

# YEPP YEARBOOK 2005

Youth  
of the European  
People's Party



**2005**

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of the European  
People's Party

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## Preface

### David Hansen, YEPP President 2005-2007

#### Making it happen vs. seeing it happen

In my eyes YEPP rests solely on the power of conviction that we, young political leaders and activist, can shape the Europe we want. Many may argue that this is completely naief. Still that is exactly what we do. We believe that there is a chance for us to make it happen instead of just seeing it happen. If we lost this conviction we'd lose the point of politics all together.

In retrospective most things are easier to understand than in the midst of it. In spite of this I am still doubtful when looking back on last year. In retrospective 2005 gives a mixed feeling. - A mix of hope and sadness. Even if most years tend to bring both bitter and sweet experiences, I dare say that this was particularly true for 2005. Let's look closer at the experiences of last year concerning our conviction; that we can mobilise to make things happen the way we want rather than leaving it to pure chance.

Arriving literarily on an enormous wave - a tsunami - the year 2005 was bound to offer devastation and horrifying experiences. This natural disaster, so big and brisk it lacks comparison, moved our collective attention to pause for several weeks on the countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. Like so many times before the poorest were hardest hit. Furthermore when tourists side by side with locals got washed away some of the wealthiest nations in the world were also directly affected. In the aftermaths of the tsunami another great wave rose. - Also this something of an unprecedented current. Only this time it was made by human nature. A solidarity movement rose and collected gigantic sums of money to the disaster affected. It proves a strong point beyond mixed feelings of bitter and sweet. Right at the threshold to this remarkable year 2005 we could see how so many took part in a mission impossible to counter the disastrous effects of a tsunami.

Not long after the global eye paused again, this time in Auschwitz. On the 60th year commemoration of the Holocaust we were all remembered not ever to forget the pledge made upon the experiences of the 2nd World War. - To never again make history as dreadful as this. On the same backdrop rose yet another unprecedented current in our own Europe. The seed was set for "the European Project". The vow to "Never Again" was to get its European instrument. One of the strongest political aspirations for 2005 was to modernise this instrument and equip it with a new constitutional treaty for the European Union.

Out of the winter came spring and equally predictable (at least every second year!) it was now time for a new YEPP Congress. The new, strong and united French youth movement "Jeunes Populaires" of the UMP hosted us in Paris. With the Congress-slogan "A Political Ambition for Europe" a new mandate for leadership of YEPP was given. Together with 13 board members I got the great privilege to lead our European co-operation of party-political youth organisations. Together with my fellow board members I am grateful for the support. We are all working to prove us worthy of it.

In April the death of Pope John Paul II brought global attention to the Vatican. The Catholic Church lost a great shepherd and the whole world a remarkable lead-character. Again we experienced a mix of hope and sadness, but this time more of the first than



the latter. Amongst many things the late Pope will be remembered to have lit a light that helped cut through the darkness of Communism. He alone proves a strong point that one can make things happen rather than just watching sheer coincidence shape developments. This way he remains a strong role-model.

It wouldn't be possible to describe 2005 from a European perspective without a reflection on the great disappointment of the constitutional treaty referenda in France and the Netherlands. This clear set back naturally had consequences for almost all of our political plans for 2005.

At our June-Council meeting in Belgrade we adopted a resolution that urged European leaders to show statesmanship. We said that for us the ideas behind are more important than the exact treaty text. We want this value-oriented approach to serve guidance for the way forward. We also said that continuing with the same proposal even after plenty of reflection seemed very unlikely. However granting time for reflection doesn't take away the responsibility for European leaders to lead.

Our call was particularly directed to our own mother-party. For both historical and contemporary reasons the EPP holds a special position for European integration and the European Project. The EPP won the last European elections using the slogan Your Majority in Europe. Moreover the EPP is holding majority both in the European Parliament and the Commission. That majority cannot step aside from the duty to reform the European Union.

We need to realise that support for necessary reforms and continued European integration demands a fundamental change in the way citizens are approached by the EU. To this end we must support our mother party. Statistics have shown that youngsters have great scepticism towards a lot of EU's works. Indeed young people's trust and participation in political processes are quite limited in general. YEPP has a great task here. Young people

more than any other citizens need to see Europe reformed. But young people also demand straight answers. Therefore we must stay firm in our belief. The objective is a Union best capable where European action is foreseen. This also means that we should oppose ambitions of moving matters to Brussels where nothing is gained by surpassing national or local authorities. Being consequent here would probably help a lot to convince citizens that European institutions are built for their purpose and governed accordingly. This should be fundamental for a Centre/Right European policy.

Moving more into the summer some complete opposite events again illustrated how this year contained both hope and sadness. Global leaders met in Gleneagles for the G8 Summit. The Live8 concerts together with the White Band-campaign mobilised millions of people all over the world for the slogan: Make Poverty History! In Belgrade we also decided to join this global campaign. It was time to see some real "making it happen". Then suddenly some terrorists did it their way and completely distorted our focus. Their action was a series of suicide bombs in London. And more of similar sort was to be seen many, many times later during the year. It is enough to mention Sharm El Sheikh and Baghdad, and so many other Iraqi cities. None of these despicable acts of terror can be tolerated.

We stand firm behind Prime Minister Blair's words when he said that "our determination to defend our values and our way of life is greater than their determination to cause death and destruction to innocent people in a desire impose extremism on the world. Whatever they do it is our determination that they will never succeed in destroying what we hold dear in this country and in other civilised nations throughout the world."

The G8-leaders proved up to it when they didn't let the terrorists destroy their Summit. Thus the Gleneagles Declaration offered important momentum on several parts, particularly on cancellation of poor countries' debt and financing for development. It's not that this is sufficient, but it can help to move the world a good number of steps forward. Now the greater task will be to deliver on the pledges made. There's surely a need for dedicated watchdogs to follow this purpose, and I am sure that YEPP will be one of them.

A lot more could be said when a whole year is to be summed up. My aim was not to cover history of last year completely, but rather to provide for my main message. – A party-political youth organisation is fundamentally about making it happen rather than seeing it happen. Let us never forget that.

YEPP has some clear ambitions cross-cutting all our activities. We want to influence European policy-making. We want stronger youth participation in party-politics. We want vivid democracy all over Europe. We are young party-political activists that want to take part in the shaping of Europe. That is the reason behind having an all-European youth organisation like ours. Again let us never forget that.

This Yearbook documents a lot of our work last year. However well written and illustrated it can never replace the experience of taking part and meeting us directly. Therefore a special thanks to all of you who took part in, or contributed to, the many great activities in 2005. You've been part of making it happen!

*David Hansen*  
*President of YEPP*

## Preface

### Minister of State of Belgium, Chairman of the European People's Party



2005 was the first full year for the European Union of 25. High unemployment and a palid economic growth provoked the pessimistic dialogue that plunged the Union in a deep crisis after the negative referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands. The EPP went immediately into action in its various organs and with dynamism known to the young YEPP played an important and engaged role in all the organs of the mother party.

The EPP forged stronger links with its international counterparts, think-thanks, foundations and organizations including the CDI, International Republican Institute (IRI), The Conservative Party of Canada, the International Democrat Union (IDU) – which will also be to the benefit of YEPP in the coming years.

At the end of the year the first signs were showing of unemployment edging down, business confidence was on the rise which could set the

stage for an economic re-launch. The rapid economic growth of the EU's new member countries provides further impetus to the European recovery.

2005 was for YEPP an important year with the election of a new dynamic Board headed by its new Chairman David Hanssen that undertook financial and statutory reforms. It further focused on the engaging political developments in the Balkan region with a Conference in Belgrade.

2006 will be a celebratory congress year with the 30th anniversary of the EPP at which after the reflection period the party will spell out the roadmap for a dynamic political debate on its future. YEPP prepared itself intensively during 2005 and I knew that the mother party count on all in YEPP to engage in thoughts for solutions for the major challenges ahead e.g. the fight against terrorism, preservation of peace and democracy, changes in the world's climate, our aging demography and energy depletion – after all it is the next generation and thus YEPP's future that is our concern.

## Preface

### Ján Figel, European Commissioner, Responsible for Education, Youth and Culture



*Dear young friends,*

I consider the year 2005 an important one for European youth policy. For the first time in the history of European integration, youth policy represented a separate issue at a meeting of the Heads of States and Governments in March 2005. This resulted in the adoption of the Summit special conclusions, namely in the European Youth Pact (EYP). We have been working for some years on

raising awareness about the impact of different EU policies on young people. The EYP, with its focus on sectoral but also horizontal issues connected to areas such as education, training, social policy and employment, mobility, research and the reconciliation of family and working life regarding young people, provides a new, special legitimacy for European youth policy. When we manage to combine this approach with implementation of Youth programme and with mainstreaming youth aspects into other policy domains, we really can address problems common to young people of Europe more efficiently and credibly.

Very important factors for the success of youth policy are inter alia the two principles of coherence and participation. We need to work closely and in the same direction on all public policy levels – be it local, regional, national or European. And secondly, young people should not be treated as an object of this policy, but become also its subject. The involvement of youth organisations must be an integral part of our policy. I see participation as a condition for the functioning of democracy. Here I see a clear role for the YEPP and its member organisations.

Youth – it is not a problem or a question. It is our source of vitality and our future. And the future begins today, now, in the present. The word “present” has also another meaning in English: it is a “gift” – young people are gifts for family and for society and we should treasure them in this way – with care and responsibility.

I wish you every success in your coming activities and look forward to your individual and collective contributions to the future of Europe.

## Preface

### Antonio López Istúriz, Secretary General of the European People's Party



2006 will be a key year for the building of Europe. And in order to fulfil that task I thank you for your work in 2005 and appeal to you to keep the effort in this year and the decisive years to come.

Now is the time for political initiative, innovation and renovation in Europe.

Many questions about Europe still need to be answered. As always, we wish to involve in that process the citizens of Europe, who will be always at the centre of our policies.

At our XVII Congress in Rome held in March 2006 we indicated the path to be followed in many domains of this process.

Developing, for example, the principle of subsidiarity. Explaining who has to do what and in what circumstances. And explaining it in a language that people can understand.

This will be without any doubt our bigger success. Only those who have the political strength and coherence to shape the strong Europe that we want will have the political leadership for the XXI Century.

Today more than ever it is time to return to political reality, not to get lost in purely theoretical discourses or approaches that are totally removed from reality and from our more urgent necessities and aspirations as Europeans.

Some claim that Brussels is moving away from citizens, that the institutions and the development of political life from the centre of the European Union separates us irremediably from the real views of the people.

I think our Congress showed that in the case of the EPP the effect has been exactly the opposite.

The EPP has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate in its day-to-day work that it is drawing closer to Europeans, that it defends clearer policies closer to their aspirations, that it is building a participatory and local Europe.

And I also know that this is the foundation of your work, that the YEPP is moving forward with great hopes and preparation and a decent desire to participate in political life, with all the creativity of your initiatives and with all the honesty of your project, which we share.

In the end, this return to political reality is also a call for political honesty that we cannot disregard.

And it is also a call for leadership capacity.

To play a role, to carry out our policies we need organisations like yours that are a source of initiative, of political momentum and of determination in the co-ordination of our efforts.

Because if we, in the EPP, in every one of our parties, in every one of our associations, joined in a truly common undertaking, want to promote together a different Europe, then the solidarity that underpins our conception of the Union of values must be sincere, and we have to defend it.

I have no doubt that you will make your energy and your creativity serve this challenge, and that together we will work for the EPP to be the party of the future of Europe.



## Values and Principles

### YEPP Basic Values and Principles *(adopted at the YEPP Congress, Paris (France), 29 March 2006)*

#### Human dignity

YEPP affirms the inalienable dignity of every human being. We regard every man and every woman as 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

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

#### Democracy

We consider that democracy is the only political system supporting and protecting 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 in our approach to the economic life. Together with democracy it makes it possible to achieve freedom through the decentralisation of power. The economic and social systems are inseparably linked to each other according to the principle "as much market as possible, as much state as necessary". We consider 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

Our 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

We believe in the need of a common security architecture for Europe to guarantee the peace, stability and freedom of the continent.

#### Europe

We believe 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 the enlargement must go further integration. For us there is no alternative to European integration.

#### Subsidiarity

We believe in the sovereignty of states which enables them to work freely and as good 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 into 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 legitimation. The European Union requires the active participation of European citizens. Europe is not – and cannot be – the affair of governments alone.

# Statutes

## YEPP Statutes

### Definition and Purposes

#### Article 1

Youth organisations of member parties of the European People's Party (EPP), the former European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) and the European Democrat Union (EDU) join together in the "Youth of the European People's Party" (YEPP).

#### Article 2

YEPP shares the basic values and principles of EPP, the former EUCD, and EDU and therefore claims the status of youth organisation of these organisations.

#### Article 3

YEPP has as principal purposes:

- > to develop the contacts and exchanges between the youth movements of different states and regions of Europe, by allowing them to meet and compare their experiences;
- > to encourage and promote initiatives of any kind towards their member organisations, especially those which are facing a rough political or financial situation;
- > to develop the important themes of the general political debate, to develop clear political strategies and to take own initiatives;
- > to participate in any initiative taken by the European Union or the Council of Europe, likely to contribute to a better knowledge of the process of co-operation and integration in Europe;
- > to develop contacts between the youth of Europe and of other continents, in particular of America, Africa, and Asia as well as with young Americans, Africans and Asians living in Europe;
- > to participate, by representing the views of YEPP, in the work of EPP and EDU;
- > to participate in the activities of different platforms and co-ordination structures of youth in Europe and to encourage its member organisations to do the same at their national level.

### Membership

#### Article 4

YEPP members are those political youth organisations who subscribe to the Basic Values and Principles as set out in the Preamble and the statutes of YEPP.

#### Article 5

Observers are those organisations who share the principles of YEPP and who want to be informed about and participate in the activities of YEPP without voting rights. This status can be permanent or temporary. Observers may apply for membership after a period of at least 6 months.

#### Article 6

YEPP will be represented in EPP and EDU by its representatives whose mother parties are member of the relevant structure.

#### Article 7

Within YEPP member organisations can form groups and /or hold co-ordination meetings as long as they do not compete with YEPP.

### Seat of the Organisation

#### Article 8

The seat of YEPP corresponds to the seat of EPP and is the place of the General Secretariat where YEPP will be recognised as a non-profit organisation, according to the legislation of the country.

### Organs

#### Article 9

Organs of YEPP are: the Congress, the Council and the Board.

### Article 10 The Congress

- A) The Congress is the supreme organ and takes place at least every two years. The Congress will convene on decision of the Council. The Council decides on the location, time, agenda, languages, and the rules of procedure of the Congress. The Congress can only take decisions when it has been convened according to the statutes and a quorum of 50% plus one of the delegates has been reached.
- B) The Congress elects the Board and two Financial Auditors, taking into account the need for a balanced representation. The Congress will decide on the political guidelines and the working plan of YEPP and on statutory amendments. The Congress will decide upon recommendation of the Board with a two thirds majority of the statutory delegates on the acceptance or exclusion of members.
- C) Congress delegates are:
- the YEPP Board members without voting rights concerning membership questions, statutes and elections;
  - the delegates of the member organisations.
- D) The number of votes is composed according to the following criteria:
- one basic vote for each organisation;
  - number of members per organisation: (additional votes)
    - > above 50.000 members: 1 vote
    - > above 100.000 members: 2 votes
    - > above 150.000 members: 3 votes
  - result of the mother party at the last national election:
    - > above 5%: 1 vote
    - > above 10%: 2 votes
    - > above 20%: 3 votes
    - > above 30% and more: 4 votes
  - absolute number of votes for the mother party at the last national election:
    - > above 250.000 votes: 1 vote
    - > above 1.000.000 votes: 2 votes
    - > above 2.000.000 votes: 3 votes
    - > above 5.000.000 votes: 4 votes
    - > above 10.000.000 votes: 5 votes
    - > above 15.000.000 votes: 6 votes
    - > above 20.000.000 votes and more: 7 votes
  - Organisations from countries below 1.000.000 inhabitants shall have a maximum of two votes.
  - Organisations from countries below 5.000.000 inhabitants shall have a maximum of five votes.
- E) The number of votes of each member organisations is stated by the Board on the proposal of the Secretary General before every Congress. The relevant day is the same day three months before the start of the Congress. If a member organisation does not agree with the amount of its votes, it can make an appeal to the Congress. Casting a vote demands the presence of the delegate.
- F) Decisions are taken in principle with the absolute majority of the votes. Changes of the statutes are taken by a three fourth majority.
- G) The electoral rules are fixed in the rules of procedure for the Congress.

### Article 11 The Council

- A) The Council is the supreme organ of YEPP between two Congresses and should meet at least three times a year, but in any case must meet twice a year.
- B) Members of the Council are:
- the members of the Board;
  - one representative of each member organisation with one vote;
  - one representative of each observer organisation without voting right.
- C) Tasks of the Council are:
- formulation of political standpoints;
  - decision on the granting of observer status;
  - recommendations to the Congress on the acceptance of new members;
  - election of Board members/Financial Auditors in the case of vacancies;
  - approval of the budget for the forthcoming year and the adoption of the financial report for the previous year.
- D) The Council can only take decisions when a quorum of 50% plus one of its members is reached.
- E) One of the Council meetings in the year between the Congresses is the Chairmen's Conference.

## Statutes

### YEPP Statutes

#### Article 12 The Board

- A) The Board is responsible for the daily work of YEPP and meets at least four times a year.
- B) Member of the Board are:
- the President;
  - the First Vice-President;
  - nine Vice-Presidents;
  - the Secretary General;
  - the Deputy Secretary General.
- C) Task of the Board are:
- implementation of the decisions of the Council and the Congress;
  - representation of YEPP towards other institutions and organisations;
  - preparation of the Council meetings;
  - recommendations to the Council and the Congress concerning the acceptance and exclusion of members and observers.
- D) At its first meeting after the Congress, the Board will elect among its nine Vice-Presidents one with special responsibility as Treasurer.
- E) The Board can only take decisions when a quorum of 50% plus one of its members is reached.
- F) Candidates to the Board must be under the age of 35 years at the date of the election. Every country can have two representatives at most in the Board and every organisation can be represented by only one person at most in the Board. The mandates of the Board members who have not attended at least half of the meetings of the Board in the twelve months following their election become automatically vacant.

## Authorities

#### Article 13 The President

The President represents YEPP internally and externally. The President chairs the Congress, the Chairmen's Conference, the Council and the Board. The First Vice-President deputises for the President in the President's absence.

#### Article 14 The Secretary General

The Secretary General manages the daily business and executes the decisions taken by the authorities. The Secretary General is responsible for the correct administration and use of the budget. The Deputy Secretary General assists the Secretary General.

## Finances

#### Article 15

All financial questions including membership fees and the role of the Treasurer are fixed in ANNEX I.

## Various

#### Article 16

The working language is English. At the Congress interpretation of additional languages will be provided.

#### Article 17

YEPP can dissolve itself by a three fourth majority of the member organisations at a Congress.

#### Article 18

The statutes take effect immediately once the Founding Congress is opened. Statutory amendments take effect immediately after their adoption.

## Statutes

### YEPP Statutes

#### ANNEX I: Finances

##### The Treasurer

1. The treasurer, in consultation with the Presidency and the General Secretariat, establishes the annual budget and the accounts of YEPP and submits these to the Council. The Treasurer is responsible for finding new financial sources. The Treasurer controls the spending of the financial means which are at the disposal of the General Secretariat.
2. The Treasurer reports to every meeting of the Council on the current financial situation and submits to a meeting of the Council the budget for the year which contains the projected income and expenditure. The budget should contain an itemized account of expenditure for administration and activities.
3. The Treasurer must be consulted on all main financial transactions.
4. The Treasurer renders up the accounts on the basis of the information given by the Secretary General.
5. The accounts together with the report of the Financial Auditors are submitted to the Council.

##### The Financial Auditors

6. The two Financial Auditors will be elected by the Congress with a non-renewable mandate. They verify the accounts of YEPP and present an annual report to the Council. The Financial Auditors cannot be members of the Board.

##### Payment of the subscription

7. Members and observers must pay, not later than 31 May of each year, their membership fee as established by the Council. Membership fees payable by observers are fixed at the same level as those charged to members with the lowest voting rights.
8. Without prejudice to any other measures which may be decided upon by the Council, those members whose fees remain outstanding by 1 June of each year, will have their right to vote at Congress and Council meetings automatically suspended. If the membership fees remain outstanding on 31 December of the year which follows, the status of the organisation concerned will be suspended. The organisation cannot regain its status without a favourable decision of the Council and after having paid the arrears of membership fees outstanding.

#### ANNEX II: Admission of new members and observers to YEPP *Approved by the YEPP Council in Warsaw (28-06-97)*

1. All youth organisations must apply for a temporary observer status before they can become members of YEPP. The period as observer must last at least 6 months (see Art. 5).
2. The status of permanent observer will be provided for organisations whose international structures do not allow a membership in YEPP according to Art. 1 of the statutes.

## YEPP Political Programme:

We stand for Europe!

### For full programme :

see : [www.YEPP-EU.org](http://www.YEPP-EU.org)

## YEPP Social Economical programme:

Social Europe: More Freedoms - More Opportunities for All!

### For full programme :

see : [www.YEPP-EU.org](http://www.YEPP-EU.org)

## YEPP Board

Board members 2005-2007



**President :** David Hansen (KrFU, Norway) was born at Lørenskog, close to Oslo (Norway) in 1978. He studies law at the University of Oslo. Between October 2001 to October 2005 he worked as Political Adviser to the Minister of International Development in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is member of the Norwegian Young Christian Democrats (KrFU) since 1993. Before being elected as President of YEPP he was Vice President for four years (2001-2005). At National level he served as President of KrFU for three years (1999-2002).



**1st Vice-President :** Robert Golanski (MD, Poland) (25), was raised in India, where his family lived for 5 years. Senior year at the European Centre of the Jagiellonian University, Cracow. First Vice-president of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP). Former International Secretary, currently member of the National Council of "Młodzi Demokraci" (MD), the youth organisation of "Platforma Obywatelska". Member of MD since 1996. Elected Council Member of the Ochota District in Warsaw (2000-2002). Previously worked for a RP Agency in Warsaw and a member of the Polish Parliament. Since 2003 Robert is employed at the Press Service of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament.



**YEPP Secretary General :** Martin Humer (Junge ÖVP, Austria) (30) was born in Linz, Upper Austria. He is studying law and at the moment he is working in Brussels as political advisor for the Austrian EU-Presidency. Before he was Secretary General of Junge ÖVP. He was also lecturer on constitution and basic rights for persons doing civilian service on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and also lecturer on

campaign management. He was consultant in different Austrian elections and political advisor and press officer to the Executive Director of ÖVP Upper Austria.



**Deputy Secretary General :** Huibert van Rossum (CDJA, The Netherlands), was elected as the deputy secretary general of YEPP. He works as policy advisor on European affairs for the CDA delegation in the Dutch parliament. Within YEPP he has the responsibility for member organisations, Afrika and education. Furthermore he is involved in membership issues and application of organisations for YEPP.



**Vice-President :** David Cermak (MKD, Czech Republic) (26), studies law at the International University of economy and law in Prague and works as a political advisor to a Vice Prime Minister and Minister of transport-Milan Simonovsky. He is a member of Young Christian Democrat in the Czech Republic and since 2001 he is in a position of the chairperson in this organization. In 2005 elected as a Vice-president of the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP). Since 2002 he is a member of a city council in a home town Strani, where he is also a member of the board of the local branch of the KDU-CSL (Christian Democratic Union - Czechoslovak Peoples Party).



**Vice-President :** Paula Gómez de la Bárcena Ansorena (NN.GG, Spain) (26) was born in Madrid but she made her studies in other countries around the World (Sénégal, Paraguay, Switzerland). She is Secretary of European Affairs of Nuevas Generaciones (Youth of Partido Popular) and Vice-President of the Youth European People's Party (YEPP). She studied law and she works in a public enterprise of Madrid since 2005.

## YEPP Board

### Board members 2005-2007



**Vice-President :** Galina Fomenchenko (CDMU, Ukraine) from Ukraine, born in Vladikavkas (Russia). Graduated from University in Zhitomir in 1998, studied finances. Chairwoman of CDMU (Christian-Democratic Youth of Ukraine) regional organisation (1997-2000) and CDMU International Secretary (2001-2005). Worked as Parliamentary assistant, Press Secretary of political party "Reforms and Order", in strategic

department of "Nasha Ukraina" campaign 2002 and Presidential elections 2004 (during Orange Revolution). Currently working as Political Adviser at the EPP Headquarters in Brussels.



**Vice-President :** Giannis Smyrliis (ONNED, Greece) (27) was born in Athens (Greece). He studied Master of Arts in international relations and European studies. He graduated of the department of political science and public administration and graduate of the experimental school of the university of Athens. In the past he worked for a social insurance company of Greece [stage programs of European union

2 years]. He is still Secretary of International Affairs as well as member of the Board and Central Committee of ONNED.



**Vice-President :** Christian Holm (MUF, Sweden) (29), is First vice-president and International secretary of Moderata Ungdomsförbundet (MUF), the Swedish Young Conservatives, youth organisation of the Conservative Party, Moderaterna. He studied the International business and administration program at the University of Karlstad between 1998 and 2002 with parts of the study period at

the University of Hohenheim in Germany. Elected Council Member of the City Council of Karlstad (2002-2005). Since 2003 Christian is employed as political advisor for the party Moderaterna.



**Vice-President :** Jeroen Vanden Berghe (30) studied Archeology at the University of Ghent, information sciences at the University of Antwerp and International Affairs at the University of Leuven. Former political advisor of former Justice Minister Tony Van Parys and Science Policy advisor at the University of Ghent. Since September 2004 he is a political advisor to Flemish Minister-President Yves

Leterme. Former national board member and international Secretary of JONG-CD&V. Since April 2005 he is Vice-President of the Youth of the European People's Party. At local level, he is CD&V President of Ghent, the second largest city of Flanders.



**Vice-President :** Christoph Israng (JU, Germany) studied business administration at WHU Koblenz, Germany, Lancaster, UK and Mexico City. He is married and has a little baby boy. Christoph is also a member of the board of Junge Union Germany and Bavaria. He is currently working as a staff member of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag.



**YEPP Executive Officer :** Ann-Pascale Mommerency (jong CD&V, Belgium) (32) studied communication and marketing. She was working for 2 years at the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice. Afterwards she was Parliamentary Assistant to a member of the Federal Chamber and worked during 3 years in the European Commission. Within JONG cd&v she was 3 years International

Secretary. Nowadays she is member of the CD&V Committee for International Affairs and chairman of JONG cd&v in the city of Kortrijk. Ann-Pascale is member of regional board of the Flemish young SME-Union. Since September 2002 she is working as Executive Officer at the YEPP Office.



**Vice-President :** Stefano Morelli (FIG, Italy) (29) is born in Italy and actually lives in L'Aquila, a beautiful town in the middle of Italy. He is since 2003 Vice-president of the YEPP. He is actually member of the board of directors of the Corporation Centro Turistico del Gran Sasso d'Italia. He works at the main data processing corporation in L'Aquila, SED spa. He is also member of national board of Forza Italia Giovani.



**Vice-President :** Vincent Richez (Jeunes UMP, France) (30) is born in Marseille (France). He graduated in masters in European law in 2001. He is former chairman of Jeunes Européen - JEF France (1999-2001) and Member of the council of the European Movement in France. He contributed to the creation of "Jeunes populaires" - UMP in 2003 when the three former organisations (Gaullistes, Liberals, christian democrats) decided

to merged in a new political part of youth. He became international officer of Jeunes Populaires in the first national team. Due to his contributions the French could become full member in YEPP. He is chairman of the international committee of Jeunes populaires in 2005. Professionally he is Assistant of a French MEP in the EPP-ED Group of the European Parliament (since 2002).

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## YEPP Seminar: Larnaca (Cyprus): 3-6 February 2005

### The Middle East - EU Relationship : Political, economical and cultural aspects

Between 3-6 February approximately 90 delegates participated in what resulted to be a fruitful and fun filled Seminar/Council in Larnaca. The special theme of the Seminar focused on "The EU-Middle East Relationship: political and cultural aspects".

Arrival on Thursday was uneventful apart from the last minute rush of many delegates for the quick sightseeing tour of Christian and Muslim monuments which the city of Larnaca is proud of. In the evening the President of the Democratic Rally (DI.SY.) Mr. Nicos Anastasiades hosted the Welcome Dinner and gave a short speech to the delegates. Present at the Dinner were also representatives from Turkish Cypriot Youth Political Organisations. Later the delegates continued their entertainment on the sea front in a cosy bar called "Times".

Friday morning the real work of the seminar began. After the address of YEPP President Daniel Bautista welcoming all the delegates, the different panels of speakers started unfolding. Dr. Christos Iacovou, Middle East expert, discussed security and stability issues in Middle East. There followed a panel discussion of academics from the region, a Palestinian and an Israeli one, professors Munther S. Dajani and Daniel Levy. The discussion was lively and kept uninterrupted the attention of all the delegates.

Next in line was the "Interfaith Dialogue" panel. This panel included Sheik Nazim Kiplisi (a Mufti based in Lefka ), Chief Rabbini Mordechai Piron from Israel and Orthodox Archimandrite Isaiah. If the delegates were expecting to doze off during that panel they soon realised that these preachers could really convey their thoughts and vision and keep them at the edge of their seats. Dr. Eleni Theoharous, MP and Observer of the Republic of Cyprus to the recent Palestinian Elections spoke next. She spoke of the promotion of Human Rights and Democracy in the Middle East, an area that truly is of interest to the European Union. After lunch, the delegates were gently guided through the problems and constraints of the EU Neighbourhood Policy on Middle East by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ioannis Cassoulides (MEP).

The Working Groups were swift to begin work immediately after but they soon had to interrupt until next morning as all delegates were to be transferred to Nicosia for an official visit to the Presidential Palace. There, the President of the Republic Mr Tassos Papadopoulos had the opportunity to present and analyse in depth the views and perspectives of the government of Cyprus on the latest political developments in Cyprus after the referenda of April 2004.

The delegates then were given a short tour close by to the green line and were happy to enjoy a cocktail offered by the Mayor of Nicosia Mr. Mihalakis Zambelas, inside the Venetian setting of the Famagusta Gate. Once back to Larnaca it was party time again, this time at a pub called "Bakers" and later for clubbing at "Circus".

Saturday morning and it was finally time to get down to doing some Council work. The day went swiftly, with the Working Groups presenting the work they had done on the working papers and for the different resolutions to be discussed and adopted. The Board proposed to the Council the Financial

Reform and the Budget, which were also adopted. In addition, it was unanimously decided that YEPP will form a platform to support and work for the adoption of the European Constitution. All in all the work of the Council run very smoothly and by late afternoon it was over and the delegates left the Council with a feeling of achievement. In the evening, with all the work behind them, everyone relaxed and enjoyed a traditional Cyprus "meze" meal and music, as well as Cypriot dances at "Al Halili" tavern. The party continued downtown at the local club Corridor until the early hours of the morning.

Sunday and it was time for departure. Or was it not? Delegates who remained around during Sunday, participated in an event for the promotion of the European Constitution organised by NEDISY, in the square of Europe in Larnaca. It was a symbolic event, with Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot dancing and music groups. Although unusually cold for Cyprus, the bright sun and good mood of the dancers soon warmed everyone up. After the event delegates were spotted enjoying a coffee or a bite along the seafront of Larnaca. In conclusion, the YEPP Seminar/Council, first one of the year 2005 and last one before the Congress was jammed packed with activities, political content and fun!



#### Adopted documents :

- > Adopted Background Paper "The EU - Middle East Relationship: Political and cultural aspects"
- > Resolution on „The European Constitutional Treaty“
- > Resolution „Young Europe wants to meet the Lisbon targets“
- > Resolution on „South East Asia“



## 5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005

### A Political Ambition for Europe - Congress with also internal elections

On Thursday 17th March, around 350 youngsters from 35 countries gathered in the French Capital, Paris for the 5th YEPP Congress.

A YEPP congress only takes place every 2 years and the Congress is the highest statutory body of YEPP.

The conference started at the National Assembly with a YEPP Council Meeting and Heads of Delegation meeting took place, where Mr. Valérie Pécresse, Spokesman of UMP welcomed all participants. The closing was done by Laurent Hénart, Deputy Minister of Labour integration for youngsters, Député from Yvelines

YEPP also welcomed the President of the European Youthforum, Renaldas Vaisbrodas.

Afterwards all participants went to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Quai d'Orsay for a walking diner with Claudie Haigneré, Minister of state in charge of European affairs. There were also speeches of Minister of State Wilfried Martens, President of the European People's Party and Mr. Daniel Bautista, YEPP President.

On Friday 18 March 2005 all participants went for a breakfast with Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin at the Matignon. The Prime Minister took time to talk personally to several youngsters. Afterwards the group went again to the National Assembly for several lectures and discussions. There was a discussion on European Values of UMP by Pierre Méhaignerie, Secretary General, Former Minister of Justice, Député d'Ille et Vilaine There was also a discussion on foreign policy in the European Constitution.

After the lunch some working groups related to the Lisbon Agenda took place as well as a Round Table on Defense and Security with Hubert Haenel, Senator and Pierre Lequiller, MEP, and Presidents of the delegations of the Senate and the National Assembly for the European Union.

Also some other speeches were given like by EDS President, LYMEC President.

In the evening a diner took place at the UMP headquarters and afterwards a lot of participants tasted from the nightlife of Paris.



#### Adopted documents :

- > Adopted Paper
- > Resolution on „Solidarity between Generations“
- > Resolution on „Education“
- > Resolution on „Libanon“
- > Resolution „The Embargo on the Sale of Arms to the People“
- > Resolution “Europe must take the lead in fighting global poverty!”
- > Resolution on the EU – US Relationship Post Iraq

On Saturday the group went again to the National Assembly. The opening of the 5th YEPP Congress was done by Jacques Toubon, Member of the European Parliament EPP-ED Group, Former Minister of Justice. Also EPP Secretary General Antonio Lopez-Isturiz addressed the congress by given a speech.

After the lunch the Congress continued its plenary session. The President first of all welcomed the guest organisations and invites their representatives to take the floor and present their organisation. Several new YEPP Members were accepted: Jeunes UMP (France), YLPP (Latvia), Young Rukh (Ukraine) and SDKU (Slovakia).

YCSP Belarus obtained the statutory mandate of "Permanent Observer" and PPUY (Latvia) and AME (Young Rights, Georgia) obtain the Observer status.

The YEPP Congress also excluded the following full members: PNTCD-OT (Romania), GPI (Italy).

There was also a report of the Financial Auditors. Mirko Dolfen (Giovani UDC, Italy) reported that they found the books were in order. A report with recommendations was made for the board.

Some resolutions and the paper 'YES' - to Political Ambitions for Europe!, that was prepared as Campaign Platform for the Referenda's in 2005 and 2006 on the European Union

Constitutional Treaty was after amending unanimously adopted.

After this a voting committee and an electoral college was set up. As on each congress, internal elections took place in order to elect a new YEPP Board and New Financial Auditors.

In between a Farewell Speech of outgoing YEPP President Daniel Bautista was giving. In this speech he thanked his board members for the nice cooperation and expressed in which way had contributed to him personally and to his career. A special thanks was also given to YEPP Executive Officer AP. Mommerency for the great work.

At the end of the Plenary session some results were announced. Due to time limits the congress had to leave to the Cirque Phénix for a debate with Nicolas Sarkozy, President of UMP France, Former Minister of Economical Affairs and Finances. Meanwhile the electoral committee continued the counting of the votes.

At the end of the farewell party and diner the other results of the elections were given. Newly elected YEPP President David Hansen spoke shortly to all and thanked all the people that voted for him. The evening ended with a big party.

On Sunday the participants left back to their countries.









## YEPP BOARD Meeting: Moss, Norway, 15 - 17 April 2005

### General Report

The new elected YEPP President David Hansen invited his new team, the YEPP Board and Executive Officer to Moss (Norway), shortly after the 5th YEPP Congress.

The purpose of this meeting was to proceed and to discuss on a work plan for the upcoming 2 years for YEPP. The YEPP Board also decided who would represent YEPP at the EPP Working Groups and EPP Fora, as well as other external working groups. The Results of this Board meeting were proposed to the YEPP Council in Belgrade.

Besides the good working atmosphere, all board members could enjoy the nice accommodation and food that was offered by Telenor.



## 4th YEPP Balkan Conference and Seminar: Belgrade, 23-26 June 2005

### Facing future together

From Thursday, June 23rd 2005 till Sunday, June 26th 2005 Belgrade hosted 4th YEPP Conference and Seminar. The topic was "Facing future together". With collaboration of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Council of Europe, all YEPP member organizations and YEPP Observers visited Serbia and Montenegro including several invited guests from the Balkan region. Their presence gave support to Serbia and Montenegro for their further successful progress towards Europe.

Participants arrived on Thursday, the 23rd of June. Mr. David Hansen, President of YEPP, opened the seminar at Welcome dinner. The following morning, after the welcome word of YEPP President, meeting was addressed by Mr. Majstorovic, Advisor of the Serbian European Integration Office and Mr. Milan Pajevic, Advisor for foreign politics to the Vice-President of the government of the Republic of Serbia. They spoke about directions of external policy and progress achieved from October the 5th till these days. Next Mrs. Iskra Crnobrnja, President of the Steering Committee for Quality Education opened a discussion about present situation in Serbian education and its important reforms. Mr. Mihail Arandarenko spoke about region development and economic prosperity of Serbia and Montenegro.

The session on Saturday started with a lecture on «Perspectives for Balkan Integration in Euro-Atlantic Structures: how should the whole Balkan region be integrated in Euro-Atlantic structures» by Mrs. Jelica Minic, former adviser in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for European Integrations. Mrs. Minic spoke to young European politicians about her experience and what have Serbia and Montenegro achieved trying to receive the Feasibility Study. Participants were privileged to be addressed by Ambassador of Austria to Serbia and Montenegro who offered his view of the present situation in Serbia and progress in process of transition.

Later that day Mrs. Sonja Liht, director of Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence spoke about NGO in Serbia and their role in development of Serbian society.

Two organizations from Serbia, Youth of Democratic Party of Serbia (YDPS) and Youth of G17+ presented their work to all participants. YDPS was presented by Mr. Borko Ilic, President of YDPS and Mr. Andreja Miliwojevic, International Secretary of YDPS. Mr. Aleksandar Popovic, Minister for Science of the Government of Republic of Serbia and Vice-President of Democratic Party of Serbia spoke about organization in his party, work of Serbian Government and pointed out his opinion of present Serbian political scene.

YEPP Working groups discussed various documents, and accepted:

- > DRAFT RESOLUTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MARI
- > DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN BELARUS
- > DRAFT RESOLUTION-STRENGTHEN GLOBAL SECURITY
- > CALL FOR STATESMANSHIP
- > YEPP AND WHITE BAND CAMPAIGN

Sunday was foreseen for departure of the participants



#### Adopted documents :

- > Adopted Background Paper on the Balkan Region



## YEPP's SUMMERSCHOOL ACTION: July-August 2005

### YEPP all around Europe

YEPP has noticed that each year the number of Summer Schools/Universities organised by our YEPP Organisations is growing and growing. Due to this fact, the interaction of international youngsters is growing. The YEPP Board is of course proud on all these initiatives and wanted therefore to stimulate the international contacts.

Therefore the Board introduced a new system which was interesting for all its member organisations and for more youngsters.

If a YEPP organisation invited participants from other YEPP Organisations and included in its programme an European dimension, YEPP was willing to send a positive and encouraging signal by partly sponsoring in the travel costs of these invited guests.

YEPP also offered each hosting organisation YEPP general leaflets that could be personalized by a stamp from their organisation, YEPP Yearbooks from previous years, Political Programme "We stand for Europe" as well as Social-Economical Programme.

YEPP was proud to see that almost 15 member organisations took advantage to this summerschool action.



## YEPP Seminar: Tbilisi (Georgia), 29 September – 2 October 2005

### New Challenges – New Chances for South Caucasus Countries: Intercultural Dialogue as a tool for Peace and Democratic Stability

In September 2005 Young Rights – AME (Georgia) hosted a YEPP seminar with the title: “NEW CHALLENGES – NEW CHANCES FOR SOUTH CAUCASUS COUNTRIES: Intercultural Dialogue as a Tool for Peace and Democratic Stability”.

The seminar kicked off on Thursday night with a reception at Tbilisi City Hall, hosted by George Mosidze, AME President, NCP Group Chairman in Tbilisi City Council.

The reception was addressed by George Mosidze, AME President, Martin Humer, YEPP Secretary General, Mr. Hans-Joachim Kaiser, Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in the Central Asia, Kazakhstan and South Caucasus and Irina Pruidze, AME Secretary General.

Accommodation was delivered at Hotel Varazi in Tbilisi.

The following morning, delegates travelled to Hotel “Ambassador”. It was there that Friday’s discussion and debate took place. Welcome speeches were given by Mr. David Gamkrelidze, MP, NCP Chairman, Mr. David Hansen, YEPP President and Mr. Irakli

Iashvili, MP, NCP board member.

First up was a panel discussion on the “Current Political Situation in Georgia”, addressed by Dr. Devi Khechinashvili, Chairman of Partnership for Social Initiatives. Mr. Khechinashvili offered us an overview panel about recent developments and current Political situation in South Caucasus countries.

Next up was the discussion on “Human Rights Information for Georgia” and “Free Mass Media in Georgia – Myth or Reality?” addressed by Mr. Ucha Nanuashvili, Executive Director of Human Rights Information and Documentation Center and Irakli Kakabadze, independent journalist from TV company “202”.

Ucha Nanuashvili described the Human Rights situation in Georgia, giving examples of serious violations of the Human Rights by the governmental institutions including cases of illegal detentions and facts of torture in prisons.

Irakli Kakabadze presented his view-point on the problems the Mass Media is facing nowadays in Georgia, he mentioned that the press censorship has significantly increased after the “Rose revolution” and few newspapers and TV talk-shows were closed





after having criticised the present government of Georgia.

After the lunch the panel discussion on “Prospects of approaching the European Union for South Caucasus Countries” was addressed by Mr. Jacques Vantomme, First Counsellor, Head of Economic, Political and Press Section of EU delegation in Georgia. Mr. Vantomme presented his concerns and estimation about the prospects of enhancing the cooperation between European Union and Georgia.

The final speaker on Friday was Dr. George Khutsishvili, Director of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) who gave us a perfect outline of the Peace Process in South Caucasus region and reflected upon the role of intercultural dialogue in Peace Building.

After the panel presentations delegates proceeded with the discussion on seminar working papers.

Later in the evening participants were transferred to dinner hosted by Mr. David Gamkrelidze, MP, NCP Chairman at Restaurant

“Old Metekhi”.

The next day, Saturday was set aside for the YEPP working groups and the YEPP Council to meet. Saturday’s work took place at New Conservative Party Headquarters and in the morning the Permanent Working Groups of YEPP met.

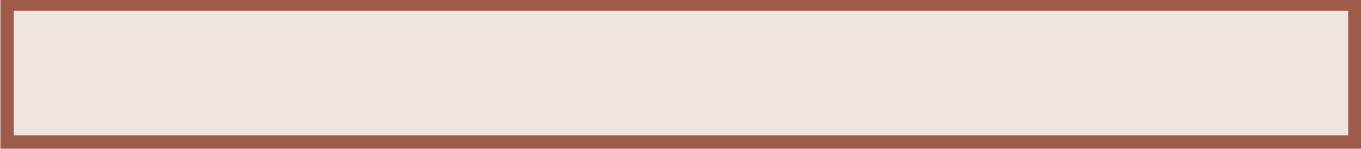
After lunch, the YEPP Council meeting took place. During the event the various resolutions and working papers on “Prospects of EU - Georgia Integration” were accepted by the YEPP Council Meeting.

That evening, after the YEPP Council meeting, delegates were taken to Mtskheta, Old Capital of Georgia, where they visited Djvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and enjoyed the farewell Dinner.

On Sunday the still presented participants were taken to the trip to Kakheti, wine making region of Georgia, where they enjoyed the traditional table accompanied with the Georgian folk music and dances.







## Kick-off seminar for a Young European Policymaking process: Copenhagen (Denmark), 17th - 20th November 2005

### Shaping the Europe we want

Mid November almost 100 YEPP'ers gathered in Copenhagen for a Kick-off seminar for a Young European Policymaking process, that was titled "Shaping the Europe we want". The seminar took place due to a close cooperation with Microsoft.

On Thursday 17th November a Welcome reception and diner was offered to all participants. Welcome speeches were given by Mr. David Hansen, President of YEPP, Mr. Nicolaj Bang, YEPP representative of KU-Denmark, Mrs. Bodil Kornbek, Chairwoman of the Christian Democrats in Denmark and Mr. Filip Hove Kristensen, Chairman of KDU-Denmark.

On the Friday the first session was named "Shaping the Europe we want". All participants were welcomed by Mogens Lønborg, Head of Conservatives in Copenhagen.

The Political Perspective of this session was giving by Mr. Bendt Bendtsen, Party leader for the Conservatives and Minister of Economy and Business in Denmark. The business perspective was given by Mr. Patrick de Smedt, Chairman Microsoft Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and Mr. Peter Jungen, President of the European Enterprise Institute (EEI)

After this session all participants left for Vedbaek, where session 2 under the name "Knowledge-driven success" took place. The trip was an excursion to Microsoft's R&D centre in Denmark. The programme included a demonstration of cutting edge technology and a presentation by Mr. Klaus Holse Andersen, Vice-President Microsoft EMEA.

After a lunch at the Microsoft centre the participants returned by bus to Copenhagen

A third session on Environmental challenges of the European Union took place with guest speaker Mrs. Connie Hedegaard, Minister of Environment in Denmark. Furthermore a generational perspective was giving by Kasper Hülsen, President of the Young Conservatives in Denmark.

After a coffee break a new session on Education and research named "What should be the focus area of Europe?" was introduced by Mr. Christian Rovsing – former EPP-member from the conservatives 1989-2004 founder of several high-tech-companies.

The final session of the day that took place was about Citizen privacy and trust in law enforcement, surveillance authorities and telecoms. Guest speakers was Mrs. Krizstina Baracsi, Legal Manager at Telenor Brussels.

After a long working day, all people enjoyed the dinner and the nightlife of Copenhagen.

On the Saturday, after the breakfast, a preparatory session for the EPP Congress took place. In parallel there was a meeting of YEPP's permanent working group on Financial Reform. Afterwards the YEPP Council Meeting started. There the presentation of the young policymaking process took place.

After the council meeting the final session of the seminar took place. The session discussed on "Europe and the WTO Trade Negotiations". Guest Speaker was Mr. Christofer Fjellner, MEP (EPP/ED-Group) and member of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade.

A farewell dinner closed a fruitful working day.

On the Sunday, a Voluntary guided tour by Grethe Henius was offered.



#### Adopted documents :

> Resolution on Syria



## YEPP BOARD Meeting: Gent, Belgium, 10-12 December 2005

### General report

Almost the total YEPP Board and Executive Officer gathered in Gent (Belgium).

A round table was made in order to look how far the current situation is with each topic that was foreseen in the Workplan 2005-2007 that was approved during the Belgrade Balkan Conference in June.

Key purpose also of this meeting was the preparation of the financial reform that will be represented at the council meeting in Prague.

There was also a broad discussion on possible new candidate members.

Besides this, the Board also took time to prepare and study on the documents for the upcoming EPP Congress that will take place at the end of March in Rome.

The meeting was fruitful and intensive, but this was combined with a nice sight-seeing tour in Gent.

## YEPP Permanent Working Groups

### Permanent Working Groups

The previous Board had taken mid 2003 the decision to create an extra forum because political discussions do not take place only at the YEPP-seminars. Therefore YEPP's Permanent Working Groups (PWG) were established to promote more focused political work on key areas. The goal of these PWGs is to commit more members and more specialists of each member organisation in the political discussions within YEPP. To strengthen this idea that politics are a continue process YEPP created 4 Permanent Working Groups (PWG).

- > PWG on Social and Economic Policy
- > PWG on Common Foreign and Security Policy
- > PWG Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe & Enlargement
- > PWG Sustainable Development

These working groups were active until the beginning of April 2005.

The new YEPP Board evaluated in a larger scale these working groups and they decided that YEPP had bigger challenges to handle. YEPP is coming closer to its 10th anniversary and it is necessary to evaluate our own structures and financial system. The YEPP Council agreed with this. Therefore 3 new Permanent Working Groups were created.

- > PWG on Financial Reform
- > PWG on Statutory Reform
- > PWG on Political Reform

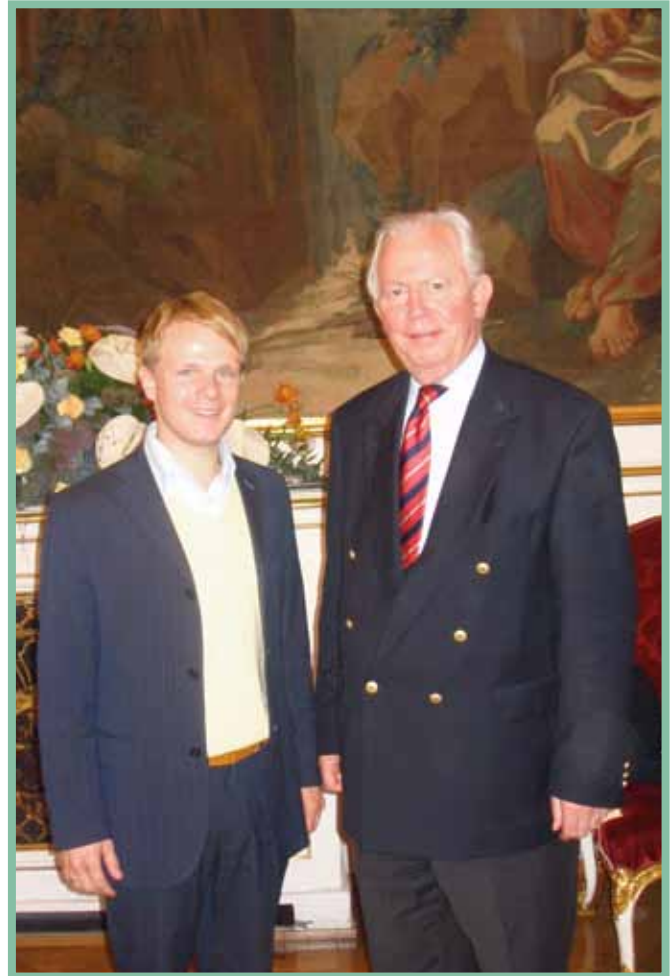
In 2005 the PWG Financial Reform was very active and resulted early 2006 in a total new financial system that was approved by all unanimously. In 2006 the statutory reform will be the key challenge.



## YEPP as active partner of the Robert Schuman Foundation

Monthly the YEPP Office gets the opportunity to receive the Schuman stagiairs that are coming for 1 or more months to the European Parliament. These stagiairs are following-up projects/ meetings offered by the Robert Schuman Foundation, led by Former President of the European Commission Jacques Santer.

Each 2 years, the Schuman Foundation also gathers all its former stagiairs in a seminar. Last May, this was done in Strasbourg. Also YEPP President David Hansen was stated as one of the guest speakers where he spoke about the crucial role of youth involvement.



## YEPP present all around the world

### Moscow Mission

YEPP representatives (David Hansen, Ann-Pascale Mommerency, David Cermak and Galina Fomenchenko) took part in the conference "European perspectives and Political Activity of the Young Generation at the Post-Soviet Space", which was held on September 1-4, 2005 in Moscow and was hosted by Youth of the Union of Right Forces together with the Representation of IRI in Moscow.

Youth organizations from the former Soviet Republics, from the Caucasus to the new EU member states – the Baltic countries – met at the round table to discuss common projects, European perspectives and democratic developments in their countries. More than half of participants of the conference were YEPP activists from Eastern Europe. YEPP had a grate opportunity not only to present itself, but also get to know Russian youth organizations and understand the political landscape in this country. As the result of the conference participants established common projects and proposed YEPP to deepen cooperation with the region.

A new generation, which is far from the Soviet past, brought in this huge city with magic Red Square and enormous Soviet buildings free will and democratic approach.





## YEPP present all around the world

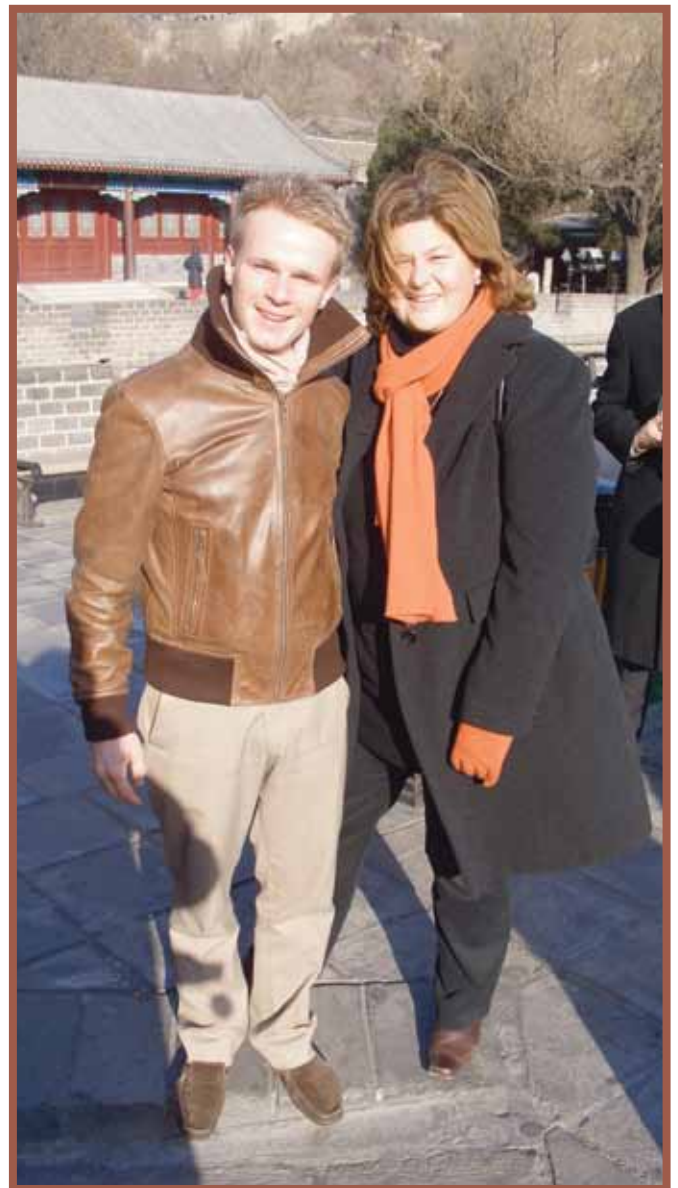
### China Mission

YEPP President David Hansen and YEPP Executive Officer Ann-Pascale Mommerency, left directly from the YEPP seminar in Denmark to Beijing (Peking) in China, for the Young Political Leaders Symposium. YEPP was represented by our Chairman, but several other people from YEPP were there on behalf of their organisations or national youth councils. The European Youth Forum was co-organising this event.

Only 75 participants were selected and they were also divided in 4 different working groups.

The common results of these working groups, resulted in a general declaration named "Tianjin Declaration on the role of Youth in revitalising and substantiating the Asia-Europe partnership".

A lot can be mentioned about this seminar. Several questions were raised about the composition of the participants, as well of the global concept. E.g. the chairperson of the event was not a youngster. However, we have to admit that this experience, offered us the possibility to see more clear what youngsters in other parts of the world are doing. Furthermore, we used the opportunity to breath a bit what the Chinese culture and actual life is standing for.



## **Resolution on the European Constitutional Treaty**

YEPP Seminar: Larnaca (Cyprus): 3-6 February 2005

### **Acknowledging that the Constitutional Treaty:**

- > was the result of hard work and consensus of all Members of the Convention for the Future of Europe
- > signed by the Heads of States on October 29, 2004 in Rome
- > has been ratified already successfully by Lithuania, Hungary and Slovenia

### **Recognizing that the Constitutional Treaty:**

- > promotes peace, prosperity and the values which the European Union is based on
- > establishes a stronger and more active Europe in the global scene
- > strengthens the role, direct involvement and identity of the European citizen
- > simplifies, amends and unifies all Treaties since the beginning of the European Communities
- > enhances the cooperation between the member states on CFSP and EDSP
- > defines clearly the areas of responsibility of the European Institutions and the Member States
- > ensures the workability of an enlarged European Union by modifying voting rights and procedures
- > forms a concrete step towards further political integration of the European Union

### **The youth of the European People's Party (YEPP):**

- > calls for all respective European authorities to take all necessary steps so that European citizens will be thoroughly informed of the content of the European Constitutional Treaty and what it stands for;
- > urges all European Member States to embrace the Constitutional Treaty and work for a successful outcome of the ratification process;
- > urges those political parties and NGOs, which support the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty in countries where there are to be referenda, to co-operate in order to secure acceptance of the Constitution;
- > urges the EPP and all its member organisations to develop a pro-Constitution strategy and to strongly and actively support positive campaigns;
- > calls on the YEPP Board to fully investigate the possibilities for a common platform for YEPP member organisations, who will be campaigning in national referenda for the acceptance of the Constitutional Treaty, and to present such to the forthcoming YEPP Congress;
- > calls on the YEPP Board to fully investigate the possibilities of creating a common platform with other European youth political organisations and NGOs in favour of the Constitutional Treaty, and to present such to the forthcoming YEPP Congress.

## Young Europe wants to meet the Lisbon targets

### YEPP Seminar: Larnaca (Cyprus): 3-6 February 2005

#### Considering:

- > The fact that the EU and its Member States are not meeting their targets, set out in the Lisbon Agenda (to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. (cfr. the Financial Times interview of outgoing Commission President Romano Prodi, October 2004 and the report from the High Level Group chaired by Wim Kok, November 2004)
- > The fact that the European Council will make a Midterm Review at its Spring Summit, breathing new life into the Lisbon Agenda.
- > The fact that the European Council will discuss the upcoming EU financial framework (2007-2013).

#### Worried about the progress of Member States on the Measurable Targets of the Lisbon Strategy:

Lisbon Strategy	Target	Target Year	EU 15 average	EU 25 average
Overall employment rate	67%	2005	64,3%	62,9%
Employment rate for workers aged 55-64	50%	2010	41,7%	40,2%
R&D Spending/GDP	3%	2010	2.0%	1.9%
eGovernment	100%	2002	56,8%	n.a.
Transposition rate of internal market directives	98,5%	2010	97,7%	n.a.
Open electricity markets for business customers	100%	2004	75,9%	59,4%
Open gas markets for business customers	100%	2004	82,3%	63,3%
Reduce the number of early school-leavers	By 50%	2010	18.0%	15.9%

*n.a. not available*

#### fact

- > that the current level of investment in R&D in the EU only amounts to 1,9% of GDP, compared to 2,7% in the US and 3% in Japan
- > that high-tech industries are relocating their industrial plants and R&D laboratories outside Europe, due to the shortage of scientists (number of researchers per 1000 of the workforce: EU-15: 5,7%, newly acceded countries: 3,5%, USA: 8%, Japan: 9,1%);
- > that a lot scientific and academic talent in Europe is being lost as a result of brain drain, insufficient budgets and lack of infrastructure
- > that too few Europeans set up their own companies and too few small businesses in Europe experience substantial growth (cfr. 2003 Eurobarometer) due to non-favourable conditions for start
- > up companies are not that favourable in the EU (cfr. 2002 Eurobarometer)

#### We, the Council of the Youth of European People's Party, calls upon the YEPP Congress

- > To define "Innovation and Entrepreneurship", "Completion of the Internal Market" and the "Structural Funds" as cornerstones for achieving the Lisbon goals. These factors create economic growth, competition and solidarity. Economic growth is essential to create new and better jobs. This is at the utmost importance for young people, as these are both fields where they can help to deliver.
- > To prepare and to adopt an elaborate Working Paper on these three issues at the Vth YEPP Congress, to be held in Paris, 17th March 2005
- > Innovation and Entrepreneurship
  - Raising the R&D investments towards the 3%-goal, of which 2/3 should be funded by the private sector (Barcelona Council, 2002).
  - Promoting science, engineering and technology in education, esp. by encouraging familiarisation with and education in ICT. This will attract more young people to pursue scientific studies and careers.
  - Reinforcing the culture of entrepreneurship in Europe, in which risk-taking, free initiative and performance are attractive and rewarding. Raising awareness of the value of entrepreneurship for society.
  - Including entrepreneurial skills and trainings in education at all levels. Projects such as "student enterprises" in secondary school should be encouraged and facilitated. Universities should set up more partnerships with the industry, in order to provide students with a taste of a career in the industry. Education programmes, such as Socrates, Erasmus,... should take into account issues related to entrepreneurship.
- > Completion of the Internal Market
  - Completion of the Internal Market for the free movement of goods and capital will give a boost in generating economic growth and competition
  - Urgent action to create a single market for services, as this sector accounts for 70% of economic activity in the EU.
  - Ensuring effective transposition of EC law in national law. Excessive delays may not longer be tolerated.
- > Structural Funds for 2007-2013
  - Social and Economical Cohesion should be seen as one of the prime tools of achieving the Lisbon Agenda goals. The principle of solidarity so successful during previous enlargements should play it's vital role.
  - The coming EU financial framework negotiations will decide if the New Member States will have the opportunity of closing the economical gap by taking advantage of the Structural Funds. The document drafted by the former EU Commission which foresees a 1,14% GDP contribution from Member States (in which 336 bln euro for structural and cohesion funds, 140 bln euro for the 10 New Member States) should be seen as serious basis for further compromise.

The generous level of support for New Member States within structural and cohesion funds in the long term is a stabile and sustainable source of economic growth and decreasing the level of unemployment in the EU-25



## Resolution on South East Asia

YEPP Seminar: Larnaca (Cyprus): 3-6 February 2005

The Tsunami disaster in South East Asia in December 2004 caught us all by surprise and devastation. We are well aware that it is now important that what was destroyed by the wave and the earthquake will be rebuilt as soon as possible. It is necessary that houses and companies etc. are being restored or rebuilt so that people get functional homes again and that the companies can continue to run so that people can keep their jobs. This is crucial for the living standard for the inhabitants and for the economy. It is also important in order to stop epidemic deceases.

In situations of catastrophe it is important that authorities are prepared and able to handle the situation. Each nation has a responsibility but also the European Union must have the organization to co-ordinate and act quickly and efficient in order to help out and to save lives. No government, authority or organisation can be expected to be fully prepared for such a unique and huge catastrophe as the recent one in South East Asia. However we must make sure that action can be taken and that the European Union has the possibility to co-ordinate efforts made by the member states, NGO's and by the community itself.

### Recognising:

- > The tragedy and devastation connected to the Tsunami disaster in South East Asia.
- > The importance of rebuilding what was destroyed in the Tsunami disaster in South East Asia.

### States:

- > That efficient and well organized European- wide structure for handling emergency situations and catastrophes should be created.
- > That NGO's play an important role in the planning and executing the mission

### The Youth of the European People's Party calls on:

The European Union:

- > To create an organisation with efficient and well organized structures capable of handling situations of emergency and catastrophe.
- > To create an organisation which can co-ordinate the efforts of its member states and NGO's involved and ensure the sufficient flow of information.
- > To look into the possibilities to involve the military in this process and therefore promote the readiness and capabilities of EU's crisis management and EU's Battlegroups to be able to act and response in catastrophes in due time.
- > To look into the possibilities to set up a worldwide investment in R&D and creation of early warning systems.

*Adopted at the Council Meeting, Cyprus, 5th February 2005*

## Resolution on Generations

5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005

### Observing that:

- > The population of the European Union is ageing;
- > By the year 2020 EU-citizens of 60 years and older will make up 20% of the population;
- > The need for professional assistance in healthcare is rising;
- > Most European countries will face financial and economical problems in the future if there are no policy changes.
- > When the working population is decreasing and the overall population is ageing, there are fewer people who will be able to bear support for the rest of the population.

### Recognising that:

- > The silent revolution in Europe's age structure took place unnoticed by the general public and, not until relatively, by policy makers as well;
- > The effect of the ageing population is a tremendous increase on costs of pensions, social services and health care;
- > Due to the sense of urgency European countries need to develop a clear strategy towards the ageing population, in which youngsters have to play a vital and important role.

### YEPP stresses that:

- > All generations together have to develop a common strategy to tackle the upcoming problems caused by the ageing society;
- > The moment of discussions is over and the time has come to acknowledge this urgent situation and act accordingly.

### Therefore YEPP should:

- > Develop a strategy paper with a clear vision on the ageing population in the EU, in which are included topics like family policy, healthcare, pensions and innovation.

### YEPP calls on the newly elected board to:

- > Present a concrete action plan in one of the upcoming YEPP-events that has to be presented to the EPP delegation in the European Parliament.

## Resolution on Education

5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005

### Recognising that:

- > Education is a key for the European Union's competitiveness, economical growth and prosperity. In order to include all citizens in the knowledge-based society there is an urgent need to invest more in human resources, the Union's main asset, to focus stronger on the lacks of the educational and training systems, to bring education closer to entrepreneurship and industry, and to promote mobility of students and trainees.

### Worried about the facts affecting primary and secondary education, that

- > the PISA report 2004 showed disappointing results in numerous countries in acquiring key competences among pupils;
- > there is a shortage in young qualified teaching staff.

### Worried about the facts affecting high and adult education, that

- > the number of higher education graduates is far much lower in the EU than in Japan or in the United States;
- > the EU average rate of early school leavers and drop-outs is still very high (16.5% in 2004);
- > many European universities are suffering from long-term insufficient funding;
- > the EU attracts less talent than its competitors;
- > the participation in lifelong learning doesn't reach the desired level;
- > levels of mobility are low, partly because of financial reasons, partly because of the lack of motivation caused by the difficult process of recognition.

### Worried about the facts affecting vocational education and training, that

- > this kind of education is not as attractive as the general one and therefore Europe has to face a shortage of skilled and qualified employees;
- > too few young people pursue scientific and techn(olog)ic studies and careers;
- > entrepreneurial mindset isn't sufficiently fostered through school education;
- > the differences in quality of education are affecting Europe's mobility on the labour market;
- > levels of mobility are even lower than in higher education.

### Noting

- > That in the recent years strong efforts have been made by both the European Union and the Member States to reach the goals set in Bologna and in Lisbon
- > That much progress has been made in European co-operation in this field at all levels

### The Youth of the European People's Party calls for the following steps to be taken by the EU and its member states

- > To further develop a common quality assurance framework at all levels of education, including also pupils, students and trainees to this process, with respect for competences of the member states;
- > To make the profession of teachers more attractive for young people and to provide the future teachers with a high quality preparation for their work;
- > To make studying in the EU more attractive both for EU and for non-EU students. Therefore existing programs like Erasmus, Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, etc. are to be developed further and the financial funds to be increased;
- > That recognition of qualifications be made easier and more transparent. This promotes both student and labour force mobility;
- > That co-operation between universities and entrepreneurship be developed. With common research programmes and the direct flowing of knowledge to the industry problems on both side (financing and labour force) can be lightened;
- > That entrepreneurship should be introduced into the national and regional curricula at all levels of formal education, either as a horizontal aspect or as a specific topic;
- > That programmes based on „learning by doing“ be promoted, for instance by means of project work, virtual firms and mini-companies;
- > To make VET more attractive for young people with promoting campaigns;
- > To stress the importance of lifelong learning and make efforts to get adults involved in continuing to update and improve their competences.

## Resolution on a free and democratic Lebanon

5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005

Recalling UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 520, adopted in September 2004 and in September 1982, in favour of the Lebanese independence and liberty and showing the International Community interest in this matter.

Regarding that the presence of foreign military troops in independent states, ignoring relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions, is in contrast with the principles on which the EU is founded and the values for which we stand for.

Believing that a free, independent, democratic Lebanon is in the interest of Europe, spreading democracy in the Middle-East and being a factor of stability in this region.

Condemning the assassination of former prime minister Rafik Hariri.

Supporting the opposition leaders and their efforts to build a democratic and modern Lebanon.

Expressing its solidarity with the thousands of young Lebanese demonstrating for freedom.

Noting President Bashar el Assad address to the Syrian parliament on 5th March on the redeployment of Syrian troops to the Bekaa Valley and the meeting between Presidents Assad and Lahoud on 7th March.

### Yepp urges the European institutions to call for:

- > the complete withdrawal of Syrian troops and intelligence service from Lebanon;
- > the disarming of all Lebanese and Non Lebanese militias operating in Lebanon;
- > international observers to supervise the next Parliament elections in May 2005 to ensure they are free and fair;
- > UN security council to send peace keeping troops if this is necessary to safeguard the stability in Lebanon and the region;
- > Support an international inquiry on the murder of Prime Minister Hariri.
- > Take this opportunity to promote the resumption of the Middle East peace process on the basis of the Road map, as a necessary move for lasting peace and stability in the region

## **Resolution "The Embargo on the Sale of Arms to the People"**

### **5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005**

The Youth of the European People's Party; gathered in Paris;

#### **Notes**

- > The calls over the past year by a number of EU statesmen for the lifting of the EU arms embargo on China.
- > The recent statement by Jack Straw, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, that the embargo could be lifted within six months.
- > The Joint Statement of the 7th of China-EU Summit in which, although the embargo was not lifted, the EU "confirmed its political will to continue to work towards lifting the embargo."
- > The recent statement of EU Commissioner, Peter Mandelson that "We in Europe are preparing to move forward to lift the arms embargo".
- > The vote of the European Parliament in November, 2004, that opposed the lifting of the current embargo.
- > The continued hostility of the PRC against Taiwan, and the failure of the PRC to rule out the reunification of China through military force.
- > The continued repression of dissidents in the PRC, and the widespread denial of basic human and political rights
- > The opposition of Japan, Taiwan and the USA to the ending of the arms embargo at the current moment in time.
- > The widespread circumvention of the embargo and the rapidly increasing trade to China of goods from the EU that have military uses.

#### **Acknowledges**

- > The very limited improvements in terms of some basic human and political rights introduced by the PRC in the past 15 years.
- > The need for reform of the system of arms embargoes that the EU operates, as well as the Code of Conduct on Arms exports adopted in 1998.
- > The start made by the Dutch Presidency of the EU to reform the Code of Conduct and the Embargo.
- > The huge importance that the government of the PRC places on the removal of the embargo, which it views as 'political discrimination'.

#### **YEPP believes**

- > That the importance of the embargo is primarily of symbolic value.
- > That the current Embargo and the Code of Conduct for Arms Exports are largely ineffectual and in need for reform.
- > That in the long-term, the Embargo is an ineffectual way in which to deal with the sale of arms to PRC, and that a strengthened Code of Conduct would be more effective.
- > That if the embargo is to be removed without the strengthening of the Code of Conduct, and without linked improvements in human, democratic, and political rights would be seen as an endorsement of the PRC and its practices.
- > That the government of the PRC has made little effort to introduce real democratic reforms, or to protect basic human and political rights.
- > That the EU has an important role in encouraging the PRC to guarantee basic human rights and to introduce democratic reforms, and that this should be a primary concern of all EU contacts with the PRC.
- > That the security of Taiwan and other states in the region may be undermined by the selling of European arms to the PRC, without greater controls than exist at present.
- > That if the embargo is lifted in the very near future and without adequate consultation it could gravely damage the relationship between the EU and Taiwan, Japan and the USA.
- > That in no circumstances should human rights be given lesser emphasis than concerns over trade.
- > That any Code of Conduct on Arms Exports that is not legally binding will be useless and will be circumvented.

#### **YEPP Calls**

- > Upon the EU member-states not to remove the embargo unless the PRC, undertakes to make serious and demonstrable reforms in the areas of human and political rights.
- > For these reforms to be reported upon to the European Parliament, and to national parliaments on an annual basis, and if not implemented for the embargo to be re-introduced.
- > That any removal of the embargo to be dependent on a reformed Code of Conduct on Arms Exports being implemented
- > To make have any reformed version of the Code of Conduct on Arms Exports subject to oversight by the European Parliament and for it to be juridically binding.
- > On member states to show greater responsibility in the issuing of licenses to companies to export equipment with dual uses to the PRC.
- > To consult with Taiwan, Japan and the USA, and other interested parties including NGOs before any further moves towards the removal of the embargo.

## **Resolution “Europe must take the lead in fighting global poverty!”**

### **5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005**

We, the Youth of the European People’s Party,

#### **Observing that:**

- > there is a diverging gap between the rich and the poor regions in today’s world;
- > in 1960, all the development aid donor countries pledged to give minimum 0,7 % of their GDP to development countries by 1980;
- > less than 20 % of the EU member states have reached this level by 2005;
- > the EU agreed in 2002 in the Barcelona Commitments to implement policies that would ensure that “developing countries, and especially the poorest ones, can pursue growth and development unconstrained by unsustainable debt”;
- > some efforts have been made to cancel bilateral and multilateral debt, but with varying enthusiasm and effects;
- > under the Monterrey Agreement of 2000, the new EU member states pledged to reach an official development aid level of 0.33 % of GDP within 2015;
- > 96 % of the world’s farmers live in developing countries, and economic progress is unlikely in these regions without a better and more fair legal framework for global free trade;
- > the EU currently pursue policies that directly and indirectly undermine growth and development through export subsidies and protectionism.

#### **Noting that:**

- > the NGOs ActionAid International, EURODAD and Oxfam International on February 14th 2005 issued the report “EU Heroes and Villains – which countries are living up to their promises on aid, trade and debt?”, concluding that EU countries have not met their own targets in these areas.

#### **Stressing that:**

- > the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) ambitiously unite and bind the global community to “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” by the year 2015;
- > Europe is, with it’s economical strength and technical supremacy, in an unique position to contribute to the fulfillment of the MDG’s;
- > Europe is also morally obliged to act boldly when it comes to helping the poor, ensuring education for children and youth, fighting diseases and empowering women outside it’s own continent;
- > the EU must submit to decisions taken by the WTO, where developing countries must be granted more influence.

#### **Call on:**

- > the EU member states to increase their bilateral aid to development countries, especially to the least developed countries, and advance towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals;
- > the European Union to pursue a bolder policy on the area of aid, debt cancellation and free and fair trade, in order to put the common European values, such as Human Rights and solidarity, into action;
- > the Commission to open consultations with member states who are falling behind in regard to their own promises, to encourage these states to live up to their promises.
- > the Commission to facilitate for the establishment of a platform for European NGOs to improve coordination, efficiency and capacity to interact with European institutions;
- > the EPP and its MEP’s to put development aid, debt cancellation and free and fair trade on the Union’s agenda.
- > The EU and its member states to ensure that aid recipients meet basic criteria, such as respect of human rights, democracy, rule of law and good governance.

## Resolution on the EU - US Relationship Post Iraq

5th YEPP Congress and Council Meeting: Paris, France, 17-20 March 2005

The Youth of the European People's Party; gathered in Paris;

### Believing:

- > The fact that the US and EU are the two global powers which best display functioning and institutionalised democracy and human rights, and as such have a responsibility to further these two principles throughout the world.
- > The need for legitimacy and promoting freedom, democracy and human rights to be the key principle in the formation of any common EU-US joint action abroad.

### Acknowledging:

- > The substantial differences that manifested itself between certain European countries and the USA highlighted two years ago by the American lead action in Iraq.
- > The huge import of the political and economic interdependence of the USA and the EU to the stability of our two continents.

### In light of the recent visit of President of the USA, George W. Bush to Europe, YEPP calls on:

- > All members of the EU to place behind them the differences caused by the US action in Iraq and act in concert and co-operation with the US administration to assist in bringing long-term peace and stability to Iraq.
- > The member states of the European Union to move with more force and commitment to the formation of a strong culture of Common Foreign Policy in which all partners have a stake and promote with enthusiasm and dedication.
- > The EU member states to be adamant in their insistence at the UN for the desirability of multilateralism in all actions undertaken in the pursuit of democracy and human rights.

## Resolution on Syria

### Kick-off seminar for a Young European Policymaking process: Copenhagen (Denmark), 17th - 20th November 2005

Mr Rafik Hariri was assassinated in Beirut in March 2005. Mr Hariri was a businessman who made a fortune in Saudi Arabia and then ruled Lebanon for 10 of the last 15 years, enjoyed close personal ties with French President Jacques Chirac and cultivated friendly relations with Washington. Hariri also cultivated close relations with Syria, including business ties with influential officials. Syria has kept 12,000 to 30,000 troops and active intelligence service in Lebanon for most of the past 30 years. However Mr Hariri broke with Syria in summer 2004 when he resigned as prime minister after Damascus insisted on suspending the constitutional limit on presidential terms so that Lebanese pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud could continue in office.

Before his assassination Hariri encouraged the U.S. and France to push through a remarkably tough U.N. Security Council resolution that demanded Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

After Mr Hariri's murder, large Lebanese demonstrations against Syria and Syrian suspected participation in Hariri's assassination, Syria has withdrawn most of its troops from Lebanon. Still Syrian intelligence service is strongly present in Lebanon and especially in the Beirut area. There has been large amount of suspicion, and according to the western intelligence services' investigators evidence, also, has been uncovered about the possible participation of the Syrian government and Syrian intelligence service in the murder of Mr Hariri.

There must be an investigation by the UN and international community whether Syria, or some elements within the Syrian government, were behind the assassination of Mr Hariri and 19 other people in Beirut in March. Syria has been neglecting the opinion of the international community against occupying Lebanon. Furthermore, Lebanon has seemingly stayed as a protectorate and has backed terrorist organisations such as Hizbollah, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad for too long. The U.N. Security Council and the member states of the United Nations must pressure Syria with economic and political sanctions. Furthermore, it must fully cooperate with the international community in the investigation of the murder of Mr Hariri and in stopping the arming and backing of terrorist organisations. Lastly, it must withdraw the Syrian intelligence service from Lebanon.

#### **We, the members of YEPP, state that:**

- > Syria must fully co-operate with the international community in the investigation of murder of Rafik Hariri,
- > Syria must stop helping terrorist organisations,
- > Syria has to withdraw its intelligence service from Lebanon, and other U.N. member states and the U.N. Security Council have to pressure politically, and also economically, if necessary, the Syrian government to co-operate with the international community and fulfil its obligations.



# YEPP Member Organisations

## YEPP members

\* Observer organisations

\*\* Permanent observers

	Albania Forumi Rinor i Partise Demokratike te Shqiperise		Italy Forza Italia Giovani Giovani del Centro Cristiano Democratico Giovani Unione Democratici per l'Europa
	Austria Junge Österreichische Volkspartei		Latvia Tautas Partija*
	Belarus Malady Front ** Youth Christian-Social Union Young Democrats**		Lithuania Jaunieji Krikščionys Demokratai
	Belgium JONG Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams Jeunes du Centre Démocrate Humaniste		Luxemburg Chrëschtlech Sozial Jugend
	Bosnia & Herzegovina Party of Democratic Action Youth Association (PDA YA)		Malta Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista
	Bulgaria Mladezki Sajuz na Demokraticeska Partija Mladezki Sajuz na Demokraticnite Sili		Moldova Noua Generatie Partidul Popular Crestin Democrat
	Croatia Mladez Hrvatske demokratske zajednice		The Netherlands Christen Democratisch Jongeren Appèl
	Cyprus Neolaia Dimokratikou Synagermou		Norway Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom Unge Høyres Landsforbund
	Czech Republic Mladí křesťanští demokraté		Poland Stowarzyszenie Młodzi Demokraci
	Denmark Kristendemokratisk Ungdom Konservativ Ungdom		Portugal Juventude Social Democrata
	Estonia Res Publica Juventus* Noor-Isamaa PPUY*		San Marino Giovani Democratico Cristiani
	Finland Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto Kristillisdemokraattiset Nuoret		Serbia Omladina Demokratske Stranke Srbije - Ydps*
	France Jeunes Union pour un Mouvement Populaire*		Slovakia Křesťanskodemokratická mládež Slovenska Nova Generacia*
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	Germany Junge Union Deutschlands		Spain Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular Unió de Joves Demòcrata Cristiana de Catalunya
	Greece Organosis Neon Neas Dimokratias		Sweden Kristdemokratiska Ungdomsförbundet Moderata Ungdomsförbundet
	Hungary Fidelitas Ifjúsági Demokrata Fórum		Switzerland Junge Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz
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