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**YEPP Resolution:  
Continuing Enlargement as a Positive Step during Reconstruction**

*Adopted at the YEPP Seminar in Budapest, Hungary on February 25 2012*

**Recognizing that:**

- Recent polls indicate an increase in euro-skepticism among EU citizens;
  - The economic crisis of 2008 introduced concern among European citizens about the economic future of the EU;
  - European leaders have experienced repeated difficulties at reaching a consensus on vital questions concerning the direction of the Union and necessary measures for surpassing the economic recession;
- The process of reconstruction, which initiated the euro-skepticism, is in fact a positive step and a natural process toward the improvement and strengthening of the EU;
- There is no reason for this process of reconstruction of the EU to prevent further EU enlargement;
- The idea of united Europe was one of the main goals of the founders of the EU;
- Continuing the process of EU enlargement is a constructive step toward the realization of the concept of a single European market;

### **Acknowledging that:**

- The enlargement of the EU is a milestone in the process of unifying Europe and brings economic and political benefits to citizens of the Union, enhanced freedom and improved security. Enlargement is an important driving force for integration;
- The EU cannot afford to break its promises. It should keep its doors open to new members, without abandoning the principles that have governed the process so far;
- EU must provide a political impetus to the process of uniting the European continent, to accept the challenge and maintain the process of the enlargement of the EU as a fulfillment of a vision for united continent that encourages people to work together in peace and stability;
- The credibility of EU on the global stage will be reinforced by its ability to respect and fulfill the commitments and principles on which is founded in a first place;
- There has been an ongoing debate on the challenges of both widening and deepening the union, however, a wider union can be a deeper one. EU will not only be bigger, but also stronger, more dynamic and culturally richer;
- The continuing process of enlargement strengthens the role of EU on the international scene, and allows us to reaffirm our shared values;
- Through the enlargement policy, the EU extends its zone of peace, stability, democracy, and prosperity; concepts that have gained renewed relevance, in the light of recent developments;
- Domestic political issues in current EU Member States should not have an effect on enlargement discussion
- Enlargement creates new business opportunities and opportunities for expansion and innovation, particularly for small enterprises
- The EU and its potential member states already work successfully together in International institutions such as the UN and UNESCO

### **YEPP calls on:**

- The EU to step up its engagement with the civil society in the EU candidate-members countries, through exchange programmes with the Member States civil society in an effort to strengthen their operations;
- EU Member States to continue with the visa liberalization process with candidate countries and the other European countries, as a commitment to furthering the vision of a united Europe;
- Candidate countries and other European countries to enthusiastically continue the domestic legal reforms necessary before joining the EU
- Member states to continue to build trade and diplomatic links with candidate countries

- Call for the EU commission to create scholarships and incentives for students from candidate countries to study in the EU countries with official candidate status