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YEPP Resolution: Encouraging voter participation in European Elections

Adopted by the YEPP Council in Kyiv on September 10, 2011

Stressing that

- The right to vote in European elections is a fundamental expression of every individual's opportunity to participate in politics on the European level,
- The right to vote is not a matter of course across the European continent. It has long been denied in several European countries which have suffered from dictatorship or communist rule and it is still denied in some countries like Belarus, for example,
- That the level of political participation through elections provides the overall legitimacy of the political process in Europe and is therefore a decisive precondition for the future of the European integration.

Considering

- The general voter turnout in elections to the European Parliament has generally been extremely weak and is constantly declining since the first election in 1979,
- The fact that in 2009 voter participation in European elections reached an all-time low with only 43,1% (-1,3% compared to 2004).

Being concerned

- About the general impression among voters that European politics have little democratic legitimacy and that Europe is a "elitist project",

- That the efforts to illustrate the importance of the European Parliament and political participation in Europe have not been sufficient. Disinterest and mistrust in European politics are still common.

YEPP asks the EU institutions and national governments

- To further illustrate to its members that the European Parliament is the only European body that is elected by the people and has an important say in the legislative process,
- 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,
- To establish a real "European political culture" through the development of a coordinated strategy which raises awareness in the media, and consequently the public, about the work of the European Institutions, especially the European Parliament, and the different political visions for the future of Europe,
- To address especially the youth of Europe to take part in the most developed multinational political project in world history.