



RESOLUTION:

IN SUPPORT OF THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND DEMONSTRATION

*Adopted at the YEPP Congress, Porto, Portugal
On the 16th of May 2015*

Recognising that:

- The freedom of speech and the freedom of peaceful assembly and demonstration are threatened in several EU Member States and European neighbouring countries;
- Some Member States use administrative fines to punish people who use their right to demonstrate.
- The Turkish government, on Monday the 6th of April, blocked access to twitter, Facebook and YouTube due to the publication of images of a Turkish prosecutor killed by left militants. In the second half of last year Turkey filed more than five times the content removal requests to twitter than of any other country. These actions can be seen as the growing authoritarianism of the Turkish government.

Acknowledging that

- Freedom of speech and the freedom of peaceful assembly and demonstration are basic values for a democratic society and violations of these rights are the evidence of a government which is not respecting human rights and democracy
- After the attack on Charlie Hebdo, European leaders and leaders all over the world stood side by side to defend freedom of speech;
- The closure of social media is an attempt to curtail freedom of speech;
- Imposing fines on people who use their right to demonstrate is an attempt to limit the freedom of peaceful assembly and demonstration.

YEPP calls on:

- Governments to respect the freedom of speech and demonstration, as they are international accepted human rights. No law that violates these rights should be adopted;
- The European Union to increase pressure on governments who violate these rights by law or by any other actions, in order to protect these rights.