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## **Resolution:**

### **Recognizing European countries' cultural diversity**

*Adopted at the YEPP Council in Marseille on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2011.*

#### **Recognizing that:**

1. The motto of the EU is "United in diversity" and that the many different cultures, traditions and languages in Europe are a positive asset for the continent;
2. The European union declares its values of cultural diversity as equally applicable to all member states and the EU, as well as candidate countries;
3. The strength of the European integration lies within the respect of cultural diversity and democratic pluralism;
4. EU aims to preserve and support Language, literature, theatre, visual arts, architecture, crafts, the cinema etc;
5. Linguistic diversity is a cultural and democratic cornerstone of the EU;
6. The EU strongly stands for promoting and developing the cultural diversity and cultural dialogue within the member states and to third countries.

#### **Acknowledging that:**

1. Article 151 of The Treaty establishing the European Community (consolidated version) states that "The Community shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore." and "The Community shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of this Treaty, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures";
2. With The Council Resolution (97/C 36/04) of 20 January 1997 The Council of the European Union affirms that cultural aspects in Community actions shall, within the scope of the Treaty, be taken into account based on the principal that culture forms an integral part of Community action and contributes to the objectives of the Community through enhancement of citizenship and personal and human development;
3. Charter of fundamental rights of the EU, 2000/C 364/01;

4. Article 21-Non-discrimination, and Article 22 Cultural, religious and linguistic diversity, The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity;
5. The Union contributes to the preservation and to the development of these common values while respecting the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe as well as the national identities of the Member States and the organization of their public authorities at national, regional and local levels;
6. THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, with the COUNCIL RESOLUTION of 21 January 2002 on the role of culture in the development of the European Union (2002/C 32/02) calls on Member States and the Commission to regard culture as an essential component of European integration, particularly from the point of view of the enlargement of the Union;
7. The culture should contribute towards improving the external visibility of the Community by emphasizing its cultural diversity and the common dimensions of its cultures;
8. In Europe, as a society based on freedom, democracy, solidarity and respect for diversity, the common dimensions and mutual knowledge of cultures, are essential components of citizens' support for, and participation in, European integration;
9. Universal declaration on Cultural diversity, UNESCO, 2001 states that:
10. Cultural diversity is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations;
11. The defense of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity;
12. Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent;
13. Care should be exercised so that all cultures can express themselves and make themselves known;
14. The respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of a mutual trust and understanding, are among the best guarantees of international peace and security;
15. The European Union has accessed the UN's Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
16. One of the objectives and guiding principles is to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and to reaffirm the sovereign rights of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies and measures that they deem appropriate for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on their territory;
17. to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in a spirit of partnership with a view, in particular, to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in order to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions;
18. Affirms that cultural diversity is a defining characteristic of humanity and forms a common heritage of humanity and should be cherished and preserved for the benefit of all;
19. Recognizes the need to take measures to protect the diversity of cultural expressions, including their contents, especially in situations where cultural expressions may be threatened by the possibility of extinction or serious impairment, and that linguistic diversity is a fundamental element of cultural diversity.

#### **YEPP asks the EU institutions and national governments**

1. To commit themselves to respect, protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in order to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions;
2. To stress the importance of respecting the COUNCIL RESOLUTION of 21 January 2002 on the role of culture in the development of the European Union (2002/C 32/02) emphasizing the fact that culture as an essential component of European integration, particularly from the point of view of the enlargement of the Union;
3. To condemn any intentional or unintentional attempt to deny or disregard the cultural identity of any peoples;
4. To send a clear message to the citizens of every European city that the language is inherent and inviolable part of the cultural heritage of every peoples, a constituent factor of the national identity and fundamental form of collective memory, that transcends the boundaries of the people who use that language, as an integral part of the European and world spiritual heritage;
5. To make sure to constantly communicate relevant issues in European politics and to show how they affect the national politics in each EU member state. European politics should become a part of people's daily lives;
6. To address especially the youth of Europe to take an active role in expanding the idea of the importance of the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression, as a common heritage of humanity that should be cherished and preserved for the benefit of all.