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Rebuilding Transatlantic Relations through Building Relationships:

YEPP calls for an EU-US Youth and Academic Exchange

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Stockholm (Sweden), 09/04/2022

Recognizing that

- While the transatlantic friendship was strong and well regarded amongst the people of both global powers, the past years have brought challenges to the forefront and lead to an increasing distance between the youth in the United States and the European Union.
- Populism, political shortsightedness and a narrowing focus on national interests endangers transatlantic cooperation.
- Innovation, prosperity, and peace can only be found if we work together as a global community. We need to combine our brightest minds and ideas to face the future.
- This can only be achieved through individual freedom, relying on free markets, building a state that cares for its people as pertains to the subsidiary principle and striving for excellence.
- The transatlantic partnership between the United States of America and the European Union, embodying the aforementioned values, lies at the heart of this global cooperation architecture.

Acknowledging that

- The building block for strong and sustainable transatlantic cooperation are empathic relationships between current and future leaders.
- Strengthening the transatlantic partnership means building strong relationships between future decision makers and leaders from the United States and Europe.



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- Exchange programs encourage young people to get to know the transatlantic partner country by living, working and studying across the atlantic.
- Exchange programs foster understanding for difference as well as common ground and help people to collaborate. Thus, being able to experience the realities of the other region, the narratives and way of life first-hand.
- Exchange programs open spaces for the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and innovation.
- Traveling, housing, and tuition expenses are prohibitive for many people from the US, as well as from the European Union.
- Exchange programs provide opportunities for undergoing a time in the partner country for more people and further enlarge the pool of US-EU relationships.

YEPP calls on

- The European Commission and Member States for the establishment of an Academic and Youth exchange program modeled after the successful ERASMUS exchange program of the European Union.
- The institutions of the European Union and its Member States to explore different avenues with potential donors, stakeholders, and sponsoring institutions moving towards the establishment of such a program.