



# YEPP YEARBOOK 2004

Youth of the European People's Party

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# Preface

## YEPP President D. Bautista and YEPP Secretary General R. Kervinen



The year 2004 will surely be remembered as one of the most convulses and at the same time relevant ones in the last two decades of our history, not just for us Europeans but also for everyone worldwide. Twisting words to concise a brief summary on 2004's event in just a few lines is not an easy task but three ideas come immediately to all our minds: terrorism, elections and (the struggle for) democracy.

When the echoes of September 11th were still in all our eyes, minds and hearts, Europe woke up on March 11th with the most cruel and devastating terrorist attack ever suffered in our most recent history. Ten bombs placed by Islamic terrorists in a railway station at Spain's capital Madrid exploded at early morning rush hour, caused death to nearly two hundred people, injured over a thousand and left Spain and Europe sunken in fear, anger and confusion. A few months later, on the morning of September 1st, pupils and their families from a school in Beslan (Russia) gathered in the yard holding balloons and flowers awaiting the start of the Learning Day ceremony when an armed group of masked terrorists burst into the schoolyard. After three days and the failure of desperate efforts made by international mediators the hostage ended up in a horrible massacre involving the death of many children.

Terrorism has forced its way into our lives. It is changing domestic and international agendas posing a great challenge our societies. Face to unilateral responses there is a pressing urgent need for a concerted action uniting all governments and international institutions.

2004 brought elections to three of the most powerful international actors. On June 13th the European Union celebrated historic elections to the European Parliament, the first ones after the enlargement. Twenty-five member states, an unprecedented number of European Union citizens, were called to vote. And the result turned to be a sweet-bitter one. The EPP clearly won the European elections becoming once again the strongest group in the European Parliament with 268 seats. In YEPP we actively contributed to help our mother parties and the EPP with an active campaign involving all our member organizations and focused on the sector we know best: those nearly 80 million Europeans under 35 years. On the other hand, governments and political parties clearly failed to motivate Europeans to vote and a record abstention turned on the alarms of all EU governments as to what extent citizens share political leaders ideas on the European Union. Our citizens do not feel themselves as active part of a project they hardly understand. Making the EU more accessible to every European must be our number one priority for the upcoming years. After the final agreement of all twenty-five EU member states on the final text of the first EU constitution, low percentages of participation in the ratification process, could raise uncomfortable questions about the legitimacy of the constitutional text and become a serious obstacle for Europe's development.

But to us Europeans this was also remarkable year to be printed in golden letters in the history of the European Union. Starting by

the 1st of May, when ten new member states entered the EU in a historic enlargement. With Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta and Cyprus, Europe is closer than ever to be finally united or reunited. And while for Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia the road is wider, shorter and cleaner than ever, Turkey has just started a very long journey under the close regard of all EU countries and EU institutions (we also welcomed last year the new (EPP-oriented) Commission and specially the presidency of Durao Barroso!)

But the EU was not the only main international actor to hold important and transcendental elections. George W. Bush was re-elected for a second term as president of the United States after a long and 'worldwide' campaign and Vladimir Putin obtained massive support to be re-elected as president of the Russian Federation. In an imaginary chessboard, pieces are now placed for at least the upcoming four years. It is time therefore to reconsider positions, heal controversies and head-up look ahead for common positions and multilateral constructible relations.

And we went from the 'Rose Revolution' to the 'Orange Revolution'. If 2004 started with elections in Georgia, first ones after the public demonstrations in Tbilisi by the end of 2003, we ended the year with Victor Yushenko as president of Ukraine after an impressive orange wave crossed the country to win back in justice what polls had shown but a corrupted regime tried to cover. This struggle for democracy has been present along 2004 not just in Georgia and Ukraine. They have succeeded; others like Moldova and Belarus should not be forgotten. Not only in Europe. While Afghans voted for the first time since the Taliban regime and Iraq finally has a democratically elected government since the fall of Saddam Hussein, 2004 opened the road to a new window of opportunity in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

Unfortunately 2004 will also be remembered due to the cruelty of the Tsunami, the biggest nature disaster ever seen in the world. Amongst the hundred of thousands of death, also a lot of European citizens lost their lives much too early. It was however encouraging to see that help was offered from everywhere in the world, whatever religion, culture or generation.

YEPP has been following every single event as 2004 turned to be a very active period full of activities that kept us motivated during a year full of remarkable European and international events. We started the year in Dublin hosted by our friends from Young Fine Gael in a successful and opportune seminar on the Transatlantic Relationship. We were honoured to have as keynote speaker our good friend John Bruton, now EU "Ambassador" to the United States. As every two years and always in March, we held our Chairmen's Conference. We were in Lisbon this time, perfectly hosted by our friends from Juventude Social Democrata. This was a unique event in which YEPP had for the first time the chance to host two European Prime Ministers. Jose Manuel Durao Barroso and Peter Balkenende honoured us coming to our event. As the European elections were getting closer, YEPP joined in May our Finish friends from Kokkoomuksen Nuorten Liitto at their campaign in the streets of Turku in an interesting seminar on "Information Society and Globalisation". And from up North-

Europe we went all the way down to the warmer Greece in July where we held our Summer School hosted by Organossis Neon Neas Dimokratas. It was an excellently organised event where YEPP delegates combined serious political debates with relaxing evenings in the beautiful and historical streets of Rhodes. One of the topics YEPP more deeply discussed during 2004 was the European social policy. That was the topic of our Chairmen Conference but also that of our Seminar and Council Meeting in Oslo. Hosted in October by Kristelig Folkespartis Ungdom and Unge Høyres Landsforbund, we discussed about "Social Europe: More Freedoms and More Opportunities for All" and presented the results of a two-year work from our Permanent Working Group on Economic and Social Policy. And ended the year in Poland where we were hosted by Stowarzyszenie "Młodzi Demokraci" in Poznan we looked back to the first results of the EU enlargement but also focused in the consequent New EU Neighbourhood Policy. We also looked closely the Ukrainian

elections and their fight for democracy. The seminar was a perfect way to close 2004, and the perfect epilogue for a year full of activities, enriching debates and fruitful discussions.

2004 was in general terms a very positive year. Europe made decisive steps towards real unity: enlargement and constitution agreement can only be considered as positive elements though they only represent first steps within their own processes. The enlargement is not yet completed. The EU Constitution is not yet approved. The road in both cases is long and will not be easy. But we keep on moving in the right direction towards a stronger, more influential and more united Europe.

Just like in YEPP!

Daniel Bautista  
YEPP President

Riikka Kervinen  
YEPP Secretary General

# Preface

## Wilfried Martens, Minister of State of Belgium Chairman of the European's People's Party



Whilst over the past 50 years the European unification process has helped keep peace on our Continent it is today our task with coordinated efforts to maintain it for our future ...for you, the Youth of Europe's future!

During a recent political debate on who can best deliver prosperity and social justice in Europe I was proud to state that in the EPP we have clear plans and goals in this respect. During the short history of the European Union the EPP has been laying the stepping

stones for the further integration and enlargement of the EU. One of these stepping stones has been the creation of the Lisbon Strategy and its revitalization is the major challenge for 2005. I call upon all of us in the EPP and its organizations to face it with strength and coordinated determination. The EPP is prepared for this task and has developed the main instrument/methodology to ensure growth, prosperity and employment for all European citizens. The youth of the EPP have contributed enthusiastically to our work and I personally appreciate this, and am looking forward to YEPP's sustained collaboration in the EPP working groups in 2005 and beyond.

## Hans-Gert Pöttering, MEP, Chairman of EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament



The past months were challenging and successful for our EPP family. In the elections to the European Parliament last June, the European citizens confirmed the European Peoples Party as the strongest political force. The EPP-ED Group is the only parliamentary party in the European Parliament with representatives from all 25 member states of the European Union. A strong representation of parliamentarians from the new member states confirms our political commitment for freedom, democracy and an equitable participation of the new member states in the European Union.

We enforced our claim that the new President of the European Commission should belong to the political family, which won the European Elections. We expect the new European Commission to open new perspectives for better regulation with more sustainable impact on growth and prosperity in Europe. Especially in the field of

education and youth politics Jan Figel will be an excellent partner. Our key issues for this legislative period are the ratification and implementation of the European Constitution, as well as the operationalisation of the Lisbon Agenda and the integration of the new member states in the enlarged European Union. For centuries, our today's Europe has not been more than a dream. The European idea - its success and its further development are the most exciting challenges of our times. You are young politicians at the beginning of your political work. You are the ones who will be shaping the future of Europe. The Youth of the European Peoples Party faces its fifth congress. But even though YEPP is a young structure, it has successfully developed into a pillar of our EPP family and a respected representative of young generations' interests. On behalf of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament and I personally would like to wish you a successful congress with exciting debates. We are looking forward to the future cooperation with YEPP.



# Values and Principles

## YEPP Basic Values and Principles

### Human dignity

YEPP affirms the inalienable dignity of every human being. We regard every man and every woman as unique, irreplaceable, and free by nature. Every person has the right and the duty to be fully responsible for himself and his acts. The protection of human rights is inseparably linked with the protection of the rights of ethnic, cultural, and/or religious minorities.

### Society

Each human being within society depends on others. Because they are free, responsible and interdependent, people must take part in the construction of a pluralist society. The family has a central role in such a society.

### Values

Our thoughts and political actions are based on fundamental, interdependent, equally important, and universally applicable values: freedom, responsibility, fundamental equality, justice and solidarity.

### Democracy

We consider that democracy is the only political system supporting and protecting the integral development of the individual. There is no alternative to democracy and the rule of law.

### Economy and social policy

The concept of market economy and competition is central in our approach to the economic life. Together with democracy it makes it possible to achieve freedom through the decentralisation of power. The economic and social systems are inseparably linked to each other according to the principle "as much market as possible, as much state as necessary". We consider that it is vital to ensure social justice and solidarity based on partnership and participation at all levels, non-governmental and governmental, local, national and international.

### Environment

Our concept of man calls for management of the earth with respect for the self-regenerating potential of nature. Protection of the environment and the concept of sustainable development are bound up with that of responsible growth and must be incorporated into every policy, at every level of power. Political, social and economic action must be geared to ensure that all potential is safeguarded for future generations.

### Peace and security

We believe in the need of a common security architecture for Europe to guarantee the peace, stability and freedom of the continent.

### Europe

We believe in the European Union, as it stands for a future of freedom and security, progress, prosperity and solidarity. European Union membership must be available to all countries of the European continent that meet the requirements of democracy, human rights and market economy.

Hand in hand with the enlargement must go further integration. For us there is no alternative to European integration.

### Subsidiarity

We believe in the sovereignty of states which enables them to work freely and as good as they can to ensure the well-being and development of their people and to defend and reinforce the international legal order. This also means, however, that states must share their sovereignty in supranational and international organisations where they cannot take effective action individually. The European Union as a decentralised community of nations and peoples, not as a unitary super state, must take into account local, regional, national and European levels according to the principle of subsidiarity.

### Participation

It is the citizens of the European Union who by their support give it its legitimacy. The European Union requires the active participation of European citizens. Europe is not – and cannot be – the affair of governments alone.

# Statutes

## YEPP Statutes

### Definition and Purposes

#### Article 1

Youth organisations of member parties of the European People's Party (EPP), the former European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) and the European Democrat Union (EDU) join together in the "Youth of the European People's Party" (YEPP).

#### Article 2

YEPP shares the basic values and principles of EPP, the former EUCD, and EDU and therefore claims the status of youth organisation of these organisations.

#### Article 3

YEPP has as principal purposes:

- ▶ to develop the contacts and exchanges between the youth movements of different states and regions of Europe, by allowing them to meet and compare their experiences;
- ▶ to encourage and promote initiatives of any kind towards their member organisations, especially those which are facing a rough political or financial situation;
- ▶ to develop the important themes of the general political debate, to develop clear political strategies and to take own initiatives;
- ▶ to participate in any initiative taken by the European Union or the Council of Europe, likely to contribute to a better knowledge of the process of co-operation and integration in Europe;
- ▶ to develop contacts between the youth of Europe and of other continents, in particular of America, Africa, and Asia as well as with young Americans, Africans and Asians living in Europe;
- ▶ to participate, by representing the views of YEPP, in the work of EPP and EDU;
- ▶ to participate in the activities of different platforms and co-ordination structures of youth in Europe and to encourage its member organisations to do the same at their national level.

### Membership

#### Article 4

YEPP members are those political youth organisations who subscribe to the Basic Values and Principles as set out in the Preamble and the statutes of YEPP.

#### Article 5

Observers are those organisations who share the principles of YEPP and who want to be informed about and participate in the activities of YEPP without voting rights. This status can be permanent or temporary. Observers may apply for membership after a period of at least 6 months.

#### Article 6

YEPP will be represented in EPP and EDU by its representatives whose mother parties are member of the relevant structure.

#### Article 7

Within YEPP member organisations can form groups and /or hold co-ordination meetings as long as they do not compete with YEPP.

### Seat of the Organisation

#### Article 8

The seat of YEPP corresponds to the seat of EPP and is the place of the General Secretariat where YEPP will be recognised as a non-profit organisation, according to the legislation of the country.

### Organs

#### Article 9

Organs of YEPP are: the Congress, the Council and the Board.

#### Article 10 The Congress

- ▶ A) The Congress is the supreme organ and takes place at least every two years. The Congress will convene on decision of the Council. The Council decides on the location, time, agenda, languages, and the rules of procedure of the Congress. The Congress can only take decisions when it has been convened according to the statutes and a quorum of 50% plus one of the delegates has been reached.
- ▶ B) The Congress elects the Board and two Financial Auditors, taking into account the need for a balanced representation. The Congress will decide on the political guidelines and the working plan of YEPP and on statutory amendments. The Congress will decide upon recommendation of the Board with a two thirds majority of the statutory delegates on the acceptance or exclusion of members.
- ▶ C) Congress delegates are:
  - the YEPP Board members without voting rights concerning membership questions, statutes and elections;
  - the delegates of the member organisations.
- ▶ D) The number of votes is composed according to the following criteria:
  - one basic vote for each organisation;  
(additional votes)
  - number of members per organisation:
    - above 50.000 members: 1 vote
    - above 100.000 members: 2 votes
    - above 150.000 members: 3 votes
  - result of the mother party at the last national election:
    - above 5%: 1 vote
    - above 10%: 2 votes
    - above 20%: 3 votes
    - above 30% and more: 4 votes
  - absolute number of votes for the mother party at the last national election:
    - above 250.000 votes: 1 vote
    - above 1.000.000 votes: 2 votes
    - above 2.000.000 votes: 3 votes
    - above 5.000.000 votes: 4 votes
    - above 10.000.000 votes: 5 votes
    - above 15.000.000 votes: 6 votes
    - above 20.000.000 votes and more: 7 votes
  - Organisations from countries below 1.000.000 inhabitants shall have a maximum of two votes.
  - Organisations from countries below 5.000.000 inhabitants shall have a maximum of five votes.
- ▶ E) The number of votes of each member organisations is stated by the Board on the proposal of the Secretary General before every Congress. The relevant day is the same day three months before the start of the Congress. If a member organisation does not agree with the amount of its votes, it can make an appeal to the Congress. Casting a vote demands the presence of the delegate.
- ▶ F) Decisions are taken in principle with the absolute majority of the votes. Changes of the statutes are taken by a three fourth majority.
- ▶ G) The electoral rules are fixed in the rules of procedure for the Congress.

#### Article 11 The Council

- ▶ A) The Council is the supreme organ of YEPP between two Congresses and should meet at least three times a year, but in any case must meet twice a year.
- ▶ B) Members of the Council are:
  - the members of the Board;
  - one representative of each member organisation with one vote;
  - one representative of each observer organisation without voting right.
- ▶ C) Tasks of the Council are:
  - formulation of political standpoints;
  - decision on the granting of observer status;
  - recommendations to the Congress on the acceptance of new members;
  - election of Board members/Financial Auditors in the case of vacancies;
  - approval of the budget for the forthcoming year and the adoption of the financial report for the previous year.
- ▶ D) The Council can only take decisions when a quorum of 50% plus one of its members is reached.
- ▶ E) One of the Council meetings in the year between the Congresses is the Chairmen's Conference.

#### Article 12 The Board

- ▶ A) The Board is responsible for the daily work of YEPP and meets at least four times a year.
- ▶ B) Member of the Board are:
  - the President;
  - the First Vice-President;
  - nine Vice-Presidents;
  - the Secretary General;
  - the Deputy Secretary General.
- ▶ C) Task of the Board are:
  - implementation of the decisions of the Council and the Congress;
  - representation of YEPP towards other institutions and organisations;
  - preparation of the Council meetings;
  - recommendations to the Council and the Congress concerning the acceptance and exclusion of members and observers.
- ▶ D) At its first meeting after the Congress, the Board will elect among its nine Vice-Presidents one with special responsibility as Treasurer.
- ▶ E) The Board can only take decisions when a quorum of 50% plus one of its members is reached.
- ▶ F) Candidates to the Board must be under the age of 35 years at the date of the election. Every country can have two representatives at most in the Board and every organisation can be represented by only one person at most in the Board. The mandates of the Board members who have not attended at least half of the meetings of the Board in the twelve months following their election become automatically vacant.

### Authorities

#### Article 13 The President

The President represents YEPP internally and externally. The President chairs the Congress, the Chairmen's Conference, the Council and the Board. The First Vice-President deputises for the President in the President's absence.

#### Article 14 The Secretary General

The Secretary General manages the daily business and executes the decisions taken by the authorities. The Secretary General is responsible for the correct administration and use of the budget. The Deputy Secretary General assists the Secretary General.

**Finances****Article 15**

All financial questions including membership fees and the role of the Treasurer are fixed in ANNEX I.

**Various****Article 16**

The working language is English. At the Congress interpretation of additional languages will be provided.

**Article 17**

YEPP can dissolve itself by a three fourth majority of the member organisations at a Congress.

**Article 18**

The statutes take effect immediately once the Founding Congress is opened. Statutory amendments take effect immediately after their adoption.

**ANNEX I: Finances****The Treasurer**

- ▶ 1. The treasurer, in consultation with the Presidency and the General Secretariat, establishes the annual budget and the accounts of YEPP and submits these to the Council. The Treasurer is responsible for finding new financial sources. The Treasurer controls the spending of the financial means which are at the disposal of the General Secretariat.
- ▶ 2. The Treasurer reports to every meeting of the Council on the current financial situation and submits to a meeting of the Council the budget for the year which contains the projected income and expenditure. The budget should contain an itemized account of expenditure for administration and activities.
- ▶ 3. The Treasurer must be consulted on all main financial transactions.
- ▶ 4. The Treasurer renders up the accounts on the basis of the information given by the Secretary General.
- ▶ 5. The accounts together with the report of the Financial Auditors are submitted to the Council.

**The Financial Auditors**

- ▶ 6. The two Financial Auditors will be elected by the Congress with a non-renewable mandate. They verify the accounts of YEPP and present an annual report to the Council. The Financial Auditors cannot be members of the Board.

**Payment of the subscription**

- ▶ 7. Members and observers must pay, not later than 31 May of each year, their membership fee as established by the Council. Membership fees payable by observers are fixed at the same level as those charged to members with the lowest voting rights.
- ▶ 8. Without prejudice to any other measures which may be decided upon by the Council, those members whose fees remain outstanding by 1 June of each year, will have their right to vote at Congress and Council meetings automatically suspended. If the membership fees remain outstanding on 31 December of the year which follows, the status of the organisation concerned will be suspended. The organisation cannot regain its status without a favourable decision of the Council and after having paid the arrears of membership fees outstanding.

**ANNEX II: Admission of new members and observers to YEPP** *Approved by the YEPP Council in Warsaw (28-06-97)*

- ▶ 1. All youth organisations must apply for a temporary observer status before they can become members of YEPP. The period as observer must last at least 6 months (see Art. 5).
- ▶ 2. The status of permanent observer will be provided for organisations whose international structures do not allow a membership in YEPP according to Art. 1 of the statutes.

# YEPP Political Programme: We stand for Europe!

*Adopted 4th YEPP Congress, The Hague (The Netherlands), March 2003*

**Preamble****The European Union, what does it stand for?**

The European Union is a successful model of integration in the world. The integration of the member states has created a common European home characterised by common security and peaceful procedures for resolving conflicts. The structures of the European Union prevent any form of domination of some states by others. The single market and more recently, monetary union, have secured prosperity for Europe's citizens. As a consequence, the members of the European integration process have enjoyed the longest peaceful period in history and unprecedented prosperity since the end of World War II.

Europe is at a crossroads in its history. Europe is on the brink of its most historic enlargement and also, hopefully, the extensive reform of the EU. The European Union is facing new challenges, both internal and external. Internally we have to truly integrate the new member states into the EU and to strengthen the solidarity with all current member states. Externally we have to intensify the relations with our new neighbours as the borders of the EU will soon extend to Russia, the Caucasuses, Africa and the Middle East.

**Integrating the new member states into the EU**

As the European Union expands to encompass ten new member states, with a population increase of some 80 million people, Europe finds herself on the verge of an entirely new and exciting stage in her evolution. The EEC was initially founded with the aim of uniting a broken and devastated Europe, in the wake of the most destructive war ever witnessed by the world. At the heart of this attempt to rebuild peace one common denominator could be found, which was entirely focused on economics - the coal and steel industry. It was believed that the one way to ensure old enmities would not resurface was to focus on economic co-operation rather than political antipathy. By enlarging the EU, new member states will be integrated into the Union to the extent that they belong fully to the EU. The integration process begins with membership and is not an end in itself. Signing the aquis communautaire is one thing, implementing and executing it is the real challenge. The primary responsibility for this lies with the new member states, but the EU as a whole also has a responsibility in integrating economies, labour markets, agriculture and so on by investing time and resources. As YEPP we have a special task in taking the youth perspective into account.

**New borders**

A European Union with new borders, what will this mean for our external focus?

After enlargement, a part of Russia - Kaliningrad - will lie within the borders of the EU. We are integrating Baltic States into the Union and Russia will be our largest and nearest neighbour. This is a neighbouring country with great future challenges as she lost her supremacy in the world, a country with internal instability, a weak economy and but massive nuclear and military capabilities. We will also be neighbouring an unstable part of the Caucasuses with unsolved conflicts significant environmental, economical and social problems.

With the entry of Cyprus into the EU, the powder keg of the Middle East will be less than one hundred kilometres from the EU. We need to rethink our relations with the Arab and Islamic world. Can we export our integration model to that region? Ours started with coal and steel, theirs might start with water and oil.

We need to think about inter-religious dialog with societies outside the EU, but also in the EU. How does our Judeo-Christian society cooperate with Islamic societies? This arises not only with regard to the Arab and Islamic world but also to Turkey and the Western Balkans. Even more important: what can/should be the role of inter-religious dialog in relation to immigration and integration?

How are we going to structure our development policies towards Africa and what kind of relations do we want to establish with the recently founded African Union?

**Common Values**

The fundament of our values and the basis for our efforts to bear political responsibility for shaping the future is our Christian understanding of man. It considers man to be God's creation, free and fallible. Accepting one's own imperfection rules out to pretend to be in possession of the only possible opinion. Combining respect for a diversity of convictions and conceptions of life with the determination to stick to what we deem to be the non-negotiable foundations of a good society is our strength.





The fundamental paradigm of the inviolability and universality of human dignity, the value we give the freedom of the individual and the respect we reserve to the communities to which it belongs are at the heart of our conception of politics and its legitimate goals. Our historical experience demands the rule of law, responsible and representative government and the civilisation of international relations as the institutional imperatives to follow our idea of the world.

Faced with the challenge of integrating 10 European nations that were forcibly excluded from the mainstream of European history for over 40 years, the necessity to affirm a European and civil vision for international relations and a good and human world order and confronted with the need to form the community of political will honouring our historic experiences, the young generation in Europe will build a political union on the basis of our common and particular values.

In the 21st century only a European Union that is united, determined and reflective can assure the survival of the essence of our history and turn its bitter lessons into guiding principles for the world.

**YEPP**

The political programme as stated in this document is for us, the Youth of the European People's Party, the framework for discussion in our efforts to answer the questions raised in this preamble. We want to be at the vanguard in these discussions!

As YEPP we are an organisation of and for young people. Not only young people elected into positions for the mother party, but also for young people interested in influencing their society and its future through democratic activities based on common ideas and values. Such an organisation should be independent and run by its own members. YEPP is connected to our mother party EPP, but YEPP has an independent role as a motivator and provocateur of the EPP."

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**CHAPTER ONE – THE ECONOMY AT THE SERVICE OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

**Social and ecological market economy**

Economic activity is not an objective in itself, but must be for the benefit of the individual and society. This principle is best served by an economic system, which can guarantee freedom, human dignity, social justice and the preservation of nature and at the same time achieve an efficient supply of goods and services. The social and ecological market economy is the most suitable for that purpose. The principle of a market economy provides the necessary sphere of freedom, which is occupied by market competition. The social principle provides for social balance, which the market itself cannot provide. The ecological principle demands the protection of natural resources and the natural environment. Interaction and mutual balance of these principles creates the social and ecological market economy.

**State activity to prevent and to repair market failure**

The state must provide the framework for the social and ecological market economy in order to achieve growth, employment, price stability, social justice and the protection of nature. Private property is a fundamental prerequisite of the free and uninhibited expression and activities of the individual. The state takes economic action only when required by the responsibility for the individual and for society in situations of absent or insufficient performance of the market.

**Open markets and competition**

Open markets and competition are the cornerstones of the social and ecological market economy. They enable and support private initiative. Proactive competition policy prevents cartels and eliminates competition-threatening mergers and monopolies. They provide the appropriate infrastructure for small and medium-sized economic entities and family businesses and help to generate opportunities for growth and development of newly created enterprises.

**Responsibility of Social Partners**

The social partners bear responsibility in the internal market. Their main responsibility is to run the labour market, in which everyone willing to work must find a job. The social partners need to provide flexible solutions for different branches and regions. The autonomy of the social partners is not only for the protection of those at work. Therefore the collective wage agreement shall not interfere with the individuals chance to find a job with conditions acceptable to him. The partners must also accept responsibility for the labour market and competitiveness.

**Internal market and the Euro**

The single market and more recently, monetary union, have secured prosperity and economic stability for the citizens of the European Union. Congruent economic policies of the member states have contributed to the creation of favourable conditions for innovation, growth and employment. The Euro-stability pact and its budget-restrictions have to be adhered by all EMU-states and should not be weakened or loosened. Universal competition, the common currency, the stability and growth pact provide the framework and force the member states to exercise their competences in economic policy efficiently and responsibly. There are still many aspects of the internal market that remain incomplete. In particular, we need to see further liberalisation of former 'public sector' markets such as electricity, gas and postage. Sectoral state aid to the steel industry, automotives and textiles must also come to an end.

**The Euro**

The Euro is a symbol of a very important and successful step of Europe's integration. The stability of the Euro is essential for the future political and economic success of the Union. That stability will also increase the believe of citizens in the EU and in particular the Euro. Therefore, the stability and growth pact must set clear and strong rules which have to be adhered to strictly by Eurozone countries. Ensuring the strength and stability of the Euro also requires that European economies improve competitiveness with other World economies, in particular the United States. The wealth and growth gap between the United States and the EU is already too large and is growing. One of the best ways of improving competitiveness, delivering growth and encouraging inward investment into the EU is bringing about lower taxes on corporate profits and capital across the Union. Maintaining tax rate competition among member states in these areas is crucial.

**Solidarity and Cohesion**

Communism and centrally planned economic systems have left behind an ecological and economical disaster. After decades of socialist and communist mismanagement the people of the transformation countries need our solidarity. Solidarity is also needed for those European regions that are confronted with structural economic problems as a result of historic developments, constraining social and political structures of the past and a difficult geographic situation. The economic reconstruction and transformation aims at creating social cohesion and prosperity in Europe.

**Employment and Social Policy**

Over the course of the past fifty years, however, the European Union has developed into much more than a mere economic bloc - this was only the starting point. However, political integration has become part of the raison d'être of the EU. YEPP believes that the time has come for both employment and social issues to become a priority for the European Union and its Member States. If Europe is to become a place where the quality of life of its peoples is regarded as a fundamental element of integration, a coherent framework for policy on employment and social issues hand in hand with economic growth must be carved out.

**Employment**

The European Council has set the elimination of unemployment within the European Union as an objective to be achieved by 2010. This is an achievable target if the appropriate mechanisms are put in place and enforced. We believe that flexibility in the market place is essential. Labour flexibility enhances employment opportunities, and can ensure that work can be reconciled with family life if complemented by business flexibility and an equitable balance of power in the labour market. The Lisbon Strategy laid out standards which are to form the cornerstone of EU policy in this area. The aim is to reconcile the objective of the creation of full employment with standards promoting higher standards in the work place and the promotion of a more inclusive society. Clearly the onus is necessarily on the Member States in implementing and monitoring policy in this area. However, the EU has a clear role to play in setting targets and developing standards of best practice and enhancing the levels of employability of citizens. Strategies for encouraging labour flexibility, re-entry into the workforce, developing niche skills, and advanced training aimed at managerial capacity should be prioritised.



Labour mobility, as envisaged by the Single European Act, is still unrealised. Europeans are very much less likely than Americans, Chinese or Indians to travel to other parts of their own union to obtain better employment. European employment policies must be directed at making labour mobility easier. This should include greater protection for migrant workers and easier access to social services, health and education for Europeans working in other member states.

Priority should be given to reintegrating the long term unemployed into the workforce. Statistics show that this form of unemployment is the biggest challenge facing the EU. Methods of capacity enhancement and skills training must be developed which are applicable in each of the member states. Exchange of standards of best practice is essential to this process.

**Future of European Employment Strategy**

The next employment strategy should be more narrowly focused, giving specific attention to the promotion of entrepreneurship and equal opportunities. A reduced number of guidelines, which emphasise tangible results and improved co-ordination with other processes such as the Economic Policy Guidelines would make for more efficient and effective policy implementation. The results of such an approach would also be more easily measured and assessed.

**Social Policy**

We believe that equality of opportunity must become the cornerstone of European social policy. As our model for future development of the EU is the promotion of a social market economy, we are convinced that this can only be achieved by creating an inclusive and fair social policy. Reward for individual endeavour will create a competitive environment, which reaps the economic benefits of the free market, while ensuring that the weak and vulnerable are protected and their interests safeguarded.

YEPP believes that certain aspects of social policy must be placed high on the agenda in light of enlargement of the EU. Fears of current Member States must be addressed regarding immigrants.

In order to achieve the Lisbon target of a dynamic and competitive economy, the need to achieve equality between men and women is essential. To reach this goal, a broad mobilisation is necessary at both European and national levels for the implementation of a comprehensive policy that will aim at the equal integration of women into the labour market, at women preserving their jobs and at their advancement. YEPP opposes all policies which promote discrimination against women in recruitment practices, salary and promotion. It is a fact that the majority of those working in low-paid jobs in the EU are women. They are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society with regard to social exclusion and poverty. In order to facilitate the entry of more women into the work place, while respecting the fundamental role of the family in our society, there is an evident need to reassess facilities and social infrastructure, part-time work career breaks and parental leave and the combination of work and family care.

The social rights and individual dignity of people with disabilities should not be ignored and their integration into our society should be promoted. Throughout Europe, people with disabilities of varying types are calling for recognition of their rights. YEPP believes that disabled people should have their basic rights observed and implemented in each of the Member States. Access to public buildings and transport, employment opportunities and equal access to education should be automatically available.

YEPP also clearly defends the need for implementing adequate specific measures for the effective integration of young people in labour market as a guarantee for their economic independence, their full personal and professional development and the reactivation of European Union economy.

**Equality of Opportunity**

The success of the European Social Model can best be judged on the position women, ethnic and religious minorities and disabled people enjoy in society. There should be no divergence in incomes, status, legal rights, education or access to services solely based on any European's sex, ethnicity, age, religion or disability.

**CHAPTER TWO: COMMON AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES POLICY**

**A Reformed Common Agricultural Policy**

YEPP believes in the framing of a Reformed Common Agricultural Policy which is based on sustainability, solidarity and effectiveness. We broadly agree with the CAP objectives including food safety, environmental preservation, and farm income. However, there is doubt as to whether the right instruments are in place. This policy should be based on rural development as well as on support for farming with the balance of funding shifting progressively away from farm supports to investment in rural infrastructure, education & training, rural investment and tax breaks for new business in rural areas. CAP must become a Consumer's policy, supplying what the Customer wants. This would involve increased consumer demands over food quality and safety, environmental protection and animal welfare in farming must become guiding principles for a reformed CAP. It should also support smaller farms and areas of particular social or environmental need as well as encouraging and supporting younger farmers. We must show solidarity with rural communities and ensure that reforms do not result in hardship or depopulation.

The main objective of the reform of CAP should be the preservation of vibrant rural communities and environmental protection resulting in a progressive shift in funding towards encouraging farmers to focus on the use of progressive cultivation methods to produce higher quality, safer foods while preserving the aesthetic value of the countryside, reserving its recreational and amenity potential, aiding its role in water accumulation and supply, soil formation and nutrient recycling and fixation, ensuring the protection of wildlife, aiding storm protection and carbon sequestration capacities of the countryside, protecting animal welfare and bio-diversity. Every integrated agricultural and rural development policy shall take into account the cultural specificity and diversity of rural regions in Europe and the resulting diversity of its products, that is unique in the world.

**Subsidiarity and a reformed CAP**

In the context of these reforms, co-financing, which has proved its merits in the field of rural development, would, if applied in market measures, represent a step backwards from one of the earliest common policies of the Union. It should follow European guidelines taking account of with fair competition within the Union, and the principles of a single market. Member States should have a margin of discretion in the implementation of the rural development aspects of the Reformed Common Agricultural Policy and hence co-financing can be justified there. No such discretion exists or could be allowed, in relation to agricultural market measures, so co-financing is not appropriate in that area.

The EU cannot develop its policies in isolation. Farm subsidies are also paid to farmers in the USA, Canada and Japan. Indeed, subsidies have been increased in the United States and are already much higher in Japan than they are in Europe. The EU should not dismantle its subsidies and farm support regime unilaterally. This should be done in concert with the dismantling of these trade-distorting measures in North America and Japan.

**Reforming the Fisheries Policy**

The Common Fisheries Policy's stated objectives are: to increase productivity, stabilise markets, ensure availability of supplies and reasonable prices for the consumer. To that extent the Common Fisheries Policy is a failure. Many species are close to extinction in some areas and stocks are perilously low in the North Sea and North Atlantic. Moreover, prices have risen significantly in recent years.

**Protecting our natural resources**

A greater emphasis on the Hague Preferences is needed. This means support for sustainable, long-term and traditional fishing practices in regions most dependent on Fishing. Total Allowable Catches (TAC) must be reduced significantly if fish stocks are to be maintained. To enforce this, a European Coast Guard should guard against trafficking and ensure fisheries protection. The system of member state quotas is outdated and maintains a nationality based system of discrimination which is bad for the functioning and public perception of the Union. These should be abolished with the Commission issuing quotas to individual vessels on the basis of the TAC established by scientific advice. It is no longer appropriate to spend such large sums on this policy. Rather, monies should be diverted to decommissioning vessels, retiring crews and providing capital for alternative economic activity in fishing ports.

## CHAPTER THREE: IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY

### A more open and pluralistic Europe

YEPP believes that Europe profits from an increasingly open and free world, where we can trade our goods, invest capital and move relatively freely in business or as tourists. We feel that Europe should allow others to benefit from these freedoms as we have. It should be a fundamental right that all human beings seeking employment are judged on their qualities and not their origins.

People that come to Europe, as refugees, asylum seekers and job seekers are entitled to respect and to be given the necessary tools to provide for themselves. YEPP believes that pluralism is of value in itself. Different cultures and impulses enrich our societies.

### A common policy

Europe faces several challenges that could find a solution in immigration. All member states, to varying degrees, have falling birth rates and ageing populations. This is combined with large numbers of people seeking better lives as immigrants. In this context, immigration is an opportunity. Along side this, Europe and its member states face a challenge in granting protection to millions of people that are refugees fleeing from war, violence and oppression. YEPP also recognises the severe strains the large number of illegal immigrant pose to many European states. However we do not believe that the solutions are to be found in closing Europe and frightening these people away.

Inequalities in our world have developed in such a way that many feel forced to move. Others are even forced by war or crises both man-made and ecological. We strongly believe that Europe must answer questions of immigration and asylum with a common policy. Integration of either job seekers or those in need of protection must still be the responsibility of the member states, however. It is crucial to ensure coherent procedures in dealing with job seeking immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers. Given the free and open market of our Union, it is also necessary that the members adjust their social assurances so that negative inequalities are prevented. Europe's wealth is based on equal rights and security given to all. Immigrants must therefore be ensured the same rights once their status is defined.

By allowing every person in, Europe cannot absorb the global challenges of forced migration. Solving this complex situation is something that demands a broad policy, including involvement in development and conflict prevention outside Europe. Active policies on immigration, asylum and integration matters are essential to meet up with the enormous numbers of people that are migrating.

### Job seeking immigrants

Europe has its own history of emigration, internal migrations and series of crisis that have forced people to flee. The very basic ideas of our Union also commit us to show solidarity. YEPP encourages the establishment of a two tracked entry to Europe and our different member states. Due to the lack of a comprehensive legal framework, many job-seeking migrants use the asylum procedure as the entry mechanism into the Union. Because we need labour and those seeking opportunities abroad we must put up an entry track for such immigrants. This entry track for job seeking immigrants is not created as a means of solidarity but to the sole purpose of providing labour force to our market. This entry track should therefore be controlled by the demand of labour.

### Refugees and asylum seekers

With our strong commitment to human rights we must ensure the protection of individuals and groups of people forced to seek protection on our doorstep. The entry track for refugees or asylum seekers should be a mechanism built upon coherent standards in every member state for judgement, either by permanent or temporary stays. All member states should co-ordinate the efforts they make in receiving UN Quota Refugees, so that Europe and all the member states show the appropriate and necessary solidarity. YEPP also call for the reform of the 1951 Geneva Convention, since this convention fails to met up with several of the most recent refugee situations. This could then constitute a new pan-European Convention on Refugees and Asylum seekers.

### Integration

Newcomers to Europe, who have come here as asylum seekers, refugees or job-seeking immigrants, should be encouraged to build their future in Europe through their own efforts. It is especially important to reduce the unemployment among immigrants. Language education and opportunities to work experience is urgent.

It is essential that every member state has programmes for the integration of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant job seekers. Such programmes must include language training and other necessary means to help people into the labour market. This should help people into active participation rather than as status as passive beneficiaries. Rapid settlement of refugees and asylum seekers is also important to prevent the unfortunate effects of living in ghettos. One of the most effective means of integration is participation social life and employment. Allowing people to work and thereby to provide for themselves is the very basis of YEPP's appreciation.

## CHAPTER FOUR: THE COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

The creation of an effective Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is one of the great challenges that lie ahead for the European Union.

The EU has a global responsibility for peace and stability in the world and the only way the EU can live up to this responsibility is by strengthening CFSP. The fight against international terrorism, extremism and poverty, the promotion of democracy and human rights, the prevention of international conflicts and crisis management: the task ahead is immense.

Public opinion expects or even demands that the EU takes up its role on the world stage. With only one superpower left to determine the global agenda, people do not expect the formation of a new European superpower, but of a European Union that is able to set out and defend its own priorities and to conduct a whole range of actions autonomously.

### Objectives of CFSP

YEPP believes in a value-based and transparent Common Foreign and Security Policy as far as is practicable. Member States are not always able to be effective at all levels.

The three main objectives of CFSP should be:

- ▶ Peace – territorial integrity, conflict prevention and the diplomatic resolution of conflicts
- ▶ Good Governance – democracy, rule of law and human rights
- ▶ Sustainable development – economic, social and environmental

The instruments of CFSP shall be diplomatic, military and development cooperation. The EU must develop competence and capabilities in all these fields.

### Diplomacy

The EU member states must speak and act with one voice in international bodies. This means a Commissioner for Foreign Policy whose task it is to coordinate the foreign policy activity of the Commission as a whole. The Commissioner for Foreign Policy must take on the role of coordinating the member states' activities and positions in international institutions and at international conferences.

The EU must identify Common Foreign Policy goals such as diplomatic mediation to prevent and resolve conflict as well as the prevention and elimination of terrorism, the advancement of International Law. The European Union's relationship with the UN is essential in this regard. The EU is the biggest contributor and supporter of the UN. We should develop its capacity as the best tool for dealing with development, human rights, conflict prevention, reconstruction and other 'soft-security' issues. The EU should commit more resources and personnel to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

The EU should commit itself to strengthening Global Governance through our support for institutions such as the International Criminal Court, WTO, IMF and World Bank.

### The military role

Priority number one is the establishment of a European Rapid Reaction Force, enabling the EU to conduct autonomously humanitarian and rescue missions, peacekeeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking. This will not only strengthen European diplomatic efforts, it will also act as a great asset to UN or US-led operations.

Every Member State has to take up responsibility in order to reach the necessary standards in military capabilities. YEPP respects the role of the UN Security Council in mandating intervention. However, the current composition and procedures of the Security Council can prevent that decisions on interventions are taken. Therefore, YEPP calls for the development of a new legal framework based on reasonable consensus to enable the UN to be more effective in times of crisis and of flagrant violation of international law. Until this issue is resolved, an EU military mission without a UN mandate should not be ruled out.

### NATO

NATO is in full transformation. Since the end of the Cold War, the Alliance has been adapting to new roles in peacekeeping, promoting interoperability and advancing security within and beyond Europe. Now, it must create a place for itself in the post-September 11th world. The tragic events of that day prompted NATO Members to invoke Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, declaring that the attack against the USA constituted an attack against all allies. With this decision, NATO de facto became a global alliance.



YEPP welcomes NATO enlargement. A strong autonomous European Security and Defence Policy are beneficial to both Europe and NATO. There is a need for a common security partnership based transparency and respect of each others institutional realities. An enlarged NATO will carry a greater political weight, but the organisation should remain centred around its core business: a defensive military alliance.

The Partnership for Peace (PFP) will allow neutral EU countries to cooperate fully in an EU defence strategy. In the long run, YEPP prefers all EU Member States to become full members of NATO. Every neutral state retains the right not to participate in military operations.

#### Streamlining the European defence industry

YEPP calls for the creation of a single market for armaments and recognises the need for further mergers and rationalisation of the EU defence industries. Furthermore, there is a need for improved transatlantic industrial cooperation in order to address the gap in defence capabilities between the USA and other NATO members. Otherwise, the growing political, conceptual and military divergence will make it harder to sustain the transatlantic alliance, on a diplomatic level as well as on the battlefield.

### CHAPTER FIVE: DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND CO-OPERATION

Development Policy and Co-operation are a fundamental part of the EU's common foreign and security policy. They are a main instrument that allows the EU, as one of the wealthiest groups of countries, to take its responsibility and show concrete solidarity towards the poor. This can be done through: conflict prevention, the promotion of good governance and the empowerment of the poor, the provision of a framework for a pro-poor economic growth, the establishment of a functioning system for providing basic social services and efforts to avoid environmental degradation,

Development policy and co-operation must take into consideration the multidimensional nature of poverty and make essential contributions to reach the goals of CFSP as seen by YEPP:

- ▶ Peace – territorial integrity, conflict prevention and the diplomatic resolution of conflicts
- ▶ Good Governance – democracy, rule of law and human rights
- ▶ Sustainable Development – economic, social and environmental

#### Development policy

Reducing poverty requires coherence, not only in development co-operation but also across member state governmental policies. Of course, the EU has a wide range of objectives reflecting domestic constituencies and interests. Even so, poverty reduction should receive more weight than other objectives and become a higher priority for a broader range of policy makers.

This is in the interest of the EU because poverty is a source of dysfunction and disorder in the world with adverse spillovers such as political instability, terrorism, environmental degradation, illicit migration and epidemics. The most important policy areas are international trade and investment, economic and financial issues, agriculture and food security, natural resources and the environment, social issues, governance and human security.

#### The EU should speak with one voice

Within international institutions and conferences, we want the EU to speak and act as one. This will have consequences for the representation and organisation of the EU in important institutions like the UN Security Council and the governing bodies of specialised UN Agencies, the OECD, the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF, IFAD and the Regional Development Banks. We want the EU Commission to take the lead in the EU delegations to such organisations and conferences. The Commission has the task to organise the EU internal consultations and to find positions which are shared by a vast majority of its members.

Considering the financial and commercial weight of the EU, its voice will have to be taken into consideration by the international community. In order to achieve a greater credibility, we want the EU to undertake efforts to improve the governance of international institutions and to make sure an appropriate representation of the poorest countries in their governing bodies.

#### Development co-operation

The EU must vastly improve the co-ordination of its development co-operation and aid budgets in developing countries. Up to now, every single member state of the EU has an own aid agency. In developing countries, these agencies do not co-ordinate their work sufficiently among themselves and with the EU representation.

We want the EU representation in each developing country to make sure that the efforts of every single member of the EU fit into a common comprehensive development framework. To fully centralise development co-operation and to close down national aid agencies would go against the principle of subsidiarity, annul decades of experience gained by these agencies and weaken support from civil society and private sector actors that traditionally work together with these agencies.

We are convinced that to in order to adapt to the multidimensionality of problems and the different contexts, a variety of aid instruments like programme, project and sector support will allow the EU to foster synergies and complementarities. In order to develop a sufficient knowledge of the local context, the EU's development co-operation staff should be further decentralised and receive the necessary decision-making competencies. Like this, staff will more easily acquire skills that foster partnership and get opportunities for exchange, learning and team-work in an environment focusing on poverty reduction, pro-poor growth and development effectiveness.

In line with the efforts to strengthen national accountability mechanisms and statistics, the EU representation should be responsible to interact with other bilateral and multilateral institutions working in the countries. One of the main objectives of the co-operation of the EU, its member country agencies and its international partners should be to develop common donor standards and accountability procedures which are compatible with and strengthen those of developing countries.

Civil society participation in dialogue, implementation and monitoring of development strategies should be actively supported. This means promoting local democratic structures and identifying civil society actors who can legitimately speak and act for the poor and be accountable to them.

#### World Trade as Fair Trade

Developing countries must be partners with equal rights in free world trade. Industrialised countries must reduce trade barriers and fair conditions for competition. The European Union should expand agreements with those countries on supporting export prices and granting easy access to the internal market. The EU must undertake to terminate all practice of economic dumping and observe the WTO standards on such activity.

Making policies coherent across the EU and its member countries is a complex process but we want the EU to explore ways to reach it. Examples include: inter-department working groups for exchange and consultation, common task forces for emerging issues and an EU-wide policy brief on poverty reduction. Another consequence of coherence on domestic policies is the implementation of international action plans agreed on at international conferences like Monterrey, Doha and Johannesburg (including the Kyoto Protocol). For example, the EU must use the Doha Round to ensure that markets are opened up so that developing countries gain real access to First World markets – especially agriculture, textile and manufactured goods.

### CHAPTER SIX: THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND CRIME

One of the prime objectives of the EU is to preserve and develop the Union as an area of freedom, security and peace. Citizens' safety and security cannot be achieved by the Member States alone; they are a collective responsibility. Since the attacks of 11 September 2001, this applies in particular to the fight against international terrorism and cross-border crime.

#### Terrorism

International terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to peace and security and a challenge to all states. Terrorism attacks the very foundations upon which our societies are built.

Ten days after the attacks on New York and Washington D.C., the European Council approved an action plan to coordinate and intensify the actions of the EU against terrorism. Pressured by the extraordinary circumstances, considerable progress has been made on many aspects of this plan in very little time. But there is still a great deal to be done.

#### Strengthening police and judicial cooperation

Various measures have already been implemented: the European arrest warrant, a joint definition of terrorist acts, a Counter Terrorism Task Force within Europol and the setting up of joint investigation teams. An agreement is in the making that will regulate the freezing of assets and evidence by one Member State under orders issued by a judicial authority in another Member State.

In order to further integrate and strengthen European efforts to combat terrorism, the Member States must act without undermining the civil rights of their own citizens. Protecting freedom also means respecting freedom.



#### The EU on the international front

Because of the nature of the threat, intra-European measures will not be sufficient. The fight against terrorism has to be an integral part of EU foreign policy. The Union must take on a leading role in the UN and other international institutions. This implies the endorsement of all UN conventions on combating terrorist acts and the implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Preventive initiatives have to be taken in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and export controls. Continuous cooperation with the USA, including agreement on extradition and mutual legal assistance. Systematic evaluation of third countries' efforts to fight terrorism and the introduction of anti-terrorism clauses in agreements with these countries.

#### Police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters

A key instrument in the cooperation between police forces is Europol. Although only established in 1995, the Europol Convention is already in need of revision by the European Council in view of the many challenges the European Police Office has to take on. Europol must be given the necessary funding and structure to be able to effectively organise operational cooperation concerning prevention, detection and investigation of criminal acts, exchange and analysis of relevant information, educational cooperation and cooperation between liaison officers.

The challenges are indeed enormous: the trafficking of human beings, illicit drug trafficking, illicit arms trafficking, assaults on minors, corruption, money-laundering, fraud, smuggling of radioactive substances, illegal immigration, motor vehicle crime and more.

Judicial cooperation is still primarily an issue between Member States. It includes cooperation on extradition, mutual recognition of court rulings, mutual judicial assistance and the approximation of criminal codes of the Member States.

The process in this field is difficult, progress is slow.

YEPP believes it is essential that in a European area of freedom, security and justice, decisions taken in criminal cases in one member state should be enforceable in another Member State and that therefore priority must be given to come to this mutual recognition.

#### Strengthening customs cooperation

Customs cooperation is an integral part of the prevention, detection and investigation of cross-border crime. The EU enlargement forms a great challenge for the customs authorities in the accession countries. Therefore, an action plan must be drawn up to ensure effective control of the new external borders.

### CHAPTER SEVEN: COMMUNICATIONS

#### Information Technology – eEurope

The Internet and mobile telephony and many other inventions are changing the world we live in, and the challenge for Europe is to embrace the digital age and become a truly knowledge-based economy. Information technologies and the Internet have transformed the way companies do business, students learn, the (editorial) way scientists carry out the research and the way governments provide services to their citizens.

Digital technologies have proved to be a powerful engine for economic growth and competitiveness and social and cultural development. eEurope is based on the premise that the Internet is essential to future economic growth and job creation. eEurope is not only about making European industry more competitive but also ensuring that all EU-citizens have access to the new information and communication technologies and exploiting them as fully as possible. That means using development technologies for everyday activities, services and products such as education, government, health, culture and entertainment.

The Union must become the world's most advanced and competitive knowledge-based society. To reach that goal a strategy with creativity, vision and utilizing the opportunities of the different pillars of communication is necessary. Internet is the most important, but also communication by the spoken word, newspapers, radio and television will be important in future. To be an active player as knowledge-based society the EU must look further and participate (pro-)actively in developing technologies. The purpose is not creating new institutions and laws, but being flexible and giving facilities and opportunities to organisations, companies and people to invest in communication.

#### Cheaper, faster and secure Internet access – eSecurity

Modernising the rules and regulations governing Internet access must also be in the future one of the top priorities for eEurope. YEPP believes that simplifying telecommunication laws and creating truly liberalised telecom markets will eventually result in cheaper and faster Internet access for citizens and business alike. In order to keep users online, EU-member states must ensure consumer and business confidence in the Internet. There must be comprehensive strategies for network and information security. Equally important to building consumer's confidence is data protection and privacy. To meet these challenges the Union has to continue to work for ensuring widespread broadband access and secure information infrastructure. The use of the EU's existing Structural Funds should be targeted to facilitate broadband access and setting up a Cyber Security Task Force (CSTF) are good examples to promote usage of Internet.

Widespread availability of broadband access at competitive prices and a secure information infrastructure enable modern online public services, the cornerstones of eEurope- eGovernment, eLearning, eHealth and a dynamic eBusiness.

#### eGovernment

The aim is to provide easy electronic access to public services. Member states should ensure that basic public services are interactive and accessible for all and be able to exploit both the potential of broadband networks and multi-platform access. The use of existing structural funds and cooperation with the private and voluntary sector could be efficient ways to promote public internet access points (PIAPs) in communes and municipalities. eGovernment means also the promotion of e-voting. YEPP must encourage this system all over Europe.

#### eLearning

The EU's future competitiveness depends also a reformed education policy including eLearning and long-life vocational training. YEPP stresses that each country remains fully responsible for organising its own national education system and for what is taught in its schools and colleges, but YEPP can promote the development of competences'centres of eLearning in the Universities. These centres could be the key for a long term eLearning.. On the other hand, the EU plays crucial role in coordinating national policies towards common EU-wide objectives. EU should continue financing and developing research and educational exchange-programs.

#### eHealth

The purpose of this initiative is to use digital technologies to improve the quality and accessibility of health services. The work of medical practitioners at all levels is becoming more information intensive as computer applications are more widely used. At the same time, demands on healthcare budgets are increasing in the face of medical and scientific advances, an ageing population and changing patient expectations. That is why digital technologies are becoming more important in health management at both the individual practitioner level and at national and regional level. Further development of eHealth offers the potential to reduce administrative costs, to deliver health care services at a distance and to avoid unnecessary duplicate examinations. eHealth will also give more opportunities for the own responsibility of patients, because of the possibilities for systems which compares hospitals, insurancecompanies and doctors. Electronic health cards, health information networks and health services on-line are goals which should be pursued also in the future but with the respect of data protection and privacy.

#### eBusiness

The concept of eBusiness refers both e-commerce (buying and selling on-line) and restructuring business processes to make the best use of digital technologies. It is precisely when information technologies transform traditional business procedures, products and services that eBusiness fulfills its potential. The Commission, in co-operation with Member States should review relevant legislation with the purpose of identifying and removing factors that prevent companies from using eBusiness. The plans to set up a European eBusiness support network should be promoted. This new proposal would mean strengthening and coordinating actions in support of SMEs in the field of eBusiness.

#### eSafety

The internet to benefit all European Citizens must be safe for children and those of all religions, ethnic groups, gender or sexual orientation to use. The concept of esafety concerns the protection of children the vulnerable and minorities. The information highway with all its benefits has also unleashed massive opportunities for the dissemination of racist, sectarian, sexist and pornographic material. EU countries should work closely together to ensure that usage of the internet conforms to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

## CHAPTER EIGHT: TRANSPORT

Transport is one of the most important engines of European economic development. The existence of a modern and coordinated global system of transport is a basis of a developed economy founded on growing commerce and passengers' mobility within the European Union.

However, that same economic growth, together with the needs that will arise with an enlarged EU, should make us aware of the need to address its negative effect with a deeper reform of transport structures.

Obsolete legislation, the increase in the exchange of goods within the EU, the unstoppable increase in the number of vehicles, the EU enlargement and the need to comply with new environmental and global security measures have entailed a complete new scenario for which the EU is not yet prepared.

### Road Transport

Road transport still represents for citizens and enterprises the cheapest way to travel and to carry goods within the EU. However, the growth of economy and the increase in the number of vehicles have caused significant traffic congestion on European roads. This is a major break to further economic growth and competitiveness. Traffic congestion is also a problem for a balanced development of all EU geographic areas. While central European areas directly suffer the congestion, outlying countries are under risk of isolation should the problem remain unsolved.

Therefore, we consider necessary the establishment of a new transport policy framework developing the measures included in the European Commission White Book. This will enable the European Union to have a true legislation improving transport conditions and guaranteeing the fulfilment of internal market regulations.

Moreover, individually taken, the reduction of traffic congestion is a problem with little solution if it is not taken into consideration together with a further development of other means of transport. An effective trans-European network should be developed under global considerations promoting the use of railways and shipping.

### The Railways

Railway transport is still a fast and cheap way of transport with enormous possibilities. The last years this new development became clear with the building of numerous high speed railways which facilitate rapid travel for a lot of European citizens. These railways can replace the airplane for shorter distances. Rail transport as a pillar of the internal transport market has to be strengthened to increase the flexibility in the European transport market. Ensuring that European railways are inter-operable and high-speed rail links, in particular, should be priority for the Union.

### Transport by sea

This revitalisation of shipping as a modern mode of transport is connected to the need of establishing real sea motorways as well as a coordinated and unified plan included in the global trans-European transport network. This plan must pay attention to the safety of ships and ports to protect the environment and European citizens. Accidents and the threat of terrorism have made clear that the seas and big ports in Europe are not well secured against these threats. The EU has a strong responsibility in pressing the world to develop a safe-sea-policy.

### Open Skies over Europe

European air transport suffers today from a lack of unified coordination. The Eurocontrol system, today's only tool, is clearly insufficient. Its governmental character together with its consensus decision-making requirements makes Eurocontrol a management body of limited scope and efficiency. On many occasions, it is incapable of enforcing its own decisions and is unable to impose sanctions. We believe the Single European Sky project the solution to air traffic congestions and a coordinated strategy for the sector. The main objectives for an efficient coordinated action should basically focus on: improving the decision-making process, promoting a more flexible and pro-efficiency approach by national air traffic authorities, the establishment of a unified legal body including efficient measures and enforceable sanctions against infractions, the implementation of a standardisation process for a more efficient, equitable and transparent traffic flow management, the definition of air traffic control zones in terms of operational efficiency and not on the basis of national frontiers, constant dialogue with social partners (pilots, air crews, traffic controllers, aircraft companies, airlines) and efficient coordination of parallel services such as meteorological, aeronautical, surveillance, and search and rescue services.

### Creating a Trans-European Network

We support the creation of a Trans-European Network of transport, communications and energy infrastructure as set down in the Maastricht Treaty. The connection of peripheral regions and islands to the centre of the EU and landlocked areas to the sea should form the basis of Europe's transport policy. The harmonisation of driving licences, qualifications, roadworthiness tests and safety rules is long overdue. Free access to the aviation market is essential. An open skies policy between Europe and the United States is long overdue. The European Commission must do more to tackle the distortion of competition in the aviation market by governments, airports and airlines.

## CHAPTER NINE: RESEARCH

### Innovation

The human quest for knowledge and understanding of himself and his environment is the main foundation of scientific research. Therefore research is valuable in its own right. Research has also a practical value, because it produces results which can be applied. Research has to respect the environment and the dignity of human life.

Competitiveness in a modern economy is based mainly on innovation produced by talented minds, usually in the framework of research, both in academia and in industry. Research-based knowledge plays an increasingly important role in the development of new technology, products, services and forms of organisation. In the public and private sectors alike, knowledge-based innovation is crucial to quality and competitiveness. Moreover, emerging global environmental challenges, on the environmental, communicational and biochemical level, pose new demands with respect to research efforts.

Europe under-performs in the area of applicable innovations when compared to the United States or Japan, leading to a weaker position of the European economies in the global markets. There is an urgent need to strengthen European R&D and to catch up with global competition and even out-perform them. Increasingly, progress and investment in R&D is linked with economic growth rates. The European economy cannot compete with costs in developing countries. In order to compete, Europe must be second to none when it comes to factors like the educational level of the workforce and investment in R&D.

### Diversification of research and competition

Although independent fundamental basic research is seen as valuable for the society, research and development is not an island, research and development is not an island away from the ever-present rules of the market. R&D is subject to the market, and as in many circumstances, competition can be beneficial. European Universities, in particular, should expose themselves more to fair competition from the side of the private educational and research sector. EU Universities should aim to be enterprising universities with a focus on the social and economic application of its research findings. The universities of Europe have to be better at competing for resources and for the World's "best minds". Too often in Europe being a scientist, especially in the early stages of career, is rather an expensive hobby than a serious job.

Greater and greater numbers of university students lead to a relative decrease in the capacities of Universities, both in human and financial resources. Although the higher numbers of students is a positive phenomenon, it should not be the research function of University that suffers from the trend. In many cases European Universities educate and train people that can pay for their education themselves, while resources for R&D are inadequate. This leads to decrease of the quality of the education in general and sustainability of the system in the long run becomes questionable.

Universities in Europe should become more autonomous and able to decide their own ways of creating their work and their future. These processes should be paralleled by the systems of supporting students who are genuinely unable to finance their studies for themselves.

### Flexible funding and public-private partnerships

The responsibility of the state to fund basic research should be underlined. Conditions for basic research must be improved to enable us to improve and develop the knowledge base needed to meet the challenges of tomorrow. States have to provide for a basic environment that will enable research to produce the biggest possible results. Therefore YEPP urges governments, especially those of Central and Eastern European states, to substantially increase research funds and to encourage individuals and corporations to establish grants and foundations for the promotion of research.

Member states should further establish a standard concerning the proportion of national budget devoted to research. Education based on basic research is indispensable for high-quality applied research. Highly qualified personnel can bring scientific expertise and insight to every sector of society.

The mobility of knowledge and people between academia and other spheres, especially industry, should be strengthened. There is an urgent need for improving the flow of publicly-funded research to industry, especially to Small and Medium Enterprises and public services, who in contrast to big companies have very limited opportunities to fund their own R&D.

### Supporting sectors

Funding of research should concentrate the allocation on the new and promising sectors like biotechnology and microbiology, ICT and other sectors, that could possibly contribute to the empowering of Europe. Besides funds it is important that the organisational structures of the research centre are flat and flexible. Only then men's creativity is used in an optimal way. This is one of the reasons China and the United States are having such a strong R&D. Law is often a barrier for new and innovating sectors. A special committee concentrating on innovation barriers should outline these barriers in for example law and suggest solutions. This committee could also indicate the promising sectors.



**Networking**

The relationships on cooperation between universities, research centres and industry must be, in one way or another, structured (Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area through long-term networking). The EU's ability to compete with the US or Japan in the field of R&D is hindered by a high degree of fragmentation of the research effort and the lack of systematic collaboration. Research activities, conducted on a European level, must achieve a much greater critical mass that can't be achieved on a national basis.

**Valorisation of research findings**

Research teams in both public and private sector should be encouraged to conduct research in applied technology development. The transfer of Intellectual Property Rights from academia to business and industry must be facilitated. In order to derive the maximum benefit (both economic and social) of its research findings, the process of protection of Intellectual Property Rights (patents, licences and agreements) should be managed on a European level.

**CHAPTER TEN: EUROPEAN HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION****Public Health as a European concern**

The European Union has a role to play in protecting and promoting public health, if this can be done better at European level. The EU also has a key role to play consumer protection which is essential to the fair and equitable operation of the single market. Some aspects of public health and health promotion can be best achieved if co-ordinated at European level. This includes: the monitoring of rare and genetic diseases and ongoing funding of health promotion projects.

**Tackling AIDS**

The European Union needs to do more to tackle the scourge of AIDS. AIDS knows no frontiers and cannot be beaten by governments acting alone. The EU's action should take the form of a co-ordinated and on-going information campaign, health screening and treatment for sex-workers, EU funded research and common protocols for the treatment of HIV. In particular, the EU must use its ODA budget to help tackle the spread of AIDS in the developing world and in the CIS. The medical enterprises must do a special effort to provide cheaper medicine for the sick people of the Third World. The EU must also continue its efforts within the WTO to secure access for developing countries to essential medicines for all major diseases.

We recognise the important role played by organisations such as the WHO and UNICEF in promoting public health and health gain globally. It is important that the EU continues to support these agencies both financially and politically.

**Avoiding epidemics – health promotion as a European concern**

YEPP believes that greater emphasis must be put on health promotion and prevention. Tackling smoking, excess alcohol consumption and fatty diets can reduce mortality and morbidity from cancer, heart and respiratory disease considerably. The Union must ensure that member states maintain close surveillance of infectious and sexual transmitted diseases, good health education as well as comprehensive immunisation programmes for children and at-risk adults.

**Illegal Drugs – a public health disaster**

The rise of drug addiction is a European public health disaster. So far, member states have failed tackle the problem of drug trafficking and drug addiction. Tackling this crisis will require a coordinated and consistent Europe-wide approach involving co-operation in the fields of law enforcement, border and customs controls, coastguard and health and social services. The European countries should have a zero-tolerance for narcotics at schools and working-life offering professional help to tackle their abuse. EU-wide campaigning about the negative side effects of narcotics are needed as addiction to soft drugs and other narcotics might eventually lead to an increased use of hard drugs.

**Ensuring Health Care for all EU citizens based on solidarity**

The guarantee of basic health care to all citizens who need it, regardless of the ability to pay, is one of the major pillars of the European Social model that sets us apart from other regions of the World. YEPP is committed to maintaining this concept of free health care as key element of our Social Market Economy. That said, an aging population, health sector inflation soaring above economic growth rates, ever more expensive technology, rising legal costs and inefficient and out-dated state-run health services have led to a health crisis in many European countries and will challenge many more in the coming decades. Increasingly, we will have to move towards new models of providing health care. Any such model must be based on Universal Patient Registration and the guarantee that no one will be denied health care on the basis of inability to pay.

**A single European market for health care**

There still does not exist a single-market in health care. The liberalisation and harmonisation of medical and nursing registration across the Union will increase labour flexibility and will make a reality of freedom of movement for health care professionals. Medicines should be licensed for use across the Union, unless their use is prohibited in a certain member state. This will eliminate unnecessary duplication and will help to reduce the cost of pharmaceuticals.

As European integration continues, more and more Europeans will travel from one member state to get the health care. It is important that this is managed in such a way that European can get the best health care in any part of the Union but also ensures that no member state is fiscally disadvantaged by such movements. For the purpose of a standard information technology system in health services across the Union with a smart 'health services card' for all EU citizens shall be introduced. The card will carry their health information and will allow it to be accessed anywhere in the Union. The right of informational self-determination of the individual shall be respected and data protection guaranteed. It would also make it easier for EU citizens to avail of health services in other member states as currently provided for but it must respect the privacy.

**Bio-ethical issues**

We recognise the exciting progress of science and technology, which contributes considerably to health and welfare. Moreover, we recognise that bio-technology will be to our economies in the coming decades what information technology has been in the last. The free movement of people, goods, capital, and services in the European Union affects the possibilities of national governments to guarantee the dignity of human life in the field of bio-technology. Therefore, there is reason for involvement of the European Union in setting common legal standards concerning the protection of the dignity of human life and the responsibility of bio-medical research.

Any deliberate form of eugenics must be banned. Commercial exploitation and all forms cloning of human embryos must be prohibited in all cases.

YEPP believes that legislation with regard to the availability of abortion should remain a national competence and that no European law or human rights judgment or judgment in the context of the Charter of Fundamental Rights should result in forcing any member state to change its abortion laws.

**Restoring consumer confidence in Food Safety**

The BSE, Dioxin and FMD crises have undermined Europeans' confidence in food safety and the Union's capacity to guarantee it. Existing food safety protocols and EU institutions are not strong enough to prevent future crises and that compliance with European food safety regulations is inconsistent. Achieving Food Safety in the common market requires stronger institutions, stiffer penalties, greater openness and more research. This should involve strengthening agencies such as the Food and Veterinary Office and the European Food Agency.

**CHAPTER ELEVEN: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – MAN AS PART OF NATURE****Preserving and managing the Creation**

Our concept of man calls for global environmental management with respect for the self-regenerating potential of nature. Air, water and soil, fauna and flora form the natural environment of man. Protection of the environment and the concept of sustainable development are intertwined with that of responsible growth and must be incorporated into every policy, at every level of power.

**Industrialisation and its ecological consequences**

Interference with nature is often motivated purely by economic interest and overrates freedom and technical potential without due regard to the ecological consequences. In the past, it was considered normal to utilise air, soil and water for economic purposes unreflected. They seemed to be unlimited resources. Materialistic belief in progress and false incentives has contributed to such behaviour.

**Respect for life and nature**

Our decisions and actions must respect and preserve the foundations of life for future generations. Everything that can be technically and economically realised does not necessarily coincide with respect for life and nature. As we participate in creation we share the responsibility to preserve animals, plants and landscapes.

**Advancing ecological consciousness**

Preserving and protecting creation is a duty for every individual and an expression of responsible freedom. The consequences of human activity on nature are not experienced by everyone directly. Therefore the development of ecological consciousness is an important task of society and state.



**Environmental protection in cooperation of society and politics**

Environmental protection is a common task of society and politics. The state must set guidelines for repairing existing damage and preventing future damage as well as reducing interference.

**Environmental protection and market economy**

Environmental protection and market economy need coordination by the state. According to our understanding of the principle of subsidiarity between individual and the state has to create the framework and incentives that allow for environmentally friendly behaviour. Guidelines and prohibitions should only be used if objectives cannot be reached at all or to the desired extent. At the same time the state has to ensure the repair of damage to the environment and punish misbehaviour. The guiding principle must be: polluter pays.

**Technical progress for environmental protection**

Effective environmental protection depends on the development of new technologies. The recycling economy is our objective. Environmental protection starts with product design and planning, when recycling of goods and material as well as recycling of production waste is envisaged. That is the way to minimise damage to the environment resulting from economic activity, protect scarce resources and prevent hazardous waste.

The consequences of area-specific recycling should be better analysed and brought to public awareness in all EU countries. Recycling should not be an aim in itself in sparsely populated areas, where the waste transport distances are long, whereas it should be highly recommended in urban areas.

**Agriculture and Nature**

Farmers utilise nature and should manage and preserve nature at the same time. Maximizing output and preserving nature are conflicting objectives. It therefore is a common task to remunerate the services of farmers for the preserving of nature.

**Global environmental partnership**

Mankind lives in a universal ecological community sharing the risks and responsibility of protecting the environment. Joint action is needed to live up to this reality. Developed and industrialised countries must assist developing countries in preserving the environment.

**Role of the European Union**

The coordination of the environmental policies of the Member States is a central competence of the European Union. Member States must not dilute the desired level of protection or delay their legal obligation when transforming European Union Law in the environmental field.

**Saving energy and resources**

Long lasting supply of energy and resources for our economies can only be sustained if state, business community and citizens undertake joint efforts. The necessary measures include careful use of resources, re-use of used products, recycling of materials, fight against waste of energy and worldwide search for new sources of energy.

**Developing new forms of energy**

Burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, crude oil and gas, worsens the quality of air and endangers our climate. Europe's dependence on imports of fossil fuels such as oil is a serious structural disadvantage for our economy poses a real risk to our economic security and threatens our value-based foreign policy. Moreover, the inevitability that fossil fuels will one day run out is of great concern to our generation. Therefore the use of nuclear energy implies high risk, even though the probability of a catastrophe is low. Research, development and implementation of new forms of energy must be advanced. The traditional energy supply by fossil fuel must be affected on the highest level of technical standards.

# YEPP Social Economical programme: Social Europe: More Freedoms - More Opportunities for All!

*Adopted YEPP Council Meeting, Oslo (Norway), October 2004*

**Preamble**

**This theme political program about European Social Policy is adopted by YEPP's Council in Oslo, 9th October 2004.**

This program has been initiated to promote YEPP's views on issues that we feel crucial to the agenda of strengthening social integration in Europe. Key topics for the future of Europe will be to secure the sustainability of our social protection systems and our overall welfare and pensions. A European Social Policy Program should not aim at assimilating solutions, but rather build partnerships and coalitions to fight poverty and social exclusion.

YEPP do not believe in moving every pressing, national or local, issue to the EU institutions. Never the less, when realising that we face so many problems alike YEPP sees the opportunity to use our European Community to help achieve the Social Europe were aiming at, with more freedoms and more opportunities - for all.

Amidst us, there are no defined visions of a final and everlasting "System" establishing the optimal society. Such ideas and ideologies have failed brutally. YEPP and all our national member organisations represent another approach to securing welfare. It is rather values based approach that Christian Democrats, Liberal-Conservatives, Centre-Right and Popular Parties all over Europe represent. This approach is never fundamentalist, totalitarian or system oriented. The value based approach focuses on basic values, traditions and the Universal human rights, aiming at preserving and protecting these ideals. Aspiring this we must constantly accept the needs for reforms.

It is our systems and not our values that needs to be adapted through the changing times and new realities. By constant development, re-shaping and re-orienting of our approach, we believe it is possible to be ever more effective at realising the potentials of our societies.

This Social Policy Program focuses specially on sustaining welfare and pensions, providing employment especially for young people and immigrants. It focuses on common public health issues like increased mental health problems, obesity, physical passivity and alcohol and drug abuse. These problems often hit Europe's young generations harder than any other groups. We also see severe social, ethnical and geographical diversities that are all intolerable. Therefore this program also presents our positions on how the fight against poverty and social exclusion can be better fought.

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**CHAPTER ONE - INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES - THE VALUE BASED APPROACH**

The realisation and protection of values and interests like human dignity; freedom and security; sustainability and prosperity are amongst the very core ambitions of our European Political Project. Moreover, the European Union (EU) is the strongest embodiment of such ambitions for our region, in our time. Not perfect - because no Man made system can be - but continuously we are striving for more freedoms - more opportunities.

Freedom values and human rights are taken for granted in our European societies. Despite our knowledge of vast chasms between different parts of both the European Union and the Wider Europe surrounding, we know of more wealth today than ever before. Still millions of people live their lives with boundaries like poverty, long-term unemployment, lack of treatment or support to illnesses or handicaps and racism or xenophobia in our surroundings. All this and many other factors contribute to social exclusion. Formal freedoms are not enjoyed because they are not transferable to real opportunities in our Europe. This is not tolerable.

It is YEPP's view that the success of the European Project will be judged by its success in providing more freedoms and more opportunities to the many and not just the few. Much responsibility lies upon citizen's alike and local, regional and national governments alike. Nevertheless, there is also clearly an opportunity to do more in co-operation, on the European level. YEPP also realise the irreplaceable role of civil society partners in all aspects of fighting poverty and social exclusion. No government or public based system alone can solve these problems.

With this European Social Policy Program YEPP, wants to promote policies that can deal more efficient with common threats and challenges. The role of the EU, and of the Commission in particular, is not to substitute national or local authorities in the design or implementation of social policy, but rather to transform that potential in strength, by giving direction to common efforts and by promoting the exchange of good practice across Europe.

YEPP only promotes the adoption of joint EU policy in areas where we believe this could help us better tackle our problems, then leaving it to the member states, regions, local communities or citizens alone. Ideas for sharing of best practices are also presented, since much of the action connected to social policy must be seen locally and nationally, and not Europe wide.

In the Social Area the new EU Constitutional Treaty represents progress by the recognition of combating social exclusion as one of the major objectives of the Union; by the integration of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; by the recognition of the role of civil dialogue; and by the adoption of clauses reinforcing policy co-operation in the areas of social inclusion, social protection, health and education, based on the experience of the open method of co-ordination.

The EU is truly a social project based on common values and freedoms and rights. It encompasses social justice, solidarity, social cohesion – and even beyond this it is about embracing high living standards, high levels of employment and social protection, improved working conditions, the promotion of social dialogue, equality between women and men and the combating of discrimination. All these elements are an important part of the "acquis communautaire".

Taking values, rights and freedoms for granted can easily lead us into forgetting that these could be lost. However, we are not going to forget. For YEPP's fundament will always be to hold on to the Freedom Values: The citizen's freedom, the families' freedom, and the freedom of enterprise, the freedom of communities and the freedom of nations. These are the true European Freedoms, and our concern is to ensure the translation of these freedoms into real European Opportunities for all citizens.

## CHAPTER TWO: REFORMING TO SECURE WELFARE

It is foreseeable that over the next few decades the fall in the population and the overall ageing of society will be accompanied, above all, by a reduction in the proportion of the population in work.

Young people will no longer be able to rely on older people, but older people will depend increasingly on young people. Therefore the older generations must also have an interest in ensuring that young people can cope with the burdens placed on them by demographic developments. We need young and old to work together for the future in a spirit of partnership.

Older people are gaining ever-greater potential to influence in society in the course of this demographic transformation. By contrast, the concerns of subsequent generations are often given insufficient consideration, for instance when it comes to public debt, education and the pension system. Inevitably, less account is taken of the interests of the younger generation of voters who will be most affected by the parliamentary and government decisions being taken today and their long-term consequences.

In order to raise awareness of intergenerational justice and the consequences of decisions for future generations in the legislative process, YEPP is calling for the introduction of a generation account. This is a procedure that is added to the law making process that will show the medium and long-term different kind of effects of policy decisions. Every item of expenditure that implies an increase in public debt should be examined, justified and explained. The generation account should become a basic part of politics in the EU and all its member states. This would shift the long-term consequences of current decisions to the centre of attention. However, the generation account is only an instrument that can examine goals that have been set or be used to define goals. Drawing up generation accounts alone will not improve policy. It will merely make it more transparent. Nevertheless, this would force politicians to think long term.

Children are the key to Europe's future. Future generations will form a work force whose productivity is supposed to economically secure the later years of the strongly growing proportion of retired citizens. Undoubtedly, the necessary economic and social policy reforms can still offset some of the problems caused by the ageing and shrinking of the European population over the short and medium term, but they will not overcome these difficulties over the long term. One of the most important possibilities to challenge the future is that more children will be born in Europe.

In accordance with our basic principles, children must be recognised as valuable by our society. If people have the willingness to have children, bring them up, and care intensively for their welfare and prepare for their journey through life they need to have social and political recognition. This requires a clear commitment from politicians to the social model of the family and belief in the younger generation's responsibility for the future of our society. The decision to have children must therefore never put people at risk of poverty. Every euro invested in favour of families with children is an investment in the future of Europe. The taxation and social welfare system should generously reflect the burden placed on families of raising children, and the value these children will add to society in future generations.

YEPP recognizes that family policy is a crucial pillar of social policy and a means of safeguarding our future as well. The family is the nucleus of social life. The family passes on values, promotes social skills, creates the foundations for democratic consciousness and so contributes a great deal to the development of our children into responsible members of our polity.

YEPP wants that people can combine family and career. Particularly at a time when we face a foreseeable lack of qualified workers, conditions need to be created under which parents no longer have to make a decision between career and children, but it is possible to combine both.

Because of the demographic developments taking place, Europe needs systems of provision for old age, to which the following principles should apply. These systems:

- ▶ Should include all groups in society comprehensively.
- ▶ Should cover the risk of poverty in old age for all in future.
- ▶ Must offer strong incentives for people to provide for themselves.
- ▶ Must be organised in a spirit of solidarity and reflect the contributions paid in.
- ▶ Must be conducive to economic growth.
- ▶ Allow people to continue in the workplace as long as they feel able to contribute, irrespective of old age. We do not see old age as a barrier to work and propose the ending of mandatory retirement ages.

YEPP would like people's personal responsibility to be strengthened. Social security systems must be limited to assistance that is really necessary. Claims on the wider community must remain at a low level. Where possible, we should develop ways of helping people to help themselves.

To a considerable extent, we should provide for our old age based on capital-funded private pension schemes. Our pensions will therefore be linked to the contributions paid in. This will give the individual the ability to determine for themselves the level of their provision for old age. By setting a low general burden of deductions, the state will place its citizens in a position to assume greater personal responsibility.

Because of the increasing proportion of older people in society strongly rising levels of expenditure in the field of social security will, if the institutional framework remains unchanged, also make it more difficult for private households to build up savings, something people do for the most part in the second half of their working lifetime. If this happens, an increase in the average propensity to consume is not to be expected, as this is highest in the phase after people establish a household and start a family. The general propensity to consume might even fall if those in work lose trust in the state pension system.

In order to preserve the financial scope for consumption and the formation of savings throughout Europe in future, the volume of social transfer benefits must be limited and the long-term formation of savings for old age guaranteed. Reducing the burden on the working population by using returns on the capital market and expanding the capital stock will result in growth effects that will make it easier to cope with the strains imposed by the ageing of the population.

The pensions for which people will be personally responsible will be supplemented by a guaranteed benefit. This guaranteed benefit will secure the minimum people need to live on in old age. Depending on the contributions paid in; the level of benefit will range from a guaranteed subsistence income to a capped maximum sum. These guaranteed benefits are to be funded from the income of all citizens.

For YEPP, personal responsibility, sustainability and neighbourly care are the key points as how we can better live in our common future. We want to demonstrate that the younger generation is prepared to shape its own future, to put forward its own ideas and to work for their implementation. We are prepared to take on the necessary responsibility. We will do our bit to ensure that our future society is one worth living in.



### CHAPTER THREE: MOBILITY, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

#### Mobility, education and employment

Employment and education are key factors affecting people's living standards. The value of participation through being employed or a self made entrepreneur, or in other way being allowed to take part in constructive activities, is also essential to all citizens feeling of appreciation. Agendas for social inclusion cannot avoid facilitation of active participation.

Lack of competence and skills are identified as the main obstacles – or so-called "minus factors" – for the unemployed. Educational and programs for training of skills, as well as lifelong maintenance of ones competence, are thus of vital importance to welfare policy. Full employment is not the most important for all those excluded, but rather the duty and opportunity to active and constructive participation as responsible and committed citizens.

YEPP believe that it is of special interest to increase the participation of women and senior citizens, as well as unemployed youth and immigrants. Increased mobility is the most effective value added by the EU to these agendas and interests. It is of direct relevance to all citizens and the well being of our common social and economical development.

#### Mobility

Free mobility of goods, services, capital and people is a founding principle of the European Union. In particular the mobility of people is essential for breaking down barriers between Europeans. This will enable us to live in a more tolerant, harmonized and effective society.

Through opening up the member countries and letting people with other nationalities backgrounds and cultures the acceptance and the understanding for what is unknown or experienced as different increases. YEPP believes that educational mobility will influence the integration positively.

Related to the historical enlargement of the union, May 1st 2004, it is important to state that the four freedoms, including the freedom for free mobility for the people have to be valid for all member countries. There should be no periods of transition hindering people from one or more countries to be full worthy members of the European Union. This must also be the principle for upcoming future enlargements.

While working for securing the free mobility within the union it is also of great importance to make sure that we do not only open up the borders between our countries. It is also important that the same kind of barriers, which are removed inside the union, will not be built up around the union. Open borders are not only important inside the union it is also essential to tare down barriers around the union. YEPP does not want a fortress Europe.

#### Education

Education is a key for economic growth, human development, social integration and prosperity. The European Union have this far had successful co-operation within the education area and there are many young Europeans who have taken the chance to study at a school or a university in another European country than where the live. The existing programmes, such as Erasmus, Socrates; Leonardo da Vinci and others must continue and be further developed. Some of these programmes should be integrated to the Eastern European Region and should be a strong bridge between young people outside and inside the European Union. YEPP underlines that the Bologna process is leading in modernizing and reforming educational Europe.

YEPP strongly believes that investments in education lead to a more dynamic and competitive Europe. To be a competitive and dynamic region on the global market it is important to prioritise education and research so that the European citizens are highly educated and well qualified. The European Union should encourage co-operation and make it easier to move between educational operators, research institutions and business corporations. It is urgent to strengthen the quality of education on European universities, because of the poor position in relation to the American and Asian universities.

In education like in other areas it is important that the idea of mobility is fulfilled. The valuation of grades and qualifications between different countries must be simplified. We must also work for a development where education from different countries is more negotiable in others. Therefore YEPP calls for an European student card accepted in all member states and a reduction of the bureaucratic barriers.

Education supports social integration. Exchange through educational, social and cultural programmes will lead to a more integrated Europe. Important is to develop a stage programme for more young people. Also learning foreign languages can contribute to a Europe in which integration through education is centralised.

#### Employment

The labour market is based up on freedom. The possibilities for people to work anywhere in the region and the advantages for employers to recruit new workers from a larger group of people are positive for the future of Europe. Therefore YEPP calls for a labour market with higher flexibility all over Europe. We strongly believe in the right for all citizens to seek employment and work wherever they like within the Union.

To make the free mobility on the labour market successful some changes by the individual member states in order to create a more flexible market are demanded. Also the taxes on labour must be reduced. Given that the basic rules and regulations on the labour market are a national competence, it is our opinion that so called sympathetic measures or strikes by trade unions should not be allowed cross borders. Neither do we believe that collective agreements should be made on the European level.

Through the efforts to create a single market some difficulties and problems have occurred. This is problems that occur when the division of responsibility is unclear and can and has to be sorted out. Among the problems that have been discovered are rules connected to compensation by unemployment and the varying rules for pensions in different countries.

A functional enterprise labour market is essential. No job opportunities will be created without progressive and growing companies. Therefore these factors are crucial for economic growth and welfare. Employment will always be a key to participation and integration.

### CHAPTER FOUR: IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

The nations of Europe have had widely different experiences of immigration and integration. Some nations have decades of experience in these areas, while for others this is a new phenomenon. Recognition of these differences are essential for dealing with the current challenges presented in this area.

Despite their different backgrounds and status, immigrants are often mixed together and labelled as a problem. This is far from accurate and it does not help solving the strains that mass immigration causes in Europe today.

Immigration and asylum policies must address both the fundamental human rights of those in need on protection, the demands of the European labour markets and the capabilities of the European societies to successful integration. Beyond the necessary differentiation between the reasons for immigration, as they are laid out in YEPP's Main Political Program (The Hague 2003) and EPP's Action Program (2004–2009), Europe faces a tremendous challenge that can only be handled efficiently if the member nations act coherently. YEPP therefore wants Europe to reform its asylum and immigration policies.

Immigration helps fill important gaps in the European labour market. Moreover, reports from the European Commission and Eurostat show that even a doubling of immigration rates and simultaneously doubling fertility rates will not, on their own, secure sustainable labour markets and pension systems. It is therefore evident that we need radical reform, with a special focus on increased participation for women and older workers if we are to sustain our welfare. In any case trying to present immigration as a threat to our welfare is totally against all good knowledge.

#### Integration

Integration is a dual process. The governments have to be a good host and create a climate of tolerance, while people have the responsibility to become an active participant in the society.

Refugees and job-seeking immigrants should be encouraged to build their future in Europe through their own efforts. Integration must be a domestic task for the member states. However, it is crucial to ensure coherent procedures in dealing with immigrants. Given the free and open market of our Union, it is important that member states reform their economic and social policy so as to prevent inequalities in the treatment of immigration between states.

Europe's wealth is based on equal rights and security given to all. Immigrants must be ensured the same rights once their status is defined. It is especially important to reduce the unemployment among immigrants in order to ensure legal working status and to promote social integration. If Europe rise to the challenge and co-operate in better management of immigration this will enrich and strengthen our communities. If Europe fails to do so, the results might be even more social division.





It is important that immigrants are given the tools to fully participate in the social and economic life of their new homes. Language education and opportunities to work experience is urgent. Such programs should be mandatory for all refugees and persons granted on humanitarian protection, and for family members reunited with them. Main objectives should be to provide basic skills in local language, insight into their new society and knowledge about the rules and laws, and preparation for employment, self-employment or further education. One of the most effective means of integration is participation in social life and employment. Allowing people to work and thereby provide for themselves is the very basis of YEPP's appreciation.

Asylum applications should be processed rapidly, in order to clarify the status of asylum seekers as soon as possible. Rapid settlement of refugees and asylum seekers is also important to prevent them living in ghettos or ending up the street. Special efforts must be taken to clarify the status of 100,000s illegal immigrants in many member countries.

#### CHAPTER FIVE: EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH

Looking at the living conditions of all Europeans it is clear that health must be seen as a key indicator to social development and welfare. Together with education and income, health constitutes the very basis of people's freedoms and opportunities. We therefore want to address health, and especially broad-based public health, as an issue relevant to European Social Integration. YEPP also sees that several trends related to public health compose an overall set of European challenges that could be better managed if addressed at a European level. The EU has a role to play in protecting and promoting public health interests and in ensuring proper consumer protection.

The youth ages are times when lifestyles are chosen and set, often with strong permanence for the rest of the life. Early interventions that can prevent unhealthy or risky habits might bring much better success to the overall public health agenda than repairs of lifestyle related diseases. YEPP therefore calls for a special youth dimension to the local, national and European public health strategies.

##### Personal and Public Responsibilities

All citizens capable of so hold in YEPP's opinion a personal responsibility to take care of their mental and physical health. All national governments carry the role of ensuring equal access to sufficient health services for all citizens. Being part of the universal human rights also protects these rights.

Lack of exercise and unhealthy nutrition and consumption of alcohol and tobacco can lead to health problems, while increased physical activity, a healthy intake of foods and a reduced use of intoxicants will give less lifestyle-related illnesses. In fact these are the major causes to health problems all over Europe. The increasing number of psychiatric illnesses also demands more attention to better mastering of life, early intervention and prevention of stress and other factors influencing both physical and psychiatric health.

The European Union should work for the promotion of healthy ways of living and the prevention of physical and psychiatric illnesses, for example through initiating and supporting informational work. This requires co-operation between multiple sectors and with institutions both at the local, national and international level, such as employer organisations and health care institutions.

##### Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Strong voices are raised for international laws about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), led by the expectations from the society. To be able to introduce CSR in corporate culture, changes in decision-making, mentality, values and behaviour are needed. To tune corporate culture on to CSR-agenda can also be a way of increasing the turnover and thereby raise the profit of companies. It is important that this is seen in the interest of the shareowners. Because the concept of CSR depends on the free will of the companies. To reach the demands for CSR companies has to clearly define their responsibility and explain how to take social responsibility expected by the society.

Unfortunately there is too often a large scepticism against the market and the interest of profit due to certain, political interpretations of an alleged conflict between profitability and the interest of society. The demands from some of the promoters of CSR are also too often linked to a strange view of how market economy functions. The free, private initiative and market economy are important for reaching social development and a better environment.

Forcing companies to adopt a lot of regulations may often effect the market in a negative way. We need to recognise that companies can also have other interests than only generating profits. CSR can also be a competitive advantage for many companies. Not implementing CSR could therefore give companies a bad reputation leading to decreasing of profits. Hence CSR can and should be seen as good business.

It is not strange that many politicians are in favour of CSR. The fact is that an implementation could lead to companies taking on responsibilities that today citizens and corporations already pay taxes for. Short comings of politicians and government should not be handed over to the companies, at least not if this isn't due to the decision that a certain duty rather belongs in the private and not the public sphere.

Since the well functioning of our common market is both a common interest and a driving force in European co-operation YEPP calls for more social responsibility from the business community. This is especially important for enterprises involved in the production, export, import and distribution of substances with potential health consequences related to their products.

- ▶ YEPP states that the concept of CSR depends on the free will of the companies.
- ▶ YEPP wants to safeguard and expand the European traditions of greater transparency and consumer protection. This is often a forceful tool to empower citizens to be their own "doctors and health care takers".
- ▶ YEPP also believes that the EU should take initiatives in developing trustworthy and standardised certification arrangements for the nutrition level of food products, as to enable consumers to exercise consumer power and actively choose healthy food.

##### Combating abuse of alcohol and drugs

Abuse and addiction of alcohol and drugs represent one of Europe's greatest social problems. Alcohol and drug problems intensify and cause many other serious social problems like crime, unsafe environments for children, poverty, marital problems, vandalism, accidents etc. Such problems can be found in all social layers and social settings. A reduction in alcohol- and drug-related problems will therefore be beneficial in several areas, both for the individual in particular and for society at large.

- ▶ YEPP calls upon all the commercial businesses involved in the trade of alcohol and legal drugs to take on shared responsibility and help prevent the potential negative effects of their products.
- ▶ YEPP defends the freedom to exercise national pricing and availability policies to regulate the distribution of alcohol and legal drugs.
- ▶ YEPP welcomes an open debate about regulations of the commercial promotion of items such as alcohol, pharmaceuticals and tobacco, due to the severe public health risks attached to wrong or high level consumption of these substances.

##### Mental health

Mental health has often been neglected in previous health policies. However, the promotion of psychiatric health is as important as of physical health. The establishment of more cross-sector approaches on education, health prevention and employment must be encouraged. Special attention should be paid to improving the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of psychiatric illnesses, as this is often has a large relevance for the youth in particular. Stronger focus on fighting drugs and improving treatment programs must also be addressed. These are issues of major importance for too many youth in Europe.

The economic burden of mental health conditions and their impact on the labour force cannot be underestimated. In the employment field, evidence shows that among the disabled population, people suffering from mental illness have the lowest participation rate in the labour market. Efforts to bring mental health issues into the mainstream of a health-conscious society must be pursued. Member States must provide information on the most effective treatments and continue actions initiated to combat stigma and social exclusion against people suffering from mental disorders.

Eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia, is a common health problem among young people in Europe, especially young girls. This is a problem which is mainly the responsibility of the member states, but where regional measures can be beneficial. YEPP calls for united action within the EU to combat eating disorders, through information programs targeted towards schools and youth organisations.

##### Sexual and reproductive health and rights

The need to promote secure sex life and safer pregnancies is highly relevant to the overall social and economic development in Europe. The responsibility for issues related to sexual and reproductive health concerning prevention, service delivery and treatment rests up on local and national governments. However the promotion of openness and sharing of knowledge and good practises makes European focus relevant.

Even if the educational and health care systems in most European countries provide for information, relevant services and reasonably good access to efficient means of prevention there are several challenges to the sexual health in Europe. The relevance to fertility, reproduction and over all welfare in society depends on an open and knowledge-based handling of sexual and reproductive health and rights issues. This is especially true when talking about the health and welfare of young people.

The spreading of sexually transmittable diseases (STD) combined with unwanted pregnancies and abortions highlights the link between youth and sexual health. The teenagers are a period in life where health risks can be quite high and the vulnerability rather constant. Therefore access to relevant information and knowledge about the proper use of contraceptives, and promotion of good attitudes to sexuality, and especially girls rights, alongside with efficient and high quality services for counselling or treatment is crucial. Families, schools and society based programs are important to help young people obtain the information, services and skills that they need to protect their own sexual and reproductive health.

As a specific concern YEPP acknowledges that young people in average experience insecurity and vulnerability, connected to their own and other people's sexuality. For all young homosexuals these problems are a special concern.

- ▶ YEPP believes that the best method of reducing the numbers of abortions is by avoiding unwanted pregnancies. This demands better access to contraceptives, and knowledge of their proper use.
- ▶ YEPP underlines that abortion never is to be promoted as a method of family planning. Decisions about access to abortion services rest upon the national legislators.
- ▶ YEPP believes that more needs to be done to develop and secure access to efficient and cheap methods of prevention, especially such that can be controlled by women themselves. Influencing Men's attitudes to women in general and their knowledge about sexuality and reproductive health are also important.
- ▶ YEPP believes that all individuals should be accepted and have the same human rights, independent of how they choose to live their lives. YEPP also believes that more needs to be done to fight the stigma related to homosexuality, transsexuality and gay and lesbian lifestyles.

#### A single European market for health care

The joint expertise and capacity of the countries within the EU and the EEA could be much better utilised. Still much remains before we can see a single market of health care in Europe. For this to be accomplished, the liberalisation and harmonisation of medical and nursing registration across the Union must be furthered as to increase labour flexibility and make a reality of freedom of movement for health care professionals. Medicines should be licensed for use across the Union, unless their use is prohibited in a certain member state.

As European integration continues, more and more Europeans will travel from one Member State to receive health care. It is important that this is managed in such a way that European can get the best health care in any part of the Union, but also ensures that no member states are fiscally disadvantaged by such movements.

Modernizing and computerizing medical records and communication is vital in establishing a common health market. The work of medical practitioners at all levels is becoming more information intensive as computer applications are more widely used. Further development of eHealth offers the potential to reduce administrative costs, to deliver health care services at a distance and to avoid unnecessary duplicate examinations. Standardized electronic health cards, health information networks and health services on-line with the respect of data protection and privacy should be implemented across the Union.

All EU citizens must be ensured access to a certain minimum quality of health care, wherever they live within the European Union. The treatment must build on respect for the individual and for human value. Patients shall not be illegitimately discriminated against, on the bases of gender, race, sexual orientation or national origin. The benefit of the individual patient and not the economic profit must be the focus of public health policies.

- ▶ YEPP is calling for the establishment of a European patient "bill of rights". This bill must ensure all EU citizens minimum treatment in any member state.
- ▶ YEPP wants standard measurements of the results and quality of medical institutions across Europe, so that patients can be aided in choosing institutions that can offer them the best treatment, thus encouraging institutions to improve their quality.
- ▶ YEPP support the introduction of a standard information technology system in health services across the Union. A smart 'health services card' for all EU citizens should also be introduced.

*Adopted by the Council Meeting, Oslo, 9th October 2004*

#### CHAPTER SIX: FIGHTING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Defining poverty is a disputed topic and indicators used to measure poverty are many. In our policies YEPP includes poverty in the larger concept of Social Exclusion, again being part of a whole range of problems related to living conditions and different kinds of exclusion. Still, despite theoretical discussions and different varieties throughout the EU, the EEA or even Wider Europe, it is evident that we face some challenges all over Europe. Demographic changes put public finances under pressure. A tougher labour markets and competence mismatch excludes more and more people. Mass immigration – especially illegal or unregistered – creates informal, "black" markets.

We also face many of the same problems related to especially vulnerable groups such as lone parents, large families, older women living alone, physically or mentally disabled people and certain ethnical minorities like the Rom. We also share the problems and challenges related to groups at extreme risk such as alcohol and drug addicts and their families – especially their children. The same goes for women and children being victims of trafficking – cross border or inter-state.

The European Union in 1975 adopted a definition of poverty whereby individuals or households were recognised as poor if their economic resources are so small that they are excluded from the minimum acceptable lifestyle in the respective member states. Since 1998 the Eurostat has used 60 percent of median income as their preferred statistical limit of poverty. The OECD normally draws the line at 50 percent. In any case the two latter seldom explain the actual situation of every person with income lower than these two percentage lines.

The annual Social Situation Report, (published since 2000) from the European Commission and Eurostat, identify an interdependence of three key components – education, income and health. All three are closely linked to periodically or permanent exclusion, or loss of freedoms and opportunities in life, that can be defined as poverty.

Looking closer at poverty as a situation where a person, permanently or periodically, have to live without access or opportunity to exercise his or her rights could also help identify what we need to address with policies aiming at fighting poverty and social exclusion.

YEPP supports a comprehensive view on the fight against poverty and other forms of social exclusion. This is also true to the Lisbon goals, aiming at creating a more dynamic and prosperous Europe at the service of all its citizens. Development of sustainable economies and social welfare for all must go hand by hand. In this respect, YEPP recognises social welfare policy and social cohesion as a productive tool and not simply an item of expenditure.

To effectively address the various social problems and poverty trends and situations, current services and benefits must be better tailored to the people at risk. Our policies must be knowledge-based, and more investments should be provided for relevant research. YEPP also calls for systematic reviews of the functioning of our welfare systems. This means full over haul, in many countries, of public employment services, social security services and other kinds of social assistance services.

Improving living conditions of the most vulnerable people demands a strategic approach and concrete actions. First of all these actions must come locally and nationally. YEPP therefore call upon all members to take full account of those who are worse-off and in greater need of solidarity when setting their budget priorities, including the EU Structural Funds.

The importance of National Action Plans (NAPs) to fight poverty in all EU, EEA and the Wider Europe Countries should also be underlined. For the latter the World Bank related concept of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) could be more relevant as tools. YEPP believes that increased political and economical attention and support must be shown, to help promote economic, social and democratic development in these new neighbouring countries. For the authorities in these countries they must adopt more pro-poor policies, and stronger emphasis be put on fighting corruption and the promotion of good governance and human rights.

A better articulation between economic, employment and social policies is essential to ensure that the modernisation of the economy goes hand in hand with the strategies to fight poverty. Raising awareness of both the larger public and the decision-makers to this regard is particularly important.



# YEPP Board

## YEPP Board 2003-2005



**PRESIDENT : Daniel Bautista** (31) studied law at the Law University of Salamanca, gained a European and International Law Certificate at the Amsterdam Law University and finished a Master in Political Action at the Madrid Law School. He is Member of the Nuevas Generaciones National Board, Executive

Secretary of the Foro de Juventudes Populares Iberoamericanas and Vice-Secretary General for International Relations of NNGG. Daniel worked in the Cabinet of Spanish Prime minister José María Aznar. Nowadays he is Program Manager for the Global Security Program in Eastwest Institute. As YEPP President Daniel Bautista represents YEPP in the EPP Political Bureau and in EPP Working Group 1.



**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT : Markus Pösentrup** (33) is assistant to Michael Gahler MEP. Markus was YEPP Secretary General 2001-2003. In Junge Union Deutschlands he was the Vice-President of the International Commission and a member of Junge Union's Council. He is a member of the CDU District Board in the Münsterland region and belonged to the EPP Political Bureau for CDU Deutschlands. Markus Pösentrup represents YEPP in the EPP Working group on Enlargement and EPP Memberships and is Chairman of YEPP's Permanent Working Group on Enlargement and Membership issues.

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**SECRETARY GENERAL : Riikka Kervinen** (29) has studied International politics in University of Tampere and University of Antwerp. She holds B. Soc. Sciences and is finalizing her Master's degree. She has been an active member of the Youth League of the Coalition Party, KNL-Finland, for several years.

She has had several positions both in local and national level for instance as a International Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Political Secretary of KNL. Riikka Kervinen has worked in EP both in Brussels and Luxemburg, Ministry of Public Administration of Austria and worked as political advisor for Finnish MEP and MPs. At the moment she is working for international consulting company in Hamburg. She is a member of City Council of Mikkeli and Regional Council of Southern Savo. Riikka Kervinen represents YEPP in the EPP Political Bureau and the EPP Working Group on Campaigning and Media.



**DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL: Lucinda Creighton** (25) is a law graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. She recently completed the New York Bar Examination and will soon begin her studies to become a Barrister in Ireland. She works in Press & Communication for a state agency. She is First Vice

President and International Secretary of Young Fine Gael and a member of Fine Gael's National Board. She worked as a political advisor to Frances Fitzgerald MP in the Irish Parliament, from 2001 -2002. She is currently a member of a special taskforce for Fine Gael in the Dublin Region and a member of a National Strategy Group for the Irish Local Elections in 2004. She is the youngest local member at the Dublin City Council. She represented Ireland at the Youth Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002 and is a member of an Advisory Group to the Department of Education for the Irish Presidency of the EU in 2004.



**VICE-PRESIDENT John Bonello** was born in Malta in 1980. He read for a degree (B.A.) in Law and European Studies at the University of Malta, and graduated in 2002. He was awarded the Diploma of Notary Public in 2003 and is currently reading for a Doctorate of Laws at the University of Malta. He has been involved in Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista (Malta) since 1996. After holding the post of Secretary General (1999-2002), he was elected Chairman in October 2002. He has been a member of the National Executive Committee of Partit Nazzjonalista (Malta) since 1999.

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**VICE-PRESIDENT Pedro Duarte** (31) was born in Porto and has a law degree. He is studying for an MSc in Political science and international relations. Pedro is the former JSD President and since 2002 he is President of the JSD National Congress. Pedro is now reelected for the third term of member of the portugese parliament (since 1999). in 2003 he was appointed as spokesman of PSD and in 2004 he was secretary of state, responsible for youth issues and education.

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**VICE-PRESIDENT David Hansen** (26) studied law at the University of Oslo. He was President of the Norwegian Young Christian Democrats (KrFU) from 1999 to 2002. Between 1999 and 2002 he was also elected into the City Council of his hometown Halden and to the County Council of

Ostfold. Since October 2001 David started to work as political adviser for the Minister of International Development in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway. He still holds this office. Within YEPP David is serving as treasury of the Board and as Chairman of YEPP's Permanent Working Group No. 1 - on Economic and Social Policy. David is also YEPP's representative in EPP's Working Group No. 2 on Economic and Social Affairs.



**VICE-PRESIDENT Arnt Kennis** (30) studied Public Sector Management at Antwerp University in Belgium. During his student years he held various positions on the national board of the Christian Democrat Students (CDS) until 1998. Until 2003 he combined his works for the Executive Council of the Province of

Antwerp, where he is responsible for Social Affairs, with a parttime job at the CD&V Group in the Flemish Parliament where he works at Advisor on Social Affairs. Nowadays Arnt is Deputy Advisor at the Dublin Unit of the Belgian Federal Immigration Service. Not wanting to lose touch with grass roots politics, he is the president of the local branch of the JONG cd&v in the city of Mortsel. On this local level, he focuses on traffic safety, space for youth culture and environmental issues. On a broader scale, his main points of interest are youth policy and European security and defence policy. He therefore attends the EPP Working Group on European Security and Defence Policy and within YEPP he is chairman of the Permanent Working Group on European Security and Defence Policy.



**VICE-PRESIDENT Tim Neubauer** (27) is currently finishing his studies of political science - international relations at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. After joining the Young Christian Democrats of Slovenia and today's Slovenian People's Party (SLS) in 1998, he has been International Secretary and member of

the National Board of NG SLS since 2000. He is also member of the Regional Board of the Slovenian People's Party and chairman of the branch of NG SLS in Ljubljana. Besides the co-organisation of numerous political and training seminars, he has been active in various campaigns, especially in the fields of awareness-raising on European integration and EU enlargement, human rights, democracy and active participation of young people in social life. He also works as translator and interpreter for English, French and German. Tim is within YEPP principally focusing on the area of Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe.



**VICE-PRESIDENT Bernhard Pircher** (33) was born in Waidhofen, Lower Austria. After a couple of years studying medicine, he switched to political science and law. Currently he is Parliamentary Assistant of Günter Kössl, Spokesman on police-affairs of ÖVP. He was lecturer on emergency medicine for professional

rescuers and for persons doing civilian service at the University of Vienna. He is lecturer on European Policies for different organizations and was information consultant for the European Commission. Since 2001 he is also spokesman on European Affairs of Junge ÖVP as well as National Board Member. He is president of the Europe House "Lower Austria" since 1998. Bernhard is the Communication Officer for YEPP.



**VICE-PRESIDENT Amoud Strijbis** was born in 1978 in De Lier, a small village in the western part of The Netherlands. Nowadays he lives in Tilburg, which is the 6th city of The Netherlands. Amoud studied Public Administration in Rotterdam. He is currently working as the political assistant of Mr LK. Geluk, CDA deputy-mayor of Rotterdam. He has served in different positions in CDJA among which, vice-

president, International Secretary, head of the committee of International Affairs and member of the committee of International Affairs of CDA. At the moment he is a board member of the Eduardo Frei Foundation. Furthermore he is active in various positions in CDA and CDJA, among which member of the project team Values and Norms. His most important tasks as YEPP Vice-President are being coordinator of the permanent working group 'Sustainable Development' and YEPP-representative to European Youth Forum Jeunesse.



**VICE-PRESIDENT Maria Syrengela** (29) studied philosophy and theatre in the Kapodistrian University of Athens. She held various positions on the Youth organisation of Nea Demokratia (ONNED) the last 10 years. She is elected in the Central Committee of ONNED and she is a member of the National Executive board,

as the Secretary General of International Affairs since 2000. She is the representative of YEPP in the Southeastern European Forum.



**VICE-PRESIDENT Paolo Zanetto** (25) is a member of the National Office of Forza Italia party (Italy) with special responsibility for International relations. He is also First Vice President of Forza Italia Giovani (Italy). He has studied Finance at Bocconi University in Milan. He's a regular contributor to different newspapers in Italy. He's also the author of a book on Political marketing.

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**YEPP EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ann-Pascale Mommercy** (31) studied communication and marketing. She was working for 2 years at the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice. Afterwards she was Parliamentary Assistant to a member of the Federal Chamber and worked during 3 years in the European Commission. Within JONG

cd&v she was 3 years International Secretary. Nowadays she is member of the CD&V Committee for International Affairs and chairman of JONG cd&v in the city of Kortrijk. Ann-Pascale is member of regional board of the Flemish young SME-Union. Since September 2002 she is working as Executive Officer at the YEPP Office.

### FINANCIAL AUDITORS 2003-2005

**Mirko Dolfen** (Giovani UDC, Italy)  
**Andrei Marinescu** (YEPP, Roumania)





## The Strongest Link? Assessing the Transatlantic alliance in Global Security

### 29 January-1 February: YEPP Seminar, Dublin (Ireland)

At the end of January, Young Fine Gael (Ireland) hosted a YEPP seminar on the topic the 'Trans-Atlantic Relationship - The Strongest Link'. The seminar kicked off on Thursday night with a reception at Iveagh House, the home of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. The reception was addressed by YEPP president Daniel Bautista, Young Fine Gael President, William Lavelle, Paul Henry, the YFG International Secretary, and an official of the Department of Foreign Affairs. This was followed up by a welcome dinner for all at the Mount Herbert Hotel, which was the base for the weekend's activities.

The following morning, delegates travelled to the heart of Dublin City to the offices of the European Parliament. It was there that Friday's discussion and debate took place. First up was a panel discussion on the 'Current State and the Future of the Trans-Atlantic Relation'. Due to his presence in Ireland because of the Irish EU Presidency, the meeting was addressed by Kyle Scott, the Political Minister of the USA's mission to the EU. He addressed the delegates on the topic, and offered us the view-point of the current US Administrations' view point on the relationship. He believed that NATO bound the US to Europe, and questioned why Europeans wanted 'to duplicate the framework, rational and development achieved by NATO.' The Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, Mark J. Moher, also addressed the meeting and he was very eager to put across the distinctive viewpoint on the relationship that Canada offered. The meeting was also addressed by a former YFG activist and a current professor, lecturing on European Affairs, Ben Tonra.

Next up was the discussion on the 'Tensions within the Trans-Atlantic Relationship' and was addressed by a panel of eminent people, including Gay Mitchell the Fine Gael spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, (retired) Captain Tom Clonan, Paul Gillespie of the Irish Times newspaper and Brendan Halligan of the European Institute.

Gay Mitchell spoke initially of Enlargement and of Fine Gael's enthusiasm for this process; he described the enlarged Union as a Union of 'weight of wealth and of influence'. While Gay Mitchell accepted that there was a possibility of the previous warm relationship between the EU and the US cooling in the future, he felt the Javier's Solana's analogy between Europe as the proverbial Venus (the bringer of peace) and the US as the proverbial Mars (the bringer of war) was unhelpful and untrue.

Later in the evening we were privileged to be addressed by former Irish Prime Minister and Fine Gael leader, John Bruton. John Bruton's presentation covered the broad span of history between European and the United States, dating back to the influence of two major European ideals, the Rights of Man and the Protestant German Revolution on the American War of Independence. Furthermore John Bruton argued that the US revolution also had a knock on affect for the French Revolution and much later, the German Constitution which owed much to its American counterpart's federal structure. The ECSC and European Integration

were only possible due to Marshall Aid and John Bruton described the modern Europe as a child of America. Since the fall of the communist threat, he believed that the Trans-Atlantic relationship needed a new raison d'être for the EU-US alliance and added the proviso that me must ensure that Islam does not become a new enemy for Europe and America. However he thought that US pre-eminence was basically a good thing and that a one polar world was easier to manage than a bi-polar world.

The final speaker on Friday, was a representative of Amnesty International, who gave us an outline of the organisations current campaign to reduce the amount of small arms weapons currently in existence throughout the world. That night, delegates were taken to Dinner in Fitzsimons a pub and restaurant in Dublin's cultural quarter, Temple Bar.

The next day, Saturday was set aside for the YEPP working groups and the YEPP council to meet. Saturday's work took place in the Hilton Hotel in Dublin, and in the morning the Permanent Working Groups of YEPP meet. Later in the morning the two YEPP working groups on the European Elections met to discuss both YEPP's political message, and the campaign strategy of the European elections. The liveliest debate was however reserved for the discussion of the three Seminar working groups which dwelt on the subjects of 'Tensions within the Atlantic Alliance', 'Europe, the US and NATO' and 'The Trans-Atlantic



Security Relationship'. After much debate and amendments to the prepared discussion papers, these working groups were brought to an end, just before delegates were brought across to the nearby pub, The Barge for a lunch kindly sponsored by Fine Gael Councillor

#### Adopted documents

- ▶ Adopted Background Paper (see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org))
  - > Part 1 : "EU-NATO relation"
  - > Part 2 : "Tensions within the 'Atlantic Alliance'"
  - > Part 3 : "Transatlantic Security Relations"
- ▶ Resolution on "European Identity" (See pg. 28)

and former YEPP Vice President Leo Varadkar. After lunch, the YEPP Council meeting took place, during which the various working papers were accepted, and a resolution on the subject of 'European Identity' was accepted by the YEPP Council Meeting.

That evening, after the YEPP Council meeting, delegates were taken to 'McGrattan's on the Lane' a Dublin restaurant, and were afterwards treated to some traditional Irish music. Later on Saturday night, the delegates dispersed to a variety of night clubs around Dublin City Centre, before eventually retiring to the hotel early on Sunday morning. Unfortunately, the following morning delegates packed their bags and with a heavy heart said goodbye to Ireland.

## EPP, Your Majority in Europe

### 6 February 2004: EPP Congress + board meeting Brussels (Belgium)

On the 4-5 February 2004 the European People's Party held its 16th Congress in Brussel. Delegates from 64 political Parties, including 13 Prime Ministers, opposition leaders, regional authorities, several European Commissioners and other personalities, and all recognized EPP Associations, like YEPP participated.

The Congress slogan was titled "The EPP: Your majority in Europe", reflecting the fact that the EPP is Europe's largest political party. In order to prepare the European Elections (June) the Congress delegates decided on the Action Programme 2004-2009 and the Electoral Manifesto of the EPP. They will vote also on amendments to the Party Statutes and on several resolutions on topical and urgent issues.

YEPP was represented there with almost the complete Board. YEPP President Daniel Bautista got the opportunity to represent YEPP during the Congress. YEPP also contributed in a large way in the preparative working groups. YEPP was therefore proud to be able to introduce for the first time a "Youth Chapter" to the Action Programme 2004-2009.

Besides the participation to the Congress, all associations got also the opportunity to expose and promote themselves in the European Parliament. YEPP used its general leaflets, yearbooks and the YEPP Banner to make ourselves visible.

#### Adopted documents

- ▶ Approved documents :
  - EPP Action Programme 2004-2009
  - Electoral Manifesto
  - More info : See [www.epp-eu.org](http://www.epp-eu.org)



## Chapter on European Youth Policy

### As presented by YEPP to EPP Action Programme

The EPP sees it as fundamental that in the further integration of Europe a generational perspective is taken into account. We must build a future that can offer better opportunities for our youth. Our plans for the years to come must be sustainable. The future of Europe is our youth. But we must not forget that our youth is present today. Taking into account the interests and views of young Europeans is a challenge the EPP would like to take on as a special task for the next European Parliament election period.

A European Youth Policy must have as its basis the premise that the youth possesses great resources. At the same time young people face many challenges that demand political attention, in particular on a European level. The EPP believes that the EU should be able to offer more to our youth on areas like education, employment and prevention of social exclusion. These are opportunities and challenges that our youth face today where Europe can be part of more efficient solutions.

Ensuring the interests of young people demands more attention being paid to their participation and their input into decision-making processes in Europe.

#### EDUCATION

The EPP believes in an educational system that must be accessible for all and embrace all, free from and contrary to any sort of discrimination.

Education must stimulate people to take an active part in society, further their social and personal growth and teach them democratic thinking while introducing the understanding and practice of our basic European values. Focus must be therefore on the individual, never forgetting that all students should learn to live and work in community with others.

Equal opportunity to choose to be educated and to access education is a public responsibility, and a high quality and diverse school system are our fundament. Therefore we believe in a system of permanent competition among schools and among universities, given proof that such a system brings parents and students the opportunity to choose while stimulates increasing quality education standards. However, the introduction of competition must occur on a strategic, phased basis, ensuring that vulnerable young people are not disadvantaged in the process.

The European integration process has provided a bigger dimension to the need of establishing a more complete and fruitful co-operation in the intellectual, cultural, and educational spheres. A Europe of knowledge is now widely recognised as fundamental for the strengthening of our societies, the personal and professional growth of our citizens and the understanding between cultures.

The EPP and the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) believe therefore in:

- ▶ Guaranteeing a public education system that bets for higher quality standards while respecting the legitimate coexistence of private education, a guarantee for equal opportunities and freedom of choice for all European citizens.
- ▶ Promoting and enforcing all those knowledge areas related to European Union and European languages, encouraging multilingualism in Europe, especially at early ages, but also all along the educational process.
- ▶ Developing European education programmes Socrates, Comenius and Tempus, deepening the process to remove obstacles and encourage mobility for students and teachers.
- ▶ Promoting the use of new technologies in training and educational procedures as a guarantee for a future and better integration and development of European new generations in social, cultural and economic life.

#### EMPLOYMENT

European efforts on employment-generating policies must consider the needs of European youth. The high level of unemployment in Europe is intolerable. When labour markets are tough the youth are the ones worst affected. Over 15% of young Europeans under age 25 do not have a job or any fulltime occupation in education or studies.

Youth employment is directly linked to emancipation and self-reliance. Together with opportunities for proper housing, education and employment, it is one of the key factors in life.

Creating more jobs firstly demands sound economic policies and supportive measures to strengthen entrepreneurial spirit. The high levels of youth unemployment, however, also demand special attention to avoid long time unemployment. This means that youth unemployment must be addressed specifically, as a priority in its own right.

The EPP wants to improve the prospects for youth employment through:

- ▶ Promoting specific policy measures on employment contracts concerning young people under conditions which favour stability and training.
- ▶ Encouraging young people's initiative and creativity in all fields while promoting their entrepreneurial spirit.
- ▶ Favouring young people's mobility and employability through an flexible and efficient system of degree and diploma recognition all around Europe.

#### PREVENTING SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Young people are more susceptible to fall victim to social exclusion. Young people cannot, as adults can, face the most of their challenges with the benefit of lifetime experience. Many challenges are too tough for children and youngsters to deal with. Improving the conditions of formative years involves a broad perspective of economic, social and value-based dimensions. Here the EPP parties have much to offer on local, regional and national level. There are also European elements to these topics that should be tackled through concertation and co-operation between EPP parties

In fighting social exclusion of young people, the EPP encourages the establishment of more cross-sectorial approaches on education, health prevention and employment. Special attention should be paid to improving the prevention and treatment of psychiatric illnesses, as this is often the largest youth health issue.

Stronger focus on fighting drugs and improving treatment programs must also be addressed. These are issues of major importance for too many youngsters in Europe. In these matters we don't have any time to lose and the EPP will prioritize our European youth demands."

*Adopted at the EPP Congress, 4-5 February 2004, Brussels, Belgium*



## Europe: Road to Social Cohesion 25-28 March 2004: Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon (Portugal)

On 25th March 33 YEPP Organisations from 30 countries gathered in Lisbon for the YEPP Chairmen's Conference & Council Meeting, that was opened by a welcome session at the Lisbon City Hall by the Mayor at the time (now the former prime-minister and President of the PSD, Mr. Pedro Santana Lopes). The opening dinner was hosted by the Lisbon City Hall and took place in the beautiful Castelo de S. Jorge, where everybody could have a beautiful night view towards the city of Lisbon. Besides the presence of some JSD Lisbon responsables, welcome speeches from Jorge Nuno Sá (JSD President) and Daniel Bautista (YEPP President) were held.

On Friday; 26th March, the YEPP delegation went to the Portuguese Parliament where the President of the Parliament (Mr. João Bosco Mota Amaral) was welcoming all Chairmen and other participants. After the welcome speeches, took place in the Senate Room of the Parliament the Conferences around the subject that was chosen to this Lisbon meeting, where the guests were the Secretary of State of Science and Education and former President of JSD (Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva), and the member of the Parliament and Vice-President of the PSD Parliamentary Group (Mr. Miguel Frásquilho). The first guest talked about "The Lisbon Agenda: Science and Innovation", while the second speech was prepared with a powerpoint presentation around "Competitiveness in an enlarged Europe". Afterwards all the participants had to join a guided tour through the Portuguese Parliament. Everyone could see the session's room, where 14 members of JSD seated as members of the Parliament. A delicious lunch was served at the

new building of the Portuguese Parliament, and it was hosted by the President of the Parliament (Mr. João Mota Amaral), the Vice-Presidents of the PSD Parliamentary Group (Mr. Miguel Frásquilho, Mr. Gonçalo Capitão and Mr. António Nazaré Pereira), and had the presence of some JSD members of the Parliament (Daniel Rebelo, João Moura, Miguel Miranda e Pedro Alves).

In the afternoon, several Presidents or responsables of the different YEPP organisations joined for a meeting in the national headquarters of PSD, where 33 persons talked a little bit about the current political situation in their country and their party. The day was closed with a dinner in Oeiras (a city near Lisbon), that was hosted by the City Hall representatives.

On Saturday YEPP had the privilege to have the visit of two Prime-Ministers at the Conference room in the hotel: the Prime-Minister of Portugal at the time and actual President of the European Commission (Mr. Durão Barroso), and the Prime-Minister of the Netherlands (Mr. Peter Jan Balkenende). After a welcome word of YEPP President (Daniel Bautista) the Prime-Ministers started to talk about the friendship between Portugal and the Netherlands and focused their interventions on the necessity of having a stronger union between the Member States of the European Union, especially after the enlargement of the E.U. to 10 new countries. Mr. Peter Jan Balkenende showed his gratefulness with the invitation of Mr. Durão Barroso to come to Portugal, and confessed it was a pleasure to start his visit with the presence

in a YEPP meeting with so many European centre-right youth organisations. Mr. Durão Barroso, after welcoming all to Portugal, spoke about the recent tragedy that took place in our neighbour country (Spain), and focused his concerns about the last terrorism acts all over the world. The Portuguese Prime-Minister and President of PSD gave his personal opinion and expressed that we are really in the middle of a war after the tragic day of 11th of September, a war that is different of all the ones we see on TV. Mr. Durão Barroso finished his speech by praising JSD, telling that this youth organisation of the PSD is the biggest in the country, one of the biggest in Europe, being an example to follow by all the partners, including the ones in Europe. Mr. Barroso praised the motivation and the enthusiasm of the JSD, and underlined the importance that JSD always had in the support to PSD in the Government and building a better country. In the afternoon the

YEPP Council Meeting was held where 2 working papers were approved: One about "Research and Development" and the second one about "Competitiveness in an Enlarged Europe".

After the Council meeting the YEPP delegation went to Sintra for a farewell dinner, that was hosted by the City Council of Sintra in the beautiful Palace of Seteais. There, the last speeches of the YEPP Chairmen's Conference were addressed by the President of YEPP (Daniel Bautista), the President of JSD (Jorge Nuno Sá), and by the Vice-President of the City Hall of Sintra (Mr. Lacerda Tavares). Time was appropriated to a farewell party with all the participants, and so JSD organized it on a bar at the place where was the Expo in 98 (the bar was called Cenoura do Rio). At the party we had the presence of some JSD Lisbon members and some others of the National Board of JSD.

### Adopted documents

- ▶ Adopted Background Papers (see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org))
  - > Part 1 : „Research and Development“
  - > Part 2 : „Competitiveness in an enlarged Europe“
- ▶ Resolution on Terrorism (See pg. 29)
- ▶ Resolution on Employment (See pg. 30)
- ▶ Resolution on the crisis in Moldova (See pg. 31)
- ▶ Resolution on HIV AIDS virus (See pg. 32)
- ▶ Resolution on NATO and EU enlargement (See pg. 33)





## "Information Society and Globalisation" and "YEPP in European Elections" 13-16 May 2004: Seminar, Turku (Finland)

### ABSTRACT

YEPP organised in cooperation with The Youth League of the Coalition Party (Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto, KNL) an international seminar under theme Information Society as a Tool for Handling Globalisation. The seminar took place on May 14-15 2004 in Turku, Finland. The conference, along with its accommodation, was arranged in Scandic Hotel Marina Palace.

### THEME

The YEPP seminar in Turku debated the use of information society as a tool to cope with and master globalisation. The topic introduced the influence of EU's eEurope project in our societies, the implementation of social innovations in different countries and the industrial world practises of understanding the problems of the Third World. In addition to this, some Finnish industrial and political instances were offered a chance to present their views in the context of corporate social responsibility and its challenges. The idea of e-voting was briefly reflected as an application of direct and representative democracy during a panel debate among young MEP candidates.

### PARTICIPANTS

88 young people participated at the conference. Two young Finns also participated from the youth organisation Frisinnad Ungdom of the Åland Islands, an autonomous province of Finland.

### WORKING METHODS

Seminar methodology included panel debates and participatory discussions in small groups in addition to more traditional lecture inputs. The programme was sparked with an outdoor activity at the Turku market square which facilitated a smooth introduction to local life for the international guests. The culmination point of the happening was the celebration of EU enlargement and promotion of voting in the June EU elections especially among young people. The market square rally was organised in co-operation with KNL's regional and local factions.

At the end of the two-day conference, the YEPP Council Meeting was held. A political organ of YEPP, Council Meeting e.g. approves the outcome and drafted resolutions of the seminar as the official positions of the association. The finale of seminar was on Saturday, May 15, in a small mansion in the City of Kaarina. Traditional Finnish Evening allowed participants to get to know archipelago culture, the importance of the Baltic Sea in Finnish society in the past and present, together with an orientation to traditional sauna bathing. Furthermore, the evening offered participants a possibility for individual and group reflection of the seminar contents.

### SEMINAR OUTCOME

On Friday, several issues were thoroughly debated. The day was started by an introduction to the Position Papers on Globalisation and ITC that were drafted by KNL. The latter was commented by Mr. Arto Satonen, MP. After the presentation of the drafts, the working groups on both topics convened to work on adjustments and amendments to the documents.

After lunch, an input was given by Mr. Juho Savo, Executive Di-

rector of the Regional Council of Southwest Finland. He focused on the regional development around the City of Turku and emphasised the use of ITC as a stepstone for regional prosperity. He was then followed by Mrs. Eva-Riitta Siitonen, Lord Mayor of Helsinki. In her speech the urban development and town-twinning between European cities were stressed along with the global challenges to urban growth points.

The working groups then continued their work only be interrupted by a panel debate among young MEP candidates. The debate was held between Mr. Daniel Bautista, YEPP President from Spain, Mr. Andreas Boisen, a candidate from Denmark and Finnish candidates Mr. Ville Auvinen from Young Christian Democrats and Ms. Piia-Noora Kauppi, MEP, Ms. Riikka Kervinen and Mr. Heikki Autto from KNL. The role of young candidates and MEPs was discussed together with the different ways to promote youth voting turnout.

At the street event we received input from many Finnish MEP candidates and caught the attention of pass-byers. Approximately 200 balloons and 400 KNL campaign postcards were handed out at the event in addition to individual campaigning material of the young candidates.

The evening was finalised after dinner by a celebration of the EU enlargement at the local night club Prima. YEPP handed EU flags to each delegation from the previously acceded states.

On Saturday, YEPP Council Meeting convened to carry some organisational and political cases. On the agenda point membership issues, a new member organisation Pro Patria Union of Estonia was welcomed.



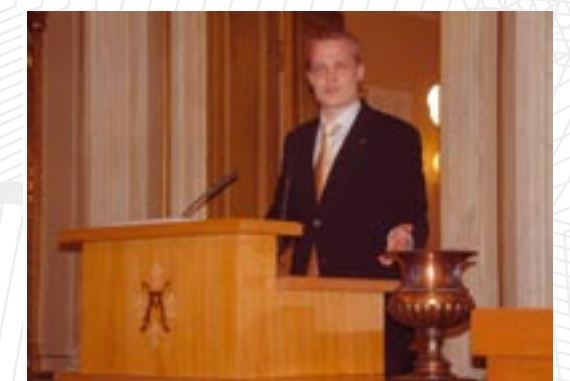
Both position papers prepared by the participants were adopted as official stands for YEPP. In addition, the Council Meeting adopted three resolutions. Two of the resolutions were proposed by KNL, first of them urging EU to take more serious actions to secure the environmental heritage of the Baltic Sea, and the second making a pro nuclear power statement. The third resolution focused on the issue of Libya and wanted to enable YEPP Board to act towards co-operation in the Mediterranean region. All three resolutions were adopted.

### MEDIA COVERAGE

One of the aims of the seminar was to raise awareness among Finnish youth about European political structures and youth activity on a European level. Media was contacted in order to spread information about the seminar and its contents to the public. KNL used the street rally in Turku as a place to launch its postcard and website based EU electoral campaign. The conference and the campaign were both recognised by the national media (Ilta-Sanomat, the biggest tabloid newspaper on 14 May 2004 and later Helsingin Sanomat, the largest national newspaper on 2 June 2004) and in regional media (Turun Sanomat 15 May 2004).

### Adopted documents

- ▶ Adopted Background Papers (see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org))
  - > Part 1: Paper on Information Society and New Economy
  - > Part 2: Paper on Globalisation
- ▶ Resolution on the Baltic Sea (See pg. 34)
- ▶ Resolution on Libya (See pg. 35)
- ▶ Resolution on the future of Nuclear Energy in Europe (See pg. 36)







## Challenges in the enlarged "new" EU

29 July–1 August 2004: Summerschool, Rhodes (Greece)

During the summer period a small 80 participants from 23 countries were happy to take part at the YEPP Summerschool on the sunny Greek island Rhodes. Under the title of "Challenges in the enlarged 'new' EU: Immigration, minorities and promotion of youth participation", this seminar was hosted by YEPP's Greek member organisation ONNED.

The participants of the summerschool were welcomed by ONNED President George Papanikolaou and YEPP President Daniel Bautista at an opening diner.

On the Thursday the opening was held by Mrs. Vasso Kollia, Secretary General for Youth from the Ministry of National Education. There were also different panel discussions related the topic of the Summerschool. A representative for the Youth Mobility Program and from the International Immigration Office discussed about young immigrants and their possibilities. Mr. Stavros Papastavrou, Secretary General of International Affairs of Nea Demokratia and Mrs. Rodi Kratsa, MEP discussed on Minorities in the enlarged EU. YEPP participants got the opportunity to discuss afterwards. The fruitful discussion day was closed by an excellent diner beside the swimming pool in the hotel and hosted by Mr. Yiannis Valinakis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On Friday, a debate on a Common European Immigration Policy was held. Also the 4 YEPP Permanent Working groups also took place. Besides political discussions, the programme offered also some free time to profit from the magnificent historical beauty

of the Rhodes city! In the evening the YEPP participants were brought to a typical Greek restaurant, where a diner was offered by Mr. Haralambos Kokkinos, Secretary General of the South Aegean Region.

The working groups related to the seminar topic were held on Saturday. In the afternoon, the YEPP Council Meeting took place. The Council approved a Resolution on Immigration, a Resolution on Minorities and a Resolution on the violence against ethnic minorities in Serbia.

EPP Deputy Secretary General Christian Kremer reported on the result of the European Elections and the role of the EPP in the choice of the new President and the Commissioners of the European Commission. There were also some extra invited guests from the Balkan region.

After the meeting, a farewell diner took place in the centre of Rhodes City, where the YEPP delegates were welcomed by the Mayor of Rhodes. Afterwards, all participants could enjoy the Rhodes by Night!

### Adopted documents

- ▶ Adopted Background Paper on Migration (see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org))
- ▶ Resolution on Minorities (See pg. 37)
- ▶ Resolution on Immigration (See pg. 38)
- ▶ Resolution on the violence in Serbia (See pg. 39)



## Social Europe: More Freedoms, more opportunities for All!

7–10 October 2004: Seminar, Oslo (Norway)

In October 2004, Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom (Norway) and Unge Høyre (Norway) hosted a YEPP seminar on the topic 'Social Europe: More freedoms – more opportunities'. This seminar was realised with the support of the European People's Party (EPP) as well.

The seminar started on Thursday afternoon with a reception at the Parliament of Norway. The reception was addressed by YEPP president Daniel Bautista, Dagrunn Eriksen, Vice President of Kristelig Folkeparti and MP Julie Christiansen of Høyre. This was followed up by a welcome dinner for all at "Centraal", a restaurant situated near the parliament.

Most of the weekend was spent at the Office of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association, where the seminar, working groups and Council meeting took place. First up was a session called "Social Europe and Public Health Issues", addressed by Helmut Wagner,

director of the Amsterdam Group. Next up was a session on the value based approach to politics, addressed by the Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik. The Prime Minister also talked about the relation between the EU and Norway. The fact that the current Norwegian government is pro-European was promoted.

Luc Vandeputte, Deputy Secretary General of EPP, later held a presentation on European People's Party and its future activities. He expressed the need for a strong YEPP within the party. The final speaker on Friday was Erna Solberg, President of Høyre and Minister of local and regional affairs, with a presentation on the challenges of a multicultural Europe. That night, delegates were taken to dinner at TGI Fridays on Carl Johans boulevard, at the centre of Oslo.

The next day, Saturday was set aside for the YEPP Permanent Working Groups and the YEPP Council to meet. Most of the day was spent to discuss the draft political programme on social affairs, titled "Social Europe: More freedoms – more opportunities", which was later accepted by the Council. Also accepted was a resolution on the October election in Ukraine, and a resolution on Croatian and Bulgarian accession to the EU. In the evening, the delegates were taken by boat to have dinner at Hvalstrand Bad, which later was followed by a party hosted by Unge Høyre, at their headquarters.

On Sunday the delegates were given the opportunity to attend a guided tour in Oslo, before returning home.

### Adopted documents

- ▶ Adopted European Social Policy Paper (see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org))
- ▶ Resolution on the Presidential elections in Ukraine (See pg. 40)
- ▶ Resolution on the Bulgarian and Croatian accession in the EU (See pg. 41)





## New Neighbourhood Policy in an enlarged European Union

### 9-12 December 2004: Seminar, Poznan (Poland)

In December Young Democrats – MD (Poland) hosted a YEPP seminar on "New Neighbourhood Policy".

The seminar kicked off on Thursday night with a reception at City Hall of Poznan. The reception was addressed by Waldy Dzikowski MP, Ryszard Grobelny Mayor of Poznan, Jan Artymowski MD Chairman and YEPP President Daniel Bautista.

Accommodation was delivered at Hotel Rzymycki in Poznan.

The following morning, delegates travelled to The Institution of Higher Learning For Humanities and Journalism in Poznan. It was there that Friday's discussion and debate took place. Welcome speech was given by prof. Wojciech Wrzosek – Rector of The Institution of Higher Learning For Humanities and Journalism.

First up was a panel discussion on the "Eastern Enlargement – consequences for the New Neighbourhood Policy". Due to the presence in Poznan, the meeting was addressed by prof. Marek Gaw\_cki – well known expert from University of Poznan. The other speaker was Stephan Raabe, Director of Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland. For many years the Foundation has been supporting the public debate on Eastern Enlargement. Director Raabe addressed the delegates on the topic, and offered us the view-point of the current German view point on the Neighbourhood Policy.

Next up was the discussion on "Belarus – the last European dictatorship? What could the EU do to improve the situation?" and was addressed by a panel of eminent people, including Agata Wierzbowska – Centre for Eastern Studies and Jan Czury\_owicz, Representative of the 5+ opposition coalition. Centre for Eastern Studies is one most prestigious think-tanks in Poland. Agata Wierzbowska referred the political aspects of modern history of Belarus. Jan Czuryłowicz presented the first hand impressions of dictatorship of Alexandr Lukashenko. Presently, Czuryłowicz is working as an adviser to Vice-President of European Parliament and gave us his feelings of European understanding of Belarus case.

After the lunch the third panel discussion on "the Influence of the presidential elections in Ukraine on the country's relations with the EU" gathered three excellent experts. Vladymyr Horbach from Institute for Euro – Atlantic Cooperation in Kiev, spoke initially of modern election history of Ukraine. Dr Grzegorz Kostrzewa-Zorbas analysed the "Orange Revolution" political impact on further opening of UE. Dr Kostrzewa-Zorbas' controversial idea was to agree to have Ukraine and Turkey entering the EU together. Julita Bana\_kiewicz from European Institute for Democracy exchanged her experience of being the international election observer in Donieck in Ukraine. Later in the evening we were transferred to dinner at old village restaurant, outside Poznan City.

The next day, Saturday was set aside for the YEPP working groups and the YEPP Council to meet. Saturday's work took place in the Poznan Financial Centre and in the morning the Permanent

Working Groups of YEPP met.

After lunch, the YEPP Council meeting took place, the honorary guest of the Council was Jacek Saryusz-Wolski MEP, Vice-president of the European Parliament in charge of the eastern dimension of the New Neighbourhood Policy of the EU. During the event the various working papers and resolutions were accepted by the YEPP Council Meeting.

That evening, after the YEPP Council meeting, delegates were taken to Hotel Rzymycki for "MD 10th Anniversary Party". On Saturday night, the delegates dispersed to a variety of night clubs around Poznan, before eventually retiring to the hotel early on Sunday morning.



#### Adopted documents

- ▶ Adopted Background Paper "On the Way to an Enlarged Europe " (see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org))
- ▶ Resolution on the developments at the Convention on the Future of Europe (See pg. 32)
- ▶ Resolution on the crisis in Belarus (See pg. 33)

## YEPP Permanent Working Groups

### YEPP Permanent Working Groups

Mid 2003 the newly elected YEPP Board wanted to create an extra forum because political discussions do not take place only at the YEPP-seminars. Therefore YEPP's Permanent Working Groups (PWG) were established to promote more focused political work on key areas. The goal of these PWGs is to commit more members and more specialists of each member organisation in the political discussions within YEPP. These working groups are working "on line" and have also the opportunity to meet on each YEPP seminar and event. To strengthen this idea that politics are a continue process YEPP created 4 Permanent Working Groups (PWG).

#### PWG ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

The PWG 1 deals with Economic and Social Policy. This can potentially cover quite a lot of topics, but according to the priorities by YEPP's Council and the members of the working group the agenda has first of all been to develop YEPP's first theme political program; on European Social Policy. This paper "Social Europe: More freedoms - More opportunities for all!" where finally adopted by YEPP's Council in Oslo, October 2004. (See more info p. 11) The group has also initiated resolutions and dealt with issues relating to the Lisbon Agenda and other topics such as international trade and human rights, US-EU dollar/euro relations and more generally social issues of interest to young people such as educational reforms, reform of pension systems and demographic changes in Europe etc. The work of EPP's own Working Group (No. 2) on Economic and Social Affairs has also been followed. Working methods has been special sessions during other YEPP events and e-mail exchange of views and documents".

*Chairman:* David Hansen (Vice-president YEPP)



#### PWG ON COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

The scope of CFSP is very wide, which leaves a lot of room for debate, but makes it at the same time harder to focus. Overall, the group is a firm believer that the EU has to take up its responsibility in the world. The only effective way to achieve our goals is by joining forces and investing wisely in security.

One of the achievements is that we launched a debate about the meaning of neutrality, still a taboo subject in some states today. With 8 member organisations coming from neutral countries, we gained a great insight in the arguments used in national debates (if any), the advantages and disadvantages of neutrality and what the implications could be in trying to build a real common foreign policy. Furthermore, we laid the groundwork for YEPP's opinion on the New Neighbourhood Policy, we explored how the UN should be reformed and we evaluated the EU's Security Strategy.

*Chairman:* Arnt Kennis (Vice-president YEPP)



#### PWG CENTRAL, EASTERN AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE & ENLARGEMENT

The Group served as a forum for in-depth debate and analysis of developments in transition countries of the three regions. It monitored the decay of the EPP member in Romania and tailored YEPP's response in summer 2003, when its democratic commitment was tested. It improved YEPP's understanding of the situation in Georgia leading to the so-called "Rose Revolution" in winter 2003/2004 and shed some light on the following evolution. It broadened YEPP's engagement for Ukraine and YEPP's partners from the beginning, so that strong support

was given to the actors of the "Pomarancheva Revolutia" in winter 2004/2005. Broad room was given to the monitoring of partners and developments in Moldova and the Western Balkan countries. The Group's conclusions informed the broader YEPP public in all Councils, initiated Balkans Network meetings in Vienna and Rhodes and lobbied the EPP successfully for offering observer membership to like-minded parties from all Council of Europe Member States. EPP Chairman Martens recognized YEPP's role "for their good preparational work and engagement" with regard to the newest EPP family member, Nasha Ukraina.

*Chairman:* Markus Pösentrup (First Vice-president YEPP) &

*Co-Chairman:* Tim Neubauer (Vice-president YEPP)

*Rapporteur:* Robert Golanski (MD Poland)



**PWG SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainable development is a concept which wants to find a (natural) balance between economics, social matters and ecology. It is not a policy itself. Sustainable development is a concept that is needed in many policy fields. And sustainable developments is much more popular in political Europe, because it is about important questions. How to balance the economical growth and the livability in our Europe? How to develop the social pillar in the world economy? These questions and others were therefore discussed in PWG Sustainable Development. At the first YEPP event of 2004 the PWG presented a document with basic principles on Sustainable Development. The council agreed on four key values on sustainable development: trusteeship, livability, solidarity and responsibility. The PWG also made a big list with possible topics concerning the theme and the key values. The second part of the year the PWG started writing a programme on 'traffic, transport and mobility', which has to be adopted at the Congress in 2005.

*Chairman:* Arnoud Strijbis (Vice-president YEPP)

## YEPP Working Groups on European Elections

YEPP's Road Map to the European Elections

The European Parliamentary elections were held in June 2004 and these elections were the first ones where YEPP appeared as a consolidated organization since our foundation back in 1997. With the final goal of ensuring an active participation of our organization and the definition of the means to do so, YEPP decided to open a debate among all its member organisations to guarantee that our strategy is the appropriate one to help in the best possible way our Member Organisations and their young candidates in the upcoming European elections campaign. For that purpose YEPP Board decided to create two ad hoc working groups, open to all participants, to brainstorm and decide on basic guidelines concerning both the political message and the campaign strategy to be followed by YEPP. Both working groups met for the first time in Vienna (December 2003) and afterwards in Dublin (January 2004). Final conclusions and recommendations were sent to the YEPP Board for final debate and design of our campaign. The YEPP Board gathered together in Lisbon on the 26th of March 2004 adopted a YEPP Road Map to the European Parliamentary elections.

With the slogan "We Stand for Europe!" YEPP spread its message all through the European Union, also with the help of the European People's Party. By providing YEPP candidates with both content and material tools to enrich their participation in the elections. This content contribution was at the disposal of our MOs to complement their national campaign. The brand new YEPP website was used as main tool to promote its candidates.

On behalf of YEPP, YEPP Secretary General Riikka Kervinen also contributed in the EPP working group "Media and Campaigning" in order to prepare the European Elections.

The final result for our political family was excellent. The EPP-ED group is within the European Parliament with its 268 seats the biggest political fraction in Europe. YEPP is proud to have 9 young Members of Parliament elected!

**More information**

▶ see [www.yepp.org](http://www.yepp.org)



## YEPP present all around Europe

European Youth Forum



YEPP is since its founding also an active member of the European Youth Forum (EYF). Within the Board YEPP Vice-President Arnoud Strijbis was appointed (since Madrid 2003) as key link with the Forum. In 2004 YEPP participated again to different events. In spring 2004 YEPP contributed in some meetings related to the youth strategy towards the European elections. Young EPP-candidates represented YEPP with presentations and an active role in debates. In April YEPP was represented by a strong delegation at the Council of Members in Brussels, where they were actively involved in different debates, e.g. a debate on globalization and the White Paper. The two-yearly General Assembly took place in Madrid in November. The most important topic was the election of the new board. Despite a good and effective campaign no YEPP-candidate was elected as Board Member. Renaldas Vaisbrodas (Lithuania) was elected as new president of YFJ.

More information: [www.youthforum.org](http://www.youthforum.org)

## YEPP present all around Europe

Youth Convention Follow-up



Almost one year after the Youth Convention on the Future of Europe, YEPP Deputy Secretary General, Lucinda Creighton represented the organisation as a delegate to the "Follow-Up Event".

The purpose of this event was to allow an opportunity to reflect on some of the preliminary decisions which had emerged from the Convention itself, to determine how best young people in Europe could further their input into the process and to listen to the views of some current members of the Convention.

The event took place over two days in Brussels and included representatives from all of the countries who participated in the Youth Convention. It was clear from discussions that the young delegates felt that some of the conclusions drawn at the youth convention, particularly relating to institutional reform, had been somewhat sidelined, regrettably. Issues such as transparency in the Council, the need to develop stronger political dimensions in the EU, equality of the Member States and the need

for one strong figure-head for the Union, should not be weakened in the race for compromise.

The highlight of the event was the contribution from Jean Luc Dehaene, Member of the Praesidium of the Convention. He defended the progress of the Convention to date and stressed that the final outcome must reflect the reality that the internal functioning of the EU institutions must alter in order to make the EU more accessible and comprehensible for ordinary European citizens. This would also assist in raising the profile of the European Union as a major world player. He urged the delegates, as youngsters, to continue voicing strong and coherent views on the proposed Constitutional Treaty.

The meeting concluded that two approaches would be adopted. For those representing their National Governments/ Youth Councils, the strategy would be to lead in the organisation of events, rallies and media campaigns to highlight the important issues central to the Future of Europe debate. The European organisations, for their part, would develop their vision of Europe through greater policy activity, lobbying of European Leaders and organisations (such as via the EPP) and through greater co-ordination and co-operation amongst themselves, including joint declarations and statements.

The Follow up to the youth Convention was a positive event from a YEPP perspective, as it allowed us to work closely with our Centre-Right partners from DEMYC and EDS. We have actively continued to promote our vision of Europe until now, and will be the vanguard in lobbying for successful ratification of the Constitutional Treaty in the 25 Member States.

## Resolution on European Identity

29 January–1 February: YEPP Seminar, Dublin (Ireland)

Proposed by YFG (Ireland), Jong-cd&tv (Belgium), CDJA (The Netherlands) and KRFU (Norway)

### Recognising:

- ▶ That 40% of all European Union Citizens do not believe that they share in any form of European Identity (Eurobarometer 59 Spring 2003)

### Believing:

- ▶ That while this continues to be the case, the following aspiration of the draft EU constitution can not be considered to be entirely accurate, although we support its sentiment; "Convinced that, while remaining proud of their own national identities and history, the peoples of Europe are determined to transcend their ancient divisions and, united ever more closely, to forge a common identity".
- ▶ That any form of European identity will not in any-way diminish regional or national identities, of which many citizens of Europe are justifiably proud.

### Noting:

- ▶ That culture is the principle component of national identity.
- ▶ That under both the Maastricht Treaty and the proposed draft Constitution, culture is a shared competency of the European Union.
- ▶ That a good understanding of Europe and the EU can only be developed through education.

### Calls on:

- ▶ That culture is the sum of the total of learned behaviour of a group of people that is generally considered to be the tradition of that people and is transmitted from generation to generation.

This conference believes that the European Union should take a greater and more active role in the promotion and development of a common European culture while at the same time celebrating the national and regional variations and diversity of culture.

In order to achieve this YEPP calls for the following steps to be taken:

- ▶ To create a European Theatre, consisting of an unlimited number of companies, whose duty it will be to tour Europe performing and promoting plays of cross-cultural and cross-national European value.
- ▶ That a European Museum of Arts and Literature be created.
- ▶ That a European Film Institute be created, to finance, develop, promote and support films of pan-European value. Also, the Institute should oversee an awards system, in order to acknowledge the contribution of filmmakers and actors to the European Film Industry.
- ▶ That the history of Europe and the development of the European Ideal and EU be taught as part of the education system in each member-state of the EU.
- ▶ That the European Union should provide greater financial, logistic and promotional support for the holding of pan-European sporting events at youth, amateur and professional levels.
- ▶ That every tenth year an Exhibition of the European Union be held. This will be an event celebrating all aspects of life within the European Union; it will contain exhibitions of the innovations, culture and art of the peoples of the European Union. Furthermore competitions should take place in the fields of Literature, Sports and Arts. We believe this event would help foster and develop common links between the peoples of the European Union and help awaken a European Identity.

## Resolution - Committed to the Fight against Terrorism

25–28 March 2004: Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon (Portugal)

The Youth of the European People's Party:

- ▶ Expresses its deepest support and solidarity to the Spanish citizens and the victims' families of the terrorist attacks on March 11th in Madrid.
- ▶ Condemns absolutely all forms of terrorism and underlines that terrorism is one of the most severe threats against all democratic and free societies.
- ▶ Emphasises that in this globalised world all countries are affected and damaged by terrorism.
- ▶ Calls on all governments to stay strongly engaged in the fight against terrorism and reminds that showing weakness would be a wrong signal to terrorists. It is essential that terrorism is not allowed to affect the quality of our democracies and of our free societies in general.
- ▶ Expresses great concern to the fact that the recent terrorist attacks in Spain have dramatically influenced the outcome of the democratic decision making process, thus opening the door for future attempts to manipulate voters' behaviour.
- ▶ Calls for a closer cooperation between the intelligence services within the European Union and criticizes the lack of progress made by the EU's ministers for the Interior and Justice in this regard. The only way to win the fight against terrorism is to strengthen the cross-border cooperation, information sharing and common actions. There should be no safe haven for terrorists.
- ▶ Calls on the European Council to strengthen the dialogue, cooperation and links between Europe and the Arab and Muslim world in order to strengthen the moderate political forces and civil society in those countries.





## Resolution on labor mobility in the enlarged European Union

25-28 March 2004: Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon (Portugal)

The right to work anywhere in an enlarged Europe, seen as a great benefit of EU accession, will almost certainly be restricted for at least two years in 13 of the 15 current EU member countries. Most of the new member states are considering the introduction of similar restraints applying to the EU-15 countries. These restrictions, which hit young people all over Europe especially hard, contradict the ideals of European unity.

The delay will harm the European economy by holding up the most efficient deployment of European workers at a time when European leaders are concerned about Europe's international competitiveness set out in the Lisbon Strategy. Labour mobility, as envisaged by the Single European Act, remains unrealised. Europeans are already much less likely than others to travel to other countries of the EU to obtain better employment. Further restrictions will aggravate the situation. European employment policies must be directed at making labour mobility easier, not harder.

While the free flow of capital and goods is extremely beneficial to the European economy, it is the possibility to move and find work all over Europe, which is fundamental for young people, willing to travel and experience Europe by working in other countries.

Impact of formal enlargement on migration should not be underestimated, there is however no evidence of uncontrolled mass migration in the future. However, the enlargement of 1 May 2004 is unprecedented in dimension as well as in discrepancies between the levels of welfare in present and new EU Member States. None of the Union's previous enlargements prompted big migrations and according to a large majority of European research centers no such danger exists today. Therefore EU-15 and applicants agreed on the moderate introduction of transitional periods in order to smoothen the effects of enlargement-related challenges for citizens of the present EU. There are legitimate concerns about the abuse of social benefits in some countries. Social security rules should be tightened in order to reduce opportunities of abuse and discourage benefit tourists who cross borders in pursuit of welfare. Most migrants however are single young people intent on finding work and gaining international experience, not securing benefits.

YEPP deeply regrets decisions taken by some governments, which will delay the opportunities for young Europeans to move freely around the enlarged European Union in the search for work and professional experience. YEPP as representatives of the young European generation believe that promoting openness and freedom will make the European Union stronger. A closed and over-regulated Europe will be weak.

YEPP appeals to those governments, which still have that option, not to restrict the chances of young people to move eastwards or westwards in the search for an interesting and rewarding employment. Experience after enlargement should be actively reflected and debated in European societies. Justified opportunities of lifting restrictions on the right to work anywhere in the European Union should be used in present and new EU Member States whenever possible.

*Adopted at the Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon, 27 March 2004*



## Resolution on the crisis in Moldova

25-28 March 2004: Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon (Portugal)

*Introduced by NG PPCD, Moldova*

**We, the Youth of the European People's Party express our deepest concern that:**

- ▶ The Communist Party of Government coming to power, in 2001, began the restriction of democratic liberties and established a totalitarian regime in this country. The democratic institutions have been suppressed through the changes in the legislation and abusive practices, through the infringement of the country's international commitments and stipulations of the Constitution regarding human rights.
- ▶ The Communist Party continue to ignore all the European Institution's recommendation regarding the functioning of the democratic institutions in the country.
- ▶ Through its rule the Government aims to reestablish the soviet model of the social organization, through the sanction of the different opinions from those of the power and through the transformation of the order forces into tools of political repression.
- ▶ The Communists authorities after peaceful protests meetings organized by the CDPP against the military Russian occupation have sanctioned hundreds of protestors and withdrew the parliamentary immunity of 4 CDPP MPs in order to be prosecuted in administrative and penal cases. Thus aiming to arrest the leaders of Opposition and to prevent their participation in the parliamentary elections of February 2005.

**Therefore:**

- ▶ express our deep solidarity with the CDPP and its youth organization "Noua Generatie" for their struggle for democracy and European perspective of their country;
- ▶ urge the communist authorities and the president Vladimir Voronin to stop all the repressive measures upon the CDPP leaders, to abandon the idea of prosecuting Iurie Rosca, Vlad Cubreacov and Stefan Secareanu, in penal cases and to choose a democratic path of governing;
- ▶ call the EPP-ED group to intervene and support this claim in the European Parliament and other relevant EU bodies.





## Resolution on the HIV/AIDS Crisis

25–28 March 2004: Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon (Portugal)

Introduced by YFG, Ireland

### Noting:

- ▶ That over 40 million people throughout the world currently live with HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ That over 90% of these people live in developing countries, and 75% live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ▶ The rapid rise of HIV/AIDS in many countries of Europe and Central Asia where at least 2.1 million people live with HIV/AIDS.

### Acknowledging:

- ▶ The role of the HIV/AIDS crisis in retarding development and creating and maintaining poverty in many developing countries.

### Recognising:

- ▶ The advances made by certain pharmaceutical companies, in providing greater access to anti-retroviral and other HIV/AIDS related drugs at more affordable rates.
- ▶ That the so-called "ABC" approach has proven to be by far the most effective method of lowering instances of HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

### Commending:

- ▶ Both the 'Declaration of Commitment of the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS' and the recent 'Dublin Declaration on Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia' as a basis for future European Union action on the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

### Condemning:

- ▶ The failure of some world leaders, most notably Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, to fully acknowledge and respond adequately to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

### YEPP, meeting in Lisbon, call for amongst other steps, the following measures to be taken:

- ▶ The creation of a dedicated unit within the EU Commission Directorate on Health and Consumer Affairs, to provide a coherent and co-ordinated strategy across all EU Commission Directorates and the member states to, with the specific aim of combating the HIV/AIDS crisis, both within the European Union and also throughout the world, in particular the developing world.
- ▶ For trade agreements negotiated by the European Union and by member states with developing countries currently and potentially experiencing a HIV/AIDS epidemic, to be dependent on those countries drawing up and implementing national plans to combat HIV/AIDS as well as those countries fully participating with International Bodies involved in fighting the crisis.
- ▶ For member states of the European Union to co-operate on the provision of greater inducement for pharmaceutical companies to provide HIV/AIDS drugs at more affordable prices, for the relaxation of patents and to encourage greater investment by pharmaceutical companies into research and development (R&D) in the field.
- ▶ For the EU member states to, in a co-ordinated manner, to finance educational HIV/AIDS campaigns especially within the developing world and particularly to reduce the stigma associated with the HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ For the European Union to highlight the need for the provision of greater provision and access to of affordable anti-retroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS victims in the developing world in discussions with other industrialized and developed countries.

## Resolution on NATO and EU Enlargement

25–28 March 2004: Chairmen's Conference, Lisbon (Portugal)

Initiated by Andrei Marinescu - YEPP

The Youth of the European People's Party welcomes the NATO enlargement that will take place on the 2nd of April, when seven countries from Central and Eastern Europe will officially become members of the alliance.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia, will enhance Europe's position within NATO and will strengthen the alliance, making Europe more influential and more effective on the world stage.

NATO is about security - and we are in an age where terrorism has gone from being a domestic problem to a matter of national and international security. This means that the Alliance has a key role to play in meeting this challenge, today and in the future. The more united we'll stand the more efficient our role to fight terrorism, defend the peace and the values our societies are based on.

YEPP also welcomes the historical EU Enlargement on the 1st of May that will bring ten new countries into the "Union of values". The fifth wave of enlargement since the EU was created, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia, will raise the number of EU states to 25, with a population of over 450 million,

Enlargement is more than a selection process. Managing enlargement also means keeping the door open for future members.

YEPP strongly supports the integration of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 as scheduled, stressing that more efforts have to be made to overcome the difficulties in the reform process in order to completely fulfill the accession criteria. Also Norway, Croatia, Switzerland and the states from South-Eastern Europe have to find their path towards the integration in the EU family.

EU and NATO share the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. As young Europeans we are convinced that NATO and EU enlargement will succeed in bringing more safety and prosperity to Europe's citizens.



## Resolution on the Baltic Sea

### 13-16 May 2004: Seminar, Turku (Finland)

Adopted at YEPP Council Meeting, Turku (Finland), 15 May 2004

During the last decades the Baltic Sea has been facing many challenges because of its unique position in the heart of the Northern Europe. The Sea is mainly surrounded by the continent leaving only a small connection through the inlets of Denmark to the Atlantic Ocean. Another factor making the area special is the ice cover that reaches annually almost to the south of Sweden and influences therefore the sea life through oxygen levels. Due to these circumstances the water circulating in the sea changes very slowly which leaves the sea area extremely vulnerable to emissions and pollutants. The biggest sources of pollution to the Sea are agriculture, industry and traffic.

Not only the challenges of the Baltic Sea as a natural environment make it an important area to be taken into account. Transportation of goods through waterways has increased substantially in a short period of time and is likely to add up even more due to major undertakings in the maritime sector. To ensure the vitality and versatile biodiversity of the area proper actions must be taken in order to ensure the low rate of emissions and overall safety of the cargo vessels operating in the area. This must be done in coordination with all the parties involved so that environmentally-sound long term solutions can be reached.

The recent years have shown that many different organizations and authorities are committed to the work done to save the Baltic Sea. In April this year the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) declared the Baltic Sea as PSSA (Particularly Sensitive Sea Area), which enables more precise projects to be carried out in the coastal states. The actions taken are a fair start but however not by any means sufficient considering the important role that The Baltic Sea plays in the environmental and economic climate of the EU. Since Russia also is a member in IMO, the restrictions concerning the vessels used in sea transport, are to be taken seriously.

Taking into consideration the above mentioned, we, the representatives of the YEPP

#### Recognize that:

- ▶ The already existing co-operation between the coastal states of the Baltic Sea must be tightened in order to guarantee the adoption of as environmentally-sound directives, laws and standards as possible.
- ▶ Stricter standards of cargo and leisure vessel emissions must be adopted to protect the Baltic Sea from hazardous pollution. These standards should apply not only to EU countries but to every country using the sea as a transport route.
- ▶ A common control system for the vessels sailing in the Baltic Sea including all the coastal states should be created to prevent accidents and enable more precise focusing of resources directed to seafaring.
- ▶ After the Enlargement the Baltic Sea is surrounded by EU-countries, except for St.Petersburg and Kaliningrad. This makes the protection of the Baltic Sea an important part of the environmental policy of the EU.



## Resolution on Libya

### 13-16 May 2004: Seminar, Turku (Finland)

Adopted in Council Meeting, Turku (Finland), 15 May 2004

YEPP welcomes Libya's moves towards a healthier relationship with the International Community

**Recalling** the YEPP Seminar convened in Malta entitled "The Mediterranean in an Enlarged European Union" having adopted a resolution showing YEPP's interests in Libya's current progress in favour a constructive dialogue with the International Community.

**Believing** that positive Euro-Mediterranean relations contribute to stability in the Mediterranean region, creating benefits of a Political, Economical and Cultural nature.

**Noting** that whilst good-will has been shown by the Libyan government towards the improvement of relations with Europe, there are still a number of issues which are pending to be solved. We express reservations over current undemocratic practices within Libya. These issues depend on the willingness of the Libyan government to enter into further, more desirable relations with Europe. These relationships should be built upon the values that Europe stands for. In particular we express our preoccupation over Libya's recent decision to impose the death penalty on several citizens of European countries.

YEPP welcomes Libya's recent opposition to terrorist attacks against the Western World and its denunciation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Such has created a scenario moving towards the opening up of trade with Libya which will help create more stability in the region.

Whilst accepting such, YEPP also welcomes the contribution given by the International Community, namely the European Union (EU) and the United States of America, in the improvement of such dialogue.

YEPP encourages Libya to continue its move towards a healthier relationship with the International Community by adhering to democratic principles and the rule of law.

YEPP hopes that following the EU's enlargement towards the Mediterranean, the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue will increase in its importance, and we hope that Libya would be in a position to participate actively in this process.





## Resolution on the Future of Nuclear Energy in Europe

### 13-16 May 2004: Seminar, Turku (Finland)

Adopted by YEPP Council Meeting, Turku (Finland) 15 May 2004

It is crucial for Europe to be self-sufficient in energy production.

During the last century most of the European countries built nuclear power plants. After decades of progress in developing better reactors, the accident of Chernobyl made nuclear power less popular and even notorious in Europe. People did not realise that the graphite-moderated reactor of Chernobyl is different than the more reliable Western European water-moderated reactors.

After Chernobyl, there have been people's movements all around Europe against nuclear energy. Opponents of nuclear energy are advocating that they want to protect nature when they are opposing nuclear energy.

It is a reality that some members of European Union buy nuclear energy from Russia or other countries where most of the nuclear plants still use a more dangerous type of reactors, graphite moderated reactors - the same type as in Chernobyl.

In spite of successful examples showing that economic growth does not determine higher energy consumption the overall demand for energy is increasing. YEPP supports the use of fusion energy and different kinds of renewable energy, e.g. solar energy, wind energy, water energy. On the other hand Europe can not be self-sufficient in energy production by only using these kinds of energy, because of the increasing energy demand and because of the limited technical and natural potential.

Coal-fired power plants, especially brown-coal power plants, are highly pollutive. Using coal energy and also natural gas cause a lot of carbon dioxide emissions, which is a huge problem when trying to reach the Kyoto targets to reduce green house gases.

YEPP stresses that fulfilling the need for energy can only be successful when different possibilities will be developed.

The pollution is predominantly caused by individuals, households, transport and industry and should be decreased. Therefore there is a continuing role for nuclear energy in the near future. There is a need for old nuclear plants to be replaced by modern, cleaner and safer nuclear plants. At the same time research and development (R&D) has to be increased to find a sustainable solution for the problem of nuclear waste.

We, the representatives of the YEPP

#### State:

- ▶ European debate on the energy production is needed to reach the Kyoto targets;
- ▶ Political willingness must be showed to invest in R&D to develop the production of fusion energy and renewable energy;

#### Stress:

- ▶ that renewable energy is preferable to current nuclear energy;
- ▶ that a choice for nuclear energy goes hand in hand with an action plan to reduce nuclear waste;
- ▶ that replacing old dangerous nuclear plants by new nuclear plants is better than only building new nuclear plants;

#### Urge the European Union and its member states:

- ▶ to invest in R&D for a more efficient and effective use of fusion energy and renewable energy, such as solar energy, wind energy, water energy;
- ▶ to invest in R&D to find a sustainable solution for the individuals, households, transport, industry and the storage of nuclear waste;
- ▶ to develop a strong policy to create public awareness of energy consumption, energy saving procedures and means to decrease the waste of energy;
- ▶ to develop a strategy that finally leads to a sufficient production of fusion energy and renewable energy instead of using coal-fired or current nuclear plants.

## Resolution on Minorities

### 29 July – 1 August 2004: Summerschool, Rhodes(Greece)

Adopted at Council Meeting, Rhodes (Greece), 31 July 2004

Basic values of YEPP consider that every person is unique, irreplaceable and free by nature. The protection of human rights is inseparably linked with the protection of the rights of minorities. Crimes involving genocide and ethnic cleansing, attacks against the civilian population in conflicts, fanaticism, xenophobia and violation of minority rights are condemned. YEPP is convinced that human rights must be respected everywhere in every case.

#### YEPP believes that:

- ▶ Minorities have human rights like all the other citizens and the European minorities are equal citizens of our Union.
- ▶ Equality means elimination of any discrimination against minorities and recognition of their diversity.
- ▶ Freedom of religion is very important. Every human being has the right to practice his or her own religion and this must not be a cause for the obstruction of religious communities.
- ▶ All citizens, majority and minorities alike, should act constructively in the pursuit of their interests and all have responsibility to respect diversity within their society.
- ▶ More needs to be done to ensure the proper participation and influence of minorities in the EU as well as on the national and local level.

#### YEPP calls for:

- ▶ A European Guide to the rights and principles concerning minorities and their social, economic and cultural life.
- ▶ The creation of a special unit in the European Parliament with the responsibility to monitor the respect for human rights not only in the member states but also in the third countries
- ▶ Collaboration with institutions and NGOs in order to help minorities, whose social and economic standards often lag far behind the rest of our societies.
- ▶ Improving the way educational systems promote and maintain the cultural diversity of our societies, and help integration of minorities to the social and economic life.
- ▶ The application of the existing Framework Convention For the Protection of National Minorities and The European Charter For Regional or Minority Languages
- ▶ More education aimed at increasing the level of understanding amongst the majority in society concerning the minorities.



## Resolution on Immigration

29 July – 1 August 2004: Summerschool, Rhodes(Greece)

Adopted at Council Meeting, Rhodes (Greece), 31 July 2004

During the last century immigration has enriched Europe's societies. Different cultures came together and this led to tolerance, which is the bond of a peaceful Europe that we want. People had the opportunity to live and work in other countries in and many of them to have a better standard of living for them and for their family. YEPP wants to promote the modernization and continuance of a policy on immigration that makes Europe inclusive, based on principles of freedoms, rights and responsibilities.

The last decade, due to inequalities in our world, many people feel forced to migrate. Some of them are forced to flee by crises in their countries or natural disasters. European Union accepted them despite their different backgrounds and status. However migration poses several problems that need to be better tackled. The fact is that much stronger measures have to be taken to combat illegal immigration and to make an efficient management of migration flows and a fair treatment of third-country nationals.

### We, the Youth of European People's Party believe that:

- ▶ European Union is an attractive target for both legal and illegal immigration. Therefore we strongly support the establishment of a common immigration policy.
- ▶ This common immigration policy must ensure a better managed system of receiving legitimate refugees, legal immigrants and those trying to migrate illegally. This system should be efficient, just, transparent and responsive to every member state and their varying need for immigrants. It is also vital that the system ensures solidarity amongst the member states in integrating refugees and legitimate asylum seekers, alongside a more resolute handling of illegal immigrants.
- ▶ The common policy especially needs to accelerate the combating of people who promote and facilitate human trafficking. The level of criminal sanction and institutional capability in this area lags far behind the threat posed by such forms of organized crime.
- ▶ Prevention of racism and xenophobia must be put higher on the agenda all around Europe. The negative trend in many parts of Europe demands better policies for integration at a national and local level, where this responsibility lies.
- ▶ Minimum standard for government obligations towards accepted refugees and asylum seekers is needed. YEPP is deeply concerned about the lack of successful integration evident in all member states.
- ▶ Special effort must be given to clarify the number of unregistered immigrants in cooperation with member states.
- ▶ Europe can help out in preventing many of the reasons for forced migration from developing countries. First of all by improving the international framework conditions such as trade, debt relief and foreign direct investments.

### We, the Youth of European People's Party support:

- ▶ Programs for better control of the EU external borders. A European Corps of border guards can assist those member states, who cannot do it alone at a sufficient level.
- ▶ The creation of a European corps of coast guards in order to protect and ensure the security of the European coastline from illegal trafficking.
- ▶ Formal cooperation between this European Corps and other third countries, which will be necessary to ensure more effective and secure protection of the coastline in order to combat this method of human trafficking.
- ▶ People who wish to come to Europe and by working create a better life for themselves and to create a better Europe as a whole, should be welcome.

## Resolution on the violence against ethnic minorities in Serbia

29 July – 1 August 2004: Summerschool, Rhodes(Greece)

Adopted at Council Meeting, Rhodes (Greece), 31 July 2004

### Acknowledging that:

- ▶ A wide range of minorities live in the territory of Serbia and Montenegro,

### Recognizing that:

- ▶ The number of ethnically motivated attacks, especially involving minorities in the Voivodina province in Serbia & Montenegro has increased intensively in the past few months. According to reports of a Serbian news agency, a great number of such incidents occurred since the beginning of 2004. During these acts of violence, many members of the Hungarian minority were injured seriously, and several hundreds of graves, mostly in Croatian and Hungarian cemeteries were destroyed,
- ▶ Due to these ethnic conflicts, the proportion of different ethnic groups might change in Serbia. It is important that the situation in the Voivodina province is normalized immediately in order to prevent an escalation.

### Believing that:

- ▶ The majority of the population in Serbia and Montenegro condemns the events mentioned above,

### The Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP):

- ▶ calls for Serbian authorities to act in a more efficient way to prevent further ethnically motivated violence,
- ▶ welcomes the fact that the Parliament of Serbia & Montenegro recently adopted the Charter of Human and Minority Rights, as well as the Serbian government, after negotiating with Hungarian minority politicians, set up a committee dealing with violence against people of other nationalities
- ▶ believes that orientation towards the European Union is the only way for Serbia and Montenegro to stabilize its democratic political structure
- ▶ supports the aim of the leadership of Serbia and Montenegro to attain EU membership, provided it meets the required democratic and economic criteria of accession. Therefore, YEPP urges Serbia and Montenegro to protect minorities against all kinds of aggression, in line with the principles and guidelines of the Council of Europe and the European Union.





## Resolution on the Presidential Elections in Ukraine

### 7-10 October 2004: Seminar, Oslo (Norway)

Approved at YEPP Council, Oslo, 9 October 2004

#### Recognising:

- ▶ The genuine efforts of a majority of Ukrainians to establish a workable, institutionalised and lasting democracy in their state.
- ▶ The outcome of forthcoming presidential elections and the findings of the international community regarding the way the elections have been held as a vivid demonstration of Ukraine's direction to follow the European standards and values.

#### Believing:

- ▶ As a Christian democratic and Conservative youth organisations in the principles of democracy, rule of law and parity of esteem being of paramount importance in political discourse, as well as the import of the confident participation of civil society in any democracy.

#### The Youth of the European People's Party calls on;

- ▶ *The Ukrainian authorities:*
  - ▶ to satisfy the calls, both domestic and international, for ensuring free, fair and transparent elections and mainly sufficient election monitoring which can conduct itself unimpeded during the campaign and on polling day.
  - ▶ to stop the practice of civil servant participation in the campaign, the use of administrative resources and the use of public resources for the purpose of campaigning;
  - ▶ to stop the practice of sending the instructions from the Administration of President to TV-channels and the manipulation of information;
  - ▶ to provide an equal and impartial access to the media for all candidates;
  - ▶ to provide an equal opportunities to vote for Ukrainian citizens living abroad and to create enough polling stations abroad.
- ▶ *The government of Ukraine to establish a greater culture of judicial independence as well as greater objectivity and impartiality on the part of the public administration.*
- ▶ *The freedom of media, as the hallmark of any developed democracy, to be respected by all authorities in Ukraine so as to ensure freedom of speech and not undermine voter confidence at election time*



## Resolution on the Croatian and Bulgarian accession to the EU

### 7-10 October 2004: Seminar, Oslo (Norway)

Approved by the YEPP Council, 9th October 2004

#### Acknowledging that:

- ▶ Bulgaria and Croatia share the same values of democracy and freedom as the EU,

#### Recognizing that :

- ▶ ever since their liberation from communism Croatia and Bulgaria have desired to fulfill the demands required for accession to the EU
- ▶ a lot of efforts have been made so far by the two countries in their political and economic systems to be prepared for becoming an EU member.
- ▶ Bulgaria and Croatia support each other's efforts to join the EU at the earliest date possible.
- ▶ Bulgaria stands ready to help Croatia in the negotiation process with its know-how, experience and other information
- ▶ the path of Bulgaria and Croatia towards the eu should serve as an example for the neighbouring countries in order to ensure a peaceful, prosperous, stable and safe future for the citizens of those countries.
- ▶ the EU recognizes that if our wish is to have a united Europe it is important that the last big enlargement does not discourage us from our common goal: a propitious future without conflict for all our children within a united Europe.

#### The Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP):

- ▶ Calls for the respective European authorities to accelerate, as much as possible, the process of integration of Bulgaria and Croatia in the EU.
- ▶ supports all the efforts that Bulgaria and Croatia have done preparing for accession to the EU. They made a big step forward and with satisfaction we look forward to the end of their respective paths towards the EU.
- ▶ believes that Croatia is able to finish the negotiations in a short period of time to be ready for membership in 2007.
- ▶ believes that the other countries in the region are going to follow the Bulgarian and Croatian way toward the EU.



## Resolution on Russian politics towards Georgia and Moldova

### 9–12 December 2004: Seminar, Poznan (Poland)

Introduced by: Young Rights (Georgia), Noua Generatie PPCD (Moldova), SAQDA (Georgia), AED (Georgia)

#### Recognizing that:

- ▶ One of the main consequences of the Soviet policies of artificial migration of people and creation of autonomous republics and districts is the so-called delayed-action mines. In the nineties, these "mines" became the cause of numerous ethnic and territorial struggles. Some of them turned into armed conflicts as seen on the examples of Nagorny Karabakh, Abkhazia, Transnistria, South Ossetia, the problem of Turkish Meskethians in Uzbekistan, etc.;

#### Noting that:

- ▶ Governments of the post soviet countries should ensure protection of rights and originality of ethnic, religious and linguistics minorities (regardless of the time and the method of their placement in a country);

#### Worried of the fact, that:

- ▶ The Russian Federation does not only interfere in the above mentioned conflicts, but very often provokes them and ensures their continuation. It is through these direct military interferences that Russia is able to control and influence internal and foreign policies of countries in question. There are double standards to Russian internal as well as foreign policies when it comes to the question of fighting against separatism in Chechnia and at the same time supporting and nourishing puppet separatist regimes in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Transnistria.

#### Reminding that:

- ▶ At the OSCE Summit in Istanbul (1999) Russia committed itself to unconditional withdrawal of its troops from the territory of Georgia and Moldova.

#### The Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP):

- ▶ Condemns politicians, political parties and governments, who pursue a foreign policy that is imperial by nature and aggressive by action;
- ▶ Calls upon the Council of Europe and the OSCE to publicly assess and evaluate Russia's behaviour as an attempt to interfere in the interior affairs of the member states of Council of Europe and the OSCE;
- ▶ Calls upon the European Union to establish a common foreign policy towards Russia that will represent the interests of the new bordering countries of EU and will protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity;
- ▶ Assesses that the principled position of the EU and NATO towards the importance of respecting by the Russian Federation its assumed commitments represents a determinant in the settlement of the state of the military occupation that Moldova and Georgia still face;
- ▶ Considers necessary a direct participation of the European Union and NATO in the process of settlement of the territorial conflicts in Georgia and Moldova. This would include sending of international peacekeeping forces that would contribute to stabilization and peaceful resolution of these conflicts;
- ▶ Mentions that the cessation of the state of the military occupation and reestablishment of the territorial integrity of Georgia and Moldova will facilitate consolidation of statehood and strengthening of democratic institutions in these countries. Therefore, will increase their perspectives for integration into the European institutions.

## Resolution on Russian politics towards the Baltic States

### 9–12 December 2004: Seminar, Poznan (Poland)

Proposed by: Res Publica Juventus (Estonia), JKD (Lithuania), Youth of Latvian People's Party (Latvia)

#### We, the Youth of European People's Party:

- ▶ Recognising that large community of Russian-speaking was created during the Soviet Union period as part of sovietisation and russification policy (numbers of Russian-speaking in Latvia and Estonia in 1920 and 1990). As the legal successor of the Soviet Union the Russian Federation has never shared internationally supported view on Soviet occupation of Baltic States;
- ▶ Acknowledging that Latvia and Estonia have made a big progress in field of human rights; various international organisations have stated that Latvia and Estonia observe human rights, including those of Russian-speaking. Furthermore respective governments have co-operated with these organisations and have taken into account the recommendations of these organisations;
- ▶ Noting that the most appropriate way of solving the problem of Russian-speaking is the integration policy; Latvia and Estonia have to implement reforms that facilitates the integration of Russian-speaking;
- ▶ Noting that education reform in Latvia and Estonia is being implemented in accordance with international principles and recommendations of respective international organisations;
- ▶ Recognising that one of the main reasons why Russia pay's so big attention to Russian-speaking issue in the Baltic States is problems regarding human rights situation in the Russian Federation (activities of skin-head organisations and situation in Chechnya)
- ▶ Taking into account the foreign policy of Federation of Russia that has manifested through:
- ▶ Unfounded critique, countered on in numerous occasions by the EU, the OSCE and Council of Europe on the integration policies implemented in Baltic States;
- ▶ Using Russian-speaking youth and pupils in Latvia by organising protest meetings against education reform and not helping unlike other states (information on support by other states) to implement mentioned reform more appropriate;
- ▶ Consistently interfering within the internal affairs of the Baltic States and by keeping this issue on the top of agenda in relations with the EU in and some Member States.


#### In view of these facts, we:

- ▶ Condemn the foreign policy of the Russian Federation within which the progress made by Baltic States in the field of Russian-speaking community is not recognised;
- ▶ Condemn the Russian Federation for not helping to solve respective issue;
- ▶ Call upon the Russian Federation to support the integration policy, for example supporting the programmes which provide learning the state language;
- ▶ Call upon the EU to refuse dealing the issue of Russian-speaking in the Baltic States in relations with the Russian Federation;
- ▶ Call upon the EU to have a common foreign policy towards the Russian Federation, especially regarding Russian-speaking issue in the Baltic States.




# The faces of the Enlargement

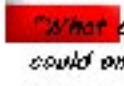
...the visions of the new EU citizens

 "Today the dream of millions of young people all over Europe is coming true. Europe is getting united! All together, let us now work to secure a new world of peace and prosperity for all, with no separative lines and no walls of division"

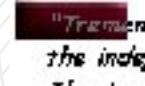
Christoforos Fakalides  
International Secretary NEDISY  
CYPRUS

 "The beginning of the reunification of the Continent is a start of healing the tragedy of the Hungarian history as well. As a result of the WWI and the Treaty of Trianon afterwards Hungarian people were torn into 8 countries. By the accession of Hungary and the neighbouring countries it will be a peaceful reunification of the Hungarian nation, 15 million Hungarian people, without changing the borders"

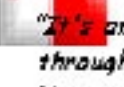
Jozsef Krlzmannik  
Board member for International Relations  
Youth of the Democratic Forum (DF), Hungary

 "What a day! We have accomplished something, our grandfathers could only dream about. Let's work together to make the most of United Europe!"


Michal Mutl  
International Secretary - MP  
Poland

 "Tremendous satisfaction, that Latvia during last ten years since regaining the independence, has reached it's main foreign target - member of EU! I'm truly convinced this will promote the development of Latvia's economics. Latvia will be proper partner in order to reach EU main goals."


Dairis Dejus  
Chairman of YLPP  
LATVIA

 "It's an important day for all Europeans: Europe is getting ever more closer through enlargement; let's now hope that our European Union gets even deeper. Young people have a world of opportunities but we have to develop what we have achieved so far to ensure that the EU becomes ever more stronger and even more dynamic"

John Donello  
Chairman MZFN  
MALTA

 "We are very glad that the Czech Republic belongs once more to the family of countries, which share common democratic values. We should do our best to promote the principles, on which the European Union is based. I appreciate that my country has finally a say in the European Union institutions, which gives us the power to influence the future of our continent."


David Cernak  
JKDU  
CZECH REPUBLIC

 "Lithuanian JKD shares the joy and responsibility with our friends from all other the Europe. New and United Europe that celebrates its FIRST day of its future! Dear Friends, look around - we are creating the history! Cheers!"


Vaidas Augustas  
Chairman of JKD  
LITHUANIA

 "Slovakia's membership in the European Union means a accomplishment of one dream and beginning of another. But much more than for dreaming we are prepared for mutual working on the New Europe."

Michal Novota  
Vice chairman for IR of KDMŠ (Slovakia)

 "Aside from all the positive, pragmatic aspects of Europe's expansion, I would like to represent the more emotional view. After being excluded from the family to which we had belonged for a millennium, being readmitted, as a lost son if you will, means to Estonians much more, than structural funds or 6 places in the Parliament. Now, inside the Union, we are building a new Estonia. A country, that has left behind the soviet baggage, with new politics, is trying to come up with ideas - how to break through in Europe, just as well as we have been able to break through the old ways, traditions and also through the old politics, in Estonia"

Releka Alliksaar  
Chairwoman of Res Publica Juventus  
ESTONIA

 "This is a great day for Slovenia! Belonging to the European Union family entails new and more opportunities to our citizens and brings to reality many of the dreams of our younger Slovenians who already feel and believe in the one single identity of the European Union."

Tina Neubauer  
Secretary of International Relations SIN  
SLOVENIA

# YEPP Member Organisations

## YEPP Members

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  <b>Albania</b><br>Forumi Rinor i Partise Demokratike te Shqiperise                                      |  <b>Italy</b><br>Forza Italia Giovani<br>Giovani del Centro Cristiano Democratico<br>Giovani Unione Democratici per l'Europa |
|  <b>Austria</b><br>Junge Österreichische Volkspartei   |  <b>Latvia</b><br>Tautas Partija*  |
|  <b>Belarus</b><br>Malady Front*<br>Youth Christian-Social Union Young Democrats*                        |  <b>Lithuania</b><br>Jaunieji Krikščionys Demokratai   |
|  <b>Belgium</b><br>JONG Christen-Democratisch Et Vlaams<br>Jeunes du Centre Démocrate Humaniste          |  <b>Luxemburg</b><br>Chrëschtlech Sozial Jugend  |
|  <b>Bulgaria</b><br>Mladezki Sajuz na Demokraticeska Partija<br>Mladezki Sajuz na Demokratincite Sili    |  <b>Malta</b><br>Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista  |
|  <b>Croatia</b><br>Mladez Hrvatske demokratske zajednice   |  <b>Moldova</b><br>Noua Generatie Partidul Popular Crestin Democrat  |
|  <b>Cyprus</b><br>Neolaia Dimokratikou Synagermou  |  <b>The Netherlands</b><br>Christen Democratisch Jongeren Appèl  |
|  <b>Czech Republic</b><br>Mladí křesťanští demokraté   |  <b>Norway</b><br>Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom<br>Unge Høyres Landsforbund   |
|  <b>Denmark</b><br>Kristendemokratisk Ungdom<br>Konservativ Ungdom                                     |  <b>Poland</b><br>Stowarzyszenie Młodzi Demokraci  |
|  <b>Estonia</b><br>Res Publica Juventus*   |  <b>Portugal</b><br>Juventude Social Democrata   |
|  <b>Finland</b><br>Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto<br>Kristillisdemokraattiset Nuoret                       |  <b>San Marino</b><br>Giovani Democratico Cristiani  |
|  <b>France</b><br>Jeunes Union pour un Mouvement Populaire*  |  <b>Slovakia</b><br>Křesťanskodemokratická mládež Slovenska<br>Nova Generacia*   |
|  <b>Georgia</b><br>Akhalgazrda Erovnul Demokrati<br>Saqartvelos Akhalgazrdobis Qristianul-Demokratiuli |  <b>Slovenia</b><br>Nova generacija Slovenske ljudske stranke  |
|  <b>Germany</b><br>Junge Union Deutschlands  |  <b>Spain</b><br>Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular<br>Unió de Joves Demòcrata Cristiana de Catalunya                 |
|  <b>Greece</b><br>Organosis Neon Neas Dimokratias  |  <b>Sweden</b><br>Kristdemokratiska Ungdomsförbundet<br>Moderata Ungdomsförbundet  |
|  <b>Hungary</b><br>Fidelitas<br>Ifjúsági Demokrata Fórum   |  <b>Switzerland</b><br>Junge Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz   |
|  <b>Ireland</b><br>Young Fine Gael (YFG)   |  <b>Ukraine</b><br>Chrystyans ko-Demokratychna Molod Ukrainy<br>All-Ukrainian Youth Public Organization*                   |

\* Observer organisations

# Address Book

## Full Members and Observers

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Forumi Rinor i Partise Demokratike te Shqiperise (FR-PD)</b><br>Youth Forum of the Democratic Party of Albania<br>Rruga "Punëtorët e Rinlindjes" 1<br>Tirana - Albania<br>Tel: +355 6 82134429<br>Fax: +355 4 223525<br>E-mail: g_strazimiri@yahoo.com<br>Homepage: www.dp.albania.com | <b>Mladez Hrvatske Demokratske Zajednice (MHDZ)</b><br>Youth of the Croatian Democratic Union<br>Trg srtava fasizma 4<br>10000 Zagreb - Croatia<br>Tel: +385 14553000<br>Fax: +385 14556409<br>E-mail: mhdz@mhdz.net<br>Homepage: www.international.mhdz.net                 | <b>Kristillisdemokraattiset Nuoret (HDN)</b><br>Christian-Democratic Youth<br>Karjalankatu 2 C<br>00520 Helsinki - Finland<br>Phone: +358 9 3488 2229<br>Fax: +358 9 3488 2228<br>E-mail: nuoret@kristillisdemokraati.fi<br>http://www.kdnuoret.net/                               |
| <b>Junge Volkspartei Österreich (Junge ÖVP)</b><br>Youth of the Austrian People's Party<br>Lichtenfelsgasse 7<br>1010 Wien - Austria<br>Tel: +43 140126611<br>Fax: +43 140126619<br>E-mail: junge@oevp.at<br>Homepage: www.junge.oevp.at  | <b>Youth of Democratic Rally (NE.DI.SY)</b><br>Youth Organisation of Democratic Rally<br>Pindarou Et Skokou Corner,<br>P.O. Box 25305<br>CY - 1308 Nicosia - Cyprus<br>Tel: +357 22757999<br>Fax: +357 22755455<br>E-mail: fokaides@disy.org.cy<br>Homepage: www.nedisys.org | <b>Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto (NML)</b><br>The Youth League of the Coalition Party<br>Pohjoinen Rautatiekatu 21 B 5 krs<br>FIN 00100 Helsinki - Finland<br>Tel: +358 207488482<br>Fax: +358 96943702<br>E-mail: international@kokoomusnuoret.fi<br>Homepage: www.kokoomusnuoret.fi |
| <b>Jong Christen-Democratisch Et Vlaams (JONG-cd&amp;v)</b><br>Young Christian-Democratic and Flemish<br>Wetstraat 89<br>1040 Brussels - Belgium<br>Tel: +32 2 2383890<br>Fax: +32 2 2303301<br>E-mail: info@jong-cdenv.be<br>Homepage: www.jong-cdenv.be                                 | <b>Mladí křesťanští demokraté Mladí (MKD)</b><br>Young Christian Democrats<br>Karlovo náměstí 5<br>120 00 Praha2 Praha - Czech Republic<br>Tel: +42 0604858708<br>E-mail: info@juniorklub.cz<br>Homepage: www.juniorklub.cz  | <b>Jeunes Populaires (JUMP)</b><br>Youth Union for a People's Movement<br>Rue La Boétie 55, bureau 204<br>F - 75008 Paris - France<br>Tel: +33 140766192<br>Fax: +33 140766190<br>E-mail: jeunes@u-m-p.org<br>Homepage: www.jeunespopulaires.com                                   |
| <b>Jeunes du Centre Démocrate Humanist (Jeunes CDH)</b><br>Youth of the Humanistic Democrat Center<br>Rue des Deux Eglises 41<br>1000 Frederiksberg - Belgium<br>Tel: +32 2 2380148<br>Fax: +32 2 2380129<br>E-mail: info@jcdh.be<br>Homepage: www.jcdh.be                                | <b>Kristendemokratisk Ungdom (KDU)</b><br>Christian-Democratic Youth<br>Allégade 24 B<br>2000 Frederiksberg - Denmark<br>Phone: +45 33 27.78.00<br>Fax: +45 33 21.31.16<br>E-mail: kdu@kdu.dk<br>http://www.kdu.dk/  | <b>Akhalgazrda Erovnul Demokrati (AED)</b><br>Young National Democrats<br>Rustaveli Avenue 21<br>01 08 Tbilisi - Georgia<br>Tel: +995 32983536<br>Fax: +995 32699620<br>E-mail: aedgeorgia@europe.com  |
| <b>Mladezki Sajuz na Demokraticeska Partija (MSDP)</b><br>Youth Union of the Democratic Party<br>8 Dondukov St.<br>1000 Sofia - Bulgaria<br>Tel: +359 2 930 80 30<br>Fax: +359 2 930 80 31<br>E-mail: ilian_simov@yahoo.com<br>Homepage: www.msdp.dir.bg                                  | <b>Konservativ Ungdom (KU)</b><br>Conservative Youth<br>Vodroffsvej 61, 1<br>DK - 1900 Frederiksberg C - Denmark<br>Tel: +45 33234040<br>Fax: +45 33314068<br>E-mail: info@konservativungdom.dk<br>Homepage: www.konservativungdom.dk  | <b>Saqartvelos Akhalgazrdobis Qristianul-Demokratiuli Asotzialzia (SAQDA)</b><br>Georgian Youth Christian-Democratic Association<br>26 V. Dolidze, apt#27<br>0171 Tbilisi - Georgia<br>Tel: +995 32331109<br>Fax: non<br>E-mail: saqda@cdu.ge<br>Homepage: www.cdu.ge              |
| <b>Mladezki Sajuz na Demokratincite Sili (MSDS)</b><br>Youth Union of Democratic Forces<br>134 Rakovski Str.<br>1000 Sofia - Bulgaria<br>Tel: +359 29306142<br>Fax: +359 29306144<br>E-mail: international@msds.bg<br>Homepage: www.msds.bg   | <b>Res Publica Juventus (RPJ)</b><br>Youth Organisation of Union for Republic - Res Publica<br>Narva mnt 7<br>10117 Tallinn - Estonia<br>Tel: +372 610 9244<br>Fax: +372 610 9243<br>E-mail: rpj.international@respublica.ee<br>Homepage: www.respublica.ee                  | <b>Junge Union Deutschlands (JU)</b><br>Democratic Union of Germany<br>Inselstrasse 1b<br>10179 Berlin - Germany<br>Tel: +49 302787870<br>Fax: +49 3027878720<br>E-mail: international@junge-union.de<br>Homepage: www.junge-union.de  |





**Organossis Neon Neas Dimokratias (ONNEO)**  
**Youth Organisation of New Democracy**  
 2-4 Nikitara str.  
 GR-10678 Athens - Greece-Hellas  
 Phone: +30 10 3843443 or +30 10 3817227  
 Fax: +30 10 3842210  
 E-mail: m\_smyrlis@yahoo.gr  
 http://www.onned.gr/

**Fidelitas (Fidelitas)**  
**Youth Organisation of Fidesz**  
 Szentkiralyi u. 18  
 1085 Budapest - Hungary  
 Tel: +36 13276170  
 Fax: +36 13276176  
 E-mail: fidelitas@fidesz.hu  
 Homepage: www.fidelitas.hu

**Iffúsági Demokrata Fórum (IDF)**  
**Youth of the Democratic Forum**  
 Munkacsy M. u. 23  
 1063 Budapest - Hungary  
 Tel: +30 16198444  
 Fax: 003613530624  
 E-mail: idhf@idf.hu  
 Homepage: www.idf.hu

**Young Fine Gael (YFG)**  
 51 Upper Mount Street  
 2 Dublin - Ireland  
 Tel: +353 16198444  
 Fax: +353 16624659  
 E-mail: yfg@finegae.com  
 Homepage: www.yfg.ie

**Forza Italia Giovani (FIG)**  
**Youth of Forza Italia**  
 Via dell'Umiltà 36  
 00187 Roma - Italia  
 Tel: 0039066731393  
 Fax: 0039066731236  
 E-mail: info@forzaitaliagiovani.it  
 Homepage: www.forzaitaliagiovani.it

**Giovani delUnione dei Democratici Cristiani (Giovani UDC)**  
**Youth of the Christian-Democratic Union**  
 Via Due Macelli, 66  
 00187 Roma - Italy  
 Phone: +390 6 6979100(1)  
 or +390 6 697.910.44  
 Fax: +390 6 6791586  
 E-mail: info@udc.it  
 http://www.udc.it/

**Giovani Unione Democratici per l'Europa (Giovani U.D.euR.)**  
**Youth of the Democratic Union for Europe**  
 Largo anerula 34  
 00186 Roma - Italia  
 Tel: +39 066872593  
 Fax: +39 0668892816  
 E-mail: giovani@udeur.org  
 Homepage: www.udeur.org

**Tautas Partijas Jaunatnes Organizacija (VLPP)**  
 Basteja Bulv. 1/2  
 LV- 1050 Riga - Latvia  
 Tel: 003717508683  
 Fax: 003717508684  
 E-mail: birojs@tpjo.lv  
 Homepage: www.tpjo.lv

**Jaunuju krikščionių demokratų organizacija (JKD)**  
**Young Christian Democrats**  
 Taikos g. 88-11  
 05216 Vilnius - Lithuania  
 Tel: +370 68269093  
 Fax: +370 52126967  
 E-mail: vaidas\_augunas@yahoo.com  
 Homepage: www.jkd.lt

**Chrēschitēch Sozial Jugend (CSJ)**  
**Christian-Social Youth**  
 P.O. Box 826  
 L-2018 Luxembourg - Luxemburg  
 Tel: +352 2257311  
 Fax: +352 472716  
 E-mail: csj@csj.lu  
 Homepage: www.csj.lu

**Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista (MZPN)**  
**Youth Movement of the Nationalist Party Dar Centrali P.N.**  
 Triq Herbert Ganado  
 HMR 08 Hamrun - Malta  
 Phone: +356 21 243641  
 Fax: +356 21 243640  
 E-mail: mail@mzpn.org  
 http://www.mzpn.org/

**Nova Generatie Partidul Popular Crestin Democrat (NG PPCD)**  
**New Generation of the Christian-Democratic People's Party**  
 Str. Nicolae Iorga 5  
 2009 Chisinau - Moldova  
 Tel: +373 2232189  
 Fax: +373 2238666  
 E-mail: ng@ppcd.md  
 Homepage: www.ppcd.md

**Christen Democratisch Jongeren Appel (CDJA)**  
**Christian-Democratic Youth Movement**  
 Dr. Kuypersstraat 5  
 2500 GL Den Haag - The Netherlands  
 Tel: +31 703424851  
 Fax: +31 614798072  
 E-mail: secretariaat@cdja.nl  
 Homepage: www.cdja.nl

**Kristelig Folkepartis Ungdom (KrfU)**  
**Young Christian Democrats of Norway**  
 Postboks 478, sentrum  
 0105 Oslo - Norway  
 Tel: +47 23 102888  
 Fax: +47 23 102810  
 E-mail: krfu@krf.no  
 Homepage: www.krfu.no

**Unge Høyre Landsforbund (UHL)**  
**Young Conservatives**  
 P.O. Box 1352, Vika  
 N-0113 Oslo - Norway  
 Tel: +47 22 829191  
 Fax: +47 22 829092  
 E-mail: info@ungehoeyre.no  
 Homepage: www.ungehoeyre.no

**Stowarzyszenie "Młodzi Demokraci" (MD)**  
**"Young Democrats" Association**  
 Al. Ujazdowskie 18, lp.  
 00-478 Warszawa - Poland  
 Phone: +48 22 622.75.48/9  
 Fax: +48 22 622.53.86  
 E-mail: jan@dziubecki.pl  
 Homepage: www.smd.org.pl

**Juventude Social Democrata (JSD)**  
**Social Democratic Youth**  
 R. Buenos Aires 28/1  
 120-625 PT- Lisboa - Portugal  
 Tel: +351 213968708  
 Fax: +351 213978397  
 E-mail: jsd.nacional@mail.telepac.pt or jsd@jsd.pt  
 Homepage: www.jsd.pt

**Giovani Democratico Cristiani (GDC)**  
**Christian Democratic Youth**  
 Via delle Scalette 6  
 47890 San Marino - San Marino  
 Tel: +378 991193  
 Fax: +378 992694  
 E-mail: pdcs@omniwaysm  
 Homepage: www.pdcs.sm

**KDMS (KDMS)**  
**Christian-Democratic Movement of Slovakia**  
 Mileti\_ova 21  
 SK - 821 08 Bratislava - Slovak Republic  
 Tel: +42 1252498108 / 86108  
 Fax: +42 1252493301  
 E-mail: predsednictvoKDMS@yahoo.com  
 Homepage: www.kdms.sk

**Nova Generacia (SDHU Nova Generacia)**  
**New Generation of Slovak Democratic and Christian Union**  
 Medena 10  
 81002 SK - Bratislava - Slovak Republic  
 Tel: +42 1252931610  
 Fax: +42 1243414106  
 E-mail: info@novageneracia.sk  
 Homepage: www.novageneracia.sk

**Nova generacija Slovenske ljudske stranke (NG SLS)**  
**New Generation of the Slovenian People's Party**  
 Beethovnova 4  
 SI - 1000 Ljubljana - Slovenia  
 phone: +386 1 241 88 14  
 fax: +386 1 241 88 35  
 e-mail: nova.generacija@sls.si or  
 info@nova.generacija.org  
 http://www.nova.generacija.org

**Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular (NN.GG.)**  
**New Generations of the People's Party**  
 c/Genova 13  
 28004 Madrid - Spain  
 Tel: +34 9 15577300  
 Fax: +34 9 13080276  
 E-mail: nngg@pp.es  
 Homepage: www.pp.es/nngg/

**Unió de Joves Demòcrata Cristiana de Catalunya (UJOC)**  
**Union of Christian-Democratic Youth of Catalonia**  
 Carrer Valencia 246 Principal Primera  
 08007 Barcelona - Spain  
 Tel: +34 932187172  
 Fax: +34 932187172  
 E-mail: info@uniodejoves.org  
 Homepage: www.uniodejoves.org

**Kristdemokratiska Ungdomsförbundet (KDU)**  
**Christian-Democratic Youth Association**  
 Box 2373  
 S-103 18 Stockholm - Sweden  
 Tel: +46 87232530  
 Fax: +46 87232510  
 E-mail: info@kdu.se  
 Homepage: www.kdu.se

**Moderata Ungdomsförbundet (MUF)**  
**Youth Association of the Moderate Party**  
 Stora Nygatan 30 P.O. Box 2080  
 S-103 12 Stockholm - Sweden  
 Tel: +46 86768150  
 Fax: +46 8203449  
 E-mail: info@muf.se  
 Homepage: www.muf.se

**Junge Christlichdemokratische Volkspartei der Schweiz (JDC/JCVP)**  
**Youth of the Christian-Democratic People's Party of Switzerland**  
 Klaraweg 6  
 Postfach 5835  
 3001 Bern - Switzerland  
 Phone: +4131 357 33 38  
 Fax: +4131 352 24 30  
 E-mail: info@jcvp.ch  
 http://www.jcvp.ch/

**Chrystyjans'ko-Demokratychna Molod'Ukrainy (CDMU)**  
**Christian Democratic Youth of Ukraine**  
 V. Vasyl kivska St. 57/3 Ap.410  
 03150 Kyiv - Ukraine  
 Tel: +380 44 20 14118  
 Fax: +380 44 20 14117  
 E-mail: galexandrova@yahoo.com  
 Homepage: www.cdy.iatp.org.ua

**All-Ukrainian Youth Public Organisation "Young Rukh"**  
**(Young Rukh)**  
 Obolonska St., 21 III Floor  
 04071 Kyiv - Ukraine  
 Tel: +380 44 2392426  
 Fax: +380 44 2392426  
 E-mail: info@mr.org.ua  
 Homepage: www.mr.org.ua

## YEPP Permanent Observers

**Malady Front (Malady Front)**  
 Post Office Box 158  
 220136 Minsk - Belarus  
 Tel: +375 297548672  
 Fax: +375 172845012  
 E-mail: malady\_front@yahoo.com  
 Homepage: www.mfront.org

**Youth Christian-Social Union "Young Democrats" (YCSU)**  
 Sviardlova Street, 22-41  
 220050 Minsk - Belarus  
 Tel: +375 172208706  
 Fax: +375 172895009  
 E-mail: belycsu@hotmail.com  
 Homepage: www.ycsu.org

## YEPP Observers

**Noor-Isamaa (Pro Patria Union Youth)**  
 Rütütlü 23  
 51006 Tartu - Estonia  
 Tel: 003727441095  
 Fax: 003727441104  
 E-mail: kajasa@isamaaliit.ee  
 Homepage: www.isamaaliit.ee/noor-isamaa

**Akhlagazrda Memarijveneebi - AME**  
**The Young Rights - YRG**  
 3 Bevreti st.  
 Tbilisi-0114 - Georgia  
 Phone: +995 32 922246/47  
 Fax: +995 32 982124  
 E-mail: energy@caucasus.net /  
 youngs@caucasus.net  
 Homepage: www.ycg.ge

# Photo Gallery

PHOTO GALLERY





**Youth of the European People's Party [YEPP]**

Rue d'Arlon 67, B - 1040 Brussels - Belgium

Phone: +32 2 285 41 63 - Mobile: +32 498 112 111 - Fax: +32 2 285 41 65

E-mail: [yepp@epp-eu.org](mailto:yepp@epp-eu.org) - Web: <http://www.yepp.org>

Responsible publisher: Riikka Kervinen, *Secretary General*

Editorial Team: Daniel Bautista, Lucinda Creighton, Ann-Pascale Mommerency

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