



RESOLUTION

THE UPCOMING EASTERN PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

Adopted at the YEPP Council of Presidents
in Bucharest on the 5th October 2013

Recognising:

- The EU's initiative in the launch of the "Eastern Partnership (EaP)" in June 2008 by Poland and Sweden, as a substitution for the ENP, and its official launch at the Prague Summit in May 2009. The countries participating in the EaP are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus- whose participation is currently frozen due to the internal situation- Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine;
- The aim of the EaP is to embark upon a new direction, and to enhance political, economic and cultural ties between the EU and participating countries. Further aims include creating a collaboration for democracy and good governance (such as the rule of law and respect for human rights), economic integration, harmonisation of Partnership countries economic policies with European economic policies, contact between nations and energy security;
- On the 28th and 29th November 2013, the third summit of the "Eastern Partnership" will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania. In advance of the summit Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine have indicated that they are open to the prospect of signing the Association Agreement, with the inclusion of the establishment of a comprehensive Free Trade Area.
- That in 2010, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia launched a Customs Union with unified trade regulations, membership of which makes it impossible to obtain membership in a common free-trade area with the European Union.
- That on September 12th, 2013 the European Parliament adopted the resolution "On Pressure exercised by Russia on countries of the Eastern Partnership (in the context of the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius)"
- That according to the OSCE Helsinki Final Act, each country has the right to freely define and conduct as it wishes its relations with other States in accordance with international law.

Acknowledging:

- The ENP's inability to achieve the desired results is largely due to political instability in the involved countries;
- Some objectives of the Partnership are too ambitious to be realised. For example, the facilitated obtainment of visas for citizens from Eastern Partnership countries will not occur in the near future; this policy would see visa liberalisation for travel to the EU for 76 million people living in this region (46 million within Ukraine alone);
- The gradual movement towards a Free Trade area between the EU and Eastern partners has created a clear divide between the EU and Russia. Approaching the Vilnius Summit, Russia has intensified pressure on Partner countries, particularly Moldova and Ukraine, imposing trade bans and threatening gas supply cuts;
- As stated in the text of the EaP initiative, the collaboration with external third party countries is not only possible, but should be encouraged.

YEPP calls on:

- The government of the Russian Federation to improve relations with the EaP and EU partners', to cease all threats, blackmail and boycotts, and to respect the principle of sovereign equality and cooperation between independent states;
- The European Council and the European Commission to take a proactive stance towards Russia and towards the EU Summit in November 2013 and to show that the EU supports the Partnership countries, particularly Moldova and Ukraine who have chosen to participate, despite significant pressure from Russia;
- The EU to facilitate the negotiation process on the Transnistrian conflict in the current format 5+2, to keep on its agenda the issue of unresolved conflicts (South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh) and to insist to find a sustainable solution. Also we call for the implementation of the 4 UN adopted resolutions (822, 853, 874, 884), and to end the illegal occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan by Armenia.
- The European Council to engage in external cooperation on the four aims of the EaP with Russia in Vilnius, in order to seek a more stable and sustainable relationship between the EU, the Eastern Partners and Russia;
- The European institutions and the European governments to finalise negotiations on Association Agreements with the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Azerbaijan before the Vilnius Summit;

- The EU to further underline that membership in the Eurasian Customs Union is incompatible with signing of the Association Agreement, including the DCFTA;
- The EU to continue its efforts for sustainable cooperation and a productive relationship with the EaP countries, regardless of the results of the Vilnius Summit in November 2013.

Regarding Ukraine

- The political leaders of Ukraine to accelerate implementation of the criteria required by the EU in order to sign the Association Agreement at the Vilnius Summit.
- YEPP strongly recommends that the EU and Ukraine should consider signing the components of the Association Agreement where the desired criteria have been fulfilled. The EU should continue to encourage the political leaders of Ukraine to implement all criteria.
- The EU to involve Ukrainian civil society in monitoring and controlling the implementation of the commitments of the Ukrainian authorities', such as in the case of signing the Association Agreement with Ukraine.