



Chairmens' Joint Declaration

Enhancing European Youth Mobility

Presented by YEPP Chairmen

Adopted at YEPP's Paris Chairmens' Conference

Paris April 8-11, 2010

Recognizing:

That exchanges allow most students to feel integrated into a European community: such exchanges are therefore an essential element to strengthen European citizenship of young people;

That the mobility of European students is declining (ten percent less in ten years in some countries⁽¹⁾) in many European countries mainly for financial reasons and that the last European elections marked the decreasing interest of young people in regard to Europe with high abstention rates;

Acknowledging:

That the Erasmus and Erasmus Mundi program launched in 1987 was specifically designed to awaken the European feeling among students of all over Europe;

That the fragility of the lives of students has increased the student's work and made it less easy to study abroad;

That the Erasmus grant - an average of 150 euros - is still insufficient for many students;

That it is also paramount for a comprehensive and fruitful mobility strategy to foster non student exchanges;

That it is difficult for a young person to find a placement elsewhere in Europe than in his own country because the European labour market is still too hermetic;

(1) Maroš Šefčovič, Member of the European Commission responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth on Sweden in October 2009

YEPP calls on:

All partner countries to encourage study abroad and this since high school including by raising the budgets for students mobility;

All partner countries to establish an "Erasmus loan rate zero" which would encourage modest students to undertake the European adventure of studying abroad this without removing the basic financement for mobility consecrated to modest students;

All partner countries to value European study through granting of additional credits ECTS (European credit system);

All partner countries to propose the creation of a unique entry point and using existing structures that will collect the bids and requests for internships throughout Europe. Each student can find deals that meet their field and companies will offer young people seeking experience in their field and who are motivated;

All partner countries to create a European voluntary civic service which already exists in France and in other countries. Such a service will be a common factor of cohesion and create a link between all Europeans.