



RESOLUTION:

Elimination of Unpaid Internships in EU Institutions, Agencies and other EU Bodies

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting, Rome, Italy on the 10th of February 2017

Recognizing¹ that:

- In 2013, the Eurobarometer survey revealed that 46% of 18-35 year-olds' respondents had completed at least one internship.
- In relation to unpaid internships, the same survey showed that almost six out of ten (59%) respondents said that did not receive any financial compensation for these internships.
- Even amongst paid internships, 46% of Eurobarometer respondents said the pay they received was only sufficient to cover basic living costs.
- Internships provide valuable experience and knowledge to participants.
- Some internships are misused by employers and are viewed as a means of attaining a cheap or free labour force.

Acknowledging that:

- The European Commission is aware of the importance of internships for youth employment.
- The Commission proposed a Council Recommendation on Quality Framework for Traineeships (QFT) in December 2013 and the Council has adopted it in March 2014. Also, programmes such as Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative have been implemented.

¹ References

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/12/half-of-all-eu-internships-are-unpaid-new-figures-show/>
http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/features/WCMS_187693/lang-en/index.htm
http://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS_208112/lang-en/index.htm
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/08/economist-explains-15>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/omer-aziz/unpaid-interns-of-the-world-unite_b_8367404.html
<http://www.youthforum.org/pressrelease/campaign-kicks-off-with-high-level-event-on-fairinternships/>
QFT : [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014H0327\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014H0327(01)&from=EN)
EUROBAROMETER : http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_378_en.pdf

- QFT lacks on specific guidelines concerning compensation and gives room to interpretation.
- Unpaid internships within the EU institutions do not promote equal opportunities amongst young European citizens.
- EU institutions, agencies and other EU bodies are spread around the world, where the cost of living (accommodation, food, transports) varies substantially in each country.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission to define a common a compensation policy to be applied to all EU institutions and other EU bodies, taking into consideration the cost of living where the internship takes place.