

Procedure for the General Assembly

General rules

The wish to speak is indicated by raising the Committee placard. The authority of the Board is absolute.

Procedure and time settings

1. Presentation of the Motion for a Resolution (the Board read out the topic and introduce any Friendly Amendments, a member of the Proposing Committee reads out the Operative Clauses);
2. Points of Information (asked for by any Committees and answered by the Proposing Committee);
3. Defence Speech (maximum 3 minutes);
4. Attack Speech/es (maximum 3 minutes, in total);
5. Unfriendly Amendments:
 - a) Unfriendly Amendment is read out by the Board,
 - b) Unfriendly Amendment is defended by the Committee submitting it (maximum 1 minute),
 - c) (Usually) The Committee proposing the Resolution attack the Unfriendly Amendment (maximum 1 minute),
 - d) Open Debate on the Unfriendly Amendment (3 minutes),
 - e) Voting procedure on the Unfriendly Amendment – votes by show of hands,
 - f) Announcement of the votes and consequent adoption/rejection of the Unfriendly Amendment;
6. Open Debate on the whole Motion for a Resolution (maximum 30 minutes):
 - a) When there have been one or more Attack Speeches, the first point of the Open Debate will be made by the Proposing Committee (maximum 1 minute);
7. Summation Speech (maximum 3 minutes);
8. Voting procedure – the votes are collected by the Chairpersons;
9. Announcement of the voting results by the Board.

Friendly amendments

Put forward by the Proposing Committee, these are last-minute modifications aiming at improving the Resolution. Amendments are to be handed to the Board on a specific form (distributed to the Chairpersons) one Resolution in advance – or as early as possible for the first Debates of the day.

Unfriendly amendments

Put forward by a Committee other than the proposing one, these are last-minute modifications which are not accepted by the Proposing Committee and aim at improving the acceptability of the Resolution for the other Committees. The Board decide whether to accept or reject such an amendment. The criteria for this decision are twofold: 1) Does the proposed amendment substantially change the Resolution? 2) Does it provide for an interesting debate? Unfriendly Amendments are to be handed to the Board in a specific form (distributed to the Chairpersons) one Resolution in advance – or as early as possible for the first Debates of the day.

Points of Information

These are requests for brief explanations of the meaning of specific words and abbreviations. Please note that translations are not Points of Information. Points of Information can, in addition to their place in the official order of the General Assembly, also be raised during the Open Debate.

Points of Personal Privilege

These are requests for a Delegate to repeat a point that was inaudible. Failure to understand the language being spoken does not make for a Point of Personal Privilege.

Points of Order

These can be raised by the Chairperson if a Delegate feels the Board have not properly followed Parliamentary procedure. Ultimately, the authority of the Board is absolute.

Direct Responses

Once per Debate, each Committee may use the 'Direct Response' sign. Should a Committee member raise the Committee Placard and the 'Direct Response' sign during the Open Debate, he/she will immediately be recognised by the Board and given the floor as soon as the point being made is concluded. A Direct Response can only be used to refer to and discuss the point made directly beforehand. If two or more Direct Responses are requested at once, the Board will decide which Committee to recognise. In this case, the second Direct Response shall only be held if it can be referred to the first Direct Response, so on and so forth.

Defence Speech

The Defence Speech is delivered from the podium by one member of the Proposing Committee. It is used to explain the rationale of the overall lines of the Resolution and convince the Plenary that the Resolution is worthy of being adopted. This speech can last a maximum of three (3) minutes.

Attack Speeches

Attack Speeches are delivered from the podium by individual Delegates from a Committee other than that proposing the Resolution at hand. Furthermore, they reflect individual opinions and are used to point out the flaws of the approach taken by the Proposing Committee and should propose alternative solutions. Oftentimes, Attack Speeches are concluded with an appeal to the Plenary not to adopt the Resolutions in their present forms – however, they can also come to the conclusion that, overall, the Resolutions are still worthy of adoption. Time permitting, a second Attack Speech may be allowed, as long as the overall duration does not exceed a maximum of three (3) minutes.

Summation Speech

The Summation Speech is delivered from the podium by one or two members of the Proposing Committee – in case of the latter, the microphone can only be passed once. It is used to summarise the Debate, respond to main, selected criticism and to once more explain why the chosen approach is the most sensible. It typically concludes with an appeal to vote in favour of the Resolution. This speech can last a maximum of three (3) minutes.

New Horizon Speeches

The New Horizon Speeches are delivered in-between two Debates. They are an innovation intended to inspire the Assembly and can be delivered by any Official or Delegate. Their topics need not be necessarily related to those of any Resolutions being discussed at the General Assembly; instead, it will be up to the speakers to decide upon them. The Board will in turn decide which speakers deliver the speeches, according to the following criteria: 1) the topics or approaches to them are innovative and likely to broaden the horizons of the Assembly; 2) the arguments are novel, inspiring, unexpected and/or interesting; 3) the speeches are likely to be delivered in a dynamic and entertaining way. As with all speeches, these can have a maximum duration of three (3) minutes.

Programme of the General Assembly

Day I – Friday, August 3rd, 2012

- 09:00–09:45 Opening of the General Assembly
- 09:45–10:35 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs III
- 10:35–10:40 New Horizon Speech I
- 10:40–11:00 Coffee-break
- 11:00–11:50 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy II
- 11:50–12:40 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs II
- 12:40–12:45 New Horizon Speech II
- 12:45–13:35 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I
- 13:35–15:00 Lunch-break
- 15:00–15:50 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II
- 15:50–15:55 New Horizon Speech III
- 15:55–16:45 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- 16:45–17:05 Coffee-break
- 17:05–17:55 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on International Trade
- 17:55–18:00 New Horizon Speech IV
- 18:00–18:50 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development

Day II – Saturday, August 4th, 2012

- 09:00–09:10 Resuming the General Assembly
- 09:10–10:00 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II
- 10:00–10:05 New Horizon Speech V
- 10:05–10:55 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I
- 10:55–11:15 Coffee-break
- 11:15–12:05 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I
- 12:05–12:10 New Horizon Speech VI
- 12:10–13:00 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- 13:00–14:15 Lunch-break
- 14:15–15:05 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- 15:05–15:10 New Horizon Speech VII
- 15:10–16:00 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy I
- 16:00–16:20 Coffee-break
- 16:20–17:10 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Regional Development
- 17:10–18:00 Closing Ceremony

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS III

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”: How can Europe be a safe haven for the oppressed, war refugees and the economically deprived alike, whilst safeguarding its border security?

Submitted by: Alma Apt (NL), Sophia Chahine (FR), Léa Dimant (ES), Despina Dimitrakopoulou (GR), Amy Dudley (IE), Zuzanna Gil (PL), Ksenia Kovannaya (RU), Mattia Mariotti (IT), Simonida Milutinovic (RS), Friedrich Clemens Püttmann (DE), Ance Rudzīte (LV), Reinis Tutāns (LV), Mattijs Vanmarcke (BE), Hanna Vardamatskaya (BY), Lucy Bradfield (Chairperson, IE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Supporting that in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1951, the search for asylum is a fundamental right and to grant asylum is an international obligation,
- B. Deeply disturbed by the existing differences between legislation on migration and its application,
- C. Fully aware that the number of asylum applications to the European Union (EU) has risen significantly in recent years¹,
- D. Appreciating the work of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), the Establishing the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR), the European Dactyloscopy (EURODAC), the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in their protection of migrants and refugees,
- E. Noting with regret that the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX) does not always function at its full competency,
- F. Conscious that the EU’s working age population will reduce by 12% by 2030²,
- G. Acknowledging the existence of the European Refugee Fund (ERF)³,
- H. Observing the Greek-Turkish border as the external boundary of the EU with the greatest flow of irregular migrants passing through,
- I. Concerned that EU Member States have the power to select the sector refugees work in and the salary they may receive⁴,

¹ UNHCR Global Appeal 2012–2013, Europe, p. 90.

² Adopted from Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström’s speech, on June 25th 2012 in Florence, Italy.

³ The ERF supports EU States’ efforts in receiving refugees and displaced persons and in guaranteeing access to consistent, fair and effective asylum procedures.

- J. Taking into account that the Dublin II Regulation states that irregular immigrants residing in Schengen Area States may be forced to move back to their home country or Schengen State of entry, which under current legislation, is responsible for the migrants,
- K. Alarmed that fear of deportation may hinder trafficking victims from contacting police or border authorities with details of their experiences;
1. Calls upon the Committee on Development (DEVE) to reduce migratory push factors in developing countries by improving their economic situations, thus decreasing the number of migrants to Europe;
 2. Requests a common asylum application form for all EU Member States to allow for:
 - a) asylum seekers to state preferred country of residence,
 - b) proportionate distribution of refugees according to the demographic and economic situation of host countries;
 3. Further requests inward migrant journeys to be funded by the ERF as stated under the “Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows” programme of the EU;
 4. Promotes cooperation between FRONTEX and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO);
 5. Proposes to reform EURODAC in order to have data accessible at all times for all Member States’ special authorities;
 6. Calls for clearer definitions of responsibilities for coast guards and all border agencies, such as FRONTEX, to strengthen maritime rescue services;
 7. Requests that refugees have equal access to the labour market as national citizens;
 8. Endorses the improvement of external border controls, by:
 - a) Implementing special training programs for current border police forces,
 - b) Tackling corruption at border posts by increasing the number of EU agents and control checks,
 - c) Increasing the number of working days FRONTEX is active,
 - d) Urging the European Commission (EC) Directorate General of Justice and Home Affairs to further monitor FRONTEX to ensure proficiency;
 9. Approves the implementation of Smart Borders throughout the EU and Schengen Area, such as the electrification of certain border crossings;
 10. Requests the establishment of an ‘EU Border Fund’, which aims to improve external Schengen border security, focusing on the borders to the East and the South of the Schengen Area and EU;
 11. Encourages cooperation between EU Member States’ and third countries’ police forces in order to prevent human trafficking and tackle the perpetrators of such instances;
 12. Calls for the establishment of a central body to carry out checks in EU Member States, to ensure that the implementation of rights of refugees and asylum seekers are upheld at all times.

⁴ European Commission Directive on the ‘Minimum standards on the reception of applicants for asylum in Member States’, 2003.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY II

Riding the innovators' brain wave: How can Europe's research and development infrastructure best balance our need to surpass those scientific borders that limit our progress, whilst respecting the ethical red lines that define our societies?

Submitted by: Bruno Jacobsén Alves (FI), Yannick Van Bogaert (BE), Sara Egli (SE), María Gil Juliá (ES), Giacomo Magnoni (IT), Monika Matyja (PL), Anna Nichols (IE), David Pfund (CH), Kateryna Popovych (UA), Gregor Rawert (DE), Adam Robertson (UK), George Schinas (GR), Iro Skopa (GR), Koen Verdenius (NL), Franziska Maier (Chairperson, DE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind that ethical considerations rest on the subjective judgements of social groups, cultural groups, and individuals,
- B. Taking note of Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Information Technology, or Cognitive Science (NBICs) being emerging sciences which may bring about unpredictable innovations,
- C. Taking into account that the current regulations on the testing of innovations in the fields of NBICs do not sufficiently cover potential long-term consequences,
- D. Concerned that the potential misuse of NBIC-technologies poses a threat to the national security of European Union (EU) Member States,
- E. Alarmed by the dangers of human enhancement which conflict with the fundamental ethical principles recognised by the 7th Framework Programme,
- F. Conscious of the existing fears that therapeutic cloning and regenerative medicine may interfere with a patient's mental and bodily integrity,
- G. Deeply concerned about the lack of public awareness regarding the differences between reproductive and regenerative cloning limiting progress in the latter,
- H. Bearing in mind that genetic screening on adults may lead to discrimination in the fields of health insurance and employment,
- I. Expressing concern that the biodiversity of global ecosystems is endangered through Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) offering advantages to their natural counterparts,
- J. Considering the Right to Protection of Personal Data as stated in Article 8 of the Declaration of Fundamental Human Rights of the European Union,
- K. Deeply concerned that the sensitive information of governments, companies and organisations is at risk of being accessed illegally by hackers;

1. Proclaims the priority of human safety over scientific progress;
2. Suggests that the early stages of research and development of NBICs for military purposes are conducted within highly secured research facilities;
3. Encourages EU Member States to familiarise themselves with potential security threats posed by NBIC technologies and to establish safety plans for potential attacks;
4. Requests that a new NBIC-technology, such as biotechnology for human enhancement, should only be implemented if it serves the original function, for example in the medical field;
5. Supports efforts to raise public awareness in the fields of emerging technologies, for example on regenerative medicine and cloning, through secondary education and their placement in public media programmes;
6. Calls for the results of genetic testing to be disclosed only to the doctor, the patient, and the legal partner of the patient upon request;
7. Strongly recommends that the EU maintains its current stringent policy on GMOs while encouraging further research in the field;
8. Recommends that a contracted working group funded by the 7th Framework Programme will conduct research on the development of Information Technology systems that satisfy the need for both internet privacy and security.

FACT SHEET

NANOTECHNOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE (NBICs)

Nanotechnology is the manipulation and manufacture of materials and devices on the scale of atoms or small groups of atoms.

Biotechnology is the use of living organisms by humans, for example through genetic engineering,

Information Technology is the technology involving the development, maintenance and use of computer systems, software and networks for the processing and distribution of data.

Cognitive Science is the interdisciplinary study of mind and intelligence, embracing philosophy, psychology, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, linguistics and anthropology.

DEFINITION OF SELECTED APPLICATIONS OF NBIC TECHNOLOGIES

Human enhancement is any modification aimed at improving individual human performance and brought about by science- or technology-based interventions in the human body.

Regenerative medicine is a term applied to new medical advances in which an understanding of the human genome allows us to use the body's own mechanisms to heal it. Expected advances include a host of new pharmaceuticals and, eventually, the ability to create new tissues for transplant.

Reproductive cloning is defined as the deliberate production of genetically identical individuals. It includes the process of taking genetic material from a cell of the body and transplanting it into an egg cell to produce stem cells.

Therapeutic cloning is a procedure in which damaged tissues or organs are repaired or replaced with genetically identical cells that originate from undifferentiated stem cells, thus stem cells found throughout the body.

Genetic screening is the analysis of DNA samples to detect the presence of a gene or genes associated with an inherited disorder.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are organisms whose genetic characteristics have been altered by the insertion of modified genes or genes from another organism using genetic engineering techniques.

EU POLICY

The **Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)** bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof. It was established in 2007 and will be followed by the Horizon2020 Programme from 2014 onward.

Ethical principles recognised by the 7th Framework Programme:

- the principle of respect for human dignity,
- the principle of futility,
- the principle of precaution,
- the principle of justice.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS II

The digital society – a mirror and catalyst of our lives: How to strike the right balance between the control needed to prevent cybercrime and the liberty necessary to foster social and economic innovation, artistic creativity and inter-connected communication?

Submitted by: Nikol Bujanić (HR), David Corish (IE), Johanna Fürst (AT), Maximilian B. Kiehn (DE), Anaïs Mousset (FR), Maria Oikonomou (GR), Lorenzo D'Eri (IT), Henok Ghebrenigus (NL), Mira Maletkovic (RS), Pepe Bono (ES), Zurabi Pirtskhalaishvili (GE), Cem Horasan (TR), Christopher Proctor (FI), Edgars Spudinš (LV), Gráinne Hawkes (Chairperson, IE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Welcoming the 2012 European Commission (EC) Communication 140 on cybercrime with particular regard to:
 - i) the fact that the Internet has become an integral and indispensable part of all aspects of our society and economy,
 - ii) the openness of the Internet as a global resource which knows neither national borders nor a single global governance structure,
- B. Observing that the Internet is a mass communication tool and provides a platform for users from contrasting and geographically separated cultural spheres to directly interact with each other where they otherwise would not,
- C. Emphasising that the structure of the Internet sets up both technical and cultural boundaries making it difficult to establish common moral values and single legal instruments for all users,
- D. Concerned by the public outrage caused by the internet regulation proposal Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA),
- E. Convinced that all creative content on the Internet has potential for monetary value,
- F. Considering access to unbiased and uncensored information on the Internet to be a fundamental right,
- G. Strongly supporting that the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights also apply to the virtual world – in particular their recognition of the right to privacy as a fundamental right,
- H. Observing that with the increased use of social networking sites, people's perception of privacy has radically changed, as they now voluntarily make personal information publicly available on the Internet,
- I. Declaring the implementation of the proposed European Union 'Data Protection Directive' 2013–15 will:
 - i) help the EU achieve its 2020 goal of a Single Digital Market,
 - ii) reduce the complexities and expenses involved in the process of intellectual property protection,

- J. Endorsing that the right to anonymity of internet users' Internet Protocol (IP) addresses exists only for those not suspect of having committed a cybercrime,
- K. Noting with deep concern that cybercrime has a negative impact on the economy,
- L. Convinced that the EU unitary patent system will:
- i) provide patents and copyrights which are valid across all 27 Member States,
 - ii) reduce complexities and expenses involved in the process of intellectual property protection,
 - iii) have a positive effect on Small Medium Enterprises since the level of protection gained does not depend on capital,
 - iv) help foster artistic creativity,
- M. Welcoming the concept of free payment services, which gives users the option of gaining privileged access to digital content at reasonable prices;
1. Proposes that cyber security becomes a joint competency of the EU;
 2. Supports the implementation of the EU cybercrime Prevention Centre as proposed by the EC Communication 140;
 3. Obliging ENISA to inform EU Member States about suspected cybercrime activity and to collaborate with their respective cyber security teams;
 4. Requests the revision of the now outdated Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, due to recent technological advancements;
 5. Seeks the immediate implementation of the proposed EU 'Data Protection Directive' for 2013–15;
 6. Recommends equipping internet devices and anti-virus programmes with easily accessible tutorials on Data Protection to educate consumers and users;
 7. Endorses the immediate implementation of the EU unitary patent system in all Member States;
 8. Calls upon the EC to propose a directive to harmonise legislation concerning digital creative content on a European scale;
 9. Encourages the use of innovative access-based consumption models for digital content such as Grooveshark, Spotify and 8tracks;
 10. Aims to introduce an EU 'e-commerce' purchasing website verification system similar to Google's 'trusted stores' as implemented in the United States of America to increase users' security online.

FACT SHEET

2012 European Commission Communication on Cybercrime 140 (Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament – Tackling Crime in our Digital Age: Establishing a European Cybercrime Centre). Stating the significant cost of cybercrime to society and calling upon the establishment of the European Cybercrime Centre, the communication summarises the Commissions' response to borderless cybercrime.

Artistic Creativity: The ability to produce new material through imaginative skill – whether a new solution to a problem, a new method or device or a new artistic object or a form.

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) is an international trade agreement that aims to help countries work together to tackle more effectively large scale intellectual property rights violations. It was rejected by the European Parliament on July 4th, 2012.

The **European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)** helping the EC, the Member States and the business community address, respond and, especially, prevent Network and Information Security problems. ENISA is a body of expertise set up by the EU to carry out very specific, technical, scientific tasks in the field of information security, working as a European agency. The Agency also assists the EC in the technical preparatory work for updating and developing Community legislation in the field of network and information security.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY I

Droughts, heat waves, extreme winters, floods and storms may be coming to already fragile European economies: Which measures to take to prepare for and weather through the expected future climate-related disasters and their consequences for the environment, public health and food supplies?

Submitted by: Craig Allen (IE), Elif Çelebi (TR), Rosaura Conti (IT), Mersina Mellidou (GR), Ümit Süleyman Onan (CY), Andrada Oprea (RO), Jiří Pour (CZ), Senja Radonjić (RS), Jenni Röynä (FI), Anton Rumyantsev (RU), Olga Popovych (UA), Dora Šercar (HR), Christiane Suchanek (DE), Victoria Bendiksby Wilkinson (Vice-President, NO)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the fact that the frequency of natural disasters is increasing due to climate change,
 - B. Keeping in mind that some areas in Europe are more exposed to natural disasters than others,
 - C. Aware that flooding is the most common climate related disaster and has the most destructive impact,
 - D. Bearing in mind that there are many organisations working in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), national offices and the Red Cross,
 - E. Realising that the existing principle of solidarity⁵ does not bind Member States to any concrete measures,
 - F. Regretting that there is a lack of motivation for countries to implement the relevant directives in a coherent and efficient way,
 - G. Bearing in mind that the economic losses caused by climate-related disasters can be reduced by being prepared,
 - H. Also bearing in mind that this might be especially important now due to the current fragility of the European economies,
 - I. Concerned by the fact that in some areas in Europe citizens cannot obtain housing and property insurance due to insurance companies not willing to take the high risks involved,
 - J. Bearing in mind that diseases which do not usually occur in Europe have emerged in the last couple of years due to a change in the climate,
1. Emphasises the need for global climate negotiations between governments followed by effective measures in order to reduce the amount of climate-related disasters;

⁵ The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) article 222. The principle of solidarity calls upon the Member States to act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if another Member State is a victim of a natural or man-made disaster.

2. Proposes that financial assets should be allocated to areas where climate-related disasters are more common and the economy more fragile;
3. Urges national governments to guarantee basic housing and property insurance for people living in high risk areas;
4. Encourages the integration of non-EU countries in the already existing warning systems such as European Flood Awareness System (EFAS), Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP);
5. Requests the encouragement of individual preparedness by providing training for people living in high risk areas, in order to decrease the number of fatalities and injuries caused by natural disasters;
6. Recognising the importance of the European Flood Awareness System (EFAS) as an early warning system due to its supportive role in ensuring a quick and effective response to climate-related disasters;
7. Solemnly affirms the role of the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), in order to provide information regarding emergency supplies to ensure a quick, effective and efficient response to potential disasters across the EU;
8. Welcomes the assessment report of the UNISDR as it provides valuable information needed for effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the future;
9. Asks for the upgrading of the sewage system in European towns to prevent damages caused by heavy rain;
10. Recommends European cities to maintain their green areas in order to have natural draining to keep excess water out;
11. Proposes that there is some land left uninhabited along the frequently flooded rivers in Europe in order to drain floods when there is a build-up of excess water;
12. Urges that local authorities do not drain natural swamps and bogs because they work as water reservoirs and can prevent floods;
13. Recommends European Governments to develop emergency plans for:
 - a) evacuation of inhabited areas in case of a climate-related disaster,
 - b) rescue of people who are captured within an area of climate-related disaster,
 - c) medication to those affected by climate-related disasters,
 - d) recovery of those who have been endangered,
 - e) distribution of food supplies and drinking water to everyone in need during a climate-related disaster,
 - f) preventing diseases that occur especially during climate-related disasters.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY II

Making every drop count: Given the “Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe” and the upcoming “Blueprint to Safeguard Europe’s Waters”, which targets should Europe set in terms of water efficiency and how can it balance affordability and environmental protection?

Submitted by: Lilla Barta (HU), Felix Brandt (DE), Nermin Elagouz (SE), Oleksandr Guzenko (UA), Kian Hunziker (CH), Rifat Köseoğlu (CY), Jan van Lieshout (BE), Leanne Mc Namara (IE), Evelien Scheffers (NL), Waltter Suominen (FI), Marco Zanotto (IT), Tiago Correia Machado (Vice-President, PT)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply concerned by the lack of sanitation within Europe that results in wastewater being directly released into our water system (causing the spread of diseases and infections), which, according to the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe⁶, currently affects 85 million people,
- B. Alarmed by the fact that in 60% of European Union (EU) cities with more than 100,000 people, groundwater is being used at a faster rate than it can be replenished (Eurostat, 2009),
- C. Regretting the insufficient access to high quality water⁷ across Europe, especially amongst the twelve newest Member States,
- D. Deploring that 40% of water used is wasted due to leakage, resulting in economic loss and environmental damage (Eurostat, 2009),
- E. Aware that 18%⁸ of the European population live in water stressed countries⁹,
- F. Appreciating the developments driven by the European Commission (EC) over the past years, namely the ‘Nitrates Directive’, combatting the problem of eutrophication¹⁰,
- G. Acknowledging that, in southern European countries, agriculture accounts for more than half of the total national abstraction, rising to more than 80% in some countries,

⁶ The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations Development Group that is concerned with international public health. It was established on April 7th, 1948 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

⁷ Drinking water or high quality water is water safe enough to be consumed by humans or used with low risk of immediate or long-term harm.

⁸ The ‘Water Framework Directive’ is the current legal framework within which most matters related to water management are addressed.

⁹ Water stress occurs either when the demand for water exceeds the available amounts during a certain period or when poor quality limits the use of said amounts.

¹⁰ Eutrophication can be described as “the enrichment of bodies of fresh water by inorganic plant nutrients (e.g., nitrate, phosphate). Waters choked with algae turn cloudy and discoloured, losing recreational function as well as posing risks to health.”

- H. Deeply convinced that, although access to affordable water is a basic human right, our usable water supply is depleting rapidly,
- I. Confident that, with adequate technology, household appliances have the potential to save up to 50% in water consumption¹¹,
- J. Concerned by the lack of education and awareness regarding the effective and responsible use of water amongst European citizens,
- K. Noting that Europe is one of the world's largest importers of virtual water¹² (152 Gm³/year);
1. Encourages the establishment of a Europe-wide water labelling system – 'The Blue Drop' –, a common scale on products, stating the amount of virtual water consumed during production, giving the consumer the possibility to choose water friendly products;
 2. Recommends that, where possible, all water treatments which require electrical energy consumption be carried out at night in order to benefit from night time electricity rates, thus ensuring greater affordability;
 3. Instructs local governments to provide home water treatment systems which are to be specific to local circumstances;
 4. Emphasises the importance of complying with the EU standard on pipe infrastructure in order to combat leakage;
 5. Further emphasises that:
 - a) all new construction must comply with regulations which can be tested by various means, such as 'smoke testing'¹³,
 - b) the piping of existing buildings must be checked and replaced if necessary,
 - c) regular inspections using infrared technology must be carried out to ensure effective water usage;
 6. Highlights the necessity of research into advanced technologies aimed at improving water conservation;
 7. Supports short-term solutions in order to instantly and effectively reduce overall domestic water consumption, namely through methods such as 'Hippo, the Water Saver'¹⁴;
 8. Calls for the implementation of 'Water Credits', a Europe-wide water taxation scheme in the industrial sector, which, following the example of the 'Carbon Credits'¹⁵, would be allocated according to the consumption levels of companies at a given time;
 9. Further calls for these credits to be redeemable if the wastewater is treated in accordance with European legislation and regulation;

¹¹ Cf. *EU Water saving potential (Part 1 – Report)*, Ecologic – Institute for International and European Environmental Policy, Berlin, Germany, Jul. 19th, 2007.

¹² In the context of trade, 'virtual water' (otherwise known as 'embedded water', 'embodied water' or 'hidden water') refers to the water used in the production of a good or service.

¹³ Smoke testing consists of a physical test in which non-toxic, artificially created smoke is forced through waste and drain pipes under a slight pressure, this way helping to identify leaks.

¹⁴ A Hippo Bag is a polyethylene unit that opens to look like a box which can be placed in the cistern of a toilet and save up to three litres of water every time the toilet is flushed.

¹⁵ A carbon credit is a generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or the mass of another greenhouse gas with a carbon dioxide equivalent.

10. Suggests that a substantial proportion of taxes relating to water be reinvested into water infrastructure;
11. Requests that all EU Member States include education on efficient and responsible water use in their education curricula;
12. Calls upon all Member States to educate their citizens on the scarcity of water and how to use it more efficiently through media campaigns and workshops;
13. Appreciates the work of the EC and its implementation of the 'River Basin Management Plans' (RBMPs)¹⁶, all the while requesting that the EU provides local governments with the funding and knowledge necessary for continued water conservation and development and maintenance of treatment facilities;
14. Urges the creation of a common European database compiling legislation, documents, research and studies concerning water issues;
15. Invites cities, towns, villages and other localities to install rainwater harvesters linked to storage tanks to reduce the need for groundwater abstraction;
16. Proposes that waste management authorities provide semi-treated sewage to local agricultural enterprises in an effort to reduce artificial nitrogen application, while disposing of public waste;
17. Calls for the creation of an 'Urban Sanitation Plan' aimed at abolishing the lack of sanitation in Europe by 2025, based on and expanding on the method applied by the RBMPs:
 - a) to evaluate and record the current status of sanitation infrastructure within a certain region,
 - b) to assess their particular needs,
 - c) set out the plans to meet acceptable levels of sanitation and functioning water recycle,
 - d) to coordinate its implementation with the regional partners.

¹⁶ As part of the 'Water Framework Directive', the 'River Basin Management Plans' i) record the current status of water bodies within the river basin district, ii) set out the measures planned to meet the objectives and iii) act as the main reporting mechanism to the EC and the general public.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Defence policy making in an energy dependent Europe: What should be the European priorities in the context of the NATO–EU–Russia relations?

Submitted by: Yiğit Akdemir (TR), Thomas Avender (AT), Giulia Bandera (IT), Karim Ben Hamda (NL), Eric Berrou (CH), Hana Ivana Breitenfeld (HR), Răzvan Enciu (RO), Maria Herczeg (SK), Alyona Matveeva (RU), Aleksander Musiał (PL), Megan Smith (IE), Stella Tsantekidou (GR), Nini Vidvei (NO), Filip Živković (BE), Oleg Shymanskyi (Chairperson, UA)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Conscious that the European Union's (EU) security is highly dependent on imported energy supplies,
- B. Alarmed by the extent of Russian energy supplies to the EU, accounting for 34% of gas imports in 2010¹⁷,
- C. Conscious of the need to maintain gas imports from Russia,
- D. Taking into account the fact that Russia cut off gas supplies to Belarus and Ukraine during 2006–2009 disputes,
- E. Concerned that Russia is able to use gas cut-offs to create political and economic leverage over European states,
- F. Fully aware of the volatile relationship between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the past and present,
- G. Noting with regret that the controversy created by the NATO Ballistic Missile Defence System (BMDS) led to a deterioration of the Russia–NATO relationship,
- H. Recognising Russia's ambition to maintain its nuclear deterrent capability and expand its energy market,
- I. Emphasising the current inability of European countries to cope sufficiently with external military and terrorist threats due to the:
 - i) inefficient operation and production of military resources,
 - ii) current financial crisis,
 - iii) lack of joint EU military leverage,
- J. Pointing out the absence of a legal framework between Russia and NATO in the context of BMDS and the desire of Russia to obtain legal assurance of BMDS goals,
- K. Keeping in mind that 21 out of 27 EU Member States are NATO members and consider this membership a guarantee of their security,
- L. Observing the necessity to maintain Russia as a significant trading partner in order to uphold beneficial diplomatic relations,
- M. Deeply disturbed by deteriorating European energy security, which is caused by the long term consequences of a rise in fossil energy demand,

¹⁷ Philip Lowe, Director General for Energy, European Commission.

- N. Stressing the ineffective nature of EU Member States' security policies due to their overdependence on NATO,
- O. Strongly encouraging all parties to uphold the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in order to avoid further breakdowns in NATO–Russia relations,
- P. Expressing its wish to increase the EU's role as a mediator between Russia and the United States of America (USA) in future NATO negotiations;
1. Welcomes the construction of the Nabucco West and Trans-Anatolian (TANAP) pipelines in order to diversify the providers of gas to European consumers;
 2. Calls for stronger involvement of the EU Member States in seeking alternative providers of gas, by:
 - a) initiating negotiations with gas producing countries in the Caspian and Caucasus regions,
 - b) developing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) technologies and trade with Qatar and the USA,
 - c) extracting the unexploited shell gas reserves of the Black Sea;
 3. Endorses further decreasing dependence on natural gas by research and investment in renewable energy sources;
 4. Recommends the signing of a multilateral agreement between the EU-27 requiring parties to share gas reserves in times of crises;
 5. Acknowledges the importance of cooperation within the Gas Advisory Council and the EU–Russia Energy Dialogue on gas and further encourages continuing such communication avenues between EU and Russia;
 6. Fully supports the implementation of a smart energy grid in EU member states;
 7. Welcomes the implementation of a 'pooling and sharing'¹⁸ approach within NATO's Smart Defence¹⁹ Policy;
 8. Proposes the intensified usage of 'pooling and sharing' of military capabilities within European NATO members as a means of decreasing its dependence on the treaty organisation;
 9. Emphasises the importance of NATO–Russia cooperation in military interventions or counter-terrorism measures;
 10. Urges NATO and Russia to establish a legally binding agreement ensuring protection of both signatories' sovereignty with regard to the BMDS operation.

¹⁸ Pooling and sharing – a method of military cooperation where the resources and facilities (*e.g.*, research centres) are brought together, *i.e.* 'pooled' for common use. The military capabilities are then "shared" through an integrated military system.

¹⁹ Smart Defence – a new approach of the NATO aimed at upholding military capabilities, while reducing costs and making spending more efficient. Smart Defence entails the prioritisation of military spending, specialisation of member states and closer cooperation. Working together states acquire capabilities that they could not afford alone.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Emerging powers, rivals, partners: How should Europe's trade cooperation look like with countries whose cultural and historical traditions we do not necessarily share and on whose resources and economic power we depend?

Submitted by: Florian Aziri (KS*), Robin Rönneke Belfrage (SE), Aisling Galvin (IE), Iryna Garbuz (UA), Yves Haverkamp (NL), Harry Heath (UK), Joshua Giovanni Honeycutt (IT), Daniel Kaiser (AT), Furkan Kavuncu (TR), Yuliya Miadzvetskaya (BY), Sinziana Andreea Sandica (RO), Zabeth Wagemann (FR), Nora Wilhelm (CH), Maja Zalewska (PL), Lukas Zelesinski (DE), Jan Bubiencyk (Chairperson, FI)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply concerned the European Union (EU) is highly dependent on other countries for certain categories of goods, services and resources, such as oil, gas and rare earths,
- B. Keeping in mind, while trade agreements consist of political and economic elements, generally trade deals with finding a compromise between ethical and economic interest,
- C. Acknowledging the EU's need to develop new economic relationships in order to re-establish our political strength that has waned as a result of euro crisis,
- D. Reaffirming the need to solve the euro crisis as a step towards regaining our former strength in international trade,
- E. Bearing in mind that unfair competition prevents the EU and nations such as China from having free trade and is evident by currency manipulation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) problems,
- F. Conscious that emerging economies are becoming or have already become more attractive trade partners than the EU,
- G. Realising with regret that the EU's most valuable good, intellectual property, is pirated and not sufficiently protected in countries such as India and China,
- H. Aware of the negative consequences that a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which stipulates recognition of IPR's in India, will have on the provisions of cheap generic drugs in Africa,
- I. Recognising that whilst protectionism in some of Europe's vital internal markets is necessary, it should not be able to excessively jeopardise our ability to negotiate effective trade agreements,
- J. Noting with regret that countries among the trade partners of the EU commit excessive human rights violations,
- K. Observing that the World Trade Organization (WTO), although effective as a negotiation platform and in settling some disputes, lacks the power and influence to make certain countries such as China abide by trade rules,

- L. Noting with deep concern the existence of unfulfilled potential for improvements of trade relations such as with China, with whom trade agreements have not been entirely updated since 1985,
 - M. Fully alarmed that foreign investment in the EU is declining, as a result of the increasing attractiveness of emerging economies,
 - N. Alarmed by the recent wave of cynicism and disenfranchisement in the European populace towards Europe's governance, integrationist policies and institutions,
 - O. Noting with regret that the Doha Development Round has failed to form a global trade consensus or compromise as a result of powerful trading nations stalling agreements;
1. Calls for the diversification of trade in strategic goods, by building on trade relations such as:
 - a) rare earth metals from countries with an accessible supply, such as Canada and Japan,
 - b) gradually replacing petrol with biodiesel from Brazil,
 - c) reducing manufacturing in China while increasing imports from other countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);
 2. Furthermore encourages scientific research aimed at seeking alternatives, such as green and nuclear energy, to the natural resources and energy production we currently depend on;
 3. Affirms the need to apply international pressure on China to control currency by:
 - a) joining with other discontented nations and having WTO negotiations,
 - b) reducing dependency on China by diversification and hence creating a need for China to appease other trading units such as the EU and United States of America (USA);
 4. Draws attention to the necessity for Europe to deepen collaboration in the fields of academia and research, thus increasing the number of foreign students and investors present in Europe;
 5. Urges the EU to increase the attractiveness of its markets by:
 - a) emphasising the skills and education of the European labour force,
 - b) developing partnerships with emerging economies in the field of Scientific Research and Development;
 6. Strongly supports the work of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO);
 7. Recommends according trade benefits, such as lowering import tariffs to countries that improve their policies concerning human rights, rather than enforcing sanctions on countries that violate them;
 8. Has resolved to add terms, such as tax breaks, to the FTA to allow EU pharmaceutical companies to operate in India;
 9. Emphasises the important role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in securing European farming, however accepts that dialogue needs to take place in the future in order to meet the fluctuating food requirements of Europe and the world, as well as making sure the CAP does not become exigent for European trade;
 10. Requests the EU to revise its position in the multilateral trade negotiations of the WTO and take the initiative in re-launching talks such as those at the Doha Development Round and Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Water – a spring of conflict: How can Europe act to strategically mitigate water stress as a catalyst for armed conflicts and migration in Africa and the Middle East?

Submitted by: Tim Backhaus (FI), Céline Boulanger (FR), Greta Bressan (IT), Hamish Docherty (GB), Jorge González (ES), Daniels Griņevičs (LV), Heleen Heysse (BE), Iman Idriss (FR), Joël Kurzweil (AT), Sarp Kürüm (TR), Ievheniia Melekhovets (UA), Felix Niemeier (DE), Daniel Novák (SK), Helena Pierides (CY), Olivera Popović (RS), Mark Brakel (Chairperson, NL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Acknowledging the fact that water has never been the sole driver of international conflict,
- B. Endorsing the Millennium Development Goals (Goal 7, target 10), which aim to reduce the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by half by 2015,
- C. Alarmed by the unsustainable pressure that ongoing urbanisation puts on water resources in the cities of Africa and the Middle East,
- D. Recognising that inadequate irrigation networks leads to crop failure in Africa and the Middle East,
- E. Concerned by the fact that existing aid does not reach all those rural areas that are significantly affected by water scarcity,
- F. Regretting that access to water is not universally recognised as a human right,
- G. Further deploring that the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention, 1997) still lacks the required number of signatures to enter into force,
- H. Noting with regret that Member States have not delivered on their promise to commit 0.7% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as part of the United Nations Millennium Project (UNMP),
- I. Noting that current water management technologies, such as desalination techniques, are too expensive and need further development to be implemented on a larger scale,
- J. Commending the use of recycled water by water-intensive industries such as the agriculture and energy industries,
- K. Aware that imports of water-intensive crops by the European Union (EU) can lead to water stress in the countries of origin,
- L. Approving of the work done by the World Water Council (WWC), which focusses on sharing good practices in water management and on building political commitment around critical water issues;

1. Urges the EU to fund those projects of the African Development Bank (AfDB) that target water hygiene and water stress in rural areas by:
 - a) constructing water distribution and irrigation networks,
 - b) making available filtering systems and boiling facilities,
 - c) supplying atmospheric water generators (AWGs) and rainwater harvesting facilities;
2. Proclaims that access to water is a human right and invites the United Nations (UN) to recognise this right;
3. Urges the Members of the United Nations to revise and ratify the Water Convention;
4. Proposes that countries that share large water basins (*e.g.*, countries around the river Nile and the river Jordan) establish permanent water management bodies that function as regional cooperation councils, which:
 - a) respect local governance structures,
 - b) facilitate new agreements on water quotas between countries,
 - c) establish common standards for water quality measurement and water distribution networks,
 - d) set goals for the sustainable management of water resources;
5. Strongly urges the Member States to fulfil their aid obligations of 0.7% of GDP as agreed in accordance with the UNMP;
6. Recommends Member States to allocate a larger part of their development aid towards the creation and maintenance of water infrastructure in African and Middle Eastern cities, such as Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Nairobi and Kampala;
7. Requests the EU to make funds available for private and public research centres with the aim of further improving existing water extraction and water management technologies;
8. Recommends water-intensive industries (*e.g.*, energy production, agriculture) in areas of water scarcity to recycle water and utilise efficient methods of production;
9. Supports a small-scale project whereby the EU provides incentives for the production of less water-intensive export crops in areas under water stress;
10. Encourages the WWC to focus more on water efficiency.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS II

Shifting demographic tides across Europe: How can we reform our welfare systems and transform our societies to cope with the challenges inherent in an ageing population and longevity?

Submitted by: Ralfs Alsins (LV), Juliette Grossmann (FR), Zuzana Holakovská (CZ), Ciaran Hyland (IE), Willem Koelewijn (NL), Andres Lestal (EE), Vukan Markovic (RS), Madlaina Michelotti (CH), Madalina Nastasa (RO), Nikolaos Pallas-Misailidis (GR), Lorenzo van de Pol (BE), Clemens Rawert (DE), Nina Cathrine Selmer (NO), Zahra Runderkamp (Chairperson, NL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting that Member States currently maintain their legislative rights to create and implement policies according to their current social and economic situation regarding the ageing population in their respective countries,
- B. Noting with deep concern that existing social security systems are not designed for the current and future demographic developments,
- C. Aware of the potential effects associated with sudden changes in the structure of social security systems,
- D. Observing a lack of awareness among Europeans regarding additional augmentation to state pensions,
- E. Regretting the lack of skill development for the workforce, thus hindering them from adapting to innovations within their respective fields of expertise,
- F. Recognising the difficulties associated with the social and economic integration of an ageing population in Europe,
- G. Conscious that the working population in the European Union (EU) is projected to fall by 48 million by 2050, whilst expecting an influx of 40 million immigrants in the same period²⁰,
- H. Alarmed by the financial burden of an ageing population for Member States caused by an increasing life expectancy and a decreasing fertility rate, leading to the projected dependency ratio of 50% within the EU by 2060²¹,
- I. Concerned by the lack of family friendly policies, resulting in decreasing fertility rates,
- J. Noting with appreciation the introduction of flexicurity to facilitate access to the labour market,
- K. Concerned by the heavy financial dependence of the elderly on their respective governments,
- L. Profoundly convinced that suitable living standards for retired people should be maintained,
- M. Alarmed by the negative effects of academic inflation and youth unemployment on welfare systems;

²⁰ *The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity*, Commission Communication, Oct. 2006.

²¹ *Green Paper – towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems*, European Commission, Jul. 2010.

1. Urges the Member States to implement the Multi-Pillar Pension System that is based on public pensions, occupational pensions and personal pensions;
2. Emphasises the importance of private pension systems;
3. Recommends national governments initiate a gradual increase in the retirement age, in accordance with average life expectancy and the current retirement age;
4. Urges the European Commission (EC) to add new actions to the Life Long Learning Programme concerning trainings in the private sector;
5. Further advises that national governments provide educational opportunities in order to diminish frictional unemployment;
6. Expresses its appreciation for the “European Year for Active Ageing” and encourages further social integration of the elderly population through:
 - a) non-governmental organisations’ (NGOs) volunteering programmes,
 - b) senior centres,
 - c) inviting them to provide aid such as family care;
7. Requests the implementation of income tax incentives for those who work past the legal retirement age;
8. Endorses the EU’s current Blue Card system;
9. Welcomes integration programmes, skill development and entrepreneurial classes;
10. Strongly condemns regulations that enable retirement before the set retirement age of the respective working group;
11. Recommends the introduction of gradual retirement schemes hoping to extend working life;
12. Encourages national governments to adopt family friendly policies, such as flexible hours for parents and parental leave, in order to raise the fertility rate within the EU;
13. Calls upon Member States to further apply the Common Principles of Flexicurity assisted by the EC and Employment Ministers;
14. Supports further establishment of local domestic geriatric care as an alternative to retirement homes as a means of lessening the financial burden;
15. Invites Member States to reform their educational systems by providing alternatives to higher education, such as apprenticeship programmes, vocational training and entrepreneurial classes.

FACT SHEET

Working population

Otherwise known as 'labour force', the working population is estimated as the total population aged 15–64 withing a given reason that is considered to be able and likely to work.

Dependency Ratio

The Dependency Ratio is an age–population ratio of those typically not in the labour force to those typically in the labour force.

Flexicurity

Flexicurity is a model which combines easy 'hiring and firing' to ensure greater flexibility for the employer and higher benefits for the unemployed to ensure security for the employee.

Academic inflation

The need for a higher entrance degree in many professions compared to the past. This requires people to study longer, resulting in less contribution to the social security systems.

Occupational pensions

The occupational pension is generated by a company or organisation for the benefit of its employees. Both employer and employee contribute to the fund.

Gradual retirement

Allows older employees, usually with long service records, to progressively reduce the working time and workload over a period of time instead of abruptly shifting from fulltime employment to retirement.

Lifelong Learning Programme

Enables people at all stages of their lives to take part in stimulating learning experiences, as well as helping them develop the education and training sectors across Europe.

Frictional unemployment

The time period between jobs when a worker is searching for or transitioning from one job to another.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS I

Navigating the maelstroms of the economic crisis: Which short-term actions and structural labour market reforms should the European Union pursue, whilst balancing competitiveness and social justice?

Submitted by: Flóra Bauer (HU), Sergio Blas (ES), Sigrun Fagerfjäll (SE), Erasmus Häggblom (FI), Nathan Hunter (FR), Ariane Keck (DE), Patrick Lavelle (IE), Dimitra Valentina Lountzi (GR), Tomas Mjartan (SK), Thomas Ovestad (NO), Anna-Helena Saarlo (EE), Olha Shvets (UA), Stan Van Wingerden (NL), Andris Šuvajevs (Vice-President, LV)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Gravely concerned that the mismatch between the education sector and labour market causes under and unemployment as indicated by the fact that:
 - i) about 30% of the European workforce is overeducated for their respective job,
 - ii) there is a shortfall in graduates for certain sectors in the economy,
- B. Observing that workers' qualifications are outdated due to a lack of lifelong learning programmes,
- C. Regretting that employers are reluctant to hire graduates due to their lack of work experience in the respective sphere,
- D. Pointing out that the achievement of targets, such as the European Union's (EU's) 2020 goal to reach 40% of 30–34-year-olds completing third level education, can devalue qualifications if Member States lower the bar in order to reach the targets,
- E. Aware of the fact that the longer a person is unemployed the more difficult it is to regain employment,
- F. Alarmed by the large number of long-term unemployed people who are not involved in retraining and government programmes,
- G. Convinced that certain areas such as the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and health sector and green economy have greater potential for employment,
- H. Taking into account that jobs for low-skilled workers are expected to fall by 12 million by 2020 while jobs for high-skilled workers are expected to rise by 16 million,
- I. Concerned that the Member States with the highest unemployment have the most limited ability to boost employment,
- J. Bearing in mind the success of certain Member States such as Germany and Belgium in reducing the effects of the crisis on employment by investing in short-time work schemes,
- K. Conscious that small and medium enterprises provide the majority of employment within the EU,

- L. Deeply alarmed that the youth (aged 15-24) are the most vulnerable group as indicated by the facts that:
- i) youth unemployment has reached a historic 22.4%,
 - ii) the young account for 30% of those in temporary employment,
 - iii) 28% of the young unemployed have had this status for more than twelve months,
- M. Aware that the vast differences between Member States in the employment sector resulted in the specific nature of EU employment policies,
- N. Deeply disturbed by the potential of a 'brain drain' from peripheral European countries caused by uniform unemployment benefits within a country, the mobility of the highly educated and differences in wages;
1. Urges the Member States to increase the availability of career counselling through the educational system, counselling offices and an online counselling platform to reach out to young people;
 2. Supports the operation of employment centres at a municipal level that are financed at a national level;
 3. Calls upon Member States to increase the number of training and re-educational programmes for the unemployed according to the needs of the current labour market;
 4. Recommends Member States to implement flexicurity more rigorously when their economic and labour market situation has improved;
 5. Reminds Member States that in reaching their Europe 2020 tertiary education targets they should strive to uphold standards of qualifications and educational establishments;
 6. Requests the EU to create a system of comparison of different lifelong learning programmes across the EU to increase their recognition in different Member States;
 7. Suggests the expansion and improved promotion of the Leonardo Da Vinci programme²² to increase its accessibility;
 8. Asks for greater cooperation between tertiary educational establishments and companies in areas such as internships, course content and funding;
 9. Endorses initiatives which support business start-ups such as the European Progress Microfinance Facility²³ in addition to removing legal and practical obstacles that are currently in place;
 10. Requests Member States to direct tertiary educational funding towards areas with high future employment prospects by:
 - a) providing financial assistance to students,
 - b) increasing investment in relevant courses and research;
 11. Agrees with the EU's 2020 targets concerning the percentage of Member States' gross domestic product spent in research and development and commends the involvement of tertiary educational establishments in this area;

²² The Leonardo da Vinci Programme funds practical projects in the field of vocational education and training. Initiatives range from those giving individuals work-related training abroad to large-scale co-operation efforts.

²³ The European Progress Microfinance Facility (Progress Microfinance), launched in 2010, increases the availability of microcredit – loans below €25,000 – for setting up or developing a small business. Progress Microfinance does not directly finance entrepreneurs, but enables selected microcredit providers in the EU to increase lending.

12. Reaffirms the need for budget-neutral tax shifts from labour taxes to environment taxes as proposed by the EU;
13. Recommends Member States to scale unemployment benefits based on former income and education level until unemployment reaches an acceptable level;
14. Calls upon the European Commission to set up a temporary fund investing in regions with the highest unemployment rate with the aim of stimulating employment;
15. Indicates that Member States could contribute a certain amount to the fund proportional to their GDP;
16. Calls upon national governments to encourage firms to place workers they intend to make redundant in the part-time sector and governments to cover the wage difference in the short term as carried out successfully by Germany and Belgium;
17. Invites the Member States to introduce free, professionally adapted language courses for immigrants;
18. Further requests Member States with a youth unemployment higher than their overall unemployment rate to consider tax breaks for companies who employ the youth;
19. Further recommends Member States to introduce programmes similar to the French TUTORAT to enhance:
 - a) the job potential of the old,
 - b) the integration of the youth into the labour market.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS I

A patchwork society torn between values and necessities: How can we offer everyone the chance to achieve a balance between professional ambitions and individual family plans, according to their own needs?

Submitted by: Annika Ader (EE), Caroline Brenski (DE), Christina Daubjerg Newman (DK), Adina Harlacher (SE), Maëlle Lafond (FR), Mattho Mandersloot (NL), Otilia Marinescu (RO), Ivo Morawski (PO), Lia Pachler (AT), Ieva Pastare (LV), Marie Poupinel (FR), Katja Simonen (FI), Evdoxia Tsoukala (GR), Aliaksei Varavin (BY), Monika Seidel (Chairperson, DE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into consideration that one of the Europe 2020 targets²⁴ is to increase the female employment rate to 60%,
- B. Deeply regretting that the Barcelona targets were not fulfilled by the majority of the Member States,
- C. Welcoming the establishment of the European Social Fund (ESF),
- D. Bearing in mind the vast variety of childcare workforce qualification levels throughout the European Union (EU) from undergraduates in Nordic countries to low or non-qualified employees in some Member States,
- E. Appreciating the work done by employment agencies in facilitating the re-entrance of parents not generating income to the labour market,
- F. Noting with regret the differences in the amount of time allocated for parental leave to different types of families, *i.e.*, same-sex partnerships, single parents, parents of children with disabilities,
- G. Noting with concern that in some Member States only one parent is entitled to take parental leave,
- H. Deeply alarmed by lack of possibilities for fathers to take paternal leave at all,
- I. Welcoming the proposal by the European Commission (EC) to extend maternity leave to 20 weeks with continued wages at a level of 100% and to give paternity leaves for two weeks with continued wages at a level of 100%,
- J. Approving the recognition by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF that a 24 week maternity leave provides extensive health benefits for mothers and children as mentioned in the European Public Health Alliance *Voting Recommendation on Maternity Leave* published on October 19th, 2010,
- K. Noting with deep concern the gender pay-gap of 16.5% as stated by the EC²⁵,

²⁴ The EU's ten-year growth strategy that establishes five key targets in various fields which should be fulfilled by the end of the decade.

²⁵ According to data from the Eurostat, 2010.

- L. Highly appreciating the efforts made to balance professional and private lives of employees such as the Slovenian Family Friendly Enterprises Certificate²⁶,
 - M. Noting with deep satisfaction the redistribution of domestic tasks in households where fathers took paternity leave as shown in Norwegian qualitative studies,
 - N. Noting with regret the small number of women and minorities represented in trade unions across the EU,
 - O. Bearing in mind the particularly low employment rate of women, especially mothers in family households,
 - P. Fully aware that unbalanced participation in domestic tasks remains a hindrance to social inclusion generating inactivity traps and unequal access to labour market;
1. Encourages further implementation of the Europe 2020 targets by the Member States;
 2. Decides to expand the timeframe for the implementation of the Barcelona targets within the Europe 2020 goals and awarding the countries with best practice;
 3. Reaffirms the implementation of the ESF programme targets by Member States;
 4. Urges Member States to ensure that only qualified workforce is employed in child care facilities in order to provide a safe environment for children, thus helping parents achieve a balance between family and work responsibilities;
 5. Calls upon Member States to implement a parental leave policy, which meets the following requirements:
 - a) a minimum of nine months can be taken, a third of which is to be allocated to the mother, a third to the father and the last three months according to the family's needs,
 - b) parents are given the choice not to take the leave,
 - c) the leave can be taken until the child reaches the national mandatory school age,
 - d) both parents receive a minimum of 75% of their wage during the leave;
 6. Supports the implementation of a tax reduction system for family friendly enterprises that promote facilities such as childcare, flexible working hours and telecommunication, following the example of the Family Friendly Enterprises Certificate;
 7. Calls for the introduction of tax incentives that would encourage fathers to make use of their paternity leave;
 8. Urges trade unions to promote the importance of their activity by providing lectures and workshops in schools, universities and workplaces, especially among the underrepresented groups;
 9. Further requests the employers to offer their employees training courses after parental leave in order to facilitate returning to work, and also stating the right to trainings in the employment contract.

²⁶ The Family Friendly Enterprise Certificate has been developed as one of the tools for effective and more quality human resources management within enterprises and organisations in the context of balancing professional and private lives of employees.

FACT SHEET

Female employment rate

According to Eurostat data from 2009 (quarterly *Labour Force Survey*), the employment rate of women in the EU-27 is 58.6%.

Barcelona targets

Ensuring suitable childcare provision is an essential step toward equal opportunities in employment between women and men. In 2002, at the Barcelona Summit, the European Council set the targets of providing childcare by 2010 to:

1. at least 90% of children between three years old and the mandatory school age and
2. at least 33% of children under three years of age.

(Eurostat, EU-SILC 2006)

European Social Fund (ESF)

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the EU's Structural Funds, set up to reduce differences in prosperity and living standards across EU Member States and regions, and therefore promoting economic and social cohesion. The ESF is also supporting activities in the Member States that promote women's employment, including projects that:

1. Promote women's access to, and participation in, all levels of the labour market and help close pay gaps and support women's financial independence;
2. Promote women entrepreneurs and women's participation in science and technology, in particular in decision-making positions;
3. Combat gender stereotypes in career selection and the professions and promote lifelong learning; and
4. Reconcile work and family life and offer support for childcare facilities and carers of dependents. Support the integration into employment of immigrant women.

(European Commission, European Social Fund, Women and jobs, 2011)

Parental leave

The Eurofound, a tripartite EU agency providing expertise on living and working conditions, defines parental leave as an "individual right to leave for men and women workers on the grounds of the birth or adoption of a child to enable them to take care of that child, for at least three months, until a given age up to eight years, to be determined by Member States and/or the social partners."

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

A union for and with a future: Starting from a *tabula rasa*, how should an institutional framework for a union of European people be designed?

Submitted by: Daria Chernomorskaya (RU), Matteo van Dijl (BE), Katarzyna Faszczewska (PL), Anna Garami (HU), Enno Hermann (DE), Panaghiotis P. Kalaïdhopoulos (GR), Eoin MacLachlan (IE), Arianna Magli (IT), David Meijers (NL), João Quartilho (PT), Clémence Rérolle (FR), Hardi Rosumovski (EE), Stefan Zoričić (RS), Jonáš Jančařík (Chairperson, CZ)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Considering the nature of the European Union (EU) to be essentially sound,
- B. Appreciating the achievements of the current political framework in connecting its diverse Member States, fulfilling the concept of ‘unity in diversity’,
- C. Recalling the statement: ‘Many people are losing confidence in a poorly understood and complex system to deliver the policies they want. The Union is often seen as remote and at the same time too intrusive’²⁷, which is as true today as it was eleven years ago,
- D. Recognising the existence of a real and perceived lack of democratic legitimacy of the EU, characterised by:
 - i) inconsistent election procedures for the European Parliament (EP) across the Member States,
 - ii) low voter turnout at EP elections,
 - iii) inefficient policy, *e.g.* in relation to the economic crisis,
 - iv) poor public image of the European institutions,
- E. Noting the inability of the EU to find a viable solution to the current economic crisis,
- F. Regretting the lack of political will of the Member States’ governments to take responsibility for the European project, specifically in terms of:
 - i) accepting the requirements of a functioning single currency – a fiscal and economic union,
 - ii) further political integration, especially in foreign affairs, immigration policy and border control,
- G. Realising the diplomatic and geopolitical potential of the EU,
- H. Supporting the principles of:
 - i) unity in diversity,
 - ii) democratic legitimacy,
 - iii) subsidiarity,
 - iv) transparency and accountability,

²⁷ White Paper ‘European Governance’, July 25th, 2001.

- v) solidarity between Member States;

- 1. Emphasises the central role of the EP as the crucial link between the European electorate and the executive power;
- 2. Proposes the endowment of legislative initiative equally upon the EP and the Council of the EU;
- 3. Calls for a common election system for the EP which would establish a strong link between the Members of the EP and their local constituencies and ensure the election results are announced on the same day;
- 4. Suggests the following changes to the office of the President of the European Commission:
 - a) the President be elected by the EP and confirmed by the Council of the European Union for a four year term,
 - b) the President be entitled to select the Commissioners who must be approved by both the Council of the EU and the EP, with the number of Commissioners being left to the discretion of the President;
- 5. Supports a gradual increase in competencies of the EU while adhering to the principle of subsidiarity;
- 6. Emphasises the need for a fiscal union for the euro area;
- 7. Urges the cooperation of the Member States in relation to foreign affairs, to enhance the influence and clout of the EU on the world stage;
- 8. Urges national politicians to be responsible in their approaches to the European project and to avoid the 'scapegoating' of the EU.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

Never-ending downgrades and bailouts: Which measures can the European institutions take to help stabilise the banking sector?

Submitted by: Manfredi Danielis (IT), Myrna van Dijk (NL), Julia Fahy (IE), Raasika Gaugler (CH), Bernat Just (ES), Dmytro Kharchenko (UA), Dimitris Krokos (GR), Daniel Kruczek (PL), Madli Kullaste (EE), Jannik Malte Meissner (DE), Balázs Nemes (HU), Conall O'Rourke (IE), Fabian Sommer (AT), Manar Youssef (SE), Luca Olumets (Chairperson, EE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Appreciating the existence of European bodies, such as the European Banking Authority (EBA), the European Central Bank (ECB), the European Stability Mechanism (ESM),
- B. Observing the public mistrust towards financial institutions leading to:
 - i) bank runs occurring in Europe,
 - ii) uncertainty among companies' stakeholders;
- C. Bearing in mind the past engagement of the financial institutions in reckless lending and excessive risk taking,
- D. Welcoming the Basel III regulatory standard as a suitable approach towards stabilising the banking sector,
- E. Aware that actions undertaken by individual banks in Member States can have severe effects on the European Union's (EU) internal market,
- F. Cognisant that insufficient credit supply can negatively influence the real economy,
- G. Keeping in mind the connection between the sovereign debt crisis and the banking crisis,
- H. Strongly supporting the proposed ESM as an instrument through which troubled financial institutions would be directly bailed out,
- I. Recognising that excessive risk taking can arise as a consequence from financial institutions being 'too big to fail', as they are under the assumption that they will be guaranteed a bailout,
- J. Conscious that while banks are profit-maximising businesses they also have responsibilities towards the society,
- K. Emphasising the need for cooperation between central banks of all EU Member States through the ECB,
- L. Acknowledges the role rating agencies played in bringing about the banking crisis,
- M. Convinced that the lack of effective common European regulation and supervision played a significant role in causing the banking crisis and creating:
 - i) a lack of accountability regarding bailout funds,
 - ii) a lack of transparency,
 - iii) irresponsible management,

- iv) excessive risk taking,
 - v) misleading accounting in the banking sector;
1. Proposes the postponed implementation of the Basel III regulatory standard upon all banking institutions within the EU until:
 - a) the respective Member State accomplishes an annual GDP growth of at least 2% for 2 consecutive years,
 - b) the year 2029 if the Member State does not meet the above mentioned criterion;
 2. Strongly requests the establishment of either temporary lending quota for banks for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and private consumers or the option for banks without an SME or private consumer department to meet the criteria through:
 - a) quota trading system,
 - b) liquid asset investments;
 3. Endorses the direct bailouts of European banks by the ESM provided the banks agree to meet the criteria set in clauses 1 and 2 as a prerequisite;
 4. Urges national governments to limit moral hazard, while simultaneously implementing the Volcker Rule, which legally separates investment banks and commercial banks, by:
 - a) ensuring that only commercial banks will be able to receive bailouts from the ESM,
 - b) having the national governments take full responsibility for possible future bailouts of their own banks should they not implement the Volcker Rule by 2020;
 5. Calls for the employment of the ECB officials to act as observers and advisers within national central banks to enhance further cooperation and take a step closer to a more integrated banking system;
 6. Approves the use of Long Term Refinancing Operations (LTRO) to relieve banks of market pressure when necessary;
 7. Has resolved to create a common European Business Fund to act as a mediator between companies, governments and rating agencies in which businesses have the option to contribute funds in exchange for unbiased ratings;
 8. Reiterates the need for an amnesty for whistle-blowers in reporting fraudulent practices.

FACT SHEET

BASEL III is a global regulatory standard on bank capital adequacy, stress testing and market liquidity risk agreed upon by the members of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in 2010–11.

The Common European Business Fund acts as a 'middle man' between rating agencies and companies. The main idea is to help eliminate bias and render credit ratings more objective by collecting funds from companies and paying the rating agencies collectively, thereby avoiding direct interaction.

The Volcker rule separates investment banking, private equity and proprietary trading (hedge fund) sections of financial institutions from their consumer lending arms. Banks are not allowed to simultaneously enter into an advisory and creditor role with clients, such as with private equity firms. The Volcker rule aims to minimise conflicts of interest between banks and their clients by separating the various types of business practices financial institutions engage in.

The *European Central Bank (ECB)* is the institution of the EU that administers the monetary policy of the seventeen member states of the euro area.

The long term refinancing operation (LTRO) is a cheap loan scheme for European banks introduced by the ECB toward the end of 2011 in a bid to help ease the euro area crisis. As the crisis escalated, banks have become less stable and now have less money to lend. The objective of the LTRO is to boost the cash flow in the market and avoid a severe credit crunch or collapse of the banking system.

The *European Banking Authority (EBA)* is an EU regulatory agency. Its activities include conducting stress tests on European banks to increase transparency in the financial system, namely by identifying weaknesses in banks' capital structures.

A *bank run* occurs in a fractional reserve banking system when a large number of customers withdraw their deposits from a financial institution at the same time and either demand cash or transfer those funds into government bonds or precious metals or a safer institution overseas, because they believe that financial institution is, or might become, insolvent.

A *credit rating agency (CRA)* is a company that assigns credit ratings for issuers of certain types of debt obligations as well as the debt instruments themselves.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY I

An interconnected Europe bound together by weak knots: Which priority measures should be taken to establish reliable, European Union-wide energy, communications, transport and knowledge infrastructures that will cater to the future market needs?

Submitted by: Luisa Edves (RO), Michael Finn (IE), Kilian Frank (DE), Oleksandra Gipsh (UA), Erik Kaunismäki (FI), Tim Keegstra (NL), Danilo Laban (RS), Elizabeth Leather (UK), Anastasia Lvova (EE), Valentina Marin (RO), Niklavs Matusevich (LV), Linda Szabóová (SK), Furkan Saygın Sener (TR), Sofia Zafeiriou (Chairperson, GR)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the fact that 96% of the European Union (EU) transport depends on the use of oil and oil products²⁸,
- B. Aware of the fact that the estimated cost for the development of transport infrastructure to match the rising demand up to 2030 reaches €1.5 trillion²⁹,
- C. Recognising the need to implement the Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area,
- D. Recognising the need for the coexistence of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and conventional energy sources, while bearing in mind the recommendations put forward by the International Energy Agency (IEA) to limit climate change to 2°C,
- E. Recognising that a Single European Energy Market is necessary in order to secure sustainable energy in the future,
- F. Noting with appreciation that smart grids provide reliable, secure, sustainable energy with minimum loss, enabling the smooth functioning of a European Single Energy Market,
- G. Aware of the fact that industry expectations versus future fuel mix scenarios already suggest that the world's power utility companies are already looking beyond current policies³⁰,
- H. Commending Open-Access online repositories, such as the Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (OpenAIRE), for facilitating the ubiquitous availability of scientific knowledge,
- I. Acknowledging the importance of strategic planning and harmonisation of the use of radio spectrum in order to deliver smart grid and other Information Technology based solutions,
- J. Welcoming the implementation of the Multi-Annual Radio Spectrum Policy programme, yet deeply concerned by the inefficiency and high expenditure of current radio networks,

²⁸ Roadmap to A Single European Transport Area, Putting sustainability at the heart of transport, European Commission, Mobility and Transport.

²⁹ European Commission, Transport, TEN-T, 'Transport Infrastructure: What do we want to achieve?'

³⁰ The shape of power to come, 12th PwC Annual Global Power and Utilities Survey.

- K. Emphasising the importance of the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Project Bond initiative, serving as leverage for private investments;
1. Advises the European Commission (EC) to look into the creation of an Oil Usage Trading Scheme for large players in the transport market, similar to the Carbon Emission Trading Scheme, in order to slowly lower the 96% oil dependency of the transport industry;
 2. Suggests concerned stakeholders, such as construction companies and local authorities, to preferably construct railways and roads next to power lines and vice versa in order to use synergy effects such as faster permit procedures and energy supply for electronic transport and cargo supervision along the transport network;
 3. Urges the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) to create an outline of the future energy market by comparing the recommendations set out by IEA to the expectations of major energy suppliers in order to adapt the European Commission Smart Grids Task Force (SGTF) and ENTSO-E proposals to future market needs and to direct the EIB funding under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) accordingly;
 4. Emphasises the importance of the relevant EU 20–20–20 targets and the challenges they present to the energy grid for future environmental concerns;
 5. Calls for the establishment of a larger number of electricity and Liquefied Natural Gas connections of the Third Energy Package Directive and Corridor Approach aiming at achieving greater economic benefits and higher security of supply;
 6. Expresses its appreciation for the expected results of the Expert Group for Regulatory Recommendations for privacy, data protection and cyber-security in the smart grid environment;
 7. Calls upon the Smart Grids Task Force to take into consideration the use of Cognitive Radio technologies for the transmission of real time demand and supply data via standard broadband networks in order to:
 - a) use the scarce Radio Spectrum more efficiently,
 - b) create a basic load for shared broadband infrastructure, thereby increasing Return on Investment for potential communication network investors;
 8. Invites public institutions within the EU, such as universities to become agents of transformational change, installing smart grid infrastructure in order to achieve energy efficiency by effectively distributing the resources not in use;
 9. Fully supports the sharing of research carried out in universities through Open Access networks;
 10. Awaits the introduction of a Human as a Service (HaaS) interface on the OpenAIRE website to make scientific researchers report links that already exist between Open Access and conventional publications to the database by awarding these users reduced access fees to conventional scientific databases;
 11. Notes with satisfaction that the Connecting Europe Facility boosts investments in regard to more effectiveness, competitiveness and growth in knowledge, transport, communication and energy sectors.

FACT SHEET

ENTSO-E

The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity represents all electric TSOs in the EU and others connected to their networks, for all regions, and for all their technical and market issues.

Smart Grids Task Force – SGTF

The Smart Grids Task Force (SGTF) was set up by the European Commission (EC) at the end of 2009. The SGTF reached a consensus over the last two years on policy and regulatory directions for the deployment of Smart Grids. The SGTF has also issued key recommendations for standardisation, consumer data privacy and security. Based on these results, during 2011 the EC has adopted a Communication on Smart Grids, issued a Mandate for Smart Grids standards to the European Standardisation Organisation and created an Inventory of Smart Grid projects and lessons learned in the EU. The EC has also adopted a Recommendation for the roll-out of Smart Metering Systems and issued Guideline for conducting Cost Benefit Analysis of Smart Grids projects in 2012.

Connecting Europe Facility – CEF

Connecting Europe Facility is a common infrastructure funding instrument for trans-European networks. The aim of the CEF is to streamline and facilitate EU support to infrastructures by optimising the portfolio of instruments available, standardising the operational rules for using them, and capitalise on possible synergies across the three sectors.

20–20–20 goals

The 20–20–20 goals of the EU2020 are a series of demanding climate and energy targets to be met by 2020, known as the '20–20–20 targets'. These are:

- A reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions of at least 20% below 1990 levels;
- 20% of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources;
- A 20% reduction in primary energy use compared with projected levels, to be achieved by improving energy efficiency.

'Third Energy Package Directive'

The Third Energy Package is a legislative package for an internal gas and electricity market in the European Union. Its purpose is to further open up the gas and electricity markets in the European Union. One of the core elements of the third package is ownership unbundling which stipulates the separation of companies' generation and sale operations from their transmission networks.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

European cities – hubs of social change and technological innovation: How can we sustainably transform our cities to be a greater part of the green economy?

Submitted by: Linnea Andersson (SE), Mareike Berger (DE), Glen Byrne (IE), Dominic Calvert (UK), Isidora Ćirić (RS), Maarie Dittrich (EE), Hugo Hoyland (FR), Violetta Kolisnichenko (UA), Cristian Moise (RO), Marta Ocon Barcelo (ES), Diana Orlovska (LV), Mico Sjöberg (FI), Aleksandra Sosnowska (PL), Cem Unat (AT), Andrea Stagni (Chairperson, IT)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Realising that urban areas account for 75% of global energy consumption and 80% of manmade greenhouse gas emissions³¹,
- B. Envisioning the future of urban areas as based on to the principles of sustainability and efficiency,
- C. Noting the absence of large-scale programmes aimed at developing and promoting such principles within European countries,
- D. Acknowledging the important role of organisations such as the Covenant of Mayors³² in promoting the sharing of best urban practices throughout Europe,
- E. Wishing for a stronger cooperation between local administrations and city dwellers in the area of urban planning,
- F. Alarmed by some common patterns of European urbanisation process, including:
 - i) the uncontrolled expansion of suburbs,
 - ii) the unexploited potential of dismissed industrial areas,
 - iii) the unequal distribution of green areas,
- G. Noting with regret the existence of the heat island effect (HIE)³³ in urban areas,
- H. Recognising the idea that access to green areas improves the quality of life for city dwellers, while contributing in diminishing the aforementioned HIE,
- I. Noting with regret that between 2007 and 2010 up to 40% of water was lost due to leakage in European pipelines leading to major water issues in urban areas³⁴,

³¹ *World Energy Issues Monitor*, London, United Kingdom, Feb. 2012.

³² The Covenant of Mayors is the mainstream European movement involving local and regional authorities, voluntarily committing to increasing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources on their territories.

³³ An urban heat island is a metropolitan area which is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas. The phenomenon was first investigated and described by Luke Howard in 1813.

³⁴ European Commission's *Water resource across Europe – confronting water scarcity and drought*.

- J. Taking into consideration the 'Water Framework Directive' (WFD) aimed at ensuring the quality of ground and surface waters,
 - K. Alarmed by the lack of adherence by companies to the WFD,
 - L. Disturbed by the fact that current low fines fail to discourage large corporations from violating the EU water regulations,
 - M. Noting with deep concern that in many urban areas grey water³⁵ is not adequately treated by Water Treatment Facilities (WTF) before being released into the water bodies,
 - N. Noting with regret the overconsumption of clean water in residential areas, especially in sparse neighbourhoods,
 - O. Appreciating the fare system for water supply existing in Spain, Italy and France, where water consumption is billed on a per litre basis,
 - P. Alarmed by the fact that the cities of the EU produce 3 billion tons of waste per year³⁶,
 - Q. Fully aware of the insufficient level of recycling within urban areas as well as a lack of disposal stations,
 - R. Noting with deep concern the inefficient use of heating energy and electricity in private housing, which accounts for 40% of total energy consumptions³⁷,
 - S. Expressing its appreciation for policies that promote low-energy housing, which exist in some European country such as Denmark and Sweden,
 - T. Aware that traffic congestion is a major contributor to the carbon dioxide footprint of urban areas,
 - U. Noting with regret the inefficiency of sustainable transportation due to the absence of adequate infrastructures,
 - V. Further regretting the lack of cooperation among different transport companies as far as schedules and transport network are concerned,
 - W. Deploping that in many urban centres the public transport system fails to adequately connect neighbourhoods with different socioeconomic backgrounds;
1. Urges the European Commission (EC) to establish a Green Model City Programme (GMCP) aimed at:
 - a) creating and promoting a new standard of sustainable urban development,
 - b) providing funding for urban development projects in selected cities;
 2. Recommends that the GMCP be based on an application process wherein municipal governments propose a plan detailing their strategy for meeting GMCP standards;
 3. Requests the GMCP to grant equal opportunities to applicants from less economically and/or socially developed backgrounds;
 4. Recommends that GMCP facilitate both public and private investments in the selected urban areas;

³⁵ Grey water is wastewater generated from domestic activities such as laundry, dishwashing, and bathing, which can be recycled on-site for uses such as landscape irrigation. Unlike black water, it does not contain human waste.

³⁶ *Being wise with waste: the European approach to waste management*, European Commission.

³⁷ *Balance sheets 2010–2012*, European Commission.

5. Encourages projects such as 'Renovate Europe' to maximise the potential of dismissed areas in order to create model communities that can inspire further development;
6. Calls for the establishment of awareness campaigns aimed at informing city-dwellers about the possibility to be involved in the decision-making process of urban planning;
7. Encourages municipalities to launch their own initiatives for the implementation of public and private green areas in urban settlements in order to reduce the carbon footprint of cities;
8. Encourages municipalities to provide equal access and distribution of green spaces by:
 - a) the creation of a minimum standard of square metres of green area per capita,
 - b) interconnecting the already existing green areas through pedestrian and cycling paths;
9. Encourages the European Commission to submit an amendment to the European Parliament and the Council on the Water Framework Directive in order to include WTF;
10. Requests that the aforementioned directive assess the criteria for allocating WTF according to the principles of economic viability, environmental and landscape protection;
11. Promotes the use of a system of rainwater tanks in residential complexes in all Member States through the establishment of European incentives in order to increase water reuse;
12. Recommends the Member States to adopt the per litre payment system combined with the increased usage of water meters;
13. Calls for the impositions of fines for corporations neglecting the WFD, which are proportional to the corporations' revenue;
14. Calls for the transformation of inadequate sewage systems in major urban areas in order to meet modern water sanitation standards;
15. Encourages the Covenant of Mayors to broaden its programmes by introducing targets concerning waste management;
16. Endorses the use of a container-deposit system³⁸ in order to increase the amount of recycling amongst city-dwellers;
17. Invites the local administrations to provide more waste collecting points and public dustbins within urban areas;
18. Request the implementation of an accessible waste separation system in public places;
19. Strongly approves of the implementation of a fining system for public littering;
20. Supports the European Commission Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) with special reference to:
 - a) a 3% annual renovation rate for public buildings above 250 cubic metres, which account for 40% of energy consumption³⁹ in the building sector,

³⁸ Container-deposit system is a collection of a monetary deposit on soft-drink, juice, milk, water, aluminium cans, paper bags, and/or other containers at the point of sale. When the container is returned to an authorised redemption container the deposit is fully refunded to the redeemer.

³⁹ Europe 2020 – Europe Growth Strategy.

- b) the obligation for individual energy meters, reflecting annual energy consumption and information on actual time of use;
21. Asks the EU Member States' parliaments to ratify the EED at the earliest opportunity, as soon as the European Parliament and the Council have approved it;
 22. Encourages the widespread adoption of:
 - a) insulation technology (such as fibreglass coat, ventilated façades),
 - b) domestic power generators and wind turbines generating more than ten gigawatts,
 - c) energy saving equipment to both household and businesses;
 23. Promotes the use of technologies such as the Bitcarrier system⁴⁰ to maximise transport efficiency by reducing traffic congestion;
 24. Further promotes cooperation between different transport companies in order to enable them to work in an interconnected way;
 25. Calls for the modernisation of transport and mobility network through the implementation of technology such as free Wi-Fi, in order to make public transport more attractive;
 26. Promotes the use of more sustainable transportation by expanding pedestrian areas, bicycle lanes and other forms of transportation facilities through bike renting and sharing schemes, carpooling and electric and hydrogen charging facilities;
 27. Encourages local authorities to ensure an adequate public transport system amongst residential areas, work places and recreational zones, in order to facilitate a sociocultural melting pot.

⁴⁰ The Bitcarrier system is a real-time traffic management and information system based on wireless networks. By scanning the Bluetooth and Wi-Fi signals emitted by mobile devices, the system makes use of anonymous data from the signals captured in order to provide information related to the flow of traffic in urban environments.

Ballinn 2012