



RESOLUTION:

THE IMPORTANCE OF A CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Adopted at the YEPP Council, Budapest, Hungary, on the 5th of March 2016

Recognising that:

- The state has the primary duty to promote and protect human rights, including guaranteeing the right of expression and association, as well as ensuring a safe environment for independent civil society.
- An active civil society requires effective protection policies, access of justice and a strong legal, institutional and administrative framework.

Acknowledging that:

- The protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law are core values of YEPP and EPP, and applies to all member states.
- Democracy requires the respect and adoption of liberal values, among them the fundamental importance of respecting independent institutions and the system of checks and balances.

YEPP calls for:

- Member states to prevent from adopting legislation that place restrictions on non-governmental and civil society organisations.

- Member states to acknowledge the freedom to seek and receive funding from abroad, as long as the funding procedures meet European standards, it is stipulated in the 2007 Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe.
- Member states to refrain from criminalising organisations' peaceful activities, and instead support the work of independent civil society, especially those who provide services to marginalised groups such as sexual minorities, the homeless, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.
- The European Parliament to evaluate its policy on funding civil society organisations, and develop additional and alternative sources of funding, instead of funding organisations exclusively through the state budget.