



## **Adopted YEPP Resolution on “Fair Tourism”**

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, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006 (Budapest, Hungary)*