

YEPP YEARBOOK 2006

Youth
of the European
People's Party



2006

Youth
of the European
People's Party

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Preface

David Hansen, YEPP President 2005-2007

Making it happen vs. seeing it happen

This Yearbook documents a lot of our work in 2006. However well written and illustrated it can never replace the experience of taking part in and meeting YEPP directly. Therefore a special thanks to all who took part in, and contributed to, the many great activities in 2006.

Most notably 2006 was the first year when a long awaited reform of our finances took effect. The level of compromise shown in order to provide for this reform was reassuring. YEPP proved to master one of the fundamental disciplines of politics; that of compromise.

Realising that our financial difficulties first and foremost are due to the complete lack of sufficient sources at the European Institutions to fund our activities, we found allies in the other European party-political youth organisations; with the young socialists, the young liberals and the young greens. In a united front we've advocated the need for a substantial financial mechanism to support the works of true European party-political youth organisations. Only this way can young people be given a real opportunity to follow the instant development of European politics, where the European parties are playing an increasingly more important role. This is an intended development, but the youth shouldn't be left outside party-politics. However important other youth organisations and movements might be, the entry that party-political youth organisations give youngsters to the political parties is irreplaceable.

In 2006 came an important development for the future of European youth politics. Through the handling of MEP Jo Leinen's report on the finances of European political parties the European Parliament gave recognition to the role of European party-political youth organisations. Furthermore a special working group, including members of the parliament and youth representatives, was given the mandate to come back in 2007 with recommendations on how to provide financially for these youth organisations. The recognition and financial support for party-political youth organisations will provide for greater youth engagement in European politics. Of this I am certain, because time and again have the party-political youth organisations on national level shown its significance, especially with its contributions to the continued renewal of mother-parties.

Gathered for YEPP's Chairmen's Conference in Palma de Mallorca in June 2006, the board reached the mid-term of our two year mandate. At a moment for stock-taking we found our organisation already showing signs of financial recovery. Now two other major processes could gain more attention: The statutory reform and the development of a new political program for YEPP.

The reform of our statutes is first and foremost a product of YEPP having grown to a much bigger than what tailored for at the inaugural congress in 1997. During now 10 years of function a reform is needed. Much will be codification of existing practice, but on some issues the call for that fundamental discipline of compromise is again required.

More exciting for us as a political force is the process of adopting a new political program. When doing this we are providing for a



stronger start on the preparations to come in our mother-party, for the European parliamentary elections in 2009. Most of 2008 will be used within the European People's Party to establish the new Action Program for 2009 to 2014. This gives perspectives to what we're doing in YEPP nowadays. Loosing time now means risking the grip on what ought to be the centre of our attention; to shape policies for the Europe we want. Aspiring this we must focus on what to be the program of Europe's strongest party, our mother-party the EPP. It's with this perspective one must look upon the draft for YEPP's new political program – titled "Tomorrows answers starts today".

I know that for our Congress in Stockholm (10 to 13 May 2007) we will arrive with a new political program, just as we did 4 years ago in The Hague. That was the first time YEPP made a full-fledged European program. In the following year YEPP took part in formulating the Action Program of EPP. Now this serves as a steering document for the largest part of the EPP/ED Group. And this party-political fraction is the largest in the European Parliament. Furthermore this majority constitutes the fundament for the EPP-affiliated President of the European Commission. Yes, when we're in the first semester of 2007 both the Presidency of the Parliament and the Presidency of the Council are also held by leaders belonging to the EPP. Hence, the mandate to lead is strong. That mandate is our party's best opportunity to seek renewed confidence among European citizens in 2009. So again I maintain that loosing time now means risking the grip on what ought to be the centre of our attention; the opportunity to take part in shaping the Europe we want.

Of course drafting and getting our policies adopted in a program is only at best half way to realising our ambitions. YEPP has a role in taking it all the way. That's why we've got another role in watching and promoting the true realisation of policies by our mother-party politicians in office. Making means to people's lives, present and coming generations, is the real point of politics. And however privileged we Europeans are in a global perspective, the challenges are many. This goes for Europe within and beyond, because there can be no doubt that in unity Europe's global impact is tremendously more important than that of some 27 countries acting out on their own.

When introducing YEPP's Yearbook for 2005 in my first year of presidency I was concerned with the message that we can mobilise to make things happen the way we want, rather than just leaving developments to happen by pure chance. A party-

political youth organisation is fundamentally about making it happen rather than seeing it happen.

YEPP has some clear ambitions cross-cutting all our activities. We want to influence European policy-making. We want stronger youth participation in party-politics. We want vivid democracy all over Europe. We want to take part in the shaping of Europe.

Thank you so much for having had patience with me throughout my two years in office. It's been hard work but more than that a true privilege to serve this remarkable organisation. Now enjoy the rest of this Yearbook presenting a full year of inspiring youth engagement in politics.

David Hansen
President of YEPP



YEPP Board

Board members 2005-2007



President : David Hansen (KrFU, Norway) was born at Lørenskog, close to Oslo (Norway) in 1978. He studies to be Master of Law at the University of Oslo. Besides this he works as Special Adviser for Stromme Foundation, a private foundation working with international development, primarily in the fields of Microfinance and Education. He also works as Adviser on Public Affairs at Gambit Hill & Knowlton, a PR-company in Oslo. Between October 2001 to October 2005 he worked as Political Adviser to the Minister of International Development in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is member of the Norwegian Young Christian Democrats (KrFU) since 1993. Before being elected as President of YEPP he was Vice President for four years (2001-2005). At National level he served as President of KrFU for three years (1999-2002).



1st Vice-President : Robert Golanski (MD, Poland) (27), was raised in India, where his family lived for 5 years. Former international secretary and current member of the national council of "Młodzi Demokraci" (MD), the youth organisation of Platforma Obywatelska. Member of MD since 1996. Elected Council member of the Ochota District in Warsaw (2000-2002). Previously worked for a PR

Agency in Warsaw and a member of the Polish Parliament. Since 2003 Robert lives and works in Brussels. Until January this year he was the Polish Press Officer in the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament. Since January he is an adviser in the cabinet of the President of the European Parliament.



YEPP Secretary General : Martin Humer (Junge ÖVP, Austria) (31) was born in Linz, Upper Austria. He is studying law and at the moment he is working in Brussels as political advisor for the Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU. Before he was Secretary General of Junge ÖVP. He was also lecturer on constitution and basic rights for persons doing civilian service on behalf of the Ministry

of the Interior and also lecturer on campaign management. He was consultant in different Austrian elections and political advisor and press officer to the Executive Director of ÖVP Upper Austria.



Deputy Secretary General : Huibert van Rossum (CDJA, The Netherlands), was elected as the deputy secretary general of YEPP. He works as policy advisor on European affairs for the CDA delegation in the Dutch parliament. Within YEPP he has the responsibility for member organisations, Africa and education. Furtheron he is involved in membership issues and application of organisations for YEPP.



Vice-President: David Cermak (MKD, Czech Republic) (27), studies law at the International University of economy and law in Prague and works as a political advisor to the Vice Minister for Legislation and Minister of Defense. He is a member of Young Christian Democrat in the Czech Republic and was for 4 years chairman in this organisation. In 2005 elected as a Vice-president of the Youth of the European People's

Party (YEPP). Since 2002 he is a member of a city council in a home town Strani, where he is also a member of the board of the local branch of the KDU-CSL (Christian Democratic Union - Czechoslovak Peoples Party).



Vice-President : Paula Gómez de la Bárcena Ansorena (NN.GG, Spain) (27) was born in Madrid but she made her studies in other countries around the World (Sénégal, Paraguay, Switzerland). She is Secretary of European Affairs of Nuevas Generaciones (Youth of Partido Popular) and Vice-President of the Youth European People's Party (YEPP). She studied law and she works in a public enterprise of Madrid since 2005.

YEPP Board

Board members 2005-2007



Vice-President : Galina Fomenchenko (CDMU, Ukraine) from Ukraine, born in Vladikavkas (Russia). Graduated from University in Zhitomir in 1998, studied finances. Chairwoman of CDMU (Christian-Democratic Youth of Ukraine) regional organisation (1997-2000) and CDMU International Secretary (2001-2005). Worked as Parliamentary assistant, Press Secretary of political party "Reforms and Order", in strategic

department of "Nasha Ukraina" campaign 2002 and Presidential elections 2004 (during Orange Revolution). Currently working as Political Adviser at the EPP Headquarters in Brussels.



Vice-President : Christian Holm (MUF, Sweden) (30), studied international business and administration at the University of Karlstad between 1998 and 2002 with parts of the study period at the University of Hohenheim in Germany. Since September 2006 he is elected member of the Swedish Parliament representing the Moderate Party. He is member of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and spokesman in

foreign development aid issues. In 2006 Christian was elected as Member of the Parliament for the Moderaterna Party.



Vice-President : Christoph Israng (JU, Germany) studied business administration at WHU Koblenz, Germany, Lancaster, UK and Mexico City. married and has 2 sons. Christoph is also a member of the board of Junge Union Germany and Bavaria. He is currently working as a staff member of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the German Bundestag.



Vice-President : Stefano Morelli (FIG, Italy) (30) is born in Italy and actually lives in L'Aquila, a beautiful town in the middle of Italy. He is since 2003 Vice-president of the YEPP. He is actually member of the board of directors of the Corporation Centro Turistico del Gran Sasso d'Italia. He works at the main data processing corporation in L'Aquila, SED spa. He is also member of national board of Forza Italia Giovani.



Vice-President : Vincent Richez (Jeunes UMP, France) (31) is born in Marseille (France). He graduated in masters in European law in 2001. He is a former chairman of "les Jeunes européens - JEF France" (1999-2001) and Member of the European Movement's council in France. He contributed to the foundation of "les Jeunes populaires de l'UMP" in 2003 when the three former organisations (Gaullists, Liberals,

Christian democrats) decided to merge in a new political party. Then, he became international officer of les Jeunes Populaires in the first national board. Due to his contributions the French could become full member of YEPP in 2005 during the Congress of Paris. Professionally he is a political adviser in the Cabinet of the EPP-ED chairman Joseph DAUL in the European Parliament and a former assistant of French MEPs.



Vice-President : Giannis Smyrliis (ONNED, Greece) (28) was born in Athens (Greece). He studied Master of Arts in international relations and European studies. He graduated of the department of political science and public administration and graduate of the experimental school of the university of Athens. In the past he worked for a social insurance company of greece [stage programs of European union

2 years]. He is still Secretary of International Affairs as well as member of the Board and Central Committee of ONNED.



Vice-President : Jeroen Vanden Berghe (31) master in Archaeology and postgraduate in International Affairs. He is married and has a little boy. Former political advisor of former Justice Minister Tony Van Parrys and of Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme. Former national board member and international Secretary of JONG-CD&V; at local level he was for almost four years CD&V chairman

of Ghent, the second largest city of Flanders. Currently he is working as Research Policy Officer at Ghent University.



YEPP Executive Officer : Ann-Pascale Mommerency (jong CD&V, Belgium) (33) 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. Ann-Pascale is PR & Communication responsible for the regional board of the Flemish young SME-Union. Since September 2002 she is working as Executive Officer at the YEPP Office.

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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;
 - number of members per organisation: (additional votes)
 - > 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.

Statutes

YEPP Statutes

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.

Values and Principles

YEPP Basic Values and Principles *(adopted at the YEPP Congress, Paris (France), 29 March 2006)*

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.

**YEPP
Activities
2006**

YEPP Seminar: Jihlava/Prague (Czech Republic) : 26-29 January 2006

Wide European Market- chance for young entrepreneurs and employees

Already for the second time were the Young Christian Democrats of the Czech Republic hosts for a YEPP Council meeting and seminar. This time the chosen topic was an important issue, not only for Czech young people but for all youngsters all around Europe - the conference was introduced under the name - "Wide European Market chance for young entrepreneurs and employees". The venue of the seminar was chosen to be in Prague during the first day and in Jihlava for the following two days.

The topic of the conference was chosen because the issue of free movement of working force in the EU is after the enlargement by ten new member states one of the very often discussed questions related to the European Union in all member states.

The conference was opened on Friday and the participants were addressed during the sessions by very distinguished guests. After opening of the conference by Mr. David Hansen - president of YEPP - and Mr. David Cermak - chairman - the conference started with the first session "Czech Republic and the Lisbon strategy" which was presented by Mr. Radek Spicar, Deputy vice prime minister for economics. The office of Prime minister of economics has been in the Czech Republic responsible for transposition of the Lisbon strategy to a Czech Legislation. Mr. Spicar made it possible for the participants to understand how the Czech Republic has been successful by implementing this strategy, what difficulties had to be faced and also shared some experiences from other EU member states.

The second lecture given by Mr. Petr Druľák, Director of the Insitute for international relations, was dealing with the question "A new Lisbon strategy- a possible chance for the European market?" He stressed that a common strategy of the EU in the field of education, research and creating sufficient environment for the economy is the only way how the European market can succeed in the competition with other strong markets of the world.

The president of the Economic chamber of the Czech Republic, Mr. Jaromír Drábek elaborated on the topic "Young entrepreneurs - their challenges in Europe". The main aim of his speech was focused on the legislative environment on the level of national states and also on the level of the EU. On both levels it is highly necessary that the legislation reduces administrative burdens and offers all entrepreneurs equal opportunities.

The conference was also given a short information on the upcoming EPP Congress by Christian Kremer, EPP Deputy Secretary General.

Another core issue has been adopt a working document concerning "Youth entrepreneurship", which was discussed in detailed in a working group before. In the working paper YEPP took a look at the specific features of youth entrepreneurship and the needs and wants of (potential) youth entrepreneurs. YEPP aims to identify barriers and specific constraints that impede young people from starting and running a business, and to determine stimuli and incentives that make starting a business an attractive option for youth in Europe. This working paper takes a closer look at crucial factors for entrepreneurial engagement including cultural attitudes to entrepreneurship, education, training, business support, regulation, finance and promotion programmes for entrepreneurship.

YEPP calls in this working paper upon Member States to make more intensive use of positive examples and best practices from other Member States for their own programmes to promote entrepreneurship.

YEPP also calls upon Member States and the European Union to widen the scope of (statistical) research on the state of entrepreneurship, as this is rarely aimed at the specific situation of youngsters.



Adopted documents :

- > Adopted working paper: "Youth Entrepreneurship"
- > Resolution on "Better integration-sustainable immigration"
- > Iran Resolution: "Mere Indignation is not enough"
- > Resolution "Upcoming Presidential Elections in Belarus"
- > Resolution on the "Presidential Elections in Belarus"
- > Resolution on the gas row

EPP Congress + Seminar on the “EPP and the Youth” and Board Meeting: Rome (Italy) : 29 March – 1 April 2006

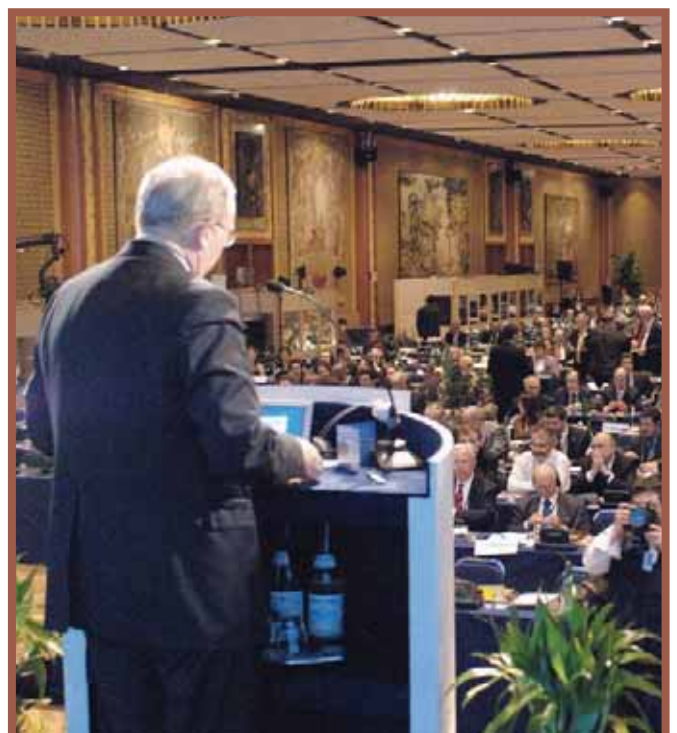
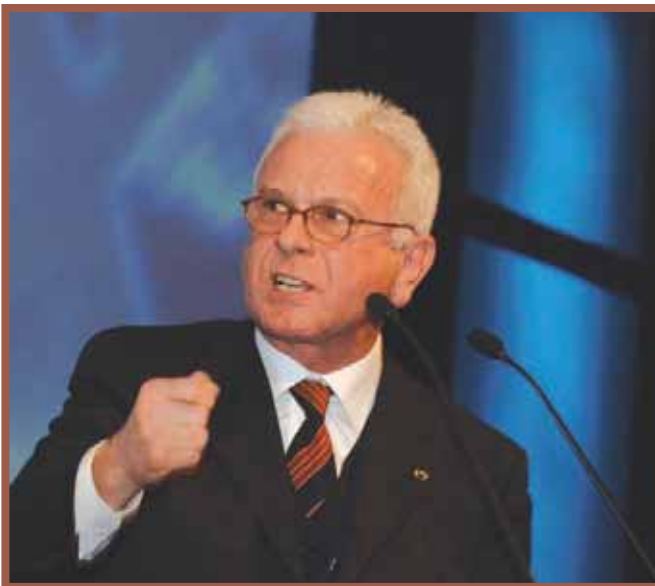
The YEPP board attended the XVII EPP Congress, titled “Our Aim, Your Europe” that was held in Rome from 29-31 March 2006. The EPP also celebrated its 30th anniversary. Over 1000 delegates from the 25 EU Members States and the acceding countries were attending. 15 Prime Ministers and several party leaders addressed the congress, which was presided by EPP-President Wilfried Martens.

“The EPP boasts 71 Christian democrat, reform and conservative member parties from 36 European countries and is the most influential political party in all major European institutions. This Congress will be the ultimate political event of 2006 in Europe and will set the stage for new momentum in the European project”, said EPP President Wilfried Martens.

All conclusions (surely the Rome Manifesto) and a detailed programme are available on the Internet site www.epp.eu

Besides the Congress, the YEPP Board and different other YEPP and EDS representatives attended a seminar hosted by our 3 Italian partners. In this seminar the role between the EPP and the youth was put in highlights.

Also a YEPP Board meeting, which was inspired by the fruitful Congress atmosphere was held.



YEPP Seminar: Chisinau, Moldova: 27-30 April 2006

Avoiding new dividing lines in Europe + Energy crisis

Between the 27th and the 30th March 2006 over 70 representatives of the YEPP member Organisations gathered in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova for the YEPP Seminar & Council Meeting, hosted by the YEPP member "Noua Generatie" PPCD.

The welcoming dinner was held on the 27th March at the "Faraon" Club. The leaders of the Christian Democratic People's Party (the mother party of the NG PPCD) Iurie Rosca (President of the PPCD, deputy speaker of the Parliament of Moldova), Vlad Cubreacov (vice-president of the PPCD, head of the PPCD Parliamentary faction) and Stefan Secareanu (vice-president of the PPCD) were present at the dinner in order to meet representatives of YEPP member organizations and to spend time with them. The welcoming speeches were addressed by Iurie Rosca, PPCD President, Victoria Cusnir, NG PPCD President, Michael Getto, the Head of the International Republican Institute office in Moldova and David Hansen, YEPP President.

On Friday; 28th March, the YEPP Seminar was opened by Mr. Iurie Rosca, PPCD President, Mr. David Hansen, YEPP President and Ms. Maria VasIU, Programme Coordinator and Political Advisor of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. The following speeches addressed by Mr. Vlad Cubreacov (vice-president of the PPCD, MP, Chairman of the CDPP faction in the Parliament, PACE member) and Ms. Angela Arama (MP) were focused on the political situation of the Republic of Moldova, the recent developments and active integration policy adopted by the Moldovan government since the last general elections, held in 2005. The next panel of the day was supported by two leading experts on the Transnistrian problem: Oazu Nantoi, expert at the Institute of Public Policy from Moldova and Dan Dungaciu, University Professor from the Bucharest University from Romania. Mr. Fredo Arias-King, political scientist from the USA, founder of the "Demokratizastya" Journal, gave an interesting presentation on transitions, including the Republic of Moldova. The panel about Russia, CIS and the gas problem was shared between experts from Ukraine (Ivan Krulko, adviser of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and Head of the office of the RUKH faction in the Parliament), Belarus (Alaksandar Stralcou, Deputy Chairman of International Department of Belarusian Popular Front) and Russia (Nikita Belykh, President of the Union of Right Forces - SPS). The politicians from those three countries shared their opinions about

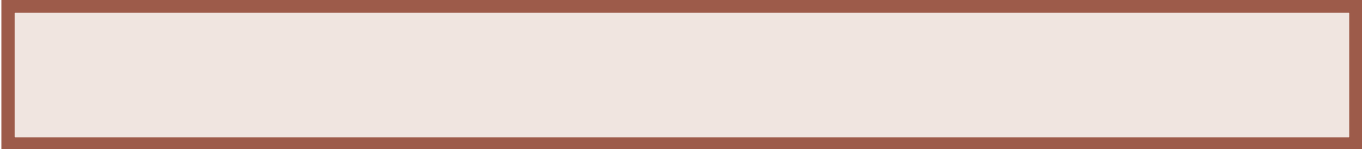
the relations between Russia and its neighbors, the prospective of alternative energy resources for the countries depending on Russia gas and oil, etc. Mr. Ignacio Ibarra from Spain, former executive president of the "Union Fenosa" electricity company in Moldova expressed his view on Moldova, as a country struggling for the integration into the EU, but in the same time depending economically on Russia. A more deep analysis on the Moldovan prospects of integration was made by Mrs. Laima Andrikiene, MEP, EPP-ED Group and member of the EU-Moldova cooperation committee. Both lunch and dinner were held in two of the nicest traditional restaurants in Chisinau "La Taifas" and "Roata Vremii". The participants at YEPP seminar had the chance to enjoy the Romanian style of serving food and drinks.

On Saturday, the 29th March, the working groups and the council meeting were held. As a closer of the seminar and council meeting in Moldova, the YEPP delegation visited the Milestii Mici winery, one of the most exciting places in Moldova, known as the biggest wine collection and the biggest underground wine town in the world. The reception hosted at the Milestii Mici was accompanied by national Romanian music and dancers, wine and food that provided an atmosphere of a typical Moldavian party.



Adopted documents :

- > Adopted background paper: Avoiding new dividing lines in Europe



YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

The EU of tomorrow: What after the failure of the EU Constitution?

In June 2006 YEPP Full Member Nuevas Generaciones-Partido Popular (Spain) hosted a YEPP Chairmen's Conference.

This time 21 Chairmen from our members were present as well as several Secretary Generals. The Chairmen Conference is an ideal event for an experience exchange between our partners all over Europe.

The Conference kicked off on Thursday night with a dinner at The European Centre in Baleares, hosted by the Director of the Centre, Mr. Jeromi Salom.

The reception was addressed by Mr. Jeromi Salom, Director of the European Centre in the Balearic Islands, Mr. David Hansen, YEPP President and Mr. Toni Fuster, President of NNGG in the Balearic Island.

The following morning, delegates stayed at the hotel. It was there that Friday's discussion and debate took place. First of all, Mr. Antonio López-Isturiz, Secretary General of the EPP, Mr. David Hansen, President of YEPP, and Mr. Toni Fuster, President of NNGG Balearic Islands, attended a Press Conference with a big number of national Medias.

The first panel discussion was on the "Reflection after EPP Congress in Rome", addressed by Mr. Antonio López-Isturiz, Secretary General of the EPP. Mr. López-Isturiz offered us an overview panel about the new organization of the EPP after the Congress and the work agenda. He also insisted in the important role YEPP is playing for the construction of a unified Europe.

Next up was the discussion on "The EU tomorrow: What after the referenda and what about the European Constitution?" addressed by Mr. Jorge Moragas, Secretary of International Affairs of Partido Popular and member of the National Parliament.

After the presentation of the two speakers, the delegates went to the Balearic Parliament and had a guided tour around the building. Lunch took place at the Parliament and was hosted by Mr. Jaume Matas, Regional President of the Balearic Islands (unfortunately, he could not be with us but we were accompanied by one of his assistants)

After the lunch, the agenda continued with the panel discussion on "Getting closer to the citizens-seen from a regional perspective" addressed by Ms. María Salom, Member of the National Parliament. Ms. Salom presented her concerns and estimations about the prospects of enhancing the cooperation between European Union and the different European Regions.

During the programme, several Chairmen were also asked to give their reflections on their current presidency as well as on YEPP's work and their vision on the future of Europe.

After the panel presentations delegates proceeded with the discussion on seminar working papers.

Later in the evening participants were transferred to dinner in the Bellver Castle hosted by the Government of the Balearic Islands. The reception was addressed by Ms. Francisca Benassar, Deputy Major and tourism town Councillor of the city of Palma de Mallorca.

The next day, Saturday was set aside for the YEPP working groups and the YEPP Council to meet. Saturday's work took place at the hotel.

After lunch, the YEPP Council meeting took place. During the event the various resolutions and working papers were accepted by the YEPP Council Meeting.

During the Council meeting a report from our 2 financial auditors was given on the YEPP bookkeeping of 2005. They give their approval and also recommendations for the upcoming working year.

Besides this, the board also give a mid-term overview of the realizations that were achieved, as prescribed in the work plan 2005-2007.

After the YEPP Council meeting, delegates were taken to a dinner hosted by the Regional Immigration Ministry, where they could taste food from many different countries. After dinner, delegates were invited to have a glass of "cava" in the biggest discotheque of Mallorca.

On Sunday the still presented participants had free time to enjoy the beautiful beaches of Palma de Mallorca and the majestic city centre.



Adopted documents :

- > Resolution "Re-Phrasing the future of Europe"
- > Resolution on Education through Sport
- > Resolution "Financing our Ambitions"
- > Resolution "Support for democratic opposition in Cuba"
- > Resolution "Keeping an ageing Europe vital for future generations"
- > Resolution "Confronting Illegal Immigration - Eliminating Human Trafficking"
- > Resolution "Transparent European Finances"

YEPP's SUMMERSCHOOL: Belgrade/Zlatibor, Serbia: 12-17 July 2006

Campaigning for Europe

A YEPP Summerschool is in general a more relax event with a lot of workshops. It gives us the opportunity to introduce new youngsters more easily to the European Platform. A theme such as "Campaigning" happens in each country and therefore each person easily feels involved.

From Wednesday 12th of July until Sunday 16th of July some 70 young people from all over the Europe participated in the YEPP Summer School, which was hosted by Youth of Democratic Party of Serbia in Belgrade and Zlatibor. The topic was "Campaigning for Europe" and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Belgrade kindly supported this event.

On Wednesday participants had a privilege to hear the speech of His Excellency, Mr. Andreas Zobel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Serbia, on the topic: "Serbia's road to European Union". Then Mr. Rade Obradovic, Vice-president of Serbian Parliament hosted the Welcome Dinner and gave a short speech to the delegates. Ms. Claudia Nolte also addressed to young participants as well as Mr. David Hansen, YEPP Chairman and Mr. Borko Ilic, Chairman of Youth of DSS. Later the delegates enjoyed the late night in open air clubs.

On Thursday morning participants went to Zlatibor where the Summer School also took place. The real work began after the lunch. Participants had the opportunity to hear the latest ideas and exchange experience concerning campaigns with Special guests-trainers from Young Republicans from USA. After dinner in a traditional Serbian restaurant participants enjoyed the nightlife in Zlatibor.

Friday morning was also planned for groups that were lead by campaign trainers from Young Republicans. All participants brought different types of merchandise used in their own campaigns and made a brief presentation. The work run smoothly and by late afternoon it was over so participants had some free time to enjoy the beauty of Zlatibor mountain. After dinner, all the delegates continued their entertainment in pubs and bars in the center.

Saturday morning the different panels of speakers started unfolding. Firstly, Mr. Dusan Prorokovic, Vice-Chairman of DSS group in Serbian Parliament and ex Chairman of Youth of DSS had a speech on "Future of the Balkan Region". Next in line was Mr. Dragan Penezic, Adviser of Ministry of Economical International Relations in Serbia, who gave a presentation of "Investments in Serbia and Balkan Region". After the break, Minister of Science and Enviromental protection and first Chairman of Youth of DSS, Mr. Aleksandar Popovic adressed to young delegates on the topic of "Youth role in Serbian and European politics". In the evening, with all the work behind them, participants enjoyed the dinner in the Serbian traditional restaurant with national meals and music. the party continued downtown at the local discotheque until the early hours.

Sunday was time for departure. Buses drove participants back to the Belgrade's airport. Some participants extended their stay, individually or in groups.



YEPP Seminar: Budapest, Hungary: 12-15 October 2006

New challenges in the 21st Century! Fighting terrorism without losing sight of human rights

The aim of the seminar entitled „New challenges in the 21st century – Fighting terrorism without losing sight of human rights” was to initiate a profound discussion on the role of Europe in the war on terror and the effects of this new kind of warfare on human rights. The seminar also wished to examine the possible role of transatlantic relations in combating terrorism.

More than 70 young participants attended the conference, who came from more than 30 countries, from Spain to Georgia. The seminar was organized in October due to two specific reasons. On one hand, we have just marked the 5th anniversary of the terror attacks against the United States. Therefore an open debate on terrorism is more than actual. On the other hand Hungary celebrates the 50th anniversary of the revolution in 1956 that was also a revolt of people who stood up against the permanent violation of human rights.

As far as the professional aspects are concerned, the working groups, debates and lectures of the seminar were aimed at examining what sorts of concrete measures had been taken by the EU to combat terrorism, what can be the role of the transatlantic ties in this fight. It also endeavored to find answers to the question that sounds like: “can human rights be restrained in order to fight terrorism in a more effective way?”. The high ranking invited speakers were guarantees of a quality debate. It was Mr. Hans Kaiser, director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Hungary who made opening remarks at the welcoming dinner of the conference. His words were followed by MPs Zsolt Njyitrai and Kornél Almássy, representatives of Fidelitas and IDF.

The seminar consisted of 3 panel discussions and two working group sessions. The debates were attended by prominent speakers like Anita Orban (International Centre for Democratic Transition), Antje Rothemund (Council of Europe), Réka Szemerkényi (Hungarian New Atlantic Initiative), Patrick Egan (International Republican Institute), Sebastian Gorka (ITDIS), Tamás Magyarics (Foreign Policy Review), Gábor Kiss and Zoltán Kiszelly (Antall József Foundation), George Schöpflin and Péter Olajos (European Parliament).

It was an honor for the organizers that Ibolya Dávid (IDF) and Jozsef Szajer (Fidesz) opened the regular Council Meeting of YEPP. The vice chairman of the EPP-ED Group welcomed the participants and shared his view on the attitude of the EPP towards the counter terrorism activities. He also made referrals to the European feedbacks to the current crisis in Hungary.

The aim of the working group sessions were to word a position paper to counter-terrorism, which should reflect YEPP’s standpoint to this very sensitive issue. the document can be divided in five chapters (1. New faces of terror, 2. The background of terrorism in Europe, 3. Concrete EU measures in combating terrorism, 4. The role of transatlantic ties, 5. The effects of the war on terror on human rights).

After the debates and working group sessions the Hungarian hosts grabbed the opportunity to invite the participants for a guided tour in the House of Terror that is an alarming memento of dictatorships of the previous century. At the end of the tour

the delegates of YEPP laid their wreaths to commemorate the victims of the '56 revolution.

During the preliminary works of the seminar, the organizers had a close co-operation with International Republican Institute and the Embassy of the United States in Budapest. This might be the reason for why the newly appointed ambassador, Mrs. April H. Foley accepted the invitation and held a speech between the two panel sessions on Friday. Beyond Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the American Embassy and International Republican Institute, partners like Microsoft Hungary, the EPP-ED Group, Antall József Foundation and the Hungarian New Atlantic Initiative also made a valuable contribution to the conference.

The organizers were delighted by the fact that the seminar was an important step to encourage further dialogue between European youth conservatives, Christian democrats and our transatlantic partners.



Adopted documents :

- > Adopted working paper
- > Resolution on “Stonger European Defense Policy”
- > Emergency resolution concerning North Korea
- > Resolution on Fair Tourism
- > Resolution “Ensuring Mental Well Being in Europe”
- > Resolution on a “Comprehensive European Policy for the Middle East”

YEPP BOARD Meeting and Young MEP's Network: Munich, Germany: 10-12 November 2006 General Report

The YEPP Board gathered in Munich and this event was hosted by Junge Union.

YEPP is trying to set up a network of all young Members of the European Parliament of the EPP-ED Group. As this group is increasing in amount, it can be in our interest to join forces. Furthermore it can also be good to increase our internal network in order to see how we can defend the themes that are related to our daily work. We were therefore delighted that Mr. Markus Ferber, Bavarian Young MEP and Co-Chairman of the CSU Swabia and Co-Chairman of the German EPP-delegation in the European Parliament was also present.

It is our purpose also to enlarge this network with non MEP's. This means that we could also enlarge with persons that are on significant positions within the European Platform.

With the installment of such a group, YEPP will also be in the capability of positioning ourselves better. In this way, our message can be spread in a broader and better way.

Besides fruitful meetings, we also got a guided tour in Munich as a nice traditional dinner in the presence of EPP Vice-President MEP Dr. Ingo Friedrich.



YEPP seminar: Kortrijk/Bruges/Brussels, Belgium: 7- 10 December 2006

Innovation and Space within the EU

Already for the second time were the Young Christian Democrats of Flanders hosts for a YEPP Council meeting and seminar. Because of the importance of the Lisbon strategy agenda within the European Union and the presence of important space industry in Flanders, we chose to link innovation and space as main topic of the seminar. The venue of the seminar was chosen to be in Kortrijk with stops in Brussels, Leper and Bruges.

The conference started with a welcome at the EPP office in Brussels and a diner at the Flemish Parliament. The seminar was opened by Mr. David Hansen - president of YEPP and Mr. Bert De Brabandere - chairman of the Young Christian Democrats.

Friday morning the seminar started in the Entrepreneurial Centre of Kortrijk with Mr. Kurt VandenBerghe, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Janez Potocnik, who explained the policy view of the European Commission towards Innovation and Space. Next Mr. Frank Preud'Homme, Business Unit Manager Verhaert Space Instruments, and Frank Van der Auweraer, Research Manager LMS International, explained how private companies can benefit from space research. At the end of the morning Mr. Dirk Van Speubroeck, Flemish research centre involved in earth observations, showed the benefits of space applications in the field of environmental control.

In the afternoon we held working groups on our statutory reforms and on the working paper. In the paper was agreed that:

- > YEPP calls upon the EU and upon the ESA to keep focusing on the more applied, civil aspects of space, i.e. those that hold the maximum benefit for citizens. The objective of a European space strategy is to guarantee an independent access to space. New human spaceflight programs are only of secondary nature. The establishment of a full European space capacity, including its own launching capacity, is only possible with a determined political long-term commitment and solidarity of all European States (ESA= 17 / EU= 25 à 27).
- > Space can't be seen as a strictly commercial and industrial sector. As European Space Policy should include the security and environment dimension, the institutional aspect of space is fundamental.
- > The development of space technologies necessary to future space systems requires increased both governmental and private investment in R&D.
- > Space has always been working on the edge of innovative thinking and creating. Therefore, YEPP is convinced that basic space science is an activity of great importance, which often turns out to be the engine of development of new technologies leading to new applications, products and services.
- > YEPP foresees possible mergers between EU-space policies and EU environmental and EU development policies. The crossovers whereby the EU obtains the most accurate data for environmental threats and worrying natural disasters like Katrina and the tsunami. EU can help the developing countries in the South and East to better combat environmental threats and thus help eradicate hunger and poverty on the one hand and on the other hand create the necessary infrastructural preconditions for sustainable development.

Friday afternoon a visit to Barco (leading company in visual graphics) was held. Afterwards also the "Last Post Ceremony" was attended. In the evening a typical Flemish dinner was prepared. On Saturday discussions on Working paper and Statutory reforms were continued. In the evening there was free time for a visit to Bruges and Kortrijk. Saturday evening was the time for a farewell diner and party.



Adopted documents :

- > Working paper
- > Resolution: "Unity in Diversity. A religious alternative for peaceful community life in Europe"
- > Resolution "Strengthen European Economic Clusters"
- > Emergency Resolution "the Europeanization of Serbia"
- > Resolution on recent developments in Georgia-Russia relations



YEPP Permanent Working Groups

Permanent Working Groups

In 2006 our internal working groups were crucial for the future of our organization. We have concluded a financial reform, that was necessary for guaranteeing the future of YEPP, as well as a Statutory reform which was more than necessary. Furthermore the need for a new political programme was more and more raised.

Working Group on Political Affairs

Working Group I, chaired by First Vice-President Robert Golanski and Vice-President Jeroen Vanden Berghe, focused on the Rome Manifesto of the EPP, the YEPP seminar working papers and the resolutions, put forward at the different council meetings. It was also the forum where the next political program was prepared. The YEPP Board had expressed its intention of introducing a new Political Program to the VIth YEPP Congress, clarifying its political position. Based on the values and principles all YEPP member organizations share, but tailored to the expectations of future political generations. The document shall invigorate the political debate between the member organizations, but will also set the political framework for the upcoming YEPP Board 2007-2009. After all, this will be an important period in the preparations of the European elections in 2009.

Working Group on Internal Affairs – Financial Reform

The difficult economic situation of YEPP urged the organization to undergo a thorough financial reform. The strongest contributing factors to the difficulties were an increased level of activity and the rise of the amount of members (especially in the category of being entitled to reimbursement of travel costs). As a consequence, previous budgets of several years had eaten up all the savings of the YEPP association. YEPP ended up without any savings and a structural deficit in the budget. During several

successive meetings of the Working Group N°2 on Internal Affairs in 2005, a financial reform package was prepared. Finally, the Council Meeting at the Prague Seminar in January 2006 adopted the package, prepared by YEPP President David Hansen, Deputy Secretary General Huibert van Rossum, Vice President (treasurer of the board) Jeroen Vanden Berghe and Executive Officer Ann-Pascale Mommerency. The package included proposals for increasing the income (more external funding, the introduction of a "Friends of YEPP Network", a Participation Fund and a rise of the membership fees) and for reducing the expenditures (a revision of the reimbursement of travel costs and a cost-limit for board members). This reform package took effect with the adoption of the budget 2006.

Working Group on Internal Affairs – Statutory Reform

Working Group II on statutory reform was chaired by vice-president David Cermak and Deputy Secretary General Huibert van Rossum. The working group focused on the process to adjust the YEPP statutes to the current situation and be of service for the future. YEPP recognised that through the growth of the organisation certain adjustments in the statutes had to be made. The goal to reach is to establish a statutory reform that can serve the functioning of YEPP in the upcoming years. The WG II decided that this should be a transparent and open process. So through debating sessions at the YEPP Seminars several elements concerning the statutes were addressed. Every participant could participate in this sessions. From this extensive debates the difficulties within the statutes could be found and proposals for adjustments were brought forward. These proposals were discussed within the working group sessions to come to an agreement. It is foreseen that the process of statutory reform should be finalized at the YEPP Congress in 2007.



**YEPP
Resolutions
2006**

Resolution on **"Better integration – sustainable immigration"** YEPP Seminar: Jihlava/Prague (Czech Republic): 26-29 January 2006

RECALLING the huge pressure on European borders highlighted by the events in Ceuta and Mellila, the controversies due to the unsustainable arrival of immigrants in Lampedusa and Malta and the event that took place in the French refugee camp of Sangatte.

YEPP asks the European Union and its Member States to improve its policies on integration and at the same time to reform immigration policy into Europe by non-EU citizens.

YEPP also asks the European Union to increase and improve its cooperation in the control of EU - borders. Collaboration networks (e.g. police cooperation) must also be build with non EU member – states. The illegal immigration problem in the periphery regions is particularly severe, and its control should not be left solely to the individual member states, for it is a matter that affects the EU region as a whole.

YEPP suggests four central objectives in immigration policy:

1. Europe needs to take a more sustainable approach to immigration, taking into consideration its capacity to absorb immigration.
2. Recognition of the humanitarian responsibilities of the European Union and its Member States.
3. Steering immigration considering national policies under a European perspective.
4. The Design of number and profile of immigrants in a way that the integration objectives can be reached, this being the role of member states.

Immigration policy of the European Union must be sustainable because Europe has been one of the main aims of legal and illegal immigration and the absorbing capacity has reached its limit in a lot of areas. Immigration is closely linked to the issue of integration. The objective of integration must already be considered in the design of the process of immigration.

One must not forget that immigration bears in itself a huge richness and wealth by understanding the customs and habits from foreign cultures, as well as possibly providing a boost for the economy.

Politically persecuted persons have the right of political asylum in the Member States of the EU. The process of granting asylum has to be accelerated. The repatriation of asylum seekers who were rejected has to be guaranteed.

In the case of reception of war and civil war refugees the refugees should be spread over the EU Member States in a responsible way. The state should provide facilities to help returning those who fled from war. The European Union has to focus on the sources of immigration by a strong and coherent development policy. The European Union and its Member States must reach the target of 0.7% of their GDP for development aid. At the same time development policy has to be made more efficient and brought better into line with the immigration policy.

Measures concerning family reunification should be adopted in conformity with the obligation to protect the family and respect family life enshrined in many instruments of international law. Nevertheless, the criteria of the possible social and economic integration of family members have to be taken into consideration. YEPP welcomes the lowering of the age of children which are eligible for family reunification to twelve years old. The sponsor is required to have accommodation which meets general safety and health standards, sickness insurance and stable resources sufficient to maintain himself/herself and the members of his/her family, without total recourse to the social assistance system of the Member State concerned. Once families are reunited, and comply to all preconditions the social system puts forward, the case differs. The sponsor is also required to have resided for a qualified period of time in the Member State in question before being joined by his/her family members. Except in special cases, the family member to be reunited remains outside the European Union during the procedure.

Labour migration policy should be conducted under the principle of subsidiarity, i.e. member states have full discretion on labour migration policy. Nonetheless, this does not mean that the European Union does not have a role in controlling and limiting illegal immigration. On the contrary, such cooperation is necessary if the problems caused by illegal immigration are to be contained. Europe has also to intensify its efforts in the areas of education and training to compensate for the deficits in highly skilled human resources.

A successful integration policy is an indispensable part of any immigration. Integration means the involvement in the social, economic, cultural and legal framework of the host country without giving up the own cultural identity. Successful integration will mean an enrichment of the host society by cultural diversity and more international competitiveness. Failed integration will lead to segmentation and "parallel societies".

The acceptance of cultural diversity does not include the rejection of fundamental values of the European Treaties and the constitutions of the Member States. Living together within the European Union is not based on multicultural arbitrariness but on the values of the Christian-occidental culture which were shaped by Christianity, Judaism, ancient Greek philosophy, Roman law and enlightenment. Successful integration requires that this set of values is accepted.

Integration is no one-way-street. It requires offers and resources of integration from the host country. It requires efforts and a positive attitude of the immigrants towards the host society.

The failed integration in many parts of Europe asks for concrete measures:

- > More language courses for immigrants who already live in Europe and strict sanctions if these courses are not attended.
- > Mandatory integration courses for all new immigrants.
- > Better integration of young immigrants by better school and pre-school education. All children should have a good knowledge of the language of their host country when they enter school. This has to be achieved by pre-school language courses for children and for parents.
- > Educational structures are to follow the required national curricula depending on the state that they are operating in.
- > Special job training and application training and support targeted on immigrants.
- > Special information and support programmes for SMEs with ethnic background to enhance the employment and education possibilities of immigrants.
- > Sanctions on religious leaders who preach hatred against other religions and who deny core values of the European Union and its Member States.
- > Ban on organisations and publications which encourage hatred against other religions and which deny core values of the European Union and its Member States.

Adopted resolution, YEPP Council, Czech Republic, 29th January 2006

Iran Resolution: "Mere Indignation is not enough"

YEPP Seminar: Jihlava/Prague (Czech Republic): 26-29 January 2006

YEPP is deeply concerned about the recent developments in Iran.

First and foremost, YEPP condemns the unacceptable statements of Iranian President Ahmadinedshad regarding Israel and the holocaust. Both his denial of the holocaust and his call for the destruction of the state of Israel are absolutely intolerable.

This also severely questions Iranian claims that its nuclear programme served peaceful aims only. YEPP is deeply concerned about Iran's efforts to build nuclear weapons, and its our clear position that Iran must not acquire a capacity to develop nuclear weapons. Taking into account Iranian attempts to have long range missiles at its disposal, this would not only constitute a severe threat to the Middle East, but also to Europe.

YEPP therefore calls upon European governments to intensify efforts to stop Iran's nuclear programme. Indignation alone is not enough, concrete steps such as bringing the Iranian nuclear file before the UN's Security Council are necessary to make it clear to the Iranian government that it has crossed the red line.

Adopted resolution, YEPP Council, Czech Republic, 29th January 2006

Resolution "Upcoming Presidential Elections in Belarus"

YEPP Seminar: Jihlava/Prague (Czech Republic): 26-29 January 2006

- (a) Having regard to the fact that the authorities of Belarus still pursue the policy of violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms as main democratic principles,
- (b) Stressing that Belarus made international agreements and commitments to accept and follow the UN and EU standards for a free and democratic society, pluralism, rule of law and human rights;
- (c) Taking into account the continuous persecution, harassment, arrest and imprisonment of opposition members, politically motivated arrests and trials of independent journalists and activists belonging to the democratic movements, expelling of the politically active students from the educational institutions, closure of NGOs, national minority organizations and educational establishments;
- (d) Considering that the right to freedom of information is thwarted, whereas the State authorities have stopped all registration of new independent newspapers, cancelled the subscription and prohibited newsstand sales, many existing newspapers have received heavy fines which makes it impossible for them to continue publishing, all television programmes, both national and regional, are employed by government for the manipulation of information, and all Internet connections are routed through a State-run corporation, which has blocked numerous accounts and websites, censors political information and terminates connections during important political events;
- (e) Recalling a newly adopted law the official goal of which is to prevent the state and the ruling order from actions which can harm the national security of Belarus providing a foreign state, a foreign or international organization with false materials on the political, social, military or international situation, in practice directed to civil society, journalists, activists of NGOs, as reported the chairman of the KGB, youth NGOs of Belarus mainly Malady Front and political leaders, president's opponents, and presupposes a prison sentence from 6 months to two years for anyone who criticizes Lukashenka's policies, claims to change the constitution, appeals for seizure of state power to international organizations, foreign states, the OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, or the Strasbourg Court and have a fundamental impact both on the election campaign and on activities of all residents of the republic;
- (g) Expressing concern about the way the elections in Belarus have been held and regarding the changes in the Constitution which gave the president a right to be elected to the presidential post unlimited number of times, the exclusion of the representatives of democratic parties and movements from electoral commissions, the establishment of government monopoly on media and the use of administrative and public resources for the purpose of campaigning;
- (h) Realising that the process of democratisation in Belarus depends on the outcome of the forthcoming presidential elections on March 19, 2006 and should be based on the principles of democracy: free, fair, equal presidential elections, transparent voting and vote counting procedure, domestic election observation organizations, international observers, opposition and independent media;

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

EPP, the European Union and its Member States:

- (a) To condemn the government of Belarus for the further consolidation of state repression and call on authorities of Belarus to stop the continuing violation of respect for internationally recognized human rights standards and to cease politically motivated prosecutions of political opponents, leaders of opposition, activists of NGOs, democratic parties and movements, politically active students and youth, human rights activists and any person who attempts freely to voice criticism of the President and the regime;
- (b) To seize every possible opportunity to make clear to the Belarusian authorities that they are expected to honour and fulfill all their agreements and commitments in the areas of human rights and democracy;
- (c) To support independent civil initiatives, democratic parties and movements, NGOs which activities are directed towards strengthening the development of civil society and establishing democratic model of policy;
- (d) To help disseminate unbiased broadcasting about events at home and abroad through media inside and outside Belarus in order to overcome the government's monopoly on information with a view to overcoming the informational isolation of Belarus;
- (e) To sustain the opponent of A. Lukashenka, the candidate of the united opposition forces for the 2006 presidential elections Alexander Milinkevich and support free and fair presidential elections in Belarus, conducted in a manner consistent with internationally accepted standards and under the supervision of internationally recognized observers;
- (f) To promote international exchanges, scholarships for visits and advanced professional training programmes for leaders and members of the democratic organizations, students and scholars;
- (g) To introduce cost free visas for Belarusian citizens;
- (h) To emphasize that Belarus is a part of Europe, a direct neighbor of NATO and the European Union, and that the further fruitful development of relations between neighboring countries and Belarus will continue to depend on the progress made towards the forthcoming democratic elections and future democratic reforms in the country;

The Belarusian Authorities:

- (a) To abolish the pressure applied to independent print media, including the prosecution of individual journalists, political leaders, activists of NGOs and youth organizations on such charges as defamation of the president and political regime, to assist the people of Belarus in regaining their freedom and to enable them to join the international community of democracies;
- (b) To cease the harassment of all educational institutions in the country and to respect the basic principles of academic freedom, teaching autonomy and tolerance in education;
- (c) To ensure the registration of all eligible candidates for presidential elections, to campaigning freely, fair and transparent, to give equal access to state controlled media, and to allow the representatives of democratic parties and movements to participate fully in electoral commissions, sufficient election monitoring by international observers and independent media.

The Government of the Russian Federation:

- (a) To use its influence to encourage democratic development in Belarus so that Belarus can become a democratic, prosperous, sovereign, and independent state that is integrated into Europe.

Adopted resolution, YEPP Council, Czech Republic, 29th January 2006

Resolution on the gas row

YEPP Seminar: Jihlava/Prague (Czech Republic): 26-29 January 2006

Noting that:

- > European countries are becoming increasingly reliant on external energy sources.
- > Up to 80% of the energy needs of the European Union will in the future be covered by imports from outside of the Union, from regions that are both undemocratic and unstable.
- > The disruption of gas supplies to many European countries resulting from the row between Russia and Ukraine shows the potential risks to European energy security.
- > Recent events in Ukraine and Georgia clearly demonstrate the vulnerability of countries dependent on single energy providers and show that energy resources might increasingly be used as a tool for exerting political pressure.
- > 25% of European gas imports come from Russia, and according to experts, this rate might increase to 50% by 2050.
- > The events might bring energy policy and energy stability again on the agenda of the European Union similarly to the era of the oil crisis in the 70's.
- > The Russian presidency of the G8 is an encouraging opportunity to engage Moscow in a mutual dialogue.

Bearing all these in mind, the Youth of the European Peoples' Party

- > Raises its concerns with regard to the fact that Russia used its gas assets as a tool to put pressure on recipient countries for political purposes.
- > Calls on the parties concerned in the gas row to refrain from any unilateral steps, to promote negotiations under all circumstances and to make all attempts to avoid an escalation of the gas crisis that might also endanger European supplies.
- > Notes that the stability of energy market is in the common interest of both Russia as well of Europe that is dependent on energy suppliers to a great extent.

the Youth of the European People's Party:

- > Calls on the European Union to coordinate its actions in dealing with the main suppliers of energy resources and to concert its efforts on establishing an integrated strategy on energy supplies and energy security that is more coherent and transparent.
- > Calls on the member states to explore all possibilities to diversify European gas sources so that suppliers could not put pressure on dependent countries. The diversification might include the construction of a new gas pipeline on the Adriatic Sea as well as exploring import facilities from North-Africa or the Middle-East.
- > Proposes that the EU should take into consideration the revision of former EU-commitments aimed at gradual shutdown of nuclear power plants. This also requires the development of strict regulations in the domain of nuclear safety.
- > Supports elaborating on common European projects aimed at improving energy efficiency as well as seeking environmentally friendly solutions.
- > Believes that more efforts are needed so that the EU could meet its commitments to increase the rate of renewable sources to 12% by 2010.

Adopted resolution, 29 January, YEPP Council, Czech Republic

Resolution "Re-Phrasing the future of Europe"

YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

In the present reflection period, YEPP is entitled to lead a positive approach on the future. We need to prepare the EU for the future, we have a commitment with the next step, a step towards a stronger Union, a step to be first taken by the citizens. Our task is to defend all the progress that the European Union has brought to our society but at the same time not to close our eyes for the things that are not functioning correctly. We must be honest about the cooperation within the EU. Only then the European Society and European Institutions may finally come together in order to face our common future.

Deepening our efforts to communicate what EU is and what it could be, shaping confidence

As one of the largest youth political organisation of Europe, YEPP should assume its responsibility in taken responsibility for the European cooperation. We must speak up, and not in terms we already know. We are surely a very experienced and thoughtful pack, but all of our political legacy would mean nothing if we are not able to "translate" it to young people and reflect in a critical way on our own role in European policy.

To most of the Europeans, the EU is a misty landscape, a bureaucratic chaos in which their daily worries get lost without a trace. This feeling cannot be neglected, by neglecting the feeling of citizens the EU will finally undermine its own legitimacy. At the same time politicians should not attack the EU in a populist way. They have to show leadership and vision.

In that regard the EU is not a goal to reach in it self, but a source and instrument that is more than necessary to face the challenges we meet. As Europeans we can't take European Political Culture for granted. One of the elements in this process is the fact that campaigning and education on national level is essential. Real understanding of what the European Union is about and what the supranational interest is which we share can only be understood if people are educated and thought. In that sense people can make up there minds in how they think about European policy and European cooperation This issue we have to work on it everyday.

Delevering and improving Europa

The EU should now focus on delivering content and good policy for its citizens. This is the only way to strengthen its role and trustworthiness.

This should be done by focussing and showing results on;

1. subsidiarity (what should the EU do and what not)
2. enlargement and neighbourhood policy and strategy (being strict on criteria and open process)
3. transparency (open meetings of the European Council on legislative meetings)
4. creating jobs for young people

other issues are like justice and how affairs / migration.

The constitutional process and the Convention that headed, it has been hardly understood by Society, but unfortunately, it did not reach this objective. The Treaty was originally intended to unify and simplify legislation, to draft a text in which people from all over Europe could recognise a common spirit. The means were mistaken, the message is not. And we must not forget this. Sometimes it seems European politics have moved from scepticism to fear in the months that followed France's and Netherlands' "NO". Well, we should be the first to fight this new "Euro-fear", for it is far worse than the good-old "Euro-scepticism". The best weapon to face fear is facts.

EU has brought peace, justice, freedom and prosperity. EU changed war into trade, hatred into confidence and isolation into respect. EU should be felt and valued by everyone in Europe for these historical achievements, and not for the past years' mishaps. We are a political organisation, and politics is not only brain-made, but mainly heart-made. That is the challenge we are about to re-start. That was the deal we made to the youth of Europe.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca

Resolution on Education through Sport

YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

Europe is often seen as the ageing continent, but we as Youth of the European People's Party are convinced that the political challenges on our continent do not limit themselves to the elder. The European Commission has also seen this and acted by calling out the year 2004 "the Year of Education Through Sport". Already in 1979, the UEFA has held a conference on Youth Football. This year, with the World Cup in Germany, the interpersonal aspects of sport also catch attention. The slogan of the World Cup is "A Time To Make Friends".

We as Youth of the European People's Party believe that the European centre-right should stand for the integration of different classes and thus support sports. Sports unite the economically and intellectually rich and poor. We also believe that there are positive effects for the democratic experience and attitude by being active in (team)sport. We acknowledge as well as the positive effects of sports heroes by giving an example to youngsters all over the world. An excellent example is the intervention from Zinedine Zidane during the riots in the suburbs of Paris.

Nowadays, we have seen the limits of governments to organise and to alter societies by laws and laws alone. Forces in society itself should be appreciated and valued more when it comes to strengthening the citizens. Successful examples are the Premier League clubs in the United Kingdom who oblige their players to be engaged in community projects where less fortunate children are being coached by a mere three hours of compulsory community work. One cannot deny either the benefits on the physical level by engaging in sports (as opposed to the disease of the 21st century: depression (through endorphines) and as well against the next pandemic of obesity).

We as the Youth of European People's Party would like to see more attention for societal challenges as the ones mentioned above. In general, one could say that the predominant issue for (young) people nowadays is the crumbling down of the social capital. Social cohesion encourages children to take up responsibility in their community in later adult and professional life and should therefore be supported. Depressions and youth suicide are the greatest killers among young people in Europe. Isolation is a key source of depression. Involvement in sports and active life assists in the development of self-confidence, team work and community involvement. Sport is therefore vital for positive mental health.

One of the catalysts of improvement of social cohesion is sports. Sports can be seen as the ultimate meritocracy. Although everybody is born with a different amount of talent, the efforts of training are predominant in the achievement of (relative) personal success. We therefore believe that the initiative of "Education Through Sport" needs further continuation and implementation.

Since both sport and education are national or regional competencies and there can only be support from the European Commission (as seen in the Bologna-process), YEPP urges both the Commission as the national and regional governments to join forces and show "team spirit" on this policy issue. We recall the declaration with the Treaty of Nice where support for sport was shown. It is stated that "sport leans on fundamental social, educative and cultural values. Sport enhances integration, social coherence and tolerance". We also remember clearly the European consensus concerning the policy field of "Sport" as agreed upon by the Convention and the Council on the Project of a Constitutional Treaty.

YEPP asks for:

- > A political signal that social cohesion is one of the keys to regrow social capital in our societies.
- > A Europe-wide recognition of the value and possibilities of sport.
- > An appreciation of "Education through Sport".
- > A more intense exchange of knowledge and initiatives such as in the Premier League. A knowledge centre where best practices are shared is helpful.
- > more cooperation on exchange of experience in best practices in sport and youth training
- > A stronger support and recognition on a national level of youth trainers and coaches who – very often voluntary – try to guide youngsters all over Europe to perform better.
- > The development of an ERASMUS-programme especially for gifted and skilled youngsters, similar to the "centres of excellence" like the European Commission already proposed.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca

Resolution "*Financing our Ambitions*"

YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

Noticing that an ambitious budget agreement was found in the Boge report and approved by the European Parliament in June 2005, and that the Council found another one in December of the same year, under the British presidency.

Regretting that the adopted budget will not implement the prospective project supported by the parliament,

Noting that the compromise fund in between isn't as ambitious as the parliament's proposition was,

YEPP makes the following statements for this ambitious challenge, willing to implement them from 2008 on, for the budgetary revision foreseen in the above mentioned agreement :

- > To give an image of seriousness and professionalism of the Union, the EU should back up its concrete proposals with financial means we support the principle of agreements on EU's incomes before any further discussion on its expenses. This would allow to evaluate the very policy versus its expenses and therefore to thrive it or not in the following budget agreements. With this modus operandi, the European Initiative for Growth would have been coupled with extra funding from member states and therefore operates, far from its current lethargy.
- > This proposal would be eased by making the budget and the legislature match with each other. So, the parliamentary evaluation of the policies implemented by the commission would benefit from a shortened budget perspective. It would be brought down to 5 years instead of the current 7. The budget discussion would then be discriminating part of European elections and each European political parties would define their perspectives for both the Union's tasks and means to manage them. Citizens would then take part in the various proposals done by the parties.
- > We recognise the desirable increase in the Union's "own resources", in proportion of its total budget. They decreased from based on 1% of national VAT to 0,5 since 2004. They could also be more diverse. It would result in a desirable more independent EU. This may not necessarily result in a global increase of the Union's budget, but would dissociate it from the arbitrary contributions and good will of national government. Therefore, national funding would decrease in proportion of the global EU budget, making it more independent and long term minded.
- > To promote every single EU policy, budget agreement should include the whole Union's actions. It should therefore include related funding like the one given by the European Development Fund. This would increase the control of European institutions such as the Parliament, the Court of Justice and Court of Auditors and allow a better coherence of European policies on this issue. This funding represents 11% of the world public funding for development. Europe is the first to help developing countries with 55% of the world aid, and the EU manages 20% of it. It is fair enough to mention it. This could be shaped as an alternative version of the budget, including any EU funding, mentioning the long term projects that the Union is financially supporting and also unbudgeted engagements
- > We regret the persistent budgetary discrimination between different member states. Particular agreement highlighting national disparities should be reconsidered during every budget discussion. What was fair yesterday may no longer be since every member state have developed at different speed and since the Union itself have enlarged. You cannot seemingly pretend to be a full member and asking for particular dispositions on various policies. Particular conditions left to historical members are hindering cohesion with new entrants. They should therefore be erased.
- > To overcome such a stocking state of fact, the YEPP calls for a large double majority in the Council to agree on budgets. It would allow negotiations on the well being of a particular disposition rejected by particular interests. In any case, this debate should take place within a much more ambitious one, the one of the EU's finances and financial institutions.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca

Resolution **"Support for democratic opposition in Cuba"**

YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

The Youth of the European People's Party meeting in Mallorca:

Notes:

- > The increasing repression and the continuing denial of basic human rights in Cuba.

Recalls:

- > The European support for the Varela-project, a petition initiated by the Christian Democratic Party demanding a popular referendum on basic human freedoms and rights.
- > The wave of repression in the year of 2003, meaning that many leading persons within the democratic movement and the Varela-project were arrested, and 75 persons sent to prison up to 28 years.
- > The European support of the democratic opposition in Cuba, devoted to fight communism and totalitarianism.

Believes:

- > That the presence of a centre right political movement in Cuba is important.
- > that a united European front towards the Cuban regime is of value for the democratic movement in Cuba.

Expresses

- > The support of the desire of Cuban based democratic opposition to be independent from Miami based opposition groups, which is disabling Castro to accuse them of being American mercenaries.

Calls

- > Upon the secretary general, High Representative of the CFSP, Mr. Javier Solana to take personal contacts with the Cuban democratic opposition in order to assure the support of the European Union.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca



Resolution "Keeping an ageing Europe vital for future generations"

YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

The YEPP council meeting in Mallorca in June 2006,

A. Recalls that

1. the population of Europe is ageing: more people will retire the coming decades, the increase in life expectancy results in a longer enjoyed retired life and the number of people contributing to the pension system (pay-as-you-go/ or pension funds) is decreasing
2. The total EU population is decreasing, however in general the number of people in their active life period is decreasing faster than the total population
3. The welfare systems in the EU member states provide a valuable and comprehensive support for the retired. However, the aging of the population jeopardises the public finances of almost every EU member state
4. most EU pension systems still do not meet the challenge of coping with an ageing population
5. future generations in Europe face an increasing financial burden due to population ageing if no system changes are pursued. That is, if current fiscal rules are left unchanged, the public deficit and debt levels will continue to increase and will eventually explode
6. by 2040 two people between 20 and 65 need to support one pensioner, compared by four people nowadays
7. currently the European Commission is working with the open method of coordination to urge member states to alter their pension system

B. Considers that

1. the principle of solidarity between the retired and younger generations remains important
2. the politics of pension systems lies within national authority, however is a European common problem as each country will face the negative effects if one EU member runs into public deficit and debts
3. if no system changes are pursued, this will effect the finances of our generation and the next generations
4. the longer we wait, the more pensioners will become an electoral force that will block any system change in the future

C. States that

1. each government will undertake all that is necessary to make pension systems ready for the future to avoid future generations to carry the financial burden alone.
2. measures should be taken to extend working lives for the elderly
3. each government should reduce public debts, to reduce pressure on future generations
4. to continue the process of open method of coordination on high pace and with increased importance

and asks the YEPP board to express this within all related political platforms.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca



Resolution "Confronting Illegal Immigration – Eliminating Human Trafficking" YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

Given the Resolution on Better Integration- Sustainable emigration as approved by the YEPP Council in Prague 2006 and continuously acknowledging the problems human trafficking creates, not only for the victims who are often traumatised but also for the governments and officials who need to respond with specific measures, we the Youth of the European People's Party want to draw attention to human trafficking.

Aknowledging that, during the 1990s, an overwhelming increase has been recorded on attempts of illegal infiltration of immigrants whose main destination was either the three wealthier EU member states (France, Germany, UK), or smaller countries with flourishing economies. Thus, in the international migratory flows of human labour force, two new illegal forms, smuggling and trafficking of human beings, were added. After the EU member states laid firmer restrictions on the applications for asylum, immigrants of this category started seeking entry in the EU via criminal networks. Immigrants living under these conditions tend to become indebted with large pecuniary sums which they usually cannot pay off. As a result they personally become subordinates to their traffickers, often along with their families, resulting in a lot of victims (especially women and children originating from countries of the developing world) becoming objects of sexual exploitation and ill-treatment.

Noting that, the main reason for the spread and strengthening of human trafficking and smuggling as an illegal "enterprising" activity constitutes eventually the dream of a better life combined with the vulnerability of individuals seeking it, mainly women and minors. Beside that, trafficking and smuggling are blossomed in such a manner due to the fact that officials in the public administration of many developing countries, either being those of origin or transit – states to the final destination of trafficked human beings, can easily be bribed.

At the same time, research in secret service files and police data among transit countries have shown that the majority of illegal immigration distribution networks are exceptionally well - organised and formed in an internationalised cellular manner, in order to secure the identity of the superior hierarchical structure of the network, if any member of theirs is arrested.

The Youth of the European People's Party considers that despite the fact that the European Union at institutional level has reached a consent regarding the serious effort necessary for the confrontation of human smuggling and trafficking already since 1993, many member states have fallen short of effectively opposing illegal immigration and its by-products, smuggling and trafficking of human beings. YEPP recalls the three Joint Actions that were agreed upon under the terms of the Third Pillar of Maastricht in 1996 – 1997 as well as the special meeting held in October 1999 on the fringe of the European Council held in Tampere (Finland), concerning the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union. One of the milestones of the Council Conclusions was the development of a common active policy, in close cooperation with countries of origin and transit, for the prevention and repression of all forms of trafficking in human beings, with special emphasis on the problems faced by vulnerable demographic groups such as women and children. Nevertheless, immigration policy was at the top of the agenda of the European Council in Thessalonica where an agreement was reached upon the Commission's proposal for the creation of a European agency for the management of the external borders. Still, there did not seem to be any political will for the creation of the mechanisms that would ensure the adoption and implementation of all the necessary measures. YEPP acknowledges the work of Council of Europe on the formation of a binding convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

YEPP questions the lack of common standards for border policing and patrolling. YEPP states that the external borders of the EU are of common responsibility for all of the 25 EU - Member States, and furthermore believes that the organisational, financial and judicial questions are to be answered on the European level. YEPP also respects the Protocol of Palermo in its definition of human trafficking and urges for all EU – Member States and neighbouring countries to ratify this protocol.

YEPP remembers "The European Conference on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - Global Challenge for 21st Century" brought together, on september 2002 , the EU Member States, Candidates Countries, neighbouring countries such as Russia, Ukraine, the NIS, and the countries of the Stabilisation and Association process as well as US, Canada, China, regions, international organisations, non governmental organisations and institutions of the European Union, initiated by European Commission under the STOP II Programme. Also YEPP remembers conclusions of "Hight level Conference on Combating Trafficking in Human beings (especially in woman and children)" in March 2006 organised by the OSCE.

Under these conditions, YEPP urges the European Union and its member states to take strict measures in dealing with smuggling and trafficking of human beings and proposes to:

- > Introduce an effective strategy combining and balancing punitive measures with protection of human rights, in order to make on the one hand human trafficking "non – profitable" and less interesting to criminal organisations, and on the other to provide maximum protection and respect to the personalities of each and every victim.
- > Take, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council held in Tampere, broad initiatives, at both an EU and a member state level, for collaboration with countries of origin and transit, in order to effectively combat the criminal organisations that are elevating the smuggling of human beings.
- > Realise a Europewide database whereby information about victims of human trafficking is stored and made retrievable for police forces, and extend the bilateral judicial and politional agreements in order to combat the criminals organising human trafficking. This database must contain information on found people, missing people and of people traffickers.

- > Work towards the general application of biometric technology to minimise visa and asylum fraud as well as the use of heat-sensitive scanners at the most vulnerable access points like major harbors and key transport routes.
- > Call upon the governments (or give strong recommendation) of the countries of origin and transit (particularly new border states) to accelerate introduction and adoption of the counter-trafficking action plans and counter-trafficking legislations, start awareness raising campaigns, create institutions for defending trafficking victims and implement controlling mechanisms to prevent (minimize) illegal flow of the trafficking victims through the country.
- > Introduce stricter border control through the creation of a European agency for the management of the external borders, as proposed at the Thessalonica European Council, especially in the Euro – Mediterranean coastal and on the eastern terrestrial border line, in a manner that would effectively reduce elevated costs for border protection among countries located in Euro borders eastward. This could be achieved through the formation of a European border control force both coastal and terrestrial.
- > We need a framework for the external border policy, with sufficiently remunerated public servants (to minimise corruption) and a clear European penal and penitentiary system must be created to have an allround European institutional framework to combat human trafficking in all its variations.
- > Reduce the requirements for dirty – demanding – dangerous jobs (the so called three – D Jobs) that are characterized as the main pull factor for illegal migration and thus provide the conditions for the evolvement of smuggling and trafficking of human beings.
- > Enact humanitarian visas similar to the US T-visa regime without the premise that the victims should be helping out authorities against their traffickers.
- > Secure the proper treatment of the trafficking victims' during the trials in order to avoid re-traumatizing them or damaging their well – being, especially in cases of trafficked children.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca



Resolution "Transparent European Finances"

YEPP Chairmen's Conference: Palma de Mallorca, Spain: 15-18 June 2006

A. Noting;

1. that EU members have the responsibility to uphold the trustworthiness of the EU
2. that Public Money should be spend in a responsible and transparent way
3. that European solidarity from the EU citizens can only be uphold if the EU spending is controlled and carried out in a transparent way

B. States that;

1. all European spending should be examined on effectiveness and efficiency
2. accountability on spending must be transparent and accessible
3. strengthen control on the EU budget, that is spent on the national level, by national parliaments
4. national courts of auditors have to control the EU spending in the EU member states
5. the European Parliament must get full budgetary responsibility
6. to reduce costs in the EU budget the European Parliament should only conduct their meetings in one place.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 17th June 2006, Palma de Mallorca

Resolution on "Stonger European Defense Policy"

YEPP Seminar: Budapest, Hungary: 12-15 October 2006

The process of the European Constitution is crawling at the moment. We, the Youth of The European People's Party, hope that the European Constitution will be ratified in the near future. Nonetheless, one of the targets of the Constitution that has to be developed further - with or without the Constitution - is the European defense cooperation and the security guarantee between the member countries of the European Union.

Many examples of disasters during the last decade in Europe and in North Africa, such as the catastrophes in 1990's in the Balkan area and the tragedy in Darfur region, show that the European Union has to develop stronger military power and defense cooperation. The Union needs transatlantic relations, NATO and European-American active cooperation, but Europe has to be able to act also independently as a significant player in global politics also in military and security affairs.

European military cooperation is needed to protect the area of the Union countries and especially to create the capability to protect human rights, democracy and freedom, if necessary, in Europe and in neighborhood areas

The members of European Union should immediately agree to enforce the collective security guarantee between the EU member states. If one of the EU member countries is threatened or attacked, it must be regarded as a threat against all EU members.

We, the members of YEPP, state that:

- > The EU countries have to strongly develop the defense cooperation and security policy structures of the EU
- > EU has to be able to act also solely, if needed. This includes also EU member states which are not members of NATO
- > The EU has to be able to decisively protect the human rights and democracy and prevent humanitarian catastrophes also providing military assistance effectively and quickly when needed and under European command
- > The EU has to be able to decisively protect the human rights and democracy and prevent humanitarian catastrophes also providing military assistance effectively and quickly when needed and under European command
- > The EU countries should immediately agree to enforce the collective security guarantee between the EU members. If one of the EU member countries is threatened or attacked, it must be regarded as a threat against all EU members. And we should also provide a strong support to any European state outside EU, if they are threatened

Adopted at the Council Meeting at the YEPP Seminar, 14th October 2006 (Budapest, Hungary)

Emergency resolution concerning North Korea

YEPP Seminar: Budapest, Hungary: 12-15 October 2006

Acknowledging;

1. The suppression, starvation and human rights abuses inflicted by communist leader Kim Jong-il upon his fellow Koreans.
2. The consistently secretive and evasive dealings of North Korea with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – in particular the ordering of IAEA inspectors out of the country in December 2002
3. The statements of the IAEA over the past decade, which indicate that it cannot draw conclusions that North Korean nuclear activities have been either peaceful or safe.
4. That famine since the 1990s, which has killed approximately two million people, is indicative of the total disregard of the communist state for the well being of its people. The people of North Korea are reliant upon international humanitarian aid, particularly from South Korea, in order to avert total destitution.
5. The further danger and instability caused to world peace and security by the recent testing of nuclear weapons by the communist dictatorship in North Korea in the past week.
6. The restraint shown by Japan when articulating clearly its intention to refrain from building up nuclear weapons in response to North Korea's reckless actions.
7. The provocative and unconstructive comments of Iran in relation to North Korea's actions.

YEPP, meeting in Budapest, calls for;

- > The United Nations Security Council to use the current unity between its permanent members, and the united nations as a whole, to produce a clear and precise resolution on the current crisis.
- > The South Korean government, in solidarity with its fellow peoples, to continue its policy of humanitarian assistance to North Korea so long as the international community is satisfied that such aid is reaching the most needy.
- > North Korea to readmit the IAEA weapons inspectors in order to begin a process of transparency and accountability in relation to nuclear activities.
- > The imposition of an embargo on the trade of weaponry with North Korea, the freezing of the financial assets of President Kim Jong-il and a ban on the importation of non-essential luxury goods.
- > China, so often viewed as North Korea's strategic partner, to engage in the formulation of a UN resolution and as such leave North Korea no opportunity to develop a legitimate stance on this issue.
- > To use all available means of international law to ensure that Kim Jong-il accounts for his crimes.
- > The active support for North Korean democratic forces abroad in their contribution to the future of a better North Korea.

Adopted at the Council Meeting at the YEPP Seminar, 14th October 2006 (Budapest, Hungary)



Resolution on Fair Tourism

YEPP Seminar: Budapest, Hungary: 12-15 October 2006

Noticing that international tourism in many places and cases is missing the opportunity to:

- > strengthen local democracies and the respect of the rule of law
- > serve as an engine to the local economy
- > pay appropriate salaries to employees realize their potential and protect their health
- > ban child labor and prostitution
- > protect the natural and cultural environment
- > lead to mutual cultural enrichment

Regretting that:

- > many tourists are not conscious of their responsibility to promote fair tourism
- > many tour operators are not seriously engaged in increasing the benefit and limiting the damage of international tourism to the receiving peoples and countries
- > the EU and national governments in Europe do not sufficiently contribute to fair tourism through enforcement in their own countries, active information campaigns, promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships for fair tourism and support to local populations through development cooperation

Given the fact that:

- > international tourism is one of the fastest growing businesses with big potential to play a major part in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and financing development
- > Europe, its population and its private sector constitute a major share of world tourists and tour operators

Considering that:

- > The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and NGOs specialised in fair trade in tourism have developed the necessary tools and criteria to make tourism fair and exploit its potential as major promoter of sustainable development and poverty reduction

Keeping in mind that:

- > The principles of fair tourism are fully compatible with the goals and objectives of YEPP and its member parties to
- > promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development
- > universally respect human rights,
- > fight corruption, international crime and terrorism,
- > promote democracy and the rule of law, and
- > preserve cultural identity

YEPP demands that:

1. UNWTO, and other development organizations:
 - a. audit and certify the implementation of criteria and standards for fair tourism they co-develop.
 - b. realise projects and programmes that support fair tourism and allow the local population to engage in the promotion of fair tourism.
 - c. create awareness among tourist operators in developing countries on fair tourism and the economic potential as well as responsibility they have, such that fair tourism develops from within the countries as well.
2. A network of NGO is designated (or created) which issues, promotes and administers a "fair tourism certificate" based on the criteria and standards developed by UNWTO and other development organizations.
3. European Governments and the EU:
 - a. support the development and international recognition of a "fair tourism certificate" both financially and technically for use within the EU and in developing countries.

Further YEPP appeals to:

1. tourists:
 - a. to ask their tour operators before travelling, how far the principles of fair tourism are respected, assess the offers which are acceptably "fair" and make their choice accordingly.
 - b. to take the opportunity to get to know the culture of the country they decide to visit, and respect it.
2. tour Operators:
 - a. to comprehensively inform tourists so that they know where they are going and what they are contributing to. In order to avoid the earnings from international tourism flowing into the hands of dictators, criminals or terrorists and to avoid getting involved in economic transactions with illegal authorities.

- b. to develop internationally recognised criteria for a “fair tourism certificate” together with development organizations, European Governments and the EU, in order to contract more and more local service providers who respect the certificate criteria and in particular the international labor standards, the standard environmental regulations, the tax regulations and the procedures to receive area development and building permits.

YEPP and its member parties commit to raising awareness of the need to achieve greater progress in making tourism increasingly fair among their members, mother parties and the media and actively lobby the respective institutions for the implementation of the demands expressed by YEPP in this resolution. YEPP also commits to respect the principles of fair tourism as far as possible when organising its conferences, seminars and meetings.

Adopted at the Council Meeting at the YEPP Seminar, 14th October 2006 (Budapest, Hungary)



Resolution "Ensuring Mental Well Being in Europe"

YEPP Seminar: Budapest, Hungary: 12-15 October 2006

Acknowledging:

- > The fact that in any given year an estimated 18.4 million Europeans aged between 18 and 65 suffer from major depression
- > An average of 58,000 people in the European Union commit suicide each year and it is believed that ten times this number attempt suicide.
- > That across 28 European states, the EU, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland, which have a combined total of 466 million people, 127 million are affected by at least one brain disease.
- > The European Brain Council has estimated the total cost of brain disorders to be €386 billion in 2004, or €829 per European citizen. This comprised direct medical expenses (hospital stays and medication) of €136 billion, indirect expenses (lost work days and productivity) of €179 billion direct non-medical expenses (informal care and social services) of €72 billion.
- > In 2004 9 million people suffered from addiction disorders (excluding nicotine addiction), 21 million suffered from affective disorder (including depression and bipolar) and 41 million suffered from anxiety disorders (panic disorders, obsessive compulsive disorders and phobias).
- > The link between mental health, conduct disorders, addiction and crime levels, particularly among young people. While the total costs of addiction in Europe totalled €57 billion in 2004, excluding nicotine, the European Brain Council has estimated that the cost of addiction related crime is conservatively estimated at €53 billion.
- > The enormous and unquantifiable suffering which sufferers of mental illness endure as well as the stress and sadness which such disorders create for the families and friends of victims.

Noting

- > The recent resolution of the European Parliament on Mental Health which called for among other things; the substantial differences in proportional spending on mental health as among Member States of the EU, defence and respect for the basic civil and human rights of mental health sufferers, a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency response, increased funding for research into mental disorders and an acknowledgement of the difference in disorders between men and women, and more rigorous monitoring by the EU of inhumane practices in relation to the treatment victims of mental disorders.
- > The Green Paper of the European Commission which sought to promote greater awareness of the problems of mental health in Europe.

YEPP, meeting in Budapest, calls for;

1. The humane and proper treatment of sufferers of mental disorders to be a key important criteria for EU enlargement. Countries in negotiations with the EU about possible accession should be given assistance by the EU to meet desired standards of care. The correct treatment of persons in large institutions should be a particular concern for those assessing possible accession of a country.
2. The family, as the most basic and important unit of society, should be given the necessary resources to enable it, as much as is possible and practicable, to care for victims of mental disorders in the home. Resources should include sufficient carers allowance, adequate provision of respite care as well as training and information.
3. The orientation of health services toward early screening and monitoring of mental disorders. This requires the integration of a wide number of disciplines including; social welfare, care services as well as local government. The early detection and monitoring of latent mental disorders is essential in order to limit as much as possible personal suffering, health care and other societal costs.
4. Deinstitutionalisation Individual care to be a preferable trend in the area of mental health care. Large institutions can often exacerbate mental disorders as well as increasing the stigma which victims experience. Where care in the family is not possible community care and co-operatives of sufferers of mental health should be given the necessary resources to develop.
5. which seek to inform the public of the prevalence and effects of mental disorders as well as challenging discrimination of mental health sufferers.
6. Member States to recognise that almost 40% many of prisoners suffer from some sort of mental disorder and as such require, during and after internment, targeted and effective mental health care.
7. Governments to recognise the correlation between addiction, particularly substance abuse and alcohol, and mental health. Areas where addiction and crime are prevalent should therefore be primary areas for initiatives to improve and detect mental health disorders.
8. Governments to recognise the link between eating disorders and the popular images communicated in the media about body size and shape. This is a mental health issue particularly relevant for young women.
9. A recognition that the ageing populations of Europe will lead to an increase neurodegenerative diseases and as such greater investment is needed, particularly in the realm of the 7th Framework Programme, in research into the determinants of mental disorders and possible therapies and treatments.
10. Governments to each produce a national strategy for the prevention of suicide as well as substantial suicide awareness campaigns, these measures should intrinsically linked to initiatives combating drug and alcohol addiction.

Adopted at the Council Meeting at the YEPP Seminar, 14th October 2006 (Budapest, Hungary)

Resolution on a "Comprehensive European Policy for the Middle East"

YEPP Seminar: Budapest, Hungary: 12-15 October 2006

Given, that the goal, for which the European experiment was founded, peace in the European continent, has:

- > succeeded for more than 50 years
- > succeeded only in the Union territory

Considering that,

- > several problems, which the EU, is faced with (illegal immigration, asylum seeking, xenophobia, racism etc), are related with the long lasting disputes in the Middle East.
- > 11 years after the adoption of the Barcelona Process and after the application of the European Neighbourhood policy, a successful European Democracy – promotion policy, is far from assured.
- > the long lasting political problems in the Middle East, continue being a threat to the international peace and security
- > during the past months, we have witnessed the war and destruction in Lebanon, the escalation of violence and the suffering of thousands of civilians
- > The Treaty of the European Union, title I, article 17, which states that, "The Union shall...to assert its identity on the international scene, in particular through the implementation of a Common Foreign and Security Policy....."

We, the Youth of the European Peoples Party, call:

- > For the EU, to promote the nations of the Middle Eastern area, to build a better future.
- > For the EU, to be active, constructive and supportive, in trying to ensure, that the post conflict era is one of peace and not of confrontation in the Middle East.
- > that the EU, must strengthen, dialogue and cooperation, in the framework of Barcelona process, regarding issues of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).
- > That under the present circumstances, it is essential to place an emphasis on deepening the Barcelona Process and improving its working methods. An issue, that will probably be on the agenda of Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers Council at Tampere, 27-28/11/2006.
- > That the EU, must play a more constructive role in the Israeli – Palestinian conflict. The peaceful resolution of this conflict is the key of achieving a sustainable peace in the whole Middle Eastern area, the backyard of Europe. The EU and its member states, must observe the implementation of the Road Map, which is the advisable method, which can lead the bloodstained Middle – Eastern area to a viable solution.

Adopted at the Council Meeting at the YEPP Seminar, 14th October 2006 (Budapest, Hungary)



Resolution: "Unity in Diversity.

A religious alternative for peaceful community life in Europe"

YEPP seminar: Kortrijk/Bruges/Brussels, Belgium: 7- 10 December 2006

Despite the fears of all Europeans and Turkish Authorities on the visit of the Pope in Istanbul, finally it turned out a success.

Noting that the visit of the Pope in Turkey constitutes alone a success as a religious approach. The attitude of the Pope is worthy of our praise, as it constitutes a unique chance for approach between Christians and Muslims. We consider the ignorance of the special characteristics of the two religions to constitute the main reason of extreme ideologies and violent behaviours to occur. Thus YEPP considers that the formation of a new era in World – Security policies after the 9/11 attacks could be altered through a peaceful approach between Christians and Muslims via their religious leaderships and that this prospect constitutes a better solution for a peaceful community life within people with different religious predomination in Europe, preventing the main danger for social cohesion and political stability in many European states to occur in the future. Thus the common statement of the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch for the respect of personal freedoms at least in religious matters can form the base of a new era in the relations with the Muslim world, constituting a counterpoise in the policy of "war against terror" and becoming the mainstream that could lead to the isolation of radical elements that develop their action based upon the supposed adversity of Christians and Muslims.

The Youth of the European People's Party considers that

- > The European Union member states should give accent in the approach of different religious communities aiming at the comprehension of diversity as a solution to face the hatched violence and the intensifying religious fundamentalism. This objective could be achieved through an intensified collaboration with the supreme authorities of all moderate religions allowing their faith to show their own different ways of approach towards one another.
- > We call upon the European Union to open channels of communication with the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch in order to form a constructive dialogue and try to safeguard the roots, traditions and values of Christianity as a part of European Identity. At the same time however political leaderships should approach moderate non Christian religious leaders aiming to counter-fight elements of religious fundamentalism that mainly are responsible for the religious violence that did occur during the past few years.
- > The religious diversity should be protected effectively from the member-states as we Europeans need to keep in mind that Europe constitutes a unity in diversity. Thus the reactions of xenophobia that are covered up in the cloak of protection of Christian characteristics should be confronted effectively.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, Belgium, 9 December 2006



Resolution "Strengthen European Economic Clusters"

YEPP seminar: Kortrijk/Bruges/Brussels, Belgium: 7- 10 December 2006

Acknowledging that:

- > Emerging countries (especially the BRIC states) compete with the European economy
- > European economy networks are still underdeveloped or only developed in some areas
- > European economy (especially the large part of small and middle sized companies) miss out on millions of Euros because of bad networks or bad information possibilities
- > Our economies don't have enough educated workers for special tasks in areas of strong clusters
- > Clusters are strongly related to competitiveness and innovation

Noting that:

- > Different cluster initiatives are existing with different tasks and sizes in a few areas
- > Innovation and innovation networks will become even more important in the future, as the EU Council of Ministers, gathered in Lisbon has agreed upon.
- > The link between clusters and competitive advantage has been proved by Harvard Professor Michael E. Porter in the last years
- > In many sectors of the economy European wide benchmark possibilities are missing

YEPP seminar in Kortrijk, calls for:

1. European wide cluster initiatives supported by the national and regional governments, but led by the economy, which:
 - > Organize and coordinate networks
 - > Create synergies with network management
 - > Help to combine clusters which are divided through country frontiers
2. The different local and national governments to
 - > Recognise the correlation between clusters and economic success and the link between successful clusters and the need for sufficient high skilled workforce
 - > Strengthen education and to adapt parts of the higher education to cluster needs
 - > Promote new clusters with investments in research and technology which are useful for the clusters
 - > Make a significant part of the government funding for research programs available for industry related research and for academic and joint research programmes
 - > Strengthen links between Industry, 3rd level Institutions, European Universities and EU Institutions. For the EU, to broad the range of space research to players other than the conventional space industry: encourage transfers from research activities to industrial applications and value added services which go beyond the strict context of space
 - > Orient their economic policy and services toward clusters. And implement a strategic view of how to promote the strengths and competitive advantage of their clusters.
 - > To find the right policy mix to promote clusters
 - > To unify intellectual property rights in Europe
3. The EU to:
 - > Make European wide benchmarks available for companies to simplify comparisons between different companies and to promote innovation
 - > Promote innovation with European research programmes only for industry related research
 - > Promote education and flexibility of workforce especially for engineering with a European wide campaign. The campaign should at the same time help to increase the percentage of women studying in engineering faculties.
 - > Invest research and development budgets in different sectors with a weighting according to their importance and future trends and to choose in each sector the projects according to their excellence and regional cluster strengths.
 - > To avoid fragmentation when investing in different industry sectors.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, Belgium, 9 December 2006

Emergency Resolution "the Europeanization of Serbia"

YEPP seminar: Kortrijk/Bruges/Brussels, Belgium: 7- 10 December 2006

Acknowledging that Serbia plays a major role for peace and stability in the Balkan region and thus for Europe as a whole,
Noting that the Balkan region is undoubtedly European soil and constitutes a vital periphery of the European Union, both politically and economically,

Recalling the integration offer extended to the Balkan region by the European Council 2003 in Thessaloniki,

Recognizing that Serbia is currently at a crossroads with several difficult challenges,

Welcoming that Serbian authorities do not consider conflict as an alternative to solve ethnic problems,

Keeping in mind that NATO has conditionally invited Serbia to join its Partnership for Peace programme at the Riga Summit,

The Youth of the European People's Party urges

Serbia to:

- > Strengthen Serbia's Europeanization process in order to be ready to integrate in the EU under the Helsinki process,
- > quickly implement the new laws adopted by the Serbian Parliament in order to underline the Governments will to stick on the Europeanization process for the country,
- > intensify cooperation with ICTY in The Hague,
- > Enhance the good relations with neighbouring states and try to efficiently deal with any problems occurring in the future aiming at the stability of the Balkan region.

The European Union to:

- > Assist Serbia on its Europeanization process, aiming to help the pro-european Serbian political forces to pioneer ways towards the European ideals and standards.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, Belgium, 9 December 2006



Resolution on recent developments in Georgia-Russia relations

YEPP seminar: Kortrijk/Bruges/Brussels, Belgium: 7- 10 December 2006

The political relations between Georgia and Russia which have not been without problems since the collapse of the Soviet Union, have been deteriorating since the "Rose Revolution" with breathtaking speed and reached extreme tension recently, after the Georgian government detained four Russian military personnel and accused them of being Russian spies. The unexpected and draconian reaction of the Russian government to this minor incident has resulted in the imposition of punitive sanctions against Georgia:

The Russian ban against Georgian wine, mineral water, fruits and other products that started already in early spring, 2006, has taken a stronger form; issuing Russian visas and residence permits to Georgian citizens has been stopped; Russian police have hounded ethnic Georgian citizens in order to detain them and deport them (these actions are undertaken with little regard for human rights); enterprises of ethnic Georgians in Russia have been closed until further notice; all flight connections between Georgia and Russia have been interrupted; bank transfer operations between Georgia and Russia have been also stopped.

Another worrying development has been the sole support of the Russian government for the separatist elections in South Ossetia and the demands being made to the Georgian government to recognise these elections.

This complicated situation has attracted the attention of the international community; all agree that the solution should be peaceful and that the two neighbouring countries should find ways towards a mutually beneficial coexistence and partnership. The dialogue should start immediately and while this is the stance taken by all, the process has nonetheless reached a deadlock.

Worried about the aforementioned facts and considering the fact that Georgia and Russia are direct neighbours with the tradition of close political, economic and cultural relations

Recognising that energy security and stability, which is one of the key issues nowadays in Europe and worldwide, is closely connected with the democratic developments and stability in Russia and its neighbour countries

Having in mind that peaceful solution of the frozen conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia is very much dependent on balanced and reasonable cooperation between Russia and Georgia.

The Youth of the European People's Party:

Calls upon the EU to:

- > Assume a strong position on the recent developments in Georgia-Russia relations;
- > Exert influence on both Georgian and Russian governments to show good will and start constructive dialogue.
- > Appeal to the Russian government to:
 - > Cease the punitive actions against Georgia and Georgian citizens;
 - > Cease supporting separatist regimes in the uncontrolled Georgian territories (and thus interfering in the domestic affairs of Georgia).

Adopted at the YEPP Council, Belgium, 9 December 2006



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