



**YEPP
YEAR
BOOK
2008**

/Table of content

01	Table of contents	04
02	Introduction	
02.1	Preface of Yannis Smyrlis, YEPP President 2007-2009	06
02.2	Board 2007-2009	07
03	YEPP Basic Values and Principles	12
04	Prefaces	14
05	Vlth YEPP Chairmen's Conference	17
	Porto (Portugal): 22-25 May 2008	
06	YEPP Activities	20
06.1	YEPP Seminars in 2008	21
06.1.1	YEPP Seminar: Strasbourg (France): 17-20 January 2008	22
06.1.2	YEPP Seminar: Cork (Ireland), 6-9 March 2008	24
06.1.3	YEPP Seminar: Vilnius (Lithuania), 4-7 September 2008	26
06.2	YEPP SUMMERSCHOOL in 2008: Varna (Bulgaria): 2-6 July 2008	28
07	YEPP extraordinary events	30
07.1	YEPP in cooperation with CES and CKID: Seminar 10-12 October 2008 (Rhodes, Greece)	31
07.2	YEPP in cooperation with KAS and EFF: Balkan Conference, 24-26 October 2008 (Sarajevo)	33
08	Permanent working groups	34
09	YEPP in cooperation with other European Youth structures	35
	YEPP in cooperation with EDS and DEMYC	35
	YEPP as active member of European Youth Forum	35
	YALTA (YES)	36
10	YEPP as a constructive partner of EPP and EPP-ED Group and its associations	37
11	Adopted Resolutions in 2008	38
12	YEPP member organisations	40
13	Address book	42
14	Picture gallery	48

02

/Introduction

The previous year can be recorded as one that has changed our vision for the future.

02.1

/Preface



During 2008 in YEPP we began working on our ideas for the forthcoming European Elections. We did our best to ensure that the beginning of 2009 would find us well prepared to begin our campaign for these elections, from the prestigious and equally demanding position as the biggest youth political organisation in Europe.

Last year, the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty represented a major objective for Europe and a big challenge for a more "European" future for our generation. In this way we all turned our attention to Ireland. Unfortunately the Irish people chose to reject the Treaty in their constitutional referendum, stalling the entire EU process and launching again a fierce debate in Europe: What can the EU do? Can we convince Ireland to reconsider their judgement of the Treaty? If not, how are we going to proceed with the necessary institutional reforms?

Today, the issue remains unresolved and most probably no solution will appear before the forthcoming European Elections. However we live in hope that a recommitment to a positive campaign in favour of the Lisbon Treaty will see eventual Irish ratification by Autumn 2009. In addition to the above, during 2008 we had to face challenges such as the continuing problems of intergenerational justice, unemployment and environmental responsibility. That is why at the YEPP Chairmans Conference in Porto we debated and achieved, along with the heads of our member organisations, a Declaration on the Principles of YEPP for the 2009 European Elections. In that Declaration, the text of which you can find in the next few pages, we provide our own answers to the issues that continue to puzzle Europe. Moreover, the Declaration will constitute the basis for our electoral campaign.

Near the end of the past year it also became clear that the above concerns will be greatly affected by the severe financial crisis currently in motion at a global level which is severely affecting the EU. Among other things, the crisis has produced considerable insecurity for the youth, with little foreseeability as to when this crisis will ease. It appears that, given the severity of the situation, we will all have to modify our European policies to accommodate the crisis.

In this organisation, we will continue fighting for a better future for Europe without compromises and without forfeiting our principles. For these are the very values upon Europe has been growing for many decades, they are the hopes of our youth for prosperity, they are the foundations of the stronger and more political EU that we want to see in the years to come.

YEPP is working hard, with dedication and ambition, for tomorrow's Europe. We try to be the most effective youth organisation in the EU, which is exactly why we promote our ideas in the institutions of the Union and we remind them why youth should be their priority.

It is of the utmost importance that our generation, the European generation, is given the opportunity to feel closer to the design of our common future. The passion of the youth represents the ideal motion power for the EU. The Union as a whole, in partnership with our individual governments, must continue investing in young people and, if we want to achieve a more political EU, we should ensure that these people will have the opportunity to travel, work and live around Europe, to feel as Europeans, and to act as European citizens.

In June, the most crucial European Elections of the last few decades are taking place. EPP remains the political party closest to the principles of this Union, since:

- Our leaders were among those who created the Union.
- Our leaders and our values were the ones who brought about the modern EU.
- Our leaders, our policies and our values will give the EU the opportunity to go further into the future.

A new EPP victory in these elections is the guarantee of a stronger Union, one that can be more political and that plays a global role in the future. The dilemma we face is clear: do we want a strong EU, or an unsure future? YEPP will be at the forefront of this battle. Through our member organisations, we will implement a pan-European campaign that is flexible enough to accommodate the individual needs of each country represented in our organisation.

This Yearbook overviews our achievements of 2008 as the Youth of the European People's Party. In the following pages you will find all the information about our work in the past 12 months. Nothing of course is like experiencing these activities in reality, but by reading this brochure you can understand the true spirit of YEPP.

As a last note, I would like to thank all young activists for their contribution to YEPP throughout 2008, all those who will help us making 2009 even more successful and of course all the contributors to this publication.

Happy reading and best wishes to everyone!

YEPP President
Ioannis K. Smyrlis

02.2

/Board 2007-2009



President: Ioannis K. Smyrlis- (28) was born in Athens where he attended both school and University. He has a Bachelor Degree in Political Science and Public Administration and a Masters Degree in European and International Studies. He was President of MAKI (School

Student Organization of ONNED) for 3 years (2001-2004) and Secretary of International Affairs and Emigrant Helenism of ONNED (Youth of Nea Demokratia Political Party) for 3 years (2004-2007), permanent member in the Executive Committee of ONNED and also member of the Executive board from 2001. He was Vice President of the Youth European People's Party (YEPP) 2005-2007. He worked on an internship program at the National Constitution of Social Security (IKA) for 3 years and currently he works at the Ministry for Workers.



Secretary General: Martin Humer (Junge ÖVP, Austria) grew up in Linz an industrial town half way between Vienna and Munich. He currently serves as a counsellor responsible for home affairs at the Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU. Before this he worked as Secretary General of

Junge ÖVP from 2000 until 2005 and continues as a member of the national board. He was elected Secretary General of YEPP in 2005 and was re-elected in 2007.



Deputy Secretary General: Huibert van Rossum, born March 4 1977 Dirksland the Netherlands. now 31 years old, lives with wife and baby-daughter in, the City of Cheese and Syrup-waffles, Gouda the Netherlands. He works as a liaison and policy assistant on European Affairs for the Christian Democratic

Group in the Dutch House of Representatives and has been a member of CDJA (Christian Democratic Youth Appèl) since 2001 and as International Secretary within YEPP before he was elected in 2005 as Deputy Secretary General. In 2007 he was re-elected for a second term.



Treasurer: Sigborn Aanes (27) (27) studied Public Relations at the Norwegian School of Management in Oslo. He worked as a political adviser and nowadays he is Adviser to Aabo & Co AS (PR Agency). He is active at different levels in Unge Hoyre and he is project manager for democracy projects in Tanzania

and Uganda. He was elected as the first YEPP Treasurer in May 2007.



First Vice-President: Thomas Schneider (JU, Germany) born in 1976 in Mittweida (Saxony), close to Dresden (Germany). He studied Economy at the Technical University of Chemnitz and the Southampton Institute (UK). He works as a chief de cabinet in the German Bundestag and part-time lecturer

in politics. He is also member of the advisory board of the World Security Network Foundation. He is chairman of the international commission of JU and member of the working group on European Affairs of CDU Saxony. Since 2004 he has been an elected councillor in the county of Chemnitzer Land (Free State of Saxony). In the year 1990 he joined JU with foundation of regional organisations after the fall of the iron curtain.



Vice-President: Vaidas Augunas (JKD, Lithuania) was born in Kaunas. He received a bachelor's degree Cum Laude in Political Science from the University of Vytautas Magnus (1999) and graduated with a Masters in Law from the University of Mykolas Riomeris (2006). He carried out an

internship program in the Business Management field in the US for 2 years. After his return to Lithuania (starting from 2003), he was offered a position in the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania where he deals with International Relations. Vaidas was Chairman of JKD (Young Christian Democrats of Lithuania) for 2 terms. He was elected as YEPP Vice President in May 2007.



Vice-President: Carlo De Romanis studied in Rome, Connecticut and Madrid. He graduated in International Political Science at the University of Rome "La Terza", with a thesis on the European People's Party. In 2002 he moved to Brussels for an internship at the EPP-ED Group, following the

European Convention on the Future of Europe. From 2004 till 2008 he has worked as parliamentary assistant in the European Parliament. In 2005 he was elected Counsellor of the Roma 2 District with Forza Italia. Since 2002 he has been the International Secretary of F.I.G.-Lazio and since 2006 Vice chairman of F.I.G. International Board as well as Member of the F.I.G. National Board. He's currently working in the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani, which also serves as EPP



Vice-President: Paula Gómez De La Bárcena - (29) was born in Madrid but she undertook her studies in other countries around the world (Sénégal, Paraguay, Switzerland). She is Secretary of International Affairs of Nuevas Generaciones (Youth of Partido Popular) and Vice-President of the

Youth European People's Party (YEPP). She studied law and worked in a public enterprise of Madrid from 2005 to 2007. Currently she works in the City Council of Madrid as a Political Advisor.



Vice-President: Darija Jurica (MHDZ, Croatia) was born in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in 1981. She studied Economics at the University of Zagreb. Currently, she is working as the Head of Department in the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia and is also a member of two working groups for the

preparation of Croatian accession negotiations with the EU. Darija holds the position of the International Secretary and is a member of the Presidency of the Youth of the Croatian Democratic Union (MHDZ). Previously she served as the financial auditor of YEPP before being elected as a Vice-President.



Vice-President: James Lawless (24) is a native of North County Dublin and has been involved in Young Fine Gael (YFG) since he was 15. He has served as chairman and secretary of numerous local associations of YFG and in 2004 was a member of the YFG National Executive, with responsibility for European Elections. He is currently

Vice Chairman of the Swords Branch of Fine Gael in Dublin. In 2003 he was awarded the Joan Fitzgerald Memorial Shield for YFG Member of the Year. James has served as YFG International Secretary. He has studied law and political science at the University of Limerick and Tuebingen (Germany) and currently works as university assistant at the School of Law, University College Dublin. James previously worked as a researcher at the European Parliament. He currently represents YEPP in the EPP Working Group on the Future of the Common Agricultural Policy.



Vice-President: Irina Pruidze (AME Georgia) was born in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1976. She studied Medicine at Tbilisi State Medical University and Psychology at Tbilisi Institute of Anthropology and Political Science. She is chairwoman of AME (Young Rights of Georgia) since December 2006. She is a board member of the

National Council of the Youth Organisations of Georgia and Deputy International Secretary of the New Rights Party of Georgia. Irina was elected as a Vice-President of YEPP in May, 2007.



Vice-President: Laurent Schouteten (Jeunes Populaires - UMP, France) was born in Tourcoing in 1981 and grew up in the North of France. After graduating in general engineering in 2005, he worked in ERP implementation in the agro-food industry before starting additional post-grad studies in

entrepreneurship. He now works as an international project manager in the business travel sector. Having been in charge of international relations among his local association of Jeunes Populaires in the North of France between 2003 and 2005, he was appointed the delegate of the National Board of Jeunes Populaires for international affairs. He has been international secretary of Jeunes Populaires since 2006.

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Vice-President: Charlie Weimers (KDU, Sweden) was born in Hammarö, close to Karlstad (Sweden) in 1982. He has studied political science at Karlstad University. He is Chairman of the Swedish Young Christian Democrats since 2008 and works in Stockholm. Charlie is Group Chairman of

the Christian Democratic Group in Hammarö Municipal Council since the elections in 2006, and member of the Regional Council in Värmland.



YEPP Executive Responsible: Ann-Pascale Mommerency (jong CD&V, Belgium) studied PR & Communication as well as Marketing. After her studies she started to work at the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice. Afterwards she was parliamentary assistant at the Federal Chamber and also worked

for 3 years at the European Commission. After being international secretary for JONG cd&v she was asked to work for YEPP. She is also elected Vice-Chairwoman of CD&V and Secretary of SME-Union (UNIZO) within her region.

YEPP Financial Auditors

Marialaura Marinozzi (GDC, San Marino)
Andreja Milivojevic (ODSS, Serbia)



03

/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 legitimation. The European Union requires the active participation of European citizens. Europe is not - and cannot be - the affair of governments alone.



04

/Prefaces



Ján Figel

European Commissioner, Responsible for Education, Youth and Culture

Dear young friends,

2008 was another year of important developments and decisions in the youth field. We had also a reason to celebrate – the 20th anniversary of European programmes for youth. More than 1.5 million young people have taken part in EU youth programmes so far. Our youth programmes have proved again and again that they make a real difference to young people and to Europe. They have

one unifying purpose: to set up dialogue and exchanges so that young people discover what is best in Europe. That by sharing experiences and values with other, our young people develops a new sense of purpose, new skills, and also new connections and friendships that root “Europe” in our daily lives. You can confirm that taking part in such a programme is a great way of finding out about other cultures, of recognising that you share the same values with people from different countries, and of developing a sense of being European. You have been able to explore the meaning of solidarity and respect for diversity. You have had a chance to develop your skills and talents. Now, you have a new responsibility: to share this invaluable experience.

Despite all these positive impacts of the EU for young people, there is still much left to do. This spring I will present proposals for a renewed EU Cooperation Framework for Youth for the next decade. These proposals will reflect among others the results of a public consultation of young people that was carried out last autumn.

Last year was marked by the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Cultural diversity is reality and an asset for Europe, but we need to learn how to manage it, and this continues to be a challenge beyond 2008. Intercultural dialogue helps us to live together. Usually are young people better at intercultural dialogue. You are more open-minded, enthusiastic, curious and creative. Europe is bound to become more diverse. We have the responsibility to create the best conditions for our people to acquire and further develop intercultural skills. I regard mobility and volunteering being ideal to achieve this.

Finally, this year we face two new challenges: elections for the European Parliament and the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. A promotion of human talents through life-long learning brings more self-fulfilment, but also empowers people for economic, social and cultural participation and cooperation. And innovation is one of the most important value and fruit Europe should support to improve its capacity to compete globally. We are counting on your mobilisation and your involvement. Europe needs you as much as ever, because you bring fresh strength and fresh ideas.

Ján Figel



Wilfried MARTENS

President European People's Party

2008, a very historic year indeed: global climatic calamities, Olympic games with “citius, altius, fortius” and biggest in every way, remarkable American presidential elections, the demise of Wall Street followed by bank bail-outs, foreclosures, plummeting stock markets and as the year came to a close a global economic crisis, being the most pressing challenge which will also be the focus of EPP's Manifest for the European elections in June 2009.

Today we are living in a world of uncertainty with ever growing challenges, e.g. climate change, energy, demography, the economic crisis, illegal immigration, inter-religious intolerance, threats to our security etc....

Our beliefs and values rooted in personalism, social market economy, a federal and decentralized Europe, subsidiarity and democracy will be essential criteria in facing these challenges with strength and conviction.

For the future generations we have to safeguard a prosperous Europe, a world power with a common voice as model for global cooperation for the common good and as always we wish to involve the citizens of Europe in the process because it is the people who must be at the centre of our policies.

I am always impressed by the lively and committed debates in YEPP and the freshness of discussion by your spirited youth concerning the issues of tomorrow. It is now more than ever important to build trust, and encourage confidence in our common beliefs and vision. I count on all YEPP activists to engage fully in the upcoming European elections with commitment and in solidarity.

Leadership is the precondition of successful politics. Politicians who have made history are those who showed integrity and an iron will in their determination to resolve major problems. YEPP should be the cradle from which EPP leaders emerge and as such YEPP bears a great responsibility.

I welcomed your important publication of the YEPP Charter in May 2008.

In appreciation of same I encourage you to further engage yourselves in political initiatives and innovation and look forward to your continued close cooperation in the organs of the EPP.

Wilfried Martens

05

/ VI th YEPP Chairmen's Conference! Porto (Portugal) - 22-25 May 2008

17



Antonio Lopez Isturiz

Secretary General of the European People's Party

Dear YEPP members and supporters,

I would like to congratulate you for being part of the largest political youth organization in Europe, representing more than fifty national member organizations.

Let me also remind you that you are 12 years old now, but "none are so old as those who have out-lived enthusiasm", as Thoreau said. Each year has to be a changing point, in which one looks toward the future from a renewed perspective.

As a dynamic organization, you proved to be committed to knowledge, innovation and the sharing of developments and ideas in the European political area, striving to improve research, education and practice within our European People's Party family.

You have an important responsibility, which is to ensure that your children inherit a better Europe and this requires steady work and dedication, mostly taking into account the huge challenges which lay before us, in these times of economic turbulence.

For this reason, it is imperative that in 2009 we continue to work together, just like in 2008 and focus now on the electoral campaign, as this is the central event for the EPP.

Continue to comment, rate, share, be it through forums, via internet, or seminars, summer schools and councils.

I hereby strongly urge you all to be active and involve yourselves, by producing reports and keeping our audience informed about what's new in our group. And also being enthusiastic and dynamic carriers of the EPP messages, principles and values, using the innovative tools that the new era of communication, and for that matter of political communication, is offering us, such as the ground breaking web tools that the EPP has implemented.

The 2009 VII Congress in Rome is a great opportunity for you, YEPP members, to actively take part in the decision making and also get to know young centre-right politicians from around the continent. I know you will be there and I know you will give, as always, the best of yourselves.

The EPP want to promote together a stronger Europe: I have no doubt that you will make your energy and your creativity serve this challenge, and that together we will work for the EPP to be party which will count for the majority of Europeans.

Your dedication, energy and your creativity have always been invaluable for us and I am convinced that the 2009 yearbook of YEPP will be even richer in activities and successes!

Antonio Lopez- Isturiz

Every 2 years YEPP organizes a special event for all its chairmen. It offers an opportunity to discuss European politics but also to enjoy the participation of those who have been active in an important part of our short but intense history. YEPP had the honour of being hosted in Porto from 22 -25 May 2008 by YEPP Full member JSD for it's VIIIth Chairman's Conference .

The conference was opened during the Thursday evening with a Welcome Cocktail at the Vila Nova de Gaia Town Hall, in the presence of Mayor Luís Filipe Menezes.

On the Friday several sessions took place and all sessions were received comments from the chairmen. The first session was titled "Treaty of Lisbon: What has changed?" with guest speaker MEP Carlos Coelho, Chairman of the CIA Flight's Investigation Committee in the European Parliament and Head of the Portuguese Delegation to the EPP-ED group. Youth reflections were given by Giorgos Papanikolaou (President ONNED, Greece) and Simon Bjerre (President KDU, Denmark). After this session the participants had the honour to visit the Porto Wine Cellars. After lunch a second session titled "Is Europe a real economical power?" was held by Vitor Gaspar, Director of the European Bureau of Special Policy Advisors of European Commission President. Sylvia Fuhrmann, MP, Chairwoman of Junge ÖVP, Austria and Barry Walsch, President of YFG, Ireland also gave their views on the topic.

A third session was held by Mónica Ferro, international politics analyst about European Union Foreign Policy. Francesco Pasquali, President of FIG Italy and Peter Markovic, MP, President of NG Slovakia concluded the session with their contributions. Afterwards the YEPP Board Meeting was held, while other participants enjoyed a visit to the historical centre of Porto. The interesting day was closed by a good dinner at Cupertino de Miranda Foundation, where we had the honour to hear Mr. Mario David, (Vice-President of European People's Party) and Marco António Costa (Chairman of the Porto PSD).

Saturday started with internal working groups. After these working groups the Presentation and the Signing of YEPP Charter was completed and followed with a Press Conference. There were also official Statements / video message of Mr. Poëttering, President of the European Parliament, Mr. Barroso, President of the European Commission, Mr. Daul, Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament and Mr. Martens, Chairmen of EPP, as well as a speech of Mr. Christian Kremer, Deputy Secretary General of European People's Party.

After the lunch the YEPP Council meeting took place where the Presentation of the Mid-Term report of the board was given and the Yearbook for 2007 was presented in the presence of esteemed representatives of the Karamanlis Foundation – Institute for Democracy who supported the publication. The Chairmen's conference was concluded with an official dinner in the company of Mr. Ribau Esteves, General Secretary of PSD.



CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE 2009 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

More than a half-century after its foundation, European integration leading to the creation of the European Union remains a creation that is a developing polity and that we intend to develop further. However Europeans of all ages often feel more indifference than enthusiasm, which reflects the fact that Europe remains insufficiently rooted in the hearts and minds of the people.

This lack of enthusiasm for Europe should and can be tackled through a better understanding of the positive influences of European policies on the Europeans' everyday lives. European integration has offered the young generation the chance to travel, study, work and interact more freely across Member States more than at any other time in the past.

Concerns about the so-called "democratic deficit" of the EU, combined with the perception that European governance is opaque and inaccessible, has made many young Europeans disillusioned with the integration process.

That's why it is necessary to implement structures and processes that replicate at the European level the habits of governmental control and parliamentary accountability that are common in the Member States.

The last European election in 2004 resulted in the lowest turnout since 1979. We, the members of the Youth of the largest political group in the European Parliament are determined to do everything possible to change this trend. Therefore, we the political youth leaders of the YEPP organisations believe it is essential for the European elections in 2009 to have a joint effort and common guidelines in order to bring the campaign and the EU institutions closer to the Europeans – and most particularly to the Youth.

PRINCIPLES

THE LISBON TREATY

The Lisbon Treaty should be regarded as a good opportunity to revive the "European Spirit" as it introduces important new amendments to the Treaties that will strengthen the accountability of the European institutions. In this context, the new role of the national parliaments in the decision-making process and the strengthening of the link between the President of the European Commission and the parliamentary elections should be seen as positive steps towards a more democratic EU. The youth leadership of the YEPP organisations strongly supports the ratification and the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and the structural changes that it will bring.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

"The environment is not something we inherit from our parents; it's something we borrow from our children." In this sense development should be approached with the understanding that the same technology that increases our well being and human productivity should be used to obtain environmentally friendly solutions for mankind's demand for energy.

YEPP believes it should not be a political priority to enquire about the factors that started or boosted global warming, it is time to acknowledge the problem and look for a global solution within the framework of the initiative begun with the Kyoto Protocol.

YEPP endorses the conclusions of the IPCC concerning climate change and states that Europe has to play a leading role to limit global warming by maximum 2 degrees by 2050. This challenge must be considered as an opportunity to increase well being, health, independence and socio-economic development.

INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE

Over time we have come to acknowledge the necessity to ensure equal participation in terms of gender as well as a balanced participation of those of different creeds and ethnic groups. As a youth organisation, YEPP also realizes the necessity of having different age groups actively contributing to society. In many situations experience and maturity are fundamental, others where the contribution of new and irreverent ideas are vital. If the new generation can call upon itself the

task of innovating and making a difference, the older generation cannot abstain from the responsibility of educating the new generation and share acquired knowledge. One without the other would result in an incoherent community.

The justice and solidarity that exists within our European societies should also exist across different generations. With an ageing population and a de-greening of European societies, the current models of intergenerational solidarity are under a lot of pressure. The Youth of the European People's Party calls upon European leaders to maintain a certain budgetary discipline in order to ensure a lifetime of justice and welfare both for the younger generations and the generations to come.

EUROPEAN VALUES

The public debate on the future of the EU is frequently polarized either around the specific functioning of the EU and its efficiency and/or democracy, or around the older debate: "state sovereignty versus federalism". It is high time to bring the focus back to the fact that the EU is a unique project, a sui generis; one that is built on very specific values. The EU was created in order to defend and protect a way-of-life set on a bedrock of ideals – principle among them freedom, solidarity, democracy, humanism, Christian heritage and the rule of law. YEPP acknowledges that the EU should be clear when stating its values and strict in defending them. In this regard it is a priority that all the members of the European Union develop a policy to respect the European Youth Pact as per the White Paper already signed in 2005

In order to implement these principles and to combat Euroscepticism and EU alienation that grows amongst the younger generation, YEPP strongly believes that all EPP mother parties in each EPP member country should give at least one young person a realistic chance of gaining a seat in the European Parliament. Such a young European parliamentarian would be an active voice for the youth perspective on policies, but also, importantly, will attract interest among the younger generation and therefore mobilize this demographic in the upcoming European elections.

It is our duty to provide young citizens with someone whom they can relate to. Young people should be given the opportunity to influence politics at all levels – especially the European level. In our view, the European Parliament, the highest legislative body in the European Union, can, and should, benefit from the knowledge, experiences and vigor of young women and men.

YEPP believes that this is the right moment to reconnect the European Union with its citizens. The implementation of the Lisbon Reform Treaty and the participation of young people in next year's European elections are two ways to meet this objective. Europe cannot afford to miss another opportunity.

On the 24th of May of 2008, in preparation for the European Parliament elections of 2009, the youth leaders of the YEPP organisations, gathered in Vila Nova de Gaia (Portugal), at the YEPP Chairmen Conference, clearly state these as the guiding principles for their campaigns and fundamental ideas for the future of the European Union.

We the The Undersigned do hereby Endorse this Charter

Ioannis Smyrlis (Chairman of YEPP)	Miroslav Mihov (MSDP, Bulgaria)	Giorgos Papanikolaou (ONNED, Greece)	Inga Auguniene (JKD, Lithuania)
Pedro Rodrigues (JSD, Portugal)	Mislav Banek (MHDZ, Croatia)	Barry Walsh (YFG, Ireland)	Peter Markovic, MP (NG, Slovakia)
Silvia Fuhrmann, MP (JOVP, Austria)	Christoforos Fokaides (INE.DI.SY, Cyprus)	Francesco Pasquali (FIG, Italy)	Robert Ilc (MSI, Slovenia)
Alexandr Shumkevich (YCSU, Belarus)	Petr Jurcik (MKD, Czech Republic)	Piersante Morandini (Giovani UDC, Italy)	Rok Ravnikar (NG SLS, Slovenia)
Rodolphe Sagehomme (Jeunes cdH, Belgium)	Simon Bjerre (KDU, Denmark)	Gunars Elkšnis (YLPP, Latvia)	Simon Oberbeck (JCVP, Switzerland)

On behalf of YEPP Organisations:

JONG cd&v, Belgium	JU, Germany	KRFU, Norway	Young Rukh, Ukraine
KNL, Finland	UDEUR, Italy	ODSS, Serbia	Malady Front, Belarus
Jeunes UMP, France	JSD, Luxembourg	NNGG, Spain	YCSU, Belarus
SAQDA, Georgia	CDJA, The Netherlands	Democratic Alliance, Ukraine	

06

/Activities

06.1

/YEPP seminars in 2008

06.1.1

/YEPP Seminar: Strasbourg (France) 17-20 January 2008

The national board of the Jeunes Populaires and the International Commission were pleased to welcome the YEPP delegates and Board to Strasbourg from 17-20 January. Almost 90 participants were present from approximately 30 countries.

The opening of the Seminar started at the Strasbourg town hall where Fabienne KELLER, Mayor of Strasbourg, gave a warm welcome to the YEPP delegates. She expressed her special interest in the seminar topic "cultural diversity". Also Yannis SMYRLIS, President of YEPP and Béatrice GORAWANTSCHY, director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in France, gave us a few welcoming words as start of a fruitful seminar.

On the Friday the delegates were transferred to the European Parliament, where the opening session was reserved for Mr. Joseph DAUL, President of the EPP-ED group in the European Parliament. Mr. Daul's speech was followed by Mr. André WOJCIECHOWSKI, MP for Moselle, who commented on various existing programs related to culture, initiated and/or supported by the department of Moselle and/or his city.

After the lunch break, the delegates had the opportunity to meet Mr. Laurent BURIN des ROSIERS, General Commissioner for the European cultural season 2008. He outlined a number of programs to be supported by the French Presidency of the European Council relating to culture. Mr. René Van der LINDEN, President of the

Parliamentary Council of the Council of Europe facilitated the closing session of the day.

After a transfer back to the hotel, 3 guided tours within Strasbourg city centre were organized simultaneously in German, French and English, while the board meeting took place.

A first interesting and long day was closed in a restaurant where a typical Alsatian dinner was served.

On the Saturday 19th January, the seminar continued in the European Parliamentary Association buildings. The morning was reserved for the YEPP working groups where various resolutions were discussed as well as the working paper on cultural diversity.

In the afternoon YEPP held its council meeting. The various reports, documents discussions and information lasted the whole afternoon. YEPP also adopted its draft budget from 2008. The evening was closed within a typical restaurant in the heart of the old town.

ADOPTED PAPERS

- Adopted Working Paper on Cultural Diversity
- Resolution on Euthanasia
- Emergency resolution on recent developments in Russia
- Emergency resolution on the humanitarian and political crisis in Zimbabwe
- Emergency resolution on preventing violence on political background
- Emergency resolution on Kenya

23

Working paper on Cultural diversity.

The unique cultural diversity has always been a European mainstream characteristic together with a fundamental political goal in the European building process. Accepting cultural diversity is a factor for social cohesion and tolerance, a mean to accept differences, identification and mutual understanding between people. The culture makes people get together since it creates emotions and ease to overcome differences. It is a key condition for human societies, and implies a singular importance in building of information and knowledge society for 21st century. Development of information technologies, globalisation and evolution of multilateral trade policies have a real impact on cultural diversity. It is a fundamental asset for European cultural identity and this cultural diversity should be promoted, valued and supported

In this working paper the following items were discussed (for complete text: see www.yepp-eu.org/activities)

- I. Cultural diversity : a strength for Europe**
 - Cultural diversity : an European goal
 - Culture: a strategic asset for Europe
 - Programmes to support culture
 - Language diversity : a challenge and a chance
- II. Promote, value, support European cultural diversity PRESERVE AND MAKE EUROPEAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY ALIVE**
 - Creation of a „local European culture“ label
 - Usage of official and national languages in international events
 - European culture capital – an European day for cultural diversity**
 - Promote cultural diversity, from school to University
 - A common basis of European cultural history
 - Develop European sections Europe wide
 - Cultural diversity toward students NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO HELP CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
 - Towards a European digital library
 - Develop multilinguism through new technologies
 - Encourage and promote citizen blogs
 - EUROPEAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY AS AN INFLUENCE FACTOR**
 - The role of cultural diversity in relations with partner countries
 - Develop external promotion tools for European cultural diversity



06.1.2

/YEPP Seminar: Cork (Ireland) 6-9 March 2008

"A Europe Fit for Future Generations"

YEPP gathered in Cork, Ireland from 6-9 March. The timing was crucial as it took place before the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty. YEPP Full Member Young Fine Gael hosted this seminar in conjunction with Fine Gael, EPP and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, London. Local support was also given by Ireland South MEP Colm Burke.

The seminar began with a reception hosted at Blackrock Castle Observatory by local MP Deirdre Clune TD, Fine Gael Spokesperson on Innovation, who welcomed YEPP to Cork. Cllr. Laura McGonigle, Cork City Council spoke of the great leaps forward that Cork has made thanks to the Celtic Tiger. Following this was Barry Walsh, President of Young Fine Gael and Yannis Smyrilis, YEPP President who mentioned the great opportunity the seminar represented for other young Europeans to show solidarity with Young Fine Gael in their efforts to ensure Lisbon Treaty ratification in June 08. The final speaker was Thomas Stehling from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation London.

On Friday the 7th of March the participants transferred to the Vertigo Conference Centre in Cork County Hall. The morning session began with a panel discussion entitled "Delivering on the Objectives of the Laeken Declaration: The Institutional Changes of the EU Reform Treaty". The panelists for this session were Deputy Lucinda Creighton, Martin Territ of the European Commission Representation in Ireland and Brian Murphy of the Fine Gael Executive Council.

Lucinda Creighton TD, FG Spokesperson on European Affairs, stated her belief that Fine Gael had a responsibility as a party belonging to the Christian Democratic family to play a big role in the referendum. A diverse

campaign had been planned in co-operation with the EPP, targeting young people who attend events such as concerts and sports events; there will be regional and constituency public meetings; and leaflets will be distributed to every home in Ireland advocating a YES vote. Martin Territ, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland, outlined the Commission's conviction that ratification of the treaty would in the long-term bring better jobs to Member States, stability of governance and prepare Europe for the challenges of globalization. The treaty would also remedy some of the demographic deficit within the Union as well as the integration of immigrants in the Member States. Brian Murphy, former President of the Young European Christian Democrats, noted how Fine Gael had supported each and every European treaty referendum that has come before the Irish people since accession in 1973. After the defeat of the Nice Treaty, Fine Gael campaigned vigorously in the second referendum on Nice. Fine Gael has always put the country and Europe first above internal party politics.

In the late morning Fine Gael Leader, and EPP Vice President, Enda Kenny TD addressed the conference on the importance for Ireland and Europe of Lisbon Treaty ratification. He spoke of the opportunity to tackle key challenges – demographic change, the need to expand the knowledge-based economy and tackling climate change – through the new decision-making mechanisms inherent in the Lisbon Treaty. Politically he stressed the importance of a strong campaign for ratification which would engage directly with citizens. He also stressed that the Fine Gael party would never play partisan politics with so important an issue as a treaty which facilitated enhanced European integration. He would not take the

opportunity during the campaign to advance party interests in the context of an ever weakening Fianna Fail government.

The second panel discussion of Saturday followed lunch and was entitled "The Common Agricultural Policy – Multifunctionality for the 21st Century" and was chaired by James Lawless, YEPP Vice-President. Richard Deasy, an agricultural expert and Member of the National Forum on Europe, spoke of the changes that have occurred in European farming. The second panelist, Michael Creed TD, Fine Gael Spokesman on Agriculture, pointing out the changes that have occurred in Ireland since joining the EU in 1973. Upon accession average households spent 30% of their disposable income on food, today it is 10%. The Deputy discussed the Common Agricultural Policy and its post-war European roots in expanding agricultural production. Climate change is already having an effect on food supplies and agriculture. In light of these global trends food security must be prioritized by European agricultural policy. Prof. B. Andreosso-O'Callaghan, Director of the Euro-Asia Centre at the University of Limerick, spoke of the decreasing role that Europe is playing in agriculture globally.

Afterwards participants were addressed by former Fine Gael MEP John Cushnahan, who spoke about the importance of Europe building a united message on the most pressing global issues such as poverty reduction, human rights and conflict resolution.

The last session was entitled The Lisbon Agenda – Delivering Sustainable Economic and Social Progress. It was chaired by Senator Buttimer, Seanad Spokesperson on Community, Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs. Fine Gael Spokesman on Enterprise, Dr Varadkar spoke of

ADOPTED PAPERS

- Adopted working paper: A Europe fit for Future Generations - Towards a platform for the 2009 European Parliament Elections
- Resolution on „Fighting for Corruption“
- Emergency Resolution on Colombia

how Europe wasn't and couldn't be a competitor in the manufacturing industry any more, due to the low cost of manufacturing products in China, and therefore Europe needs to move to a knowledge-based economy. Tom Lynch of the Institute of European Affairs also addressed participants on European economic policy.

That evening the participants were addressed at dinner by James Ellis MEP, formerly of the European Ideas Network (EIN), about the work of the EIN as a think-tank for the centre-right political family in Europe.

On Saturday participants were brought to the Brookfield Medical Centre at University College of Cork, where a session entitled "Energy and Environment – Fuel Security, Climate Change and Sustainability" was held. Chaired by Christian Kremer, Deputy Secretary General of the EPP the session dealt with the energy needs of the Union. Simon Coveney TD, Fine Gael Spokesman on Energy told participants of the tough decisions that the EPP and Europe must make to combat the challenges of climate change. The big challenge for Europe is energy security. He pointed to the reliance of Europe on Russia for its gas. The last speaker, Dr. Brian Ó Gallachóir, UCC Lecturer on Energy Engineering, gave his presentation on the EU's energy needs.

After lunch the YEPP Working Groups on the conference working paper and resolutions took place.

The YEPP Council meeting was held in the afternoon. The most significant element of the Council was the debate over the recent declaration of independence by Kosovo.

The evening was closed with a fine dinner.



06.1.3

/YEPP Seminar: Vilnius (Lithuania) 4-7 September 2008

YEPP was hosted from 4-7 September in Vilnius by Young Christian Democrats of Lithuania (JKD) and kindly supported by Eduardo Frei Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, IRI, EPP, the Lithuanian Parliament in addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This event brought around the table high level speakers representing Belarus, several EU Countries, the US, the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), European Commission (EC) and other national and supranational bodies and was also attended by a number of representatives of mass media. More than 110 participants from above 30 countries of Europe attended the conference.

The conference was begun by the welcome speeches of Ms. Inga Auguniene, Chairperson of JKD, Mr. Yannis Smyrlis, President of YEPP, Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris, Member of Parliament of Lithuania (Chairman of European Neighborhood Subcommittee), Mr. Stephan Malerius, Head of KAS-Belarus and Mr. Andrew Olson, Resident Country Director of IRI. They covered the wide range of issues on the European Neighbourhood Policy and in particular on the situation in Belarus three weeks before the election to the Parliament.

The first panel was started by the speech of Mr. Jacek Protosewicz (EPP-ED group), MEP and Chairman of the Delegation for the Relations with Belarus. He talked about the view of European Parliament concerning the ENP, the instruments it is using and in particular the attention being given to the situation in Eastern Neighbourhood. He was followed by Mr. Žygimantas Pavilionis, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs of Lithuania. The representative of Lithuanian MFA devoted his presentation to the efforts that Lithuania undertakes to encourage closer Euro-Atlantic integration in the ENP region, as well as elaborated more precisely on the situation in the Eastern Neighbourhood. He also highlighted the similarities between Lithuania two decades ago and the current situation in some neighbouring countries. The third speaker of the panel - Mr. Bjorn Lyrvall, Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Sweden - continued on the similar note.

The first panelist of the second panel was Ambassador Hans-Jochen Schmidt, the Head of the OSCE in Belarus. He touched briefly on the situation in Eastern Europe and focused on the topic of the elections in Belarus. He informed participants of the violations that were observed during elections and about the present situation in this regard, as well covering some possible scenarios that could evolve. The second speaker of the panel - Mr. Jean-Eric Holzapfel, Head of EC delegation in Belarus, explained to the audience the perspectives of a strong ENP in the region, covering such issues as ENPI, the cross border cooperation component, TAIEX and twinning instruments, as well as two new innovative financial mechanisms introduced along with countries' programs: Neighborhood Investment Fund and Governance Facility, etc. Mr. Holzapfel also spoke of the EU's cooperation with Ukraine, the Polish-Swedish Proposal for Eastern Partnership and a number of other issues.

As the conference took place only 30 kilometers from the border with Belarus, the rest of the day was dedi-

cated to presentations about Belarusian democratic forces' leadership. During the third panel the following participants gave their overview on the situation on this neighbouring country of the EU and elaborated on the topic of a united Belarusian opposition: Mr. Lyavon Barshchetskiy, Chairman of Belarusian Popular Front, Mr. Pavel Severynets, political prisoner and leader of Belarusian Christian Democrats, Mr. Yaroslau Romanchuk, Vice-Chairman of United Civil Party. They all had different approaches on many different tactical issues but agreed on the necessity to cooperate closer among each other and conduct more active electoral campaigns. The last panel of the day was devoted to two VIP speakers - Mr. Alyksandr Milinkevich, candidate of the united opposition for the elections of the Presidency and Mr. Alyksandr Kazulin, candidate for the elections of the Presidency and prominent political prisoner. Both of them are named as favourites as Presidential candidates in campaigns in the coming years. The audience had plenty questions and comments.

Afterwards the participants were brought to Norviliškės Castle, located on the border of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania. There they could literally "touch" the "iron curtain" that is currently dividing the EU and its imminent neighbour Belarus - the last dictatorship on our continent. Mr. Egidijus Vareikis, Member of Parliament and Member of European Affairs Committee, was invited to give a speech on the subject.

On Saturday the representatives of YEPP organizations met in the working groups and discussed important internal issues, as well as working through and approving the resolution on the youth in Belarus and the working paper on the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The seminar had a lot of media attention and was seen as very fruitful.



ADOPTED PAPERS

- Adopted working paper: European Neighbourhood Policy - The importance of Regional Cooperation
- Resolution on Belarus
- Resolution on the crisis in Georgia
- Resolution on the Middle East
- Resolution on Border Control
- Resolution on Development Cooperation

27

Working paper on European Neighbourhood Policy

In the meantime a lot of attention in the EU is devoted to the initiative of French President Nicolas Sarkozy to create a Union of Mediterranean that was officially launched on 13 July 2008. Initiative of regional cooperation in the framework of ENP was constantly developed by intensifying its Southern dimension, launching Eastern dimension of ENP and including Russia into it. Some strengths and weaknesses of regional cooperation in the framework of ENP have to be noted. Among the strengths the following can be mentioned: 1) The initiatives of regional cooperation supplement European Neighbourhood Policy - this broadens the possibilities to solve problematic issues in the framework of ENP; 2) The initiatives of regional cooperation stimulate the cooperation among Eastern and Southern dimensions of ENP countries.

Among the weaknesses, the following might be noted: 1) Excessively broad agenda of regional cooperation; 2) There are no specific financial resources set for carrying out regional cooperation in the framework of ENP; 3) Regional initiatives cover the countries which relations to the EU are based on different grounds; 4) Belarus is not included into any of regional cooperation initiative in the framework of ENP; 5) Inclusion of Russian Federation to several regional cooperation initiatives in the framework of ENP reduces its authenticity; 6) Present format of regional cooperation initiatives does not correspond with the needs and requirements of ENP Eastern dimension countries in their relations with the EU.

Basing on the analysis above, YEPP suggests:

1. To give a new political impetus to strengthen and streamline the Eastern Partnership following the example of enhancing political dimension of Mediterranean region.
2. The regional cooperation initiatives in the framework of ENP have to have clear priorities on the fields of cooperation.
3. ENP agenda should differentiate from the agenda of Russian Federation - EU relations.
4. The participation of Belarus in the regional cooperation initiatives should be considered.
5. ENP regional cooperation initiatives shall improve the possibilities of ENP countries to move closer towards EU integration.

06.2

/YEPP Summerschool: Varna (Bulgaria) 2-6 July 2007

"European young consumers – the future is ours"

The YEPP Summerschool on Consumers' Rights was organized 2nd-6th July 2008 in Varna, Bulgaria and was attended by 55 young politicians. It was organized by the youth organization of Bulgarian member of the European People's Party (DP (Democratic Party)) - MSDP (Youth Union of Democratic Party), a full member of YEPP.

The conference was officially opened on Thursday morning by the President of YEPP Mr. Smyrlis, and the President and the Secretary General of the hosting youth organization - Mr. Miroslav Mihov (MSDP) and Mr. Petar Jakimov (MSDP).

Afterwards the conference continued with the presenta-

tion of Ms.Ralitz Garkova - Representative from the National Center/ European Youth Programs and Initiatives in Bulgaria, who introduced Youth in Action Program 2007 -2013.

The second presentation was presented by Ms.Plamena Panova - chairwoman of Association for effective civic activity - SEGA, youth NGO. She focused mainly on the governmental politics of importance to youth in Bulgaria..

The third presentation was made by Mr.Bogomil Nikolov - Chairman of Bulgarian National Consumer Association. He focused on consumer associations in Bulgaria and their achievements and challenges. On Friday morning, presentations were given by Mr. Pencho Penchev, Associate Professor, University of National and World Economy and Mr.Krasimir Borisov,

Chairman of the National Association of Employees of Municipalities with responsibility for trade, tourism and consumer protection in Bulgaria. Mr. Pencho Penchev stressed the importance of the linking consumption with sustainable development, especially for the young generation, which will have to deal with the results of over-consumption in Europe. He also pointed out to the importance of the sustainable development policy.

On Saturday morning, the Mr. Ivan Butchvarov, Secretary General of the Bulgarian Consumer Protection Committee, presented the topic "Shopping via Internet -What Should We Know?" He focused on the rights of the consumers which we should all be aware of when shopping on the internet. He also presented the specific measures for consumer protection, the consumer's preliminary agreement,

prohibited goods for distance trading, obligations of the supplier and consumer rights. The program continued with reports from YEPP's member organisations.

After the presentation, conclusions of the day were made and the participants invited for a sightseeing tour of Madara Horseman. The monument dates back to 710 AD and has been on the UNESCO world heritage list since 1979 – it is regarded as the national symbol of Bulgaria..

In the evening, the goodbye dinner was held in a typical Bulgarian restaurant in Golden Sands, Varna where the participants could choose from a variety of typical Bulgarian dishes. The dinner was hosted by Mr. Alexander Pramatariski, MP and President of the DP, who welcomed everyone to Bulgaria.



07

/YEPP extraordinary events

07.1

/YEPP in cooperation with CES and CKID: Seminar 10-12 October 2008 (Rhodes, GR)

"How EU decisions affect National Public Administration"
"European Youth Programs"

On the Friday evening all youngsters gathered for the opening and some welcome words by YEPP President Ioannis Smyrlis and CES Director Tomi Huhtanen..

On the Saturday there were 5 principle sessions.

Session 1 was titled " How EU decisions affect national public administration? - What are the consequences on Youth?" Dr. Charalambos Koutalakis, lecturer of the Department of Public Administration at the Kappodistrian University of Athens, analyzed the extend of the Europeanization of public administration through the evolution of EU institutions. By Comparing full EU supranational competences with second pillar competences he tried to prove the indirect impact of EU decisions on national public administration processes. In the second part of his address to the participants, he evaluated the impact of Youth policies pursued since 2002 to examine the prospect of a more energetic youth participation in national administrative systems.

His interesting views as well as his clear lecturer generated an extended debate between the participants.

In the second session Mrs. Christiana Papageorgaki, Special Advisor to the Secretary General for Youth and Astasia Filini, Youth in Action Program coordinator (Institute for Youth, General Secretariat for Youth), analyzed the impact of European Youth programs on the formation of European youth identity as a result of extended inter-state cooperation. In the debate that followed, YEPP representatives argued that youth programs excluded the most vital part, youth political organizations, from the chance to undertake peripheral and regional cooperation projects. There was also a belief that these programmes should be extended to promote youth cooperation with non EU member states in the context of EU neighbourhood policy.

In the third session Dr. Dimitris Terzis, Director of Communications for the Secretary General of the Region of Western Greece, presented an example of an electoral campaign run for a young female candidate in the local elections of October 2006.

Agapi Gerogiannaki, Member of the Central Committee of Nea Demokratia, emphasized the importance of active youth participation in election campaigning. Through active campaigning on the side of a local candidate, young people could

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/YEPP in cooperation with KAS and EFF: Balkan Conference 24-26 October 2008 (Sarajevo - Bosnia & Herzegovina)

promote their views and opinions in a more direct way than simply watching others taking responsibility for their future and dreams. Therefore she called on every young man and woman to promote their innovative ideas and pure enthusiasm through active campaigning in national, regional and local elections.

In the next session the seminar adopted the working paper "European Decision Making and Public Administration Efficiency" presented by Orfeas Filos, O.N.NE.D. Deputy International Affairs Secretary.

George Papadimitriou, Vice-Mayor for Public Works in the Neo Heraklion municipality in Attica and International Affairs Secretary in O.N.NE.D., intervened and tried to put forward his experience. He argued on the evolution of EU monitoring mechanisms that ended up forcing public administration units in local level to firstly modernize their operational mechanisms, increase their monitoring and accountability capabilities, enhances the use of information technology in public services.

In the final session closing remarks were made by Mr. Tomi Huhtanen, Director of the Centre for European Studies, who congratulated the participants on the active debates during the different sessions. CES was happy to be a co-organizer for this event as youngsters and the role of youth is becoming an ever more prominent policy issue. CES hoped that with their support a platform was provided for debate.. CES is also exploring future possibilities to launch youth debates over the coming months. Mr. Huhtanen was hopeful for future cooperation with YEPP.

Nikolaos Tzifakis, Head of the International Cooperation Department, of the C. Karamanlis Institute for Democracy, thanked CES and YEPP for the good cooperation. CKID is looking forward to a further cooperation in the future.

In the evening there was an official closing foreseen in the presence of a lot of press, a couple of hundred people and Mr. Ioannis Valinakis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece. Mr. Valinakis and Mr. Smyrlis gave a speech by emphasizing also the role of youth and international cooperation. Furthermore Mr. Valinakis took the time to meet the YEPP participants informally. The conference was closed by a reception.

"Youth Politics and Youth Party Organizations in South-East-Europe How can youth contribute to a peaceful, stable and prosperous future?"

The Youth of the European People's Party, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Eduardo Frei Foundation organised a Regional Conference of more than 35 young politicians belonging to the family of the Peoples' Parties titled „Youth Politics and Youth Party Organizations in SEE - How can the youth contribute to a peaceful, stable and prosperous future?“, which took place in Sarajevo, 24-26 October 2008. YEPP was represented by its two Vice-presidents, Vaidas Augunas and Darija Jurica. The first part of the conference focused on the perspectives of the region vis-à-vis EU enlargement and the process of economic reform which was being set by the EU agenda. Participants were addressed by Mr. Nand Shani, from the Regional Cooperation Council and Mr. Ahmed Turkiđ from the Directorate for European Integration. The second part focused on youth organisations, when Ms. Fenny Helfferich from CDJA National Board for Political Affairs spoke on CDJA structure and goals, while YEPP Vice-president Darija Jurica give a presentation on YEPP identity, structure, goals, political programme, as well as YEPP events and its cooperation with its partners and foundations. Furthermore, two working groups were held during the conference, the first focusing on the future of the EU and opportunities after the no-votes in France, Netherlands and Ireland, and the second focusing on ageing and politics and the role of the youth in an ageing society.



08

/ Permanent Working Groups

„The increase of life expectancy represents a significant advancement in living standards for European citizens. However, demographic imbalances can cause tensions at social and economic level. Therefore we have to reform our social systems in a timely manner to make sure that they will be able to meet the demographic challenges.“
YEPP's Political Program 2007-2009

YEPP's political program has highlighted our keen interest in shaping the European Union as a space of peace and prosperity as well as providing policy solutions for the challenges of our generation. Demographic change, with migration among Europe and continually lower birth rates, pose the challenge of filling gaps in certain labour markets in member states and of placing demands on Social Security systems where the needs of the older generation must be met by an ever-smaller group of wage earners. Here the burden of taxes and repayment of state debt are falling on ever fewer shoulders.

YEPP established in the current term a permanent working group with the aim to take demographic change and intergenerational justice as a special concern of our work. We see intergenerational justice and sustainability not only as principles of environmental policy, though this is of course a main point, but also as part of social and financial policy. The work of the new PWG has been supposed to contribute content for YEPP to advance the interests of the younger generation - inside and outside the EPP. In the two recent years we have enhanced the PWG chaired by Thomas Schneider and Laurent Schouteten into a melting pot of good ideas about how to advance our positions within the EPP and European public discourse.



09

/ YEPP in cooperation with other European Youth structures

YEPP in cooperation with EDS and DEMYC

Since its existing YEPP has always had close cooperation with the European Democratic Students (EDS) as well as DEMYC. At almost each YEPP seminar representatives of both organisations were present and YEPP frequently visits their events. From time to time joint meetings of the presidents and secretary generals of these organizations were held. The 3 organisations are also good allies of YEPP in other European structures such as the European Youth Forum. EDS and YEPP are also working closely together within EPP in order to defend youth policy in that forum.



YEPP as active member of European Youth Forum

Independently established by youth organisations, the European Youth Forum (YFJ) is made up of more than 90 National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, which are federations of youth organisations in themselves. It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.

YEPP is a full member of the European Youth Forum, actively engaged in all issues that concern the young people of Europe. YEPP participates to the Youth Political Parties meetings and from 2009 YEPP will be also an ex-officio member of the EU advocacy group of the European Youth Forum.

In November of 2008 YEPP succeeded in nominating and electing Xenia Constantinou (NEDISY, Cyprus) as Vice-President to the Executive Bureau of YFJ. Xenia's mandate is for 2 years (2009-10) and she has been assigned responsibility for EU relations.

In 2007-2008 Irina Pruidze, YEPP Vice-President was appointed by the board to follow up the EYF. Besides attending the events of the European Youth Forum, YEPP is also actively represented at the monthly gatherings with the other political youth structures from within Europe. At these Party-Political Youth Organizations meetings YEPP is represented by YEPP Secretary General Martin Humer as well as YEPP Executive Officer Ann-Pascale Mommerency.



/YEPP as constructive partner of EPP and EPP-ED Group and its associations

YALTA (YES)

Yalta European Strategy (YES) is an independent organization that brings together high-level participants in Ukraine and internationally: policy-makers, business leaders, thinkers, researchers and journalists in order to facilitate 'rap-prochement' between the Ukraine and the EU. YES was created at the initiative of a Ukrainian businessman and public figure, Victor Pinchuk, in spring of 2004.

On September 13-16, 2007 Yalta European Strategy first Summer University was held in Kyev, Ukraine. YEPP Vice President Irina Pruidze represented YEPP together with about 30 participants from YEPP member or associated organisations in addition to around 30 Ukrainian participants from EPP associated parties' youth organisations. Other participants represented were ECOSY and LYMEC during it's opening ceremony. The opening ceremony was significant with the addresses of the President of Ukraine Victor Yushchenko, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal and President of the Council of Ministers Luis Amado and European Commissioner Meglela Kuneva. The session was moderated by YES Board Member, EPP Vice President Mario David.

The second YES Summer University was held in October 1-5, 2008. This time the focus of the sessions and workshops was put on the recent European Foreign Policy developments, relating in particular to Caucasus crisis and enlargement issues.

YEPP was represented by the President Yannis Smyrlis and 46 participants from YEPP member organisations. Among the guests were European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth – Jan Figel, President of Poland (1995-2005) – Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Vice-President of the European Parliament – Marek Siwiec, Speaker of Parliament of Georgia (2004-2008) – Nino Burjanadze, Chairman of Parliament of Ukraine – Arseniy Yatseniuk and Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine on European Integration – Gregory Nemyrya.

This time the panel on the topic - "Three Different perspectives of EU's future" was addressed by Ioannis Smyrlis (President of YEPP), Giacomo Filibeck (President of ECOSY) and Alexander Plahr (Vice-President of LYMEC). The session was moderated by Mario David, Vice-President of the EPP and Member of the Board of YES.

YES Summer University turned out to be a very successful project, since it gathers youth, representing different political families and gives the young Ukrainian leaders opportunities to distinguish different political approaches and platforms within Europe.

YEPP is represented in each working group of the European People's Party (EPP) as well as the Political Bureau of EPP. YEPP tries to play an active and constructive role within these fora and all YEPP representatives try to put youth issues on the political agenda. In the past YEPP could always count on a good support from the EPP and welcomes also the good cooperation with the motherparty.

In 2008, during YEPPs Chairmen's Conference, Mr. Daul (Chairman of the EPP-ED Group) and Mr. Martens expressed their support for the work of YEPP. Their statements were much appreciated by all youngsters.

www.epp.eu
www.epp-ed.eu

In 2008 the YEPP board continued to invest in cooperation with the EPP and its organizations, such as the EPP Women, European Senior Citizen's Union (ESU), European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (EUCDW) and the SME-Union.

Besides attending some of their events, YEPP was also represented at the EIN (European Ideas Network) meetings

www.sme-union.org
www.epp-women.org
www.eu-seniorunion.org
www.eucdw.org

www.ein.eu



/Adopted YEPP Documents in 2008

- Adopted Working Paper on Cultural Diversity
- Adopted working paper: A Europe fit for Future Generations - Towards a platform for the 2009 European Parliament Elections
- Adopted working paper: European Neighbourhood Policy - The importance of Regional Cooperation

























- Resolution on Euthanasia
- Resolution on „Fighting for Corruption“
- Resolution on Belarus
- Resolution on the crisis in Georgia
- Resolution on the Middle East
- Resolution on Border Control
- Resolution on Development Cooperation

- Emergency resolution on recent developments in Russia
- Emergency resolution on the humanitarian and political crisis in Zimbabwe
- Emergency resolution on preventing violence on political background
- Emergency resolution on Kenia
- Emergency Resolution on Colombia

All documents can be found on www.yepp-eu.org



/YEPP Member Organisations

	Albania Forumi Rinor i Partise Demokratike te Shqiperise		Italy Forza Italia Giovani Giovani Unione Democratici Cristiani e di Centro Giovani Unione Democratici per l'Europa Junge Generation" of South Tyrolean People Party
	Austria Junge Österreichische Volkspartei		Latvia Tautas Partija
	Belarus Malady Front ** Youth Christian-Social Union Young Democrats**		Lithuania Jaunieji Krikščionys Demokratai
	Belgium JONG Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams Jeunes du Centre Démocrate Humaniste		Luxemburg Chrëschtlech Sozial Jugend
	Bosnia & Herzegovina Party of Democratic Action Youth Association		Malta Moviment Zghazagh Partit Nazzjonalista
	Bulgaria Mladezki Sajuz na Demokraticeska Partija Mladezki Sajuz na Demokratincnite Sili		Moldova Noua Generatie Partidul Popular Crestin Democrat
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	Czech Republic Mladí křesťanští demokraté		Poland Stowarzyszenie Młodzi Demokraci
	Denmark Kristendemokratisk Ungdom		Portugal Juventude Social Democrata
	Estonia Isamaa ja Res Republica Liidu Noorteühendus		San Marino Giovani Democratico Cristiani
	FYROM (= Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) Youth Forces Union of VRMO-DPMNE*		Serbia Omladina Demokratske Stranke Srbije Omladinska Mreza G17 Plus*
	Finland Kokoomuksen Nuorten Liitto Kristillisdemokraattiset Nuoret		Slovakia Krest anskodemokratická mládež Slovenska Nova Generacia
	France Jeunes Union pour un Mouvement Populaire		Slovenia Nova generacija Slovenske ljudske stranke Mlada Slovenija Socialdemokratska Mladina
	Georgia Akhalgazrda Erovnul Democrati Saqartvelos Akhalgazrdobis Qristianul-Demokratiuli		Spain Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular Unió de Joves Demòcrata Cristiana de Catalunya
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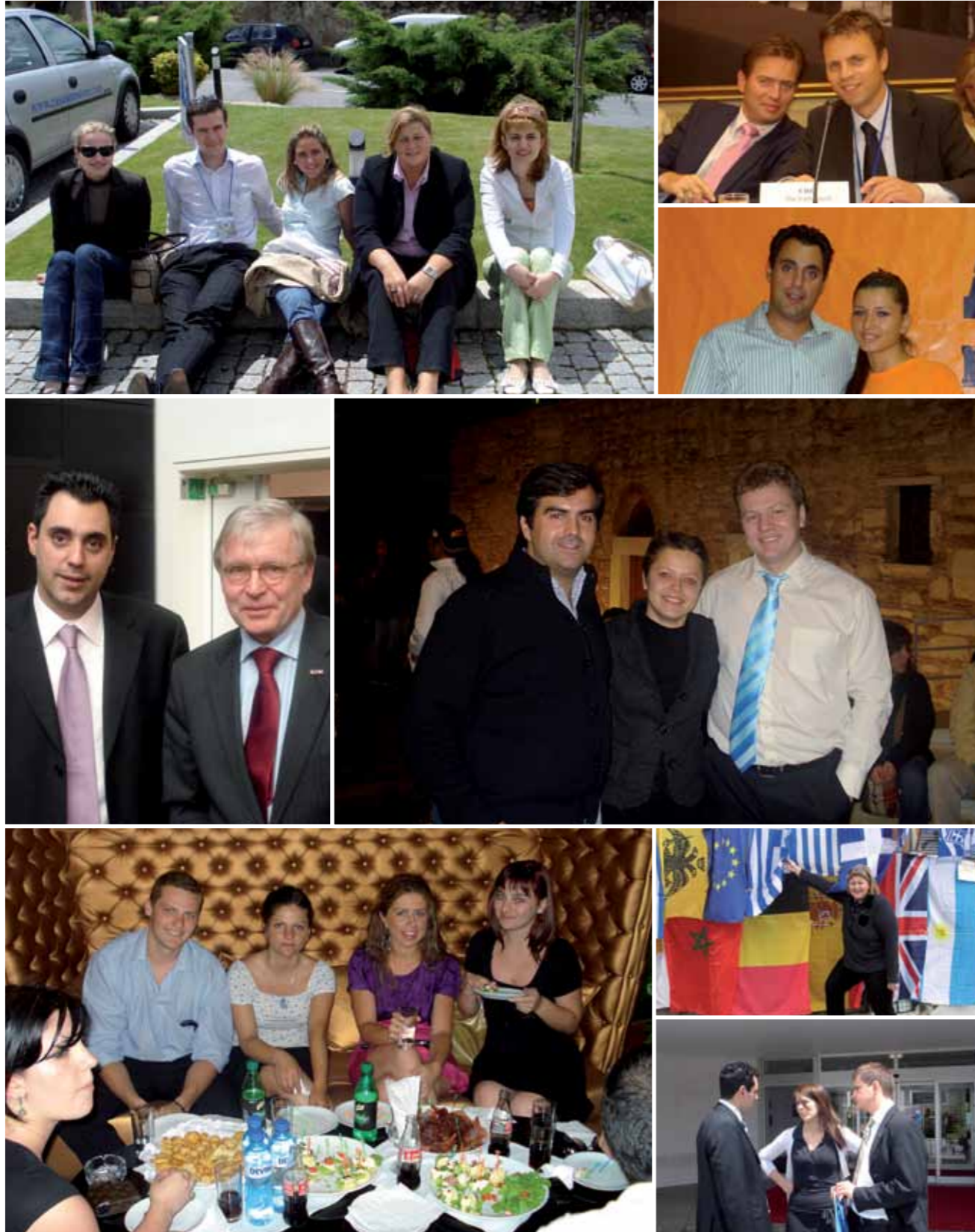


14

/Picture Gallery



/ Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (CKID)



Goals and Objectives

The Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy is the official think-tank of the Nea Dimokratia (ND) Party. It was founded in Athens in January 1998 with the aim to promote the principles of liberal democracy and the open market in the context of a modern welfare state. It is structured in five Departments (International Cooperation, Publications, Policy Studies, Political Analysis and Political Academy). Apart from Athens, the Institute operates offices in four large Greek cities (Thessaloniki, Patra, Ioannina and Agrinio), as well as an international office in Brussels, at the headquarters of the European People's Party (EPP).

International Cooperation

The Institute participates in all major networks of like-minded European and international political foundations. It is a founding member of the Center for European Studies, official thinktank of the EPP, and active member of the European Ideas Network, which formulates policy positions on European issues for the EPP. Furthermore, the Institute participates in the European Network of Political Foundations that aims at the promotion of democracy and development in third countries. On a bilateral basis, the Institute cooperates with several international organizations for conferences, policy seminars and research projects.

Publications

Publications focus on policies and ideas that shape the domestic and international political agenda. They include: the quarterly journal "Liberal Emphasis", the "Monograph Series", the "Working Papers on Politics and Economics", the "Working Paper Series", the "Special Collection Series", the "E-Library Series", the e-journal "e-LOGOS", as well as the international publications series (in cooperation with Springer), namely the "Series on European and International Affairs" and the "Yearbook Series".

Policy Studies

The Institute engages in systematic policy-oriented research covering the areas of foreign and defence policy, energy, environment, economy, education and culture. Policy proposals and position papers are prepared by academics and technical experts, who also participate in roundtable discussions and conferences.

Political Analysis

The Institute conducts comprehensive research and surveys on social, electoral and political issues as a tool for monitoring ideological trends and proposing new policies. It also develops communication strategies and techniques, and produces relevant material.

Political Academy

The Political Academy was established in 2002. Since then it has provided political training to over 3.000 policy-makers, journalists, professionals and members of youth organizations, from all regions of Greece. The seminars of the Political Academy are taught by prominent political analysts and academics.





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