
YEPP Resolution: A Common European Investment Policy

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Lisbon, May 2012

Recognizing:

1. That Foreign Direct Investment represents an important source of productivity gains and plays a crucial role in establishing and organising businesses and jobs at home and abroad.
2. That both inward and outward Investment have a positive impact on growth in and outside the EU, including in developing countries, as well as on the competitiveness and productivity of European enterprises.
3. That Investment and Trade are today inter-dependent and complementary.
4. That the EU today is the world's leading host and source of Foreign Direct Investment and that it benefits greatly from an open market in the area of Investment.
5. That the Lisbon Treaty grants the EU with exclusive competence over the progressive liberalisation and regulation of Foreign Direct Investment.

Acknowledging:

1. That the rise of the emerging economies has greatly increased their share in global Foreign Direct Investment flows and that the EU has to compete with the rest of the World in order to remain the prime destination of these flows.
2. That Investors need a stable and predictable environment to operate and a leveled playing field with the rest of the world to compete with.
3. That some States (such as Argentina recently) have resorted to protectionism and threaten European investors and investment abroad.
4. That the EU's collective negotiating power has the potential to protect much more effectively European Investment abroad.

YEPP calls on:

1. The European Commission and Heads of State/Governments of the EU to proceed faster with the adoption of a comprehensive Regulation that will further liberalize investment within the EU and adopt a common set of rules and principles that regulate the area of investment internally.
2. The European Commission and Heads of State/Governments of the EU 27 Member States to initiate negotiations to renegotiate the Bilateral Investment Treaties that are in place between the individual Member States and third States in order to substitute them with EU wide Treaties that will provide European Investors with a common high-level protection abroad.
3. The European Commission, in the meantime and until the renegotiation of Treaties, to provide technical and legal support to Investors who face protectionism and nationalization threats in foreign countries. In that context, the EU Commission shall make clear that expropriation and destruction of investments will not be tolerated by the EU.

4. The European Commission to amend the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Convention so as for the EU to become a member along with the Member States on its own right and effectively protect all European investors in third States.