

RESOLUTION ON YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLITICS – NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN

Having regard to the White Paper – “A New Impetus for European Youth”, adopted by the European Commission in November 2001,

Having regard to the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (10th session – 21 May 2003 – Appendix to the Recommendation 128),

Having regard to the European Youth Pact, adopted by the European Council in March 2005,

Having regard to the EU Strategy for Youth – “Investing and Empowering. A Renewed Open Method of Coordination to Address Youth Challenges and Opportunities” (2009),

Having regard to The European Youth Report of the European Commission (2009),

Bearing in mind that many sector policies have a youth dimension and that the active participation of young people in the management and development of these policies is essential,

Pointing out that young people are an active part of society and that its active citizenship is key to building democratic and inclusive societies,

Recognizing that the involvement of young people in public decision-making processes offers important opportunities for civic engagement, education and learning about government, thus strengthening young people’s social responsibility,

Emphasizing that youth participation promotes active citizenship, which should be considered as an opportunity for enhancing democracy and placing new issues on the political agenda,

Highlighting the importance of dialogue and partnership between young people and authorities on local, national, European and International level,

Aiming to maximize young people’s contribution to the building of society, especially in all areas which concern them, encourage new forms of youth participation and organization, and train young people to assume responsibilities,

Highlighting that the vision of the EU for young people includes putting in place greater resources to develop policy areas that affect young people in their daily life and improve their well being, as well as promoting the potential of young people for the renewal of society and to contribute to EU values and goals,

The Youth of the European People's Party calls on the European People's Party to:

1. Support the participation of more young people in the decision-making processes on a national and European level with regard to the sector policies that concern youth;
2. Adapt to communicating in ways receptive to young people – including on civic and European issues – particularly in order to attract more young people;
3. Identify lines of action for youth participation and to define concrete measures and/or action plans for their implementation and promote these plans with national, regional and local authorities, youth organizations and young people in the respective European countries and closely cooperate with them in order to ensure the fullest possible implementation;
4. Promote greater participation and taking measures to eliminate gender stereotypes, promoting role models and facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;
5. Propose through its member parties to the national parliaments of the respective European countries to adopt regulations that guarantees development of strong youth parliaments, youth councils or equivalent bodies and to strengthen existing ones, thus providing further opportunities for more young people to become active in decision-making and in shaping their societies;
6. Support the development of national youth councils (where such councils still are not established) including representatives of youth political organizations and non-governmental organizations;
7. Propose to its member parties to promote student initiatives and creativity as a valuable resource, and to stimulate active citizenship through the educational system
8. Support the implementation of the idea to form networks of young parliamentarians in the national parliaments of the respective European countries, and the European parliament for the purpose of promoting youth participation, making young persons in politics more visible and reflecting the youth perspective in the political agenda;

9. Support the creation of cooperation networks on national and international level, between young people policymakers, NGO's and researchers.
10. Propose through its member parties to local and regional authorities: to include young people in crime prevention councils, where these exist; to work in particular with young people who risk being involved in crime or who have already been involved in crime; to contribute to the creation of networks of associations and projects promoting non-violence projects; to do their utmost to protect young people from sexual exploitation, abuse or other forms of maltreatment and provide structures that provide psychological and material support and confidential consultation to victims;
14. Propose and support preparation and adoption of laws for youth in the respective European countries where such laws are not already adopted;
15. Support adoption of national strategies for development of youth in the respective European countries where such strategies still are not adopted.