



**General REPORT:**  
**YEPP Chairmen's Conference**  
**"Europe: Road to Social Cohesion"**

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

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

In the afternoon, several Presidents or responsables of the different YEPP organisations joined for a meeting in the national headquarters of PSD, where 33 persons talked a little bit about the current political situation in their country and

their party. The day was closed with a dinner in Oeiras (a city near Lisbon), that was hosted by the City Hall representatives.

On Saturday YEPP had the privilege to have the visit of two Prime-Ministers at the Conference room in the hotel: the Prime-Minister of Portugal at the time and actual President of the European Commission (Mr. Durão Barroso), and the Prime-Minister of the Netherlands (Mr. Peter Jan Balkenende). After a welcome word of YEPP President (Daniel Bautista) the Prime-Ministers started to talk about the friendship between Portugal and the Netherlands and focused their interventions on the necessity of having a stronger union between the Member States of the European Union, especially after the enlargement of the E.U. to 10 new countries. Mr. Peter Jan Balkenende showed his gratefulness with the invitation of Mr. Durão Barroso to come to Portugal, and confessed it was a pleasure to start his visit with the presence in a YEPP meeting with so many European centre-right youth organisations. Mr. Durão Barroso, after welcoming all to Portugal, spoke about the recent tragedy that took place in our neighbour country (Spain), and focused his concerns about the last terrorism acts all over the world. The Portuguese Prime-Minister and President of PSD gave his personal opinion and expressed that we are really in the middle of a war after the tragic day of 11<sup>th</sup> of September, a war that is different of all the ones we see on TV. Mr. Durão Barroso finished his speech by praising JSD, telling that this youth organisation of the PSD is the biggest in the country, one of the biggest in Europe, being an example to follow by all the partners, including the ones in Europe. Mr. Barroso praised the motivation and the enthusiasm of the JSD, and underlined the importance that JSD always had in the support to PSD in the Government and building a better country. In the afternoon the YEPP Council Meeting was held where 2 working papers were approved : One about "Research and Development" and the second one about "Competitiveness in an Enlarged Europe".

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