Economics and Political Science at the University of Oslo and is currently working as Political Advisor at the Norwegian Parliament for the

Christian Democrats. Previously, he held the position of International Secretary and Vice President of the Norwegian Young Christian Democrats. In YEPP he has responsibility for fund raising and fund raising budgeting.



Vice-President: Caesar Andres (JCVP, Switzerland) (born 1982 in Muensterlingen, Switzerland) lives in Ermatingen, Switzerland. He studied International Relations in St. Gallen and Geneva. He currently works for the Office of Migration in Bern responsible for the asylum procedure. He has been active on various levels for the Swiss Christian Democrats and he held the positions of Vice-President and International Secretary of JCVP. He was elected as Vice-President of YEPP in April 2009 and his main responsibility is the YEPP web site.



Vice-President: Gernot Blümel (ÖVP, Austria) was born in 1981 in Vienna, Austria, where he currently lives. He studied Political Philosophy in Vienna and Dijon (France) and finished his Master thesis on Christian Social-Philosophy. Gernot has worked in the Austrian Parliament for the parliamentary Speaker of ÖVP on international affairs and for the 2nd President of the National Council. Currently, he is active in the Cabinet of the Austrian Minister for European and international affairs, where he is responsible for parliamentary issues. He was International Secretary of Junge ÖVP and was elected as Vice-President of YEPP at the Congress in Rome in 2009.



Vice-President: Csaba Dömötör (Fidelitas, Hungary) was born in Budapest in 1982. He earned his degree in international relations in the Corvinus University of Budapest. Csaba was elected international secretary of Fidelitas in 2004. One year later he was employed in the campaign office of the mother party, Fidesz Hungarian Civic Union. Since 2007 he has been working as an assistant of a Hungarian MEP. Currently, he is delegation coordinator of the FIDESZ delegation in the European Parliament. He specialises in energy policy and environmental affairs. As YEPP Vice-President, Csaba is responsible for communication and the working group on sustainability. He speaks English and French.



Vice-President: Paula Gómez de la Bárcena Ansorena (NN. GG., Spain) (30) was born in Madrid but she completed her studies in numerous other countries around the World (Sénégal, Paraguay, Switzerland). She is International Secretary of Nuevas Generaciones (Youth of Partido Popular) and Vice-President of the Youth European People's Party (YEPP). She studied law and she has worked in the City Council of Madrid as a political assistant since 2007.



Vice-President: Melita Kelenc (MSi, Slovenia) (married name Žihor) was born in Ptuj (Slovenia). She attended the secondary school of economics before completing her Bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship at the Faculty of Economics and Business in Maribor. She visited the Alpen-Adria University of Klagenfurt in Austria (Erasmus) for 2 semesters furthering her German language skills. Currently, she is enrolled in a masters program in International Relations at the Faculty of Economics and Business. She runs her own company and works in the field of marketing advertising. Apart from her entrepreneurial and professional activities she has displayed extraordinary commitment to New Slovenia, the Slovenian Christian party and to "Young Slovenia", of which she has been a member since its establishment in 2001. This dedication and hard work can be seen in her contributions to the municipal elections and to the national and European parliamentary election campaigns from 2004 to 2009 as well as in her work in several political positions in the "Young Slovenia" party. In 2001 she was elected president of the local Board of MSi, she served as President of the internal arbitration court within MSi from 2003 to 2005, as president of the supervisory Board from 2005 to 2007, was appointed International Secretary of MSi in 2007 and from 2007 to 2009 was elected as member of the YS Executive Bureau and appointed as International Secretary from 2007 to 2009.



Vice-President: Anatolii Korol (Democratic Alliance, Ukraine) was born in 1982 in Kiev. He studied for his Master's degree in Economics at Kiev National Economic University. During his study he chaired the Sports and Health committee of the Students' Trade Union.

Since 2004 Anatolii worked as the chief specialist in the Ukrainian Ministry of Economics making analyses and forecasts of GDP. At that same time he was elected member of the Board of the Ministry's Trade Union where he chaired commission of social-care. In 2006 he was elected as Head of the International Secretariat of Democratic Alliance. He also is a Board member and the head manager of a number of all-Ukrainian and international projects. In 2008 Anatolii fulfilled a one-month internship at EPP-ED group in the European Parliament. In 2009 he was elected as Vice-President of YEPP. Anatolii is responsible for YEPP's Internet social networks, Statute working group, YEPP's representation in the Pan European group, and deputy representative of YEPP in the Yalta European Strategy.



Vice-President: Duarte Marques

(JSD, Portugal) was born in Mação in 1981. He graduated with a degree in international relations from the Technical University of Lisbon. At the age of 21, Duarte Marques started to work in the Portuguese Council

Ministers Presidency as a Political advisor of the Minister and since 2005 he has acted as the Head of Office of the Portuguese Delegation of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. Duarte was elected for the national Board of JSD in 2006, since 2008 has been Vice-President, and in 2010 he was elected chairman of JSD. He speaks English, Spanish and French.



Vice-President: Juha-Pekka

Nurvala (KNL, Finland) 22, is originally from a town called Naantali in Finland but is currently living in London, where he is studying international politics in King's College London. He moved to London after completing his

military service in Finland, his military ranks is currently 2nd Lieutenant. Together with Bronne Pot he has written the new political program and has been the deputy representative to EPP Working Group 5 on Climate Change. His main interests are economics, international relations and environmental issues.

His experience includes: Vice- President of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) 2009-present, Team leader in a parliament election campaign 2006-2007, President of the Reserve Officers Training Corp's pupil's Council in the course 233 2008-2009 Vice-President of the international relations working

group of youth of the national coalition party 2007-2008, Project leader of the Naantali '09 session 2008-2009



Vice-President: Bronne Pot

(CDJA, Netherlands) (born 1978 in Delfzijl) lives and works in The Hague. He has been interested in politics and Christian democratic ideology for many years already and started his career within the CDA youth organisation in the

working group on European Affairs. He was elected twice as International Secretary of the CDA youth. He now works as International Secretary of the CDA. He is also secretary of the Eduardo Frei Foundation, international foundation of the CDA. In that occupation he often visits countries in Eastern Europe. He studied Political Science at the University of Twente.



YEPP Executive Officer: Helena

Boyden Lamb, born 1985 in New York became YEPP's Executive Office in the Summer of 2009. She has a Bachelor with Honors from Stanford University, California and a Masters with Honors from the London School of Economics and

Political Science, UK. She has conducted academic or independent grant-funded research in the UK, France, Italy, Greece, Russia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, and Albania. She was, previously, an archaeologist and an opera singer.

YEPP Financial Auditors:

Michael CLANCY (YFG, Ireland)

Petr JURCIK (MKD, Czech Republic)

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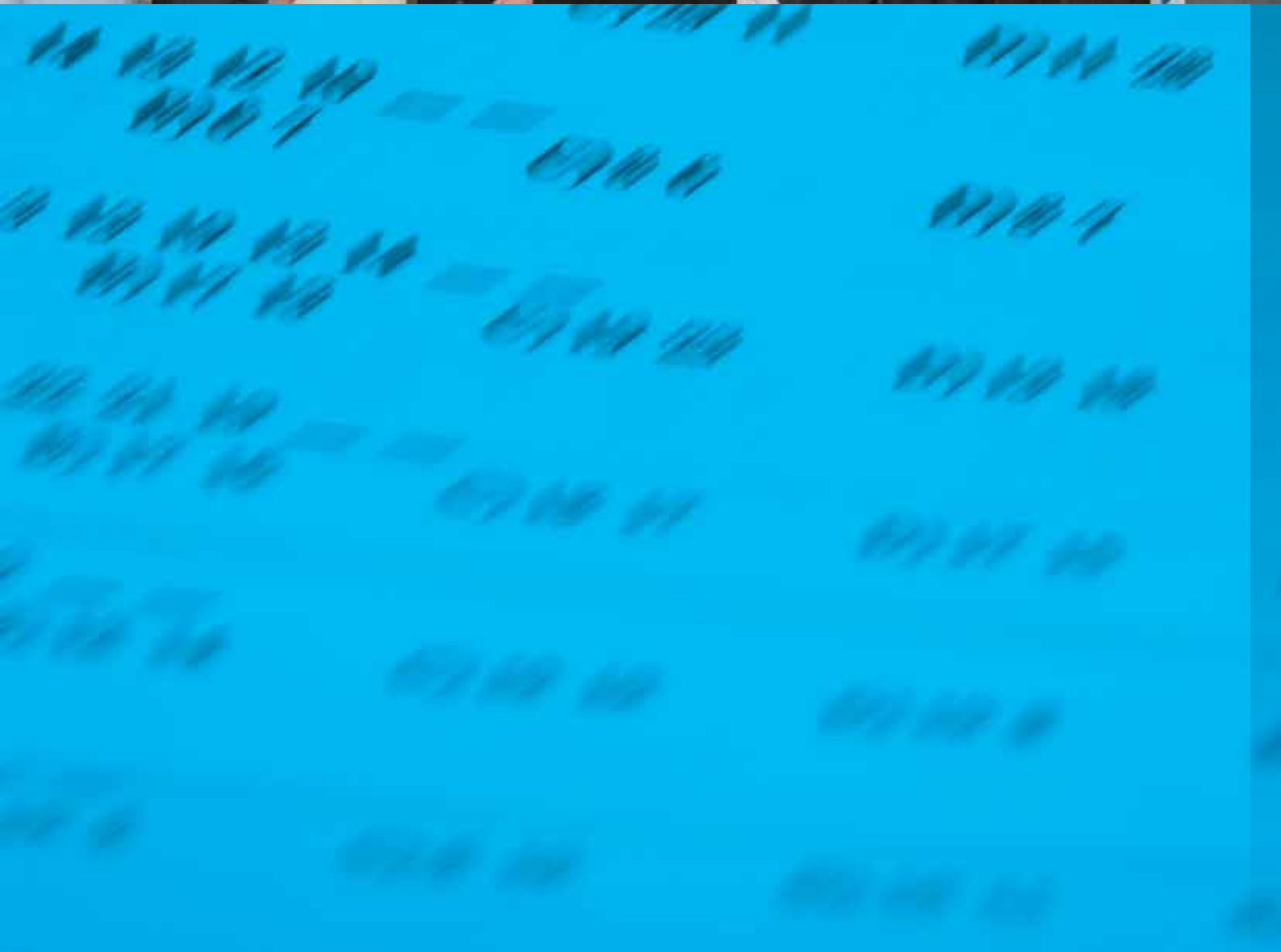
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/Basic values and Principles

Adopted at the Founding Congress in 1997

Human Dignity: YEPP affirms the inalienable dignity of every human being. Every man and every woman is unique, irreplaceable, and free by nature. Every person has the right and the duty to be fully responsible for himself and his acts. The protection of human rights is inseparably linked with the protection of the rights of ethnic, cultural and/or religious minorities.

Society: Each human being within society depends on others. Because they are free, responsible and interdependent, people must take part in the construction of a pluralist society. The family has a central role in such a society.

Values: YEPP's thoughts and political actions are based on fundamental, interdependent, equally important, and universally applicable values: freedom, responsibility, fundamental equality, justice and solidarity.

Democracy: Democracy is the only political system that supports and protects the integral development of the individual. There is no alternative to democracy and the rule of law.

Economy and Social Policy: The concept of market economy and competition is central to YEPP's approach to economic life. Together with democracy it makes freedom possible through the decentralisation of power. Economic and social systems are inseparably linked to each other according to the principle "as much market as possible, as much state as necessary". YEPP considers that it is vital to ensure social justice and solidarity based on partnership and participation at all levels, non governmental and governmental, local, national, and international.

Environment: YEPP's concept of man calls for management of the earth with respect for the self-regenerating potential of nature. Protection of the environment and the concept of sustainable development are bound up with that of responsible growth and must be incorporated into every policy, at every level of power. Political, social and economic action must be geared to ensure that all potential is safeguarded for future generations.

Peace and Security: YEPP believes in the need of a common security architecture for Europe to guarantee the peace, stability and freedom of the continent.

Europe: YEPP believes in the European Union, as it stands for a future of freedom and security, progress, prosperity and solidarity. European Union membership must be available to all countries of the European continent that meet the requirements of democracy, human rights and market economy. Hand in hand with enlargement, the EU must insist upon further integration. For YEPP there is no alternative to European integration.

Subsidiarity: YEPP believes in the sovereignty of states which enables them to work freely and as well as they can to ensure the well-being and development of their people and to defend and reinforce the international legal order. This also means, however, that states must share their sovereignty in supranational and international organisations where they cannot take effective action individually. The European Union as a decentralised community of nations and peoples, not as a unitary super state, must take in account local, regional, national and European levels according to the principle of subsidiarity.

Participation: It is the citizens of the European Union who by their support give it its legitimacy. The European Union requires the active participation of European citizens. Europe is not - and cannot be - the affair of governments alone.



/Prefaces

Wilfried Martens

President of the European People's Party



Dear YEPP Friends,

As a young man, I was elected national President of the Flemish Christian Democratic Youth Organisation, de CVP Jongeren. For four years I remained the President of the CVP Jongeren after which I became President of the mother party. As a President of the youth organisation, I set myself the task of carving out the movement's own space within the party. In keeping with our habitual spirit of rebellion at the time, my board worked on some important topics and produced three famous and rather revolutionary manifestos: "Manifesto on Autonomy", Manifesto on the Party System" and "A creative approach to the Reform of the School Pact". Each of them drew directly on the three identity building topics for my party in my generation.

My board became known as the Committee of Stars because many of its members became senior politicians afterwards and I believe it is fair to say that our manifestos became an important contribution to the intellectual heritage of the party.

By telling you this, I want to point out what I imagine to be the role of a youth organisation, especially in the case of YEPP and the EPP; to challenge and dynamise us all. Our youth organisation has a central role in the policy making procedure. It must be a source of controversial positions and a laboratory of new ideas. Youth, unlike other more mature politicians, can put forward more radical ideas and push their mother party forward. I ask YEPP to fulfil a dual role: to challenge the EPP by bringing new ideas to the table and to support the EPP with its brilliance and energy. I believe that if you, the youth of our parties across Europe, put all your energy into this, you will indeed contribute greatly.

One of the most important and challenging projects for the EPP is the updating of the Athens programme, which will be concluded during a congress at the end of 2012. This document dates from 1992, when the EPP was still substantially made up of Christian Democratic parties. The members of the EPP accepted the core values of the EPP: a vision of society and humanity inspired by Christianity, a federal Europe and a social market economy. By reviewing its basic programme and making it our platform for the 21st century, the EPP will stick to its core values but the new platform should, at the same time, reflect its enlarged membership and the new European reality. Alongside actively participating in the EPP Working Groups and the EPP Political Assembly, I am convinced that it is crucial that YEPP contributes substantially to this process, as it will shape our party for the next decade.

Dear YEPP friends,

On behalf of the European People's Party I wish YEPP success in the coming year, and the motivation and inspiration to promote our values and principles in tomorrow's Europe.

Wilfried Martens

Antonio López Istúriz

Secretary General of the European People's Party

Dear YEPP Members and Supporters,

This past year you have once again demonstrated that you are an integral partner of the largest political movement in Europe, a worthy member of Europe's centre-right family. Your initiatives, your creativity, your dedication, are all valuable resources for the EPP and a shining example of active youth participation for Europe.



Europe's greater asset is indeed the talent of her youth. Therefore, we should strive to create the necessary settings for this talent to grow and unfold. Youth employment policies and quality education will feature heavily in the 2011 political agenda.

Our common goal is a Europe that effectively attracts, educates and employs talent – your special role in this effort cannot be overstated.

It is our duty to work together so as to support an improved and more competitive European education system that attracts and retains talented young people. In a globalised academic environment, European cultural diversity is an advantage, not a burden.

At the same time, we must ensure that all this talent can be optimally employed. I witness with deep concern that in some EU countries like mine, Spain, the unemployment rate has reached an intolerable 43,6% under the socialist Government.

Except from sound economic policies that will create more jobs, already impelled by EPP governments in many EU countries, youth unemployment should be addressed with specific policy measures on employment contracts which favour stability and training. Concurrently, we should strongly encourage initiative and entrepreneurship. Europe will be blessed by dynamic, innovative young people that produce added value for the economy.

While I have been the Secretary-General of the EPP, for 7 years, our combined efforts have been to create a legal framework for the European-level parties to be able to make an impact on European politics and influence positively the future of Europe. Today, the EPP is horizontally engaged with all the main European institutions and is a welcoming political platform for your innovative ideas, your policy proposals, and your inspiration.

I am confident that once more, in 2011, you will do your best to inspire Europe!

Antonio López Istúriz

/ About YEPP's Work - Who YEPP is

YEPP is the youth organisation of the European People's Party. It brings together 56 Centre-Right youth political organisations from 38 countries all over Europe. YEPP gathers the youngsters of Christian Democratic, Conservative, and Peoples Parties. Founded in 1997, YEPP has developed into the largest political youth organisation in Europe.

Apart from being active within the structures of its mother party, the EPP, YEPP is committed in a number of other international arenas. YEPP provides ground for training, discussion and co-operation to prepare the younger generation to lead tomorrow's Europe. This, YEPP accomplishes through lectures, debates, collaboration on working papers and resolutions, and exchange of best practice. Besides the face to face work, YEPP is a hub for its members in Brussels connecting young people with each other and connecting them with experts and relevant EU news. YEPP facilitates cooperation and debate within the political family across borders and across generations. This runs parallel to YEPP's mission to stimulate further integration in Europe, to uphold its principles, policies and ideas in the European political debate.

During 2010, YUDF from Bulgaria returned actively to YEPP as an observer member. MIERT, the Hungarian Youth Council of Romania, joined YEPP as an Associated Member.

06

/ YEPP Chairmen's Conference in Paris (France) 8-11 April 2010

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Jeunes Populaires, YEPP's French member organisation, hosted YEPP's Chairmen's Conference entitled "Europe's Political Future and Emerging Technologies in Politics". One-hundred-and-eleven young politicians participated.

YEPP's Chairmen's Conference opened on Thursday evening at the UMP headquarters with a speech by **Benjamin Lancar**, the President of Jeunes Populaires, and by **Xavier Bertrand**, UMP National Secretary. He encouraged the youth to "take a stand on all issues..." to be always "willing to change things, to never be in opposition to change in the status quo." He pointed out that we all participate in "politics in the name of values." He urged the youth to "be strong and proud of our values." It was a rousing opening to the seminar's discussions.

YEPP's debates took place in the National Assembly building. There, YEPP welcomed **Dominique Paille**, UMP Spokesman, for a discussion on Europe's political future. He was full of hope for the European project. He believed that never before had a political structure been able to obtain such results based not on threat but on a consensual membership.

Hervé Morin, Minister of Defence, President of Nouveau Centre, brought an almost opposed perspective to discussions. He stated unequivocally "Europe is in a bad way". In his opinion, "Europeans have abandoned the idea of having an influence on important foreign policy matters, as representing Europe." He considered it of utmost importance in the long run, for this to be remedied if Europe wishes to preserve her independence.

He was followed by **Guillaume Klossa**, President of the NGO Europanova, a think-tank on the future of Europe that belongs to the European Council. He delivered some stirring advice to help the EU become more effective:

- Europe should reinforce her political structures; specifically the European Council.
- Europe should develop a realistic capacity to invest in knowledge and new technology.
- Demographics concerns are going to be the main challenge for Europe in the following year, the ageing of the population will be at the center of the democratic debate.

Laurent Schouteten, the President of the Youth of the European People's Party, **Aloïs Rigaut**, the President of the European Liberal Democrat Youth and **Pauline Gessant**, the President of the European Federalist Youth then held a lively debate in which they agreed that Europe should answer European preoccupations and be closer to her citizens.



Discussion then continued on the internet and technologies of information and communication. **Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet**, Junior Prospective and digital Economy Minister, criticised the fact that there is no digital policy on the European scale. Because Generation Y or "Digital Natives" now live within their networks, they constantly share information and are not keen on hierarchical relations. For Europe and for them a European Digital policy is of utmost importance.

Benoist Apparu, State Secretary, former president of Jeunes RPR, then favored YEPP with a lively speech. He stated that the internet's penetration rate of political websites is very low: only 1%, not only compared with the US (10%), but also compared with the average internet penetration's rate of 70%. Most importantly, he urged politicians to follow the trend of the times in which a political reversal is increasingly placing the citizen at the helm. For example, he outlined in France that in 2004, the political speeches only gave instructions: "listen to me". Then, in 2006-2007 the political speeches were a call for action: "do what I tell you to do". Now, in 2010 with "Createur des Possibles" a new social network on the web, the net surfer is the main protagonist of the political action. There is a complete political reversal: information comes from the citizen to the politician.

The programme closed with two external speakers each giving substantially different perspectives on internet technology in politics. **Karim Lesina**, Executive Director of EMEA Government Affairs at AT&T gave perspective from the corporate seat and discussed partnerships between government and industry. He offered the participants statistics and a technical explanation of what challenges business face in the information technology sector. **Kostas Sasmatzoglou**, EPP Spokesman, presented the newly launched EPP social media presences. The EPP is now active on facebook, twitter, my space, its webpage, Flickr, Youtube, Linked-in, Delicious, Netlog, Skyrock, Tuenti, Viadeo, studivz.net, and Hyves. **Antonio López-Istúriz**, EPP Secretary General, spoke to the youth of their responsibility in the European project. He outlined his own trajectory and encouraged the youth in their beliefs and careers. **Ravi Singh**, CEO and Founder of ElectionMall, finished the conference off with discussions of technology's use in the recent US elections which had the participants on the edges of their seats.

YEPP's working day included working groups, a Chairmen's Meeting, and a Council meeting. In these YEPP debated and adopted a number of resolutions on the Mediterranean Union, banning drugs in head shops, strengthening EU partners, tightened sanctions on Iran, nuclear weapons, and high-speed broadband internet in Europe. At the end of the conference the chairmen and representatives of the different member organisations signed a joint statement on enhancing European youth mobility which the Chairmen had debated and amended in a separate Chairmen's meeting.

Adopted Documents

- Chairmen's Joint Declaration ENHANCING EUROPEAN YOUTH MOBILITY
- Resolution TRANSFORMING THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM WORDS TO ACTION
- Resolution THE BANNING OF MEPHEDRONE AND THE REGULATION OF "HEAD SHOPS"
- Resolution A STRONGER EU WITH MORE STRINGENED PARTNERS
- Resolution TIGHTENING SANCTION AGAINST IRAN CONCERNING THE REGIME'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME
- Resolution HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET IN EUROPE



07

/Activities



07.1

/YEPP seminars in 2010

07.1.1

/ YEPP Seminar in Sofia (Bulgaria) 18-21 February 2010

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MGERB, YEPP's observer member in Bulgaria, hosted YEPP's Seminar entitled "Young people in politics; national and European dimension." Eighty-three youths participated.

During the first day of the seminar the participants were addressed by numerous ministers, members of parliament, Sofia's Mayor, the Chairwoman of the National Assembly, and the Prime Minister. Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria told participants: "you are the representatives of the new generation of politicians in Europe; the future of the EPP is in safe hands. I rely on you for a stronger and united society." He continued by pointing out that "governments need to listen to the voice of the young more often, because their unencumbered social, political and economical engage-

ment will contribute to the stability and security of the European Union." This was the start of a series of meetings with representatives of the executive and judicial government.

Participants discussed a plethora of topics. Some discussions focused on Bulgaria itself such as the political will of the new government of Bulgaria, anti-corruption measures, conditions of European funds, synchronization of criminal law with the countries from the European Union, the counteraction to trans-border crime, the energy project "Nabucco", and climate change. Other topics were more general such as debates on the role of the young people in the judicial government, the policies for safety and anti-corruption measures in old and new members of the European Union, hardships facing



ADOPTED DOCUMENTS

- Sofia White Paper YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICS – NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN
- Resolution THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
- Resolution INTERNET FREEDOM
- Resolution ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- Resolution FAILING BANKS RESERVE FUND

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young entrepreneurs during the global financial crisis, and perspectives and challenges in youth policy. A particularly fruitful discussion surrounded ideas for forming a National Youth Council and the Strategy for Youth in Bulgaria. The guests shared how this has been done in their countries.

After the visit to the Council of Ministers, the participants visited the National Assembly where they attended a section of a meeting in the plenary hall: politics in action!

The third day of the seminar was dedicated to debates in YEPP's customary working groups and Council meeting. In these, YEPP debated and adopted the seminar White Paper "Young people in politics; national and European dimension." The participants also sustained debate on resolutions on renewable energy, internet freedom, illegal immigration in the Mediterranean Sea, and a potential failing banks reserve fund.

In an interview for the Bulgarian National Radio, Laurent Schouteten, President of YEPP, shared that "The target of the visit was the participation of young people in politics and to familiarize YEPP with the Bulgarian institutions. In this case Bulgarian youth can be an example as a large number of youngsters are involved actively in politics."



07.1.2

/YEPP Seminar in Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina) 16-19 September 2010

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A few weeks before the October 2010 national elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, YEPP was hosted by the Youth Association of SDA in Sarajevo for a YEPP seminar on the topic 'The Future of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans.' SDA hosted sixty-one participants from twenty-six countries. It was YEPP's first seminar in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH). The meetings took place in the parliament building and in the conference centre of the Holiday Inn which acted as the Olympic village in the Olympics hosted in Bosnia & Herzegovina. This location marked by international cooperation was coincidental but fortuitous.

Speakers included **Salmir Kaplan**, the President of the Youth Association of SDA, on 'The Role of the Youth

in Bosnia and Herzegovina' and Laurent Schouteten, the President of YEPP, on 'The Role of the Youth in European Enlargement'. Panels on the second day were entitled: International Perspective on EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans, The Challenges ahead for EU Enlargement – What are the prospects for the Western Balkans?, Religious communities of the Western Balkans and Secular Society, and Economic Development of the Western Balkans. A distinguished list of speakers included:

- **Bakir Izetbegovic** (MP, Head of the Bosnian Delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in the meantime Bosniak Member of Presidency of BiH)



- Sarajevo White Paper ENLARGEMENT AND INTEGRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
- Resolution FREEDOM OF MINORITIES IN TURKEY
- Resolution MONITORING BELARUS
- Resolution MONITORING UKRAINE
- Resolution PENSIONS
- Resolution ROMA
- Resolution SUPPORT TO THE EU's COMMON POSITION ON CUBA
- Resolution SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- Resolution EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK 2010

- **Haris Lukovac** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, General Affairs Division, Assistant Minister)
- **Edin Dilberovic** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Minister-Counsellor, Head of Department for OSCE, CE and Regional Initiatives)
- **Halid Genjac** (MP and President of Parliamentary Commission of EU integration)
- **Martin Raguz** (MP)
- **Mustafa Mujezinovic** (Prime Minister of Federation Entity)
- **Maja Rimic – Bjelobrck** (Direction for European Integration)
- **Emir Kovacevic** (Interreligious Council)
- **Mario Brkic** (Interreligious Council)
- **Olja Jovanovic** (Interreligious Council)

The participants obtained knowledge during the panel sessions and during their visit to the historical Museum of Sarajevo, the museum of the First President of BiH Alija Izetbegovic, to four religious communities and the old part of Sarajevo city. This contributed to the working groups on the seminar White Paper on The Future of EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans. Extensive debate and negotiation took place on the content of the White Paper in the working group and later in the Council meeting. Similarly, lively debates surrounded the resolution on the Roma. At these meetings participants also discussed resolutions on freedom of minorities in Turkey, monitoring Belarus and Ukraine, pensions, supporting the EU's common position on Cuba, sustainable development and European mobility week.



07.1.3

/ YEPP Seminar in Skopje (FYROM) 2-5 December 2010

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YEPP held its December Seminar, entitled "Youth Educational Programmes - Factor for Mobility of Students (Mobility Creates Opportunities)" in Skopje, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from the 2-5 December 2010. Sixty-two young people participated. YEPP was hosted by YEPP observer member organization Youth Forces Union of VMRO-DPMNE.

The seminar examined student mobility in its guise of facilitating integration. Panel titles included:

- Training Youth to be Future Leaders Politically and Civically
- Youth Educational Programmes - Challenges, Benefits, Results
- Investment in education is investment in the future of the country

- Mobility of Students- 20 Years of the fall of the Berlin wall

YEPP was honoured by a speech from the Prime Minister Nicola Gruevski who spoke lengthily and eloquently about the need for high quality of education for young people in his country if it wished to achieve European standards. The Minister of Education, a Representative of KAS, numerous Members of Parliament and academics also addressed the participants during the short stay. YEPP was also welcomed in the country's parliament.

In YEPP's Sarajevo Seminar the topic was Enlargement and Integration on a general canvass. Now YEPP looked at a more specific case study context of this issue. The



YEPP Seminar in Skopje (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) 2-5 December 2010

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seminar discussions picked apart the specific repercussions of education and mobility in the context of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where this is a very current and active debate. Impacts of these discussions touch both EU and non-EU countries in key policy areas, and, therefore, these topics interest all.

YEPP also held its customary working groups and Board and Council meetings in which it honed, amended and voted on working documents following these topics. The White Paper entitled "Mobility Creates Opportunities" was adopted and discussions took place on resolutions about fiscal discipline in the EU, a strengthened transatlantic relationship, a unified European voice in international institutions, the EU's development policy, economic integration of South Eastern Europe, and forest protection.

- Skopje White Paper MOBILITY CREATES OPPORTUNITIES
- Resolution CALL FOR FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN THE EU
- Resolution STRENGTHENING THE EU-US TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP
- Resolution A UNIFIED EUROPEAN VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
- Resolution THE EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY
- Resolution ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE
- Resolution FOREST PROTECTION

Due to a lack of quorum because of the closure of European airports due to the snow storm at the Skopje Council Meeting final approval was agreed in YEPP's next Council Meeting of Caserta on February 5, 2011.



07.2

/ YEPP Summer School in Riga (Latvia) 1-4 July 2010

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YEPP Summer School 2010 was hosted for the first time by the Youth of Latvia People's Party and took place in Jurmala and Riga. Riga is the capital and largest city of Latvia, a major industrial, commercial, cultural and financial centre of the Baltics, and an important seaport, situated on the mouth of the Daugava river. Jurmala is the resort on the sea situated closest to the capital. The seminar was entitled "Sustainable Development as Viable Post-Crisis Strategy" and seventy-five youths participated.

On Friday participants had three sessions in the Latvian Parliament. The first session was about Latvia's Strategy 2030, with speakers **Edgars Zalans**, Vice Chairman of the People's Party, and Professor **Roberts Kilis**, Chairman of Strategic Analysis with the

President of Latvia. The second session was about the key development dilemmas in Latvia and the EU with speaker Professor Morten Hansen, Stockholm School of Economics in Latvia. The third session was about the monetary system and challenges en-route to the Euro in Latvia with speaker **Ilmars Rimševics**, President of the Latvian Central Bank.

The participants then exchanged best practices in the form of presentations about Sustainable Development as Viable Post-Crisis Strategy in their national contexts.

As part of the Summer School, while the Board members had their Board meeting, participants had the opportunity Friday evening to visit the largest milk-processing enterprise in Latvia and taste some of the products.



On Saturday speakers **Maris Riekstiņš**, International Secretary of the People's Party, Ex-foreign Minister, and **Aivis Ronis**, Foreign Minister, Member of the Group of Twelve Experts to Develop a New NATO Strategic Concept, discussed "How does the EU and NATO Foster Development and Security of Latvia and the Baltic Sea Region?". Then participants had a discussion with **Ieva Plaude-Relingere**, Council Member, Entrepreneurs' movement For Good Latvia, about social dialogue in Latvia and the EU.

YEPP participants visited Riga with their YLPP hosts. They had a welcome reception at Hotel Elizabeth hosted by **Andreas Klein**, regional representative for the Baltic states of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, which was a generous sponsor of the Summer School. They also saw

major touristic attractions of the city and ended up at the party headquarters.

At the end of Summer School the participants worked on a resolution which was adopted in YEPP's Sarajevo Seminar produced by YLPP on sustainable development strategies in the European Union enriched by the discussions over the course of the programme. To strengthen the quality of the YEPP White Papers, hosting organizations were required starting in summer of 2010 to present their first draft of the paper already during the previous seminar. As a consequence, the Youth of SDA presented their White Paper in Riga and there were preliminary discussions and amendments.



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/Permanent Working Groups

/ Working group # 1: European Neighbourhood and Foreign Policy

Central to the debate in the YEPP Working Group # 1, chaired by Thomas Schneider and Bronne Pot, has been YEPP's definition of neighborhood policy, a further development of the concept of an EU privileged partnership with Turkey and EU's foreign policy. A certain focus has been given to democracy and building democratic states. The Working Group has crafted fruitful debates especially with external experts from the political and scientific community.

/ Working group # 2: Sustainable Development

In the focus: Forest protection

The main project of the working group on sustainable development chaired by Csaba Dömötör and Juha-Pekka Nurvala was to focus on forest protection, a significant factor of climate policy. As an outcome of the debate in this issue, a resolution was adopted during the Council in Skopje of December 2010. In the document, YEPP pushed for making forestry a more significant pillar of the post-Kyoto international climate agreements. The resolution also stated that the issue of forest protection should be better reflected in the EU's external policies. The environmental and trade agreements should involve compulsory legal elements regarding forest protection. According to YEPP, beyond environmental standards and restrictions, market based mechanisms should play a prominent role in the preservation of forests (such as the EU's Emission Trading Scheme). The adopted resolution also pushed for financial assistance for developing countries that are most exposed to forest degradation. However, these mechanisms must comply with the highest accountability and transparency standards. The working group will continue to promote an intensive dialogue among the youth regarding environmental issues to keep them on top of the EU's agenda.

/ YEPP Political Programme

Over the course of 2010, YEPP has been working on the document which it will vote on in its VIII Congress to be its new political programme. Vice-Presidents Juha-Pekka Nurvala and Bronne Pot wrote the draft document which has been discussed on a number of occasions with the member organisations and also in the Board. In it YEPP highlights issues which are of great concern. With this document YEPP hopes to present guidelines for the further development of a Europe in which everyone is able to succeed and fulfill his / her own potential, at the same time taking care of the youth living within our societies.





/YEPP in Cooperation with other Youth Organisations

European Democrat Students Cooperation

YEPP President Laurent Schouteten and European Democrat Students (EDS) President Bence Bauer attended many of each other organisation's events in 2010. Coordinating the two organisations' interests are well served by keeping up to date on discussions and events.

The European Youth Forum

After a period of absence YEPP returned to the European Youth Forum (EYF). Laurent Schouteten participated at EYF's congress in Ukraine and voiced YEPP's wish to revive a stronger relationship. As a consequence YEPP has a team of delegates coordinated by one head overseer to follow EYF.

European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

In the framework of European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF) and in the follow-up of the participation of Brenda Furniere, Deputy Secretary General, to a study trip on sexual health rights in Uganda, delegations of European youth political parties were invited to a seminar in Copenhagen. YEPP was represented by Brenda Furniere, Laurent Schouteten, Melita Kelenc Zihor, and Caesar Andres. Following different workshops YEPP, LYMEC, ECOSY, the European Greens and DEMYC adopted a common declaration called "The Copenhagen Declaration committing to advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people". At the YEPP Council of 20 February in Sofia, YEPP fully adopted the text. YEPP was as such the first European political youth organization to do so.

Brenda Furniere was also invited by the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development to participate in Vienna at their XVIII World AIDS Conference 2010 from 18 - 20 July 2010. She gave a speech on youth leadership as a Young Decision Maker at the Parliamentary Side Event on the Integration of SRHR and HIV/AIDS which was jointly organised by the Austrian Parliamentary Group on Reproductive Health and the Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development in cooperation with sister networks and the support of UNFPA.



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/ YEPP's Visibility

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YEPP Contribution to the European Institutions

In 2010, YEPP contributed to the "New European Strategy for Youth" report (rapporteur MEP Giorgos Papanikolaou (EL)). YEPP's contribution re-emphasised the view of MEP Papanikolaou, the former chairman of YEPP Member Party ONNED, Greece, the belief that young people should be made aware of their responsibilities and of the different ways of participating in society. Young people should have a say on the formulation of policies today for tomorrow.

YEPP also contributed to the "Draft Report on promoting youth access to the labour market, strengthening trainee, internship and apprenticeship status" (2009/2221(INI)) in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (shadow rapporteur David Casa (MT)) in the European Parliament. YEPP underlined the calls in the report concerning the "incentivisation of private and public employers to hire young people", further more "measures introduced to combat early school leaving" and finally the call "for a permanent youth task force in order to monitor, enable cross-section policies, share best practice examples and initiate new policies." However, YEPP also drew attention to a number of concerns in the areas of: work and education, the transition from traineeship to a full job, and controversy over the right to jobs.

YEPP also submitted a contribution on pensions to the European Commission's "Green Paper towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pensions systems". YEPP stressed its concern that the younger generation would eventually turn out to be unable to bear the burden that is put on its shoulders or that it will start to question the rationale behind the current system. YEPP is of the opinion that the principle of solidarity between generations should serve as a base to deal with this issue. The present generations indeed have the obligation to make sure that the pressure on the younger generation to bear the expanding costs of our welfare system remains reasonable and just. On the same topic, YEPP initiated a core debate on intergenerational solidarity in the EPP with a resolution presented in the EPP Political Assembly.

YEPP Factbook

YEPP has produced its first Factbook in emulation of the EPP Factbook which has proved such a valuable resource. The Factbook contains information on YEPP's Member / Observer / and Associated Member Organizations. It will be available online as a tool for all to use and will be updated frequently.

YEPP Newsletters

YEPP Newsletters are another initiative the current Board has initiated. The Newsletters include articles, reports of activities, reports from member organisations, and other information dependent on each issue. The intention is to publish these more frequently next year.

YEPP Communication and Technology

YEPP's website is a hub for information spreading and its Facebook group is a hub for communication. The seminar schedules and results are made available through these mediums along with newsletters, press releases, pictures, mission statements, etc. YEPP also keeps an extensive database which it puts at the disposal of its members to facilitate its goals.

Press Release on Belarus

After the violent crackdown on the manifestation of the Belarussian opposition on the eve of the Presidential election on 19 December 2010 several member of YEPP organisations were imprisoned. Of the many who were arrested, many were activists from youth organisations like YEPP Permanent Observers Malady Front and Youth Christian Social Union "Young Democrats". Many of them now face five to fifteen years of sentence. The list of the arrested include Anastasia Palazhanka and Dzmitry Dashkevich, leaders of Malady Front, and Anatol Liabedzka, chair of EPP observer United Civil Party. Just before Christmas YEPP issued a press release to raise awareness.

/ YEPP Participation in the EPP

YEPP Board members participated in EPP Working Groups throughout the year, Laurent Schouteten and Carlo de Romanis in Working Group 1 on European Policy, Thomas Schneider in Working Group 2 on Economic and Social Policy, Bronne Pot in Working Group 3 on Enlargement and EPP Membership, Caesar Andres in Working Group 4 on CAP, and Csaba Domotor in Working Group 5 on Climate Change.

YEPP President Laurent Schouteten participated to the EPP Political Assembly in Brussels from the 4-5th of February 2010.

He represented YEPP as well to the EPP Political Assembly in Vilnius, Lithuania from the 10-11th of May 2010 where he gave an introduction of YEPP. **Laurent Schouteten** gave a short overview on the history and structure of YEPP. He pointed out that the current focus of YEPP lay in training, networking, experience sharing and taking common stands through statements among its 56 members out of 38 countries. The Board of YEPP has also decided to focus on Foreign and Neighbourhood policies and Sustainable development in their two working groups. According to Laurent Schouteten, the future aim of YEPP was to take extra actions in order to gain visibility, improve consistency of contributions through statements and to improve day-to-day management.

At the November 18-19 Political Assembly in Brussels YEPP presented its resolution on Pensions adopted in Sarajevo on September 18th 2010. Laurent Schouteten, YEPP President, and Juha-Pekka Nurvala, YEPP Vice-President, participated at the Political Assembly along with Wim Soons and Caroline Deiteren, both of YEPP Belgian Member Organisation JONGCD&V. The resolution was presented by JONGCD&V and co-signed by Junge Union originally in Sarajevo and, therefore, they attended to assist in the debates. The resolution sparked lively debate, particularly with the EPP Seniors Association and was referred to be discussed more extensively in the EPP's Working Group 2 on Economic and Social Policy in the beginning of 2011.



/ YEPP adopted Documents in 2010

YEPP Seminar in Sofia (Bulgaria) 18-21 February 2010

- Sofia White Paper YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICS – NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN
- Resolution THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
- Resolution INTERNET FREEDOM
- Resolution ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
- Resolution FAILING BANKS RESERVE FUND

YEPP Chairmen's Conference in Paris (France) 8-11 April 2010

- Chairmen's Joint Declaration ENHANCING EUROPEAN YOUTH MOBILITY
- Resolution TRANSFORMING THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM WORDS TO ACTION
- Resolution THE BANNING OF MEPHEDRONE AND THE REGULATION OF "HEAD SHOPS"
- Resolution A STRONGER EU WITH MORE STRINGENED PARTNERS
- Resolution TIGHTENING SANCTION AGAINST IRAN CONCERNING THE REGIME'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME
- Resolution HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET IN EUROPE

YEPP Seminar in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) 16-19 September 2010

- Sarajevo White Paper ENLARGEMENT AND INTEGRATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS
- Resolution FREEDOM OF MINORITIES IN TURKEY
- Resolution MONITORING BELARUS
- Resolution MONITORING UKRAINE
- Resolution PENSIONS
- Resolution ROMA
- Resolution SUPPORT TO THE EU's COMMON POSITION ON CUBA
- Resolution SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- Resolution EUROPEAN MOBILITY WEEK 2010

YEPP Seminar in Skopje (FYROM) 2-5 December 2010

- Skopje White Paper MOBILITY CREATES OPPORTUNITIES
- Resolution CALL FOR FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN THE EU
- Resolution STRENGTHENING THE EU-US TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP
- Resolution A UNIFIED EUROPEAN VOICE IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
- Resolution THE EU DEVELOPMENT POLICY
- Resolution ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE
- Resolution FOREST PROTECTION

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/YEPP Member Organisations

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	Albania Forumi Rinor - Partia Demokratike		Italy Forza Italia Giovani Giovani Unione Democratici Cristiani e di Centro Giovani Unione Democratici per l'Europa Junge Generation in der Südtiroler Volkspartei
	Austria Junge Volkspartei Österreich		Latvia Tautas Partijas Jaunatnes Organizacija
	Belarus Young Front** Youth Christian-Social Union**		Lithuania Jaunieji Krikščionys Demokratai
	Belgium Jong Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams Jeunes du Centre Démocrate Humaniste		Luxemburg Chrëschtlech Sozial Jugend
	Bosnia & Herzegovina Youth Association of SDA		Malta Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista
	Bulgaria Mladedzki Sajuz na Demokratichnite Sili Young Union of Democratic Forces* Mladi Graždani za Evropeisko Razvitie na Bulgaria*		Moldova Noua Generatie a Partidului Popular Crestin Democrat
	Croatia Mladez Hrvatske Demokratske Zajednice		The Netherlands Christen Democratisch Jongeren Appel
	Cyprus Youth of the Democratic Rally		Norway Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom Unge Høyres Landsforbund
	Czech Republic Young Christian Democrats		Poland Stowarzyszenie "Młodzi Demokraci"
	Denmark Cura Ungdom		Portugal Juventude Social Democrata
	Estonia Isamaa ja Res Publica Liidu Noorteühendus		Romania Organizatia de Tineret a Partidului Democrat-Liberal* Magyar Ifjúsági Értekezlet***
	Finland Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto Suomen Kristillisdemokraattiset Nuoret r.y.		San Marino Giovani Democratico Cristiani
	France Jeunes Populaires Jeunes Centristes*		Serbia Omladina Demokratske Stranke Srbije Omladinska eza G17 PLUS
	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) Youth Forces Union of VMRO-DPMNE*		Slovak Republic Nova Generacia
	Georgia Akhalgazrda Memarjveneebi Saqartvelos Akhalgazrdobis Qristianul-Demokratiuli Asotiatzia		Slovenia Mlada Slovenija Slovenska Demokratska Mladina Nova Generacija Slovenske ljudske stranke
	Germany Junge Union Deutschlands		Spain Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular Unió de Joves
	Greece Organossis Neon Neas Dimokratias		Sweden Kristdemokratiska Ungdoförbundet Moderata Ungdoförbundet
	Hungary Fidelitas		Switzerland Junge Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz
	Ireland Young Fine Gael		Ukraine Democratic Alliance All-Ukrainian Youth Public Organisation "Young Rukh"

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