



Emergency resolution on the recent developments in Russia

Taking into account that:

1. recent efforts to close down the offices of British Council in St. Petersburg and Ekaterinburg involved harassment and intimidation of individuals who continue to work for this institution as well as of diplomatic corps of EU member;
2. the elections to the Parliament of Russian Federation was followed by the repressions of state authorities against political opposition;
3. the elections itself and its procedures were acknowledged as not meeting democratic standards by the international observers;
4. Economic blockade and economic sanctions that are being forced upon neighboring nations that are considered by Russian Federation as their sphere of influence (cases of Ukraine, Georgia, Estonia, etc.).

YEPP calls upon European Union and its member states:

- to express the support to the United Kingdom on its stand with Russia regarding unacceptable behavior towards British Council as well as to give clear signal that this type of behavior will have negative consequences in all fields of bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
- to put all the efforts to ensure that Presidential elections of 2008 in Russian Federation would meet democratic criteria and in one voice demand Russian Government to respect the rights of political opposition.
- to work out common position on recent developments in Russia basing it first of all on the values of a pluralistic society and only after that to evaluate the importance of EU's economical interests.

YEPP calls the Russian authorities:

- to ensure free work of NGOs in the civil society of Russian Federation;
- to guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of coalition to all groups and organizations;
- to promote initiatives which give Russian population access to other ideas, cultures and languages.

Adopted at the YEPP Council, 19th January 2008