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YEPP Resolution:

Youth in EU innovation and technology policy

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

Recognizing that:

- The EU is a major global player in the field of technology;
- However, the EU is lagging behind other major players such as the USA, Japan, India, Brazil and China as far as innovation is concerned;
- Innovation means growth in the long run and that it should therefore be supported even in times of economic crisis;
- Youth is particularly familiar and comfortable with technology, and per se, able to carry out long term projects;
- Many young people do not dare or are not interested in innovation-related careers;
- There is a need to update the innovation and technology policy in the EU and that specific consideration should be given to youth;

Acknowledging that:

- In the past years, the EU institutions adopted and tried to implement strategic policies with the aim to boost innovation in the EU, which unfortunately, have shown little results;
- The European Commission adopted in February 2011 a Green Paper towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding;

- There is no European framework yet that would help and stimulate young experts and researchers in the development of their skills;
- YEPP has stated in its political programme that 'the effort to establish the beneficial effects of technology in every field and make them accessible to as many as possible should be set as a priority';

YEPP calls on:

- The European Commission to establish platforms for the exchange of ideas and information between technology professionals, as well as the development of initiatives stimulating a dynamic of proximity between the various actors in the technologic field (researchers, engineers, project managers, investors, lawyers...);
- The European Commission to consult relevant youth organisations prior to the adoption of all future innovation-related policies;
- The European Commission to integrate in a future "Small Business Act" new public procurement guidelines that would stimulate youth innovation;
- Youth entrepreneurship to be stimulated by the policy of the EU and its Member States;
- The EU and its Member States to develop mechanisms to attract more young researchers and experts in their official think-tanks for example for more academic cooperation agreements with innovative countries and the creation of abroad based branches of European Universities;
- The EU and its Member States to stimulate the innovation spirit among young people through education and other possible means, such as establishing scales to protect young inventors, or any other relevant measure;
- Member States to simplify systems to apply for patents for young innovators, for instance by lowering the taxes for the first patent deposited;
- The EIT as well as national institutes for innovation and technology to develop measures helping attract more young experts to their work.