



Resolution on the violence against ethnic minorities in Serbia

Acknowledging that:

A wide range of minorities live in the territory of Serbia and Montenegro,

Recognizing that:

The number of ethnically motivated attacks, especially involving minorities in the Voivodina province in Serbia & Montenegro has increased intensively in the past few months. According to reports of a Serbian news agency, a great number of such incidents occurred since the beginning of 2004. During these acts of violence, many members of the Hungarian minority were injured seriously, and several hundreds of graves, mostly in Croatian and Hungarian cemeteries were destroyed,

Due to these ethnic conflicts, the proportion of different ethnic groups might change in Serbia.

It is important that the situation in the Voivodina province is normalized immediately in order to prevent an escalation.

Believing that:

The majority of the population in Serbia and Montenegro condemns the events mentioned above,

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

- *calls for* Serbian authorities to act in a more efficient way to prevent further ethnically motivated violence,
- *welcomes* the fact that the Parliament of Serbia & Montenegro recently adopted the Charter of Human and Minority Rights, as well as the Serbian government, after negotiating with Hungarian minority politicians, set up a committee dealing with violence against people of other nationalities
- *believes* that orientation towards the European Union is the only way for Serbia and Montenegro to stabilize its democratic political structure

- *supports* the aim of the leadership of Serbia and Montenegro to attain EU membership, provided it meets the required democratic and economic criteria of accession. Therefore, YEPP urges Serbia and Montenegro to protect minorities against all kinds of aggression, in line with the principles and guidelines of the Council of Europe and the European Union.

Adopted at Council Meeting, Rhodes (Greece), 31 July 2004