



Resolution:

Christian symbols in public schools

Recognizing:

- The European Court of Human Rights recently ruled that the display of crucifixes in Italian public schools 'violated the principle of secular education and might be intimidating for children of other faiths'.
- This ruling stated that crucifixes should not be displayed in Italian public schools, it has implications for many EU member states.

Acknowledging:

- Europe is historically, traditionally and culturally Christian, be that Anglican, Protestant, Roman Catholic or Christian Orthodox.
- The Crucifix is an 'undeniable symbol of Christianity', the court ruled, and as such were at odds with the principle of "educational pluralism." The court stopped short of ordering authorities to remove crucifixes from all state-run schools, however the long-term implications of the ruling were unclear.
- This lack of clarity has left many Christians feeling uncomfortable with what effect this ruling may have in the future in their countries.

YEPP calls on:

- The European Union to respect the right of European schools to continue to display Christian symbols, following the principle of subsidiarity.

Adopted by the YEPP Council in Tirana, Albania, December 5, 2009