



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES **JEUNES**

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71<sup>st</sup> International Session of the European Youth Parliament

## *Resolution Booklet*

*71<sup>th</sup> International Session of the European Youth Parliament*

*“Ending the Crisis”*

*Amsterdam, the Netherlands, November 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

*General Assembly*



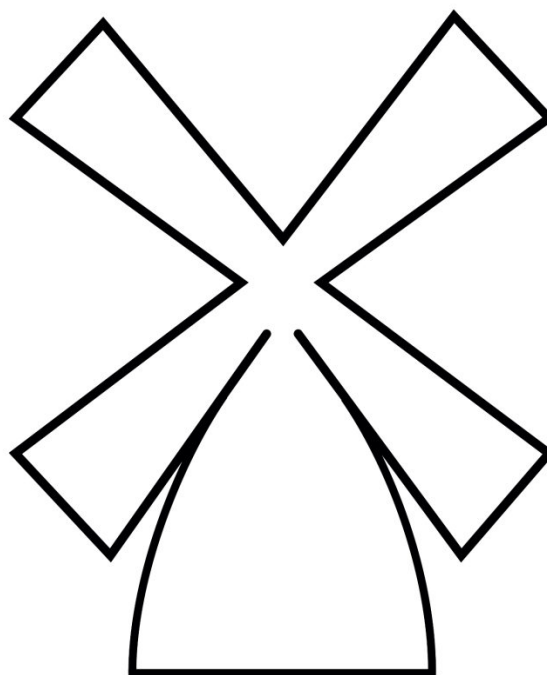
Youth  
in Action

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**Amsterdam 2012**



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## *Programme of the General Assembly*

### *Day I – Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

- 09:00      Opening of the General Assembly  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs - **Passed**
- 10:45      Coffee-break  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Security and Defence II - **Passed**
- 12:35      Lunch-break  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Legal Affairs - **Passed**
- 15:35      Coffee-break  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Employment and Social Affairs I - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs – **Failed to pass**

### *Day II – Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

- 09:00      Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Security and Defence I – **Failed to pass**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Climate Change - **Passed**
- 10:30      Coffee-break  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Environment, Public Health and Food Safety - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Women’s Rights and Gender Equality - **Passed**
- 13:05      Lunch-break  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Culture and Education - **Passed**  
                 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Human Rights – **Failed to pass**
- 15:15      Coffee-break
- 15:45      Closing Ceremony

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

The future of European banking: in light of the recent banking crisis and the establishment of the European Banking Authority, to what extent should the European banking sector be jointly regulated and governed?

Submitted by: Christophorus Adhipandito (ES), Stephan Bartmann (AT), Nikola Diklic (RS), Timon Fahl (DE), Juraj Falath (SK), Alise Golovacka (LV), Weronika Kuc (PL), Joel Lützow (SE), Flora Mavri (CY), John McGuinness (IE), Panagiotis Papanagiotou (GR), Alexandra Popa (RO), Sarah Roger (FR), Max van der Stelt (NL), Lidiia Zhgyr (UA), Alexandre Narayanin (Chairperson, FR)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed that current EU-wide banking regulations are insufficient for a secure banking sector,
  - B. Fully alarmed by the lack of an EU-wide Bank Resolution Mechanism<sup>1</sup> (BRM),
  - C. Recognising the differences in banking regulation in most Member States,
  - D. Noting with regret the lack of effective supervision of the national banking sector by the national financial regulators in many Member States,
  - E. Concerned that there is a lack of expertise in basic economics shown in certain national financial regulators,
  - F. Acknowledging the executive power of the European Banking Authority<sup>2</sup> (EBA),
  - G. Emphasising the lack of criteria as to when the EBA is to overrule national central banks' policies,
  - H. Observing that excessive risky banking<sup>3</sup> highly contributes to the banking crisis,
  - I. Having considered that certain banks have major economic importance which leads to them being classified as "Too big to fail",
  - J. Noting with approval the ongoing adoption of the Basel III<sup>4</sup> requirements in the Member States,
  - K. Bearing in mind the risk of banks moving their businesses outside the EU if the Financial Transaction Tax<sup>5</sup> (FTT) is implemented,
  - L. Recalling that retail and investment banks are currently not necessarily split;
1. Proclaims that the EBA will introduce banking regulation policies in the EU;

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<sup>1</sup> A Bank Resolution Mechanism is a mechanism that orders the payback of the depositors' money in the case of a bank collapsing.

<sup>2</sup> The EBA monitors and has the power to overrule each Member State's central bank should they fail to regulate their national central bank. The EBA acts as a hub and voice of the EU and national banks safeguarding public values such as the stability of the financial system, the transparency of the markets and financial products and the protection of depositors and investors.

<sup>3</sup> Excessive risky banking is defined as taking shares of banks that select a bad profile in the banking sector.

<sup>4</sup> Basel III is a global regulatory standard consisting of rules and regulations for the banking sector. One of its aims is to reduce the risk of bankruptcy and excessive risky banking by making banks hold more high-liquidity assets. Thus the implementation of Basel III is predicted not to hinder economic growth significantly.

<sup>5</sup> A Financial Transaction Tax is a levy placed on a specific type of monetary transaction. The tax proposed by the European Commission (EC) would only impact financial transactions between financial institutions.

2. Approves the immediate implementation of a common BRM in all Member States;
3. Affirms the EBA's task to regulate the banks across the EU and to supervise the national financial regulators;
4. Calls for mandatory fit and correct tests by the EBA of the national financial regulators to ensure their quality and competences;
5. Solemnly confirms the EBA to overrule both the national central banks and commercial banks;
6. Authorises the EBA to:
  - a) notify national financial regulators whenever BASEL III requirements are not met by banks in their respective countries,
  - b) impose sanctions upon the national financial regulators should they fail to effectively regulate their banks,
  - c) replace the role of the national financial regulators should they, after being sanctioned, still fail to regulate the banks in question;
7. Reaffirming the European Stability Mechanism's<sup>6</sup> (ESM) current role of offering financial assistance to banks classified as "Too big to fail" which require support;
8. Urges the implementation of BASEL III regulation in all Member States;
9. Has resolved to refuse to implement an FTT implementation at the EU level, unless a worldwide taxation on financial transactions is operated;
10. Endorses the ring-fencing<sup>7</sup> of banks so that retail and investment divisions do not affect each other if a division collapses.

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<sup>6</sup> The European Stability Mechanism provides financial assistance to members of the Eurozone in financial difficulty. It will function as a permanent firewall for the Eurozone with a maximum lending capacity of €500 billion.

<sup>7</sup> Ring-fencing occurs when a portion of a company's assets or profits are entirely financially separated without necessarily being operated as a separate entity.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS II

Unpaid internships, extending education, returning to the family home and mass migration: in light of the current economic crisis and especially rising youth unemployment, what action should the EU take to effectively fight the exclusion of young people from the job market?

Submitted by: Fien Baert (BE), Can Elvanlioglu (TR), Matteo Falsetta (IT), Christina Georgopoulou (GR), Carolina Herranz-Carr (ES), Anna Marija Ķiesnere (LV), Fabian Landua (DE), Victor Lütztow (SE), Barbara Mallet (FR), Alexia Michaelidou (CY), Rucsandra Pinteá (RO), Kit Powell (UK), Adrian Sisiau (MD), Thomas Steiner (AT), Bernardo Teixeira (PT), Indra Mangule (Chairperson, LV)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply disturbed by the discrimination unemployed youth may face when applying for a job outside their home country,
  - B. Fully aware of the link between youth unemployment and 'brain drain',
  - C. Having observed the lack of awareness among young people regarding international programmes such as 'Leonardo'<sup>8</sup> and 'Your First EURES Job'<sup>9</sup>,
  - D. Keeping in mind the huge disparities between unemployment rates in different Member States,
  - E. Taking into account that the economic crisis and the consequent austerity measures in Member States have had an imminent role in the increase in youth unemployment,
  - F. Noting with regret the lack of financial support to young entrepreneurs,
  - G. Alarmed by the rising number of young adults who are left with no choice but to stay in their family homes after having completed their education,
  - H. Recognising the Europe 2020 strategy<sup>10</sup>, which aims to reduce early school leaving by 10%, as an effective measure,
  - I. Bearing in mind the job potential for young people in fields such as as healthcare, information and communications technologies (ICT) and green technology,
  - J. Aware of the fact that long periods of inoccupation lead to a decrease in one's employability,
  - K. Concerned by the fact that young people are poorly informed about their job perspectives and potential career paths,
  - L. Having considered the need to strengthen the link between education and the present labour market,
  - M. Taking into consideration the complexity of and the differences between diverse education systems across the EU,
  - N. Expressing appreciation for the successful use of vocational internships for students in Member States such as Germany;
1. Calls upon Member States to ensure that citizens are aware of their right to challenge the employment decision in court if they feel they have been discriminated against during the job application process;

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<sup>8</sup> Part of European Commission's Lifelong Learning Program, funding mobility initiatives, co-operation projects and innovative practices

<sup>9</sup> Part of the Youth on the Move Initiative, an action to help young Europeans find work in other EU countries

<sup>10</sup> European Union's ten year growth strategy

2. Supports the launch of a campaign by the EU in cooperation with national governments to raise awareness on existing exchange programmes through mass media and advertisements;
3. Invites the EU to move the issue of youth unemployment higher on its priority list when allocating funds with special provisions for Member States most affected by it;
4. Emphasizes the need to allocate sufficient funds to support students and young entrepreneurs through microcredits, scholarships and loans,
5. Endorses the introduction of a system whereby students can apply to the EU for a loan to cover their study expenses which are then to be paid back with a low interest rate once the student has reached a specific salary level or 15 years have passed;
6. Further invites Member States to recognise and support guidance counselling as a crucial measure to tackle youth unemployment, ensuring that:
  - a) career offices remain a part of the government funded schools in spite of limited funding,
  - b) career offices are available for every student;
7. Recommends that the EU support universities in arranging pan-European seminars for business leaders on the importance and benefits of employing young people;
8. Calls for the introduction of a system whereby employers are encouraged to offer vocational internships to students through methods such as offering EU grants to any employers who co-operate:
  - a) with high school(s) to offer students unpaid internships during their school holidays,
  - b) with universities offering paid internships to students and rewarding good performance with a permanent contract upon graduation;
9. Has resolved to offer free training to guidance counsellors of career offices that request solid training, giving the counsellors up to date information about the current labour market and awareness training to eradicate existing employment-related stereotypes in society;
10. Requests that a Council of the European Union meeting is held, where the Ministers of Education of each Member State will discuss potential reforms to national education systems, keeping in mind issues such as:
  - a) the lack of practical training in educational systems of many Member States,
  - b) the mismatch of the modern labour market and higher education,
  - c) the integration of hands-on experience to theoretical teaching in educational curricula, as seen in vocational high schools and dual education systems<sup>11</sup>;
11. Suggests that Member States introduce tax reduction policies for companies that offer permanent contracts to young people.

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<sup>11</sup> A dual education system combines apprenticeships in a company and education at vocational school.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE II

With hackers outsmarting engineers, corporations and institutions are subject to attack. Concerned over maintaining their reputations, many cyber crimes go unreported. What incentives can the EU foster to ensure cyber-security and the protection of personal data?

Submitted by: Peter Barlow (IE), Rui Gonalo Pereira Faria (PT), Balint Horvath (HU), Jenna Ijas (FI), Arian Jamshidnejad (SE), Eleanor Janik (UK), Johannes Pieter Louwerse (NL), Silvia Meletti (IT),  yvind Normann (NO), Sophie Silverstein (CH), Katerina ejdlov (CZ), Genco Kerem akır (TR), Stefan Vandenhende (Vice-President, BE)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply disturbed by the fact that an estimated 14 people fall victim to cyber-crimes every second, resulting in an annual loss of 388 billion Euros globally,
- B. Taking note of the fact that cyber-crime can be committed regardless of physical distance or borders,
- C. Deeply concerned by the ease with which malware<sup>12</sup> can be procured,
- D. Recognising the difficulty of public and private sector institutions encounter in combating ever-developing cyber-crime methods,
- E. Disturbed by the lack of clear legislative measures in some Member States which renders cyber-crime effectively legal in the Member States concerned,
- F. Noting with concern that only 10 out of 27 Member States<sup>13</sup> are in the process of developing national cyber-security strategies,
- G. Noting with approval the efforts of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)<sup>14</sup> to formulate a standardised pan-European cyber security strategy,
- H. Acknowledging that the third-level education offered in cyber-security is presently very limited, in stark contrast to the worldwide demand for competent cyber-security professionals,
- I. Alarmed by the fact that many corporations underestimate the risks involved in neglecting cyber-security,
- J. Deeply conscious of the potentially devastating consequences of cyber-attacks against critical information infrastructure,
- K. Aware of the fact that many corporations and institutions do not report the security breaches they fall victim to, due to fear of reputational damage,
- L. Welcoming the establishment of the Computer Emergency Response Team for the EU (CERT-EU)<sup>15</sup> as a preventative measure against security breaches similar to the ones already faced by EU institutions,

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<sup>12</sup> Malware is an abbreviation for malicious software. It can be used for or created to modify computers, collect critical data, gain access to networks, etc.

<sup>13</sup> These 10 Member States are Estonia, Finland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

<sup>14</sup> ENISA is an Agency of the EU focused on improving cyber security of the EU, the private sector, the Member States and individual citizens. ENISA assists Member States with the implementation of relevant EU legislation by sharing best practices and giving recommendations. Furthermore it assists Member States with the implementation of relevant EU legislation.

- M. Noting with satisfaction the positive implications of Cyber Europe 2010 and 2012, the pan-European simulations on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP)<sup>16</sup> conducted by ENISA;
1. Calls for more global conferences pertaining to cyber security to be held on a regular basis in order to stimulate international dialogue
  2. Encourages the employment of 'grey hat hackers'<sup>17</sup> in order to enhance the actor's capabilities in combating cyber crime;
  3. Approves of direct relationships between public and private sector institutions regarding cyber security measures as a means of improving communication and co-operation;
  4. Recommends all Member States to establish a common legal framework regarding cyber-crime;
  5. Strongly urges all Member States to adopt national cyber-security strategies;
  6. Urges third-level educational institutions to specifically address cyber-security in IT-related curricula in order to:
    - a) facilitate specific education in cyber-security,
    - b) stimulate adequate research in the field of cyber-security;
  7. Requests confidentiality for companies and institutions in the publication of their cyber-security breaches and their respective solutions by ENISA;
  8. Calls upon Member States and ENISA to co-operate in order to conduct more frequent national and pan-European simulations on CIIP.

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<sup>15</sup> CERT-EU is a small team of cyber security experts who are often constantly connected, thus enabling them to almost instantly react to cyber threats and attacks. Both private and public institutions use CERTs. The EU-CERT was established specifically to defend the EU institutions.

<sup>16</sup> Cyber Europe 2010 and 2012 are two simulated cyber attacks, conducted by ENISA. In 2012, more than 400 cyber experts from both the public and financial sector from across the EU made attempts to breach the networks and computer systems cyber security systems of the participating Member States and several private sector actors during an entire day.

<sup>17</sup> Former black hat hackers – formerly hackers with malicious intent – now using their technical experience to aid institutions and corporations in finding loopholes in their cyber security.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Feeding more with less: with one billion people lacking access to adequate food and nutrition, how can the EU in tandem with the private sector and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) increase both agricultural productivity and production to sustainably feed a growing world without jeopardising our natural resources?

Submitted by: Cristina Crespo (ES), Charles Duval (FR), Axel Fridén (SE), Nini Gigani (GE), Olivera Gluvić (RS), Gabriela Grzywacs (PL), Charalambos Lappas (CY), Dan Marta (RO), Ariane Marzinez Oeckel (DE), Viktoria Movchan (UA), Shíofra O'Toole (IE), Kim Peters (NL), Glen Trebicka (AL), Gill Van Bruwaene (BE), Kevin Wright (TR), Danijel Dadović (Chairperson, HR)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Aware that food enterprises are becoming engaged in partnerships with NGOs in the sustainable agricultural growth sector,
  - B. Noting with deep concern that financial and material hand-outs cause under-developed countries to remain dependent on developed countries and should subsequently not be considered a long-term solution,
  - C. Deeply alarmed by the fact that 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted annually,
  - D. Deeply concerned that more than 1 billion people are left without access to food due to inefficient distribution systems ,
  - E. Realising that the potential of third world countries to increase agricultural productivity is not being achieved due to limited access to technology, equipment and supplies and poor distribution to local markets,
  - F. Noting with concern that not all food enterprises follow environmentally-friendly policies contributing to sustainable agricultural production,
  - G. Bearing in mind that by 2020 biofuels will make-up 30% of global grain production and 15% of vegetable oil products,
  - H. Alarmed by the fact that climate change negatively affects natural resources,
  - I. Further noting that the on-going economic crisis has increased the need for efficiency in development fund use,
  - J. Taking into consideration previous experience with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and its potential to improve food productivity;
1. Recommends the establishment of partnership programmes between the private and academic sector in tandem with the EU and FAO that aim to:
    - a) establish a network addressing agricultural research and development ,
    - b) produce drought resistant crops,
    - c) improve agricultural techniques and practices<sup>18</sup>;
  2. Encourages the FAO to:

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<sup>18</sup> Techniques include crop diversity, crop rotation, soil enrichment and irrigation systems.

- a) act as a mediator in the field of micro financing<sup>19</sup>,
- b) support the creation of local small scale agricultural finance systems;
3. Calls upon the FAO and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to establish a local food distribution system in order to help the chronically under-nourished;
4. Urges Member States to introduce better practices in food management such as:
  - a) separating and retrieving nutrients from food waste in a sterile environment through biochemical processes,
  - b) lowering prices of food close to its expiration date,
  - c) using food waste to create biofuel and fertilisers;
5. Requests that the EU and FAO provide support to farmers in third world countries in order to increase self-sufficiency and environmental sustainability by:
  - a) promoting the development of local agricultural communities,
  - b) closely monitoring the establishment of agricultural infrastructures;
6. Suggests a sustainability scheme for food enterprises aimed to maintain soil, air and water quality by:
  - a) fining food enterprises that are jeopardizing natural resources,
  - b) reinvesting fine revenue in corrective measures and self-improvement of enterprises;
7. Strongly condemns the usage of croplands for biofuel by redirecting those subsidies to biofuel made of food-waste;
8. Further recommends the establishment of educational programmes of the affected countries to raise awareness in the fields of:
  - a) individual responsibility in waste management,
  - b) adequate management of food production and transport in third world countries;
9. Encourages Member States to subsidise farmers who invest in ecosystem services and self-sustainable food production systems;
10. Supports the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) products especially in areas affected by food shortage.

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<sup>19</sup> Micro financing provides direct money input for farmers who need it in order to improve their agricultural systems.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY

With companies seeking talent in the West and improved education combined with lower costs in the East, how can the EU promote entrepreneurship and protect business at home?

Submitted by: Tuyen Dinh Anh (RU), Zephyr Brüggem (NL), Marcela Gradinaru (MD), Katie Harrison (UK), Otto Hartvich (CZ), Victoria Margrethe Lampe (NO), Stella-Marie Landt (AT), Carl-Johan Lindman (SE), Sabrina Ariana Mellerowic (DE), Paul Niocel (FR), Martta Ojala (FI), Anastasios Potolias (GR), Darya Savishchava (BY), Umut Cagri Turhan (TR), James Bengé (Vice-President, UK)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Expressing its appreciation towards the Small Business Act (SBA)<sup>20</sup> and Member States' actions in complying with its recommendations,
  - B. Acknowledging the limited effectiveness of existing entrepreneurial education schemes such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs,<sup>21</sup>
  - C. Deeply concerned by the lack of pan-European entrepreneurial networks to encourage contact and support between entrepreneurs rather than entrepreneurs and capital investment,
  - D. Noting with concern the unused potential of female entrepreneurs in the EU,
  - E. Taking into account that years of high investment have given the EU an advantage in the field of green industry,
  - F. Regrets the high initial cost burden placed upon Small-Medium-Enterprises (SMEs) and start-up companies,
  - G. Alarmed by the restrictive impact of excessive bureaucracy upon entrepreneurs and SMEs,
  - H. Noting with approval the benefits of lenient bankruptcy laws in the United States of America,
  - I. Recognising that current laws dictating the creation, movement and expansion of business across EU borders have not led to a majority of European retailers selling outside their main country of operations,
  - J. Aware that the absence of SMEs in international online sales limits their prospective markets,
  - K. Having considered the threat that theft of intellectual property poses to European business,
  - L. Welcoming the EU's superiority in the field of sophisticated machinery as a result of the EU's culture of precision and creativity;
1. Reaffirms the EU's commitment to fully implementing the SBA in all Member States;
  2. Further recommends the teaching of practical entrepreneurial skills through:
    - a) interactive platforms for primary school students such as the All-Terrain Brain,<sup>22</sup>
    - b) optional business education courses within secondary schools,

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<sup>20</sup> The Small Business Act emphasises the importance of 'Think Small First' for all Member Governments.

<sup>21</sup> Young entrepreneurs are given opportunities to travel across Europe to gain practical skills from experienced entrepreneurs.

<sup>22</sup> A multimedia project designed to give 8 to 12 year olds critical and creative thinking skills.

- c) internships and practical entrepreneurial courses linked to university degrees;
3. Has resolved to create an EU-wide online portal connecting new and aspiring entrepreneurs and experts to fill the gap created by ventures such as Kickstarter<sup>23</sup>;
4. Emphasises the need for the expansion of the European Network of Female Entrepreneurship<sup>24</sup> to all Member States;
5. Strongly suggests that Member States offer tax reductions to green SMEs based on their energy usage, emissions and green products;
6. Expresses its intention to reduce the burden of start-up costs by increasing the jurisdiction of the European Investment Bank (EIB) to:
  - a) create criteria that makes it easier for enterprises to access funds,
  - b) deliver funds directly to enterprises;
7. Supports the efforts of the EU to reduce restrictive bureaucracy by 25% through the Simplification Rolling Programme;<sup>25</sup>
8. Proposes to introduce EU-wide bankruptcy laws meaning that no bankrupt companies or individuals will be in debt for longer than two years;
9. Further requests EU-wide legislation, comparable to the Swiss model,<sup>26</sup> detailing the creation of new enterprises;
10. Calls for the implementation of the European Private Company Statute<sup>27</sup> in order to remove barriers in the internal market;
11. Approves the establishment of an online EU information point advising entrepreneurs and SMEs on how to:
  - a) exploit online markets abroad,
  - b) understand the intricacies of foreign legislation;
12. Encourages co-operation between and training for European patent registries and Member States' police in order to better identify patent violation and counterfeiting;
13. Further emphasises the importance of the field of mechanical trade by increasing funding from the EU.

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<sup>23</sup> A website that allows entrepreneurs a platform to present their ideas and acquire crowd-funding, directly connecting entrepreneurs with capital.

<sup>24</sup> Part of the SBA that provides female entrepreneurs with mentors, ambassadors and training events.

<sup>25</sup> A European Commission initiative designed to update and modernise existing legislation across Europe.

<sup>26</sup> A model for registering new companies that allows them to register quickly, cheaply and efficiently.

<sup>27</sup> This proposal would allow companies to sell their products across the EU without needing to register outside their home.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

The future of embryonic stem cell research in a heterogeneous legal landscape: how can the EU and its Member States strike a balance between protecting embryos for moral reasons, enhancing therapeutic prospects for patients suffering from incurable illnesses, and protecting freedom of research?

Submitted by: Ines Barkatou (FR), David Blacher (AT), Adam Borowski (PL), Edoardo Campodonico (IT), Gabriel Diaciuc (MD), Alena Kalodziska (BY), Ira Leiviskä (FI), Ömer Can Özkan (TR), Evgeniya Petrukhina (RU), Leonor Rodrigues (PT), Martha Saunders (UK), Alissa Schaefer (DE), Kian Shaker (SE), Myrto Vlazaki (GR), Karolina Zapletalova (CZ), Andreia-Gemma Moraru (Chairperson, RO)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognising the potential of embryonic stem cells as tools to research and treat presently incurable diseases due to their ability to differentiate into any cell in the human body,
- B. Acknowledging the moral dilemma generated by the destruction of human embryos in the course of extracting embryonic stem cells,
- C. Bearing in mind the legally binding decision of the Court of Justice of the EU to ban patents on embryonic stem cell research following the case of *Greenpeace vs Brüstle*,<sup>28</sup>
- D. Guided by the principles of the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine,<sup>29</sup>
- E. Taking into consideration the decision of the European Court of Human Rights not to take a stance on when life begins in the case of *Vo vs France*,<sup>30</sup>
- F. Noting with approval the developments in alternative stem cell research which does not involve embryos, such as induced pluripotent stem cells<sup>31</sup> or adult stem cells,<sup>32</sup>
- G. Taking note of the fact that embryonic stem cell research predominantly involves the use of surplus cryopreserved in vitro fertilised embryos, of which Member States can provide an exhaustive supply and which are otherwise destroyed,
- H. Noting with regret the absence of explicit legislation on embryonic stem cell research in several EU Member States,

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<sup>28</sup> In the case of *Greenpeace vs Brüstle* the Court of Justice of the EU banned patents on embryonic stem cell research arguing that they are contrary to ethics and public policy.

<sup>29</sup> The Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine is a treaty drafted by the Council of Europe and ratified by the EU with regard to various aspects of bioethics.

<sup>30</sup> In the case of *Vo vs France* the European Court of Human Rights declined to grant the Right to Life to unborn children based on Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights leaving that decision to each Member State.

<sup>31</sup> Induced pluripotent stem cells are a type of cell artificially derived from adult cells that have the ability to differentiate into any cells from the human body.

<sup>32</sup> Adult stem cells are cells found throughout the body that multiply by cell division to replenish dying cells and regenerate damaged tissues.

- I. Fully aware of the disparities between the legislation that regulates embryonic stem cell research in those Member States which have it,
- J. Having considered the upcoming expiration of the Seventh Framework Programme in 2013, which is currently funding stem cell research;
  1. Approves the decision of the European Court of Human Rights to avoid taking a stance on when human life begins;
  2. Invites the European scientific community to pursue alternative stem cell research methods;
  3. Condemns the usage of embryonic stem cells derived from other sources than surplus embryos from in vitro fertilisation treatments or already existing embryonic cell lines;
  4. Urges all Member States that currently do not have clear legislation on stem cell research to produce legal texts on the subject;
  5. Authorises the adoption of the Horizon 2020<sup>33</sup> programme which, in its current form, provides funding for all types of stem cell research;
  6. Encourages the creation of national entities that will ensure the legality and viability of embryonic stem cell research;
  7. Entrusts the European Commission (EC) to monitor that the aforementioned entities enforce the fulfilment of specific requirements in regards to the viability of research and compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine;
  8. Declares accordingly that in order to receive funds from the EC for embryonic stem cell research the applicant has to pursue the research in a Member State that allows it and has already established the aforementioned entity.

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<sup>33</sup> Horizon 2020 is the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation that will be implemented by the EC from 2014 if the European Parliament and the Council of the EU adopt it.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS I

The European pension sector is going through difficult times: ageing hits the sustainability of pension schemes hard, volatility on the financial markets creates chaos for policy makers and regulation forces pension schemes into holding more risk capital than ever before. What can Member States and regulators do to ensure a decent standard of living beyond retirement for all European citizens?

Submitted by: Danielle Advani (CY), Tamar Chubabria (GE), Sara Constantinescu (RO), Liam Cowely (IE), Emmily Desseyne (BE), Lidia Dobrowolska (PL), Aleksandrs Geržatovičs (LV), Jakob Kammler (NO), Patrick Koepsel-Sanz (ES), Bettina Koitz (AT), Tetiana Kornichuk (UA), Vanessa Marquardt (DE), Vasileios Mornto (GR), Biljana Petrovic (RS), Maria Pashi (Chairperson, CY)

### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Declaring the term ‘pension’ as an amount of money paid to an individual on a monthly basis since one’s retirement from the labour market until death,
- B. Noting with concern that the current pension systems are not sustainable due to demographic changes and the function and volatility of financial markets,
- C. Seeking to reduce poverty amongst pensioners and provide financial security for the retired,
- D. Alarmed that the rapidly increasing average dependency ratio<sup>34</sup> in the EU, predicted to change from the current ratio of 5:1 to 2:1 by 2060 according to Eurostat,
- E. Concerned by the EU citizens’ lack of knowledge concerning their national pension systems,
- F. Observing that the official retirement age in the EU varies from 59 to 70 years,
- G. Taking into consideration that the 51% unemployment rate among the aged 55 to 64, compared to the overall unemployment rate of 10.5%,
- H. Desiring to close the age gap in retirement between men and women,
- I. Keeping in mind that life expectancies and living standards differ throughout Europe,
- J. Realising that in some Member States the average retirement age is below the official one whilst in others pensions are insufficient for citizens to retire,
- K. Fully aware that many EU-citizens disapprove of their governments’ decision to raise the retirement age,
- L. Deeply concerned by the lack of transparency and mobility of pension schemes across Europe,
- M. Having examined the three-pillar pension system, composed by:
  - i) the first pillar which is a state-funded, mandatory pension scheme,
  - ii) the second pillar which is funded by the employers and mandatory in some Member States,
  - iii) the third pillar which is a voluntary private-pension investment scheme,
- N. Keeping in mind that the implementation and functioning of the three-pillar systems vary throughout the EU,

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<sup>34</sup> Dependency ratio is an age-population ratio of those not in the labour force (dependent) and those in the labour force.

- O. Deeply disturbed by national governments that spend pension funds on non-pension related matters thereby endangering the provision of state-funded pensions,
- P. Bearing in mind the high costs and risks that private third-pillar pension schemes carry,
- Q. Taking note of the interdependence between the third-pillar investments and the volatile financial markets,
1. Calls for the adjustment of the official retirement age and pension income based on the life expectancy in each Member State;
  2. Supports offering the possibility to elder employees<sup>35</sup> to gradually decrease their working hours while simultaneously hiring new employees to take over their jobs with gradually increasing hours;
  3. Invites national governments to inform and educate their citizens on available pension schemes by:
    - a) including lectures for high-school students,
    - b) having campaigns at the workplaces,
    - c) providing information booklets to pensioners;
  4. Urges national governments to provide a first-pillar pension system which will:
    - a) provide all pensioners with a minimum pension which will be at least as high as the country's living wage<sup>36</sup>,
    - b) increase each individual's pension by approximately 0.5% of the minimum pension every working year,
    - c) increase the aforementioned percentage every working year, starting five years before the retirement age, on the condition that the person has a considerable experience of active labour, depending on the state's policies, in order to encourage people to work up to the retirement age and beyond,
    - d) not provide the pension before the official retirement age,
    - e) be financed by Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG)<sup>37</sup>,
    - f) be secured by an optional savings buffer fund which will only be used for pensions when dealing with long term demographic changes;
  5. Recommends that national governments develop a tailored pension scheme to calculate retirement age and pension income for working groups with lower life expectancy;
  6. Endorses the implementation of a second-pillar system which will:
    - a) be mandatory for all employees and employers,
    - b) encourage employers and employees to pay a joint contribution of about 20% of employees gross wages,
    - c) have decreased mobility taxes for pension funds by lowering the transfer fees when moving pension funds from one Member State to another;
  7. Further recommends that national governments increase transparency in third-pillar investments by providing individuals with financial advice;
  8. Encourages national governments to limit the service charges of investment banks on private pension schemes;
  9. Proclaims that the balance between the different pillars of the pension system should be decided at the national level.

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<sup>35</sup> Elder age is calculated by deducting 10% of years from the official retirement age

<sup>36</sup> Living wage is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet basic needs, including shelter, clothing and nutrition..

<sup>37</sup> Pay-As-You-Go funds today's pensioners by the contributions of today's workers and employers and it is the most cost effective way to fund pensions because there are no asset management fees

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Is the solution to the Eurocrisis ‘more Europe’ or less? With the aftermath of the financial crisis dragging on for longer and longer, what institutional reforms are required to deal with the current political stalemate?

Submitted by: Liza Aleksandrovykh (UA), Imogen Brown (UK), Niamh Jiménez (IE), Såde Kanervisto (FI), Slávka Kimerlingová (SK), Pelle Koppen (NL), Flippo Marchese (IT), Ijon Muça (AL), Eeva-Liisa Puidet (EE), Maximilian Richter (SE), Katarina Samak (CH), Ana Isabel Silva (PT), Daniel Černín (CZ), Niall Murphy (Chairperson, IE)

### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Deeply concerned by the possibility of a breakup of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU),
  - B. Affirming that the Eurozone is a monetary union that lacks adequate supervision and co-ordination of Member States’ fiscal policies,
  - C. Realising that a lack of transparency and credibility in European and national institutions has contributed to the Eurocrisis,
  - D. Observing that heavily indebted countries have to sell government bonds at higher interest rates than less indebted countries,
  - E. Taking into consideration that the European Central Bank’s (EBC) main function is to control inflation,
  - F. Aware that there is a fear in Europe that further integration will lead to a loss of national sovereignty,
  - G. Recognising the existence of a democratic deficit in the form of:
    - i) low participation in European Parliament (EP) elections,
    - ii) a lack of awareness among citizens about the work of the EU,
    - iii) a disconnection between the EU and its citizens,
  - H. Noting with regret that the national interests of Member States are often prioritised above those of the European Union;
1. Supports the continued use of the Euro as the legal tender for the Member States of the EMU;
  2. Endorses the Treaty on Stability, Co-operation and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (TSCGEMU)<sup>38</sup> and the constraints which this Treaty places on Member States’ budgetary policies;
  3. Requests the creation of an independent fiscal regulatory body, appointed by the European Council and the European Parliament (EP), which can examine Member States’ budgets and veto those budgets which are non-compliant with the aforementioned Treaty;
  4. Recommends that EMU countries can guarantee a certain proportion of another Member State’s national debt as deemed necessary by a summit of the European Council;
  5. Affirms the mandate of the ECB to undertake outright monetary transactions<sup>39</sup> (OMT) in exceptional circumstances only;

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<sup>38</sup> The TSCGEMU is also referred to as the Fiscal Compact Treaty

6. Calls for European legislation which would allow for a coalition of at least 25% of national parliaments to request the European Commission (EC) to initiate European legislation once the said coalition represents at least 10% of the population of the EU;
7. Emphasises the importance of:
  - a) early education about the EU in Member States,
  - b) EU projects that encourage citizens to engage with European issues;
8. Calls for a President of the EC elected by EU citizens for which candidates will require a nomination from at least 10% of the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

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<sup>39</sup> An OMT is when the ECB intervenes in debt markets to buy government bonds on condition that the country in question has committed to a program of fiscal reform.

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE I

With tension between Iran and the West continuing to grow over the former's nuclear program, what action should the EU take to strike the right balance between upholding diplomatic relations and ensuring stability?

Submitted by: Fariza Alieva (RU), Batuhan Berk Balci (TR), Xenia Valerie Donschachner (AT), Mattia Girani (IT), Sarah Kristin Gleisler (NO), Karolína Heijlová (CZ), Max Liikka (FI), Elizabeth Abbie Melvin (UK), Ketevan Mkervalishvili (GE), Martin Paluoja (EE), Panagiotis Patikos (GR), Daniel Pinto (PT), Jacob Stammeler (CH), Irina Trancalan (MD), Marek Šebo (SK), Petya Koleva (Chairperson, BG)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind that Iran is a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty<sup>40</sup> (NPT),
- B. Recognising that a number of nuclear states are not part of the NPT undermines the treaty's legitimacy,
- C. Keeping in mind that Iran has been violating Article 3.1<sup>41</sup> of the NPT by refusing access to a number of its nuclear facilities,
- D. Reaffirming the concern expressed in the International Atomic Energy Agency's<sup>42</sup> (IAEA) August, 2012 report regarding the rapid escalation of Iran's uranium enrichment levels,
- E. Appreciating the fact that Iran has chosen to use one-third of its medium-enriched uranium for civilian purposes,
- F. Acknowledging the detrimental effect of the EU's economic sanctions on Iran's financial stability,
- G. Further noting the severe toll that these sanctions have had on Iranian civilians,
- H. Deeply conscious that the mounting tensions between Israel and Iran over the latter's nuclear programme is a threat to regional security and stability in the region,
- I. Disturbed by the sudden deaths of Iranian scientists connected to the state's nuclear programme and the Stuxnet<sup>43</sup> virus that targeted software within Iranian nuclear facilities;
- J. Noting with deep concern the failure of the latest round of negotiations between the P5+1<sup>44</sup> and Iran,
- K. Approving the progress made by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, in upholding the EU's diplomatic relations with Iran during bilateral talks held in September 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey;

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<sup>40</sup> The 190 signatories of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) have vowed to ensure that nations in possession of nuclear weapons move toward effective measures of disarmament and nations without nuclear capabilities would not strive to obtain them in the future.

<sup>41</sup> The article states that all non-nuclear states are subject to frequent IAEA monitoring with the view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

<sup>42</sup> The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organisation that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

<sup>43</sup> Stuxnet is a highly sophisticated computer worm. Discovered in June 2010, Stuxnet initially spread via Microsoft Windows, and targets Siemens industrial software and equipment.

<sup>44</sup> The US, the UK, Germany, France, China and Russia.

1. Accepts Iran's right to develop nuclear technology for civilian and peaceful purposes;
2. Encourages states such as Israel, India and Pakistan to become signatories of the NPT;
3. Calls for a minimal immediate reduction of current EU sanctions imposed on Iran in order to break the ongoing political stalemate surrounding the conflict;
4. Calls upon Member States to provide the following incentives to Iran, subject to the latter's compliance with all articles of the NPT:
  - a) Support for the state's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO),
  - b) Reinstatement of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement negotiations,
  - c) Provision of renewable energy technology support;
5. Urges the Iranian government to engage in constructive negotiations towards a peaceful and speedy resolution of the conflict, thereby prioritising the welfare of its people;
6. Expresses its hope that the EU will take a more assertive role as a mediator with the aim of breaking the continuing stand-off between Iran and the West;
7. Draws attention to the importance of a united EU front during future bilateral negotiations;
8. Offers to host future rounds of talks between all stakeholders in the conflict on neutral ground with the aim of ensuring an objective outcome;
9. Endorses Europol to offer assistance with the ongoing investigations of the sudden deaths of Iranian nuclear scientists and of the perpetrators behind the Stuxnet virus.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The EU's role in international climate diplomacy: with the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 18) in Doha taking place this November, many once again scrutinise the forums and forms of negotiation for effectively tackling climate change. Has the time come to redefine the current approach, find new regimes or admit defeat?

Submitted by: Kseniia Bochkarova (UA), Uillred Dallto (AL), Joyce De Coninck (BE), Tadeus Hogenelst (NL), Petr Hotovec (CZ), Jaana Külim (EE), Lili Macharashvili (GE), Darius Misca (RO), Katarzyna Obrosiak (PL), Truls Olaussen Setrang (NO), Zora Staehelin (CH), Filip Vasilijevic (RS), Sofia Westerlund (FI), Katherine Whiting (UK), Didrik Helsing (Chairperson, SE)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Fully aware of climate change being one of the most complex challenges in modern history, affecting every aspect of human life,
- B. Believing that global warming is caused by anthropogenic<sup>45</sup> greenhouse gas emissions, as stated by the International Panel on Climate Change,
- C. Emphasising the urgency in taking measures to tackle climate change, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to remain under the agreed 2 °C increase in average global temperature in comparison to pre-industrial levels,
- D. Deeply concerned by the lack of a universal, legally binding climate framework,
- E. Concerned by the lack of stringent legal consequences of failing to follow the existing climate agreements,
- F. Taking into account the EU's leading role in encouraging participation of other nations in combating climate change,
- G. Deeply disturbed by ineffectiveness of the co-operation and communication between the participating nations of the Conferences of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and between the nations and the scientific community,
- H. Alarmed by the fact that the global financial crisis has shifted international decision-makers' focus away from tackling climate change,
- I. Noting with concern the disagreement between developed and developing nations about the sharing of responsibility in tackling climate change;
  1. Strongly condemns all forms of defeatism with regard to climate change;
  2. Urges the EU to take an active stance in solving the stalemate in the field of climate diplomacy;
  3. Supports the fundamentals of the Durban Platform<sup>46</sup> as agreed upon at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties whilst recognising the need for further amendments in its implementation;
  4. Calls for the establishment of an independent body linked to the UNFCCC consisting of experts, in order to set the fundamentals of the climate framework to be created, and improve communication between participating nations and the scientific community;

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<sup>45</sup> Pollution originating in human activity.

<sup>46</sup> The Durban Platform is an agreement to negotiate a new international climate treaty as an "outcome with legal force" by 2015 with a five-year ratification period following.

5. Recommends the implementation of legal consequences to those who do not follow the framework as established by the aforementioned expert group and agreed by the participating nations;
6. Calls for the EU to implement its own three-year ratification period, instead of the five-year period as stated in the Durban Platform to show further example to the other parties within the COP;
7. Calls upon the creation of a support network between Member States and developing countries who struggle to meet their targets within the Durban platform;
8. Encourages building upon the Green Climate Fund<sup>47</sup> providing support for developed countries, as well as developing countries, who are willing to invest in green solutions;
9. Urges the EU to impose higher taxes on industrially produced goods imported into the EU from countries who have not signed the legally binding climate framework;
10. Strongly encourages the aforementioned expert group to be responsible for overseeing the distribution of climate responsibility based on the capacity and different levels of development of individual countries.

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<sup>47</sup> The Green Climate Fund is a fund with the purpose of helping poor countries adapt to climate impacts.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rioting for democracy: with thousands of Russians constituting an informal opposition, democratic values under threat, how can the EU balance its role as an advocate of democracy whilst further pursuing the negotiations for the renewal of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and maintaining stable relations with the Russian Federation?

Submitted by: Maxime Anceau (FR), Brendan Byrne (IE), Ana Chutkerashvili (GE), Gabor Darida (RO), Edlira Dede (AL), Aleksandra Gajewska (PL), Naomi Lawson (UK), Doris Fonseca Lima (CH), Olga Pexídrová (CZ), Iuliia Pustovoitova (UA), Nikola Radojević (RS), Lolita Viller (RU), Marian Võsumets (EE), Kim van Winkel (NL), Kerstin Eckart (Chairperson, DE)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Aware of previous treaties, such as the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)<sup>48</sup> and the roadmaps included in the Four Common Spaces agreement,<sup>49</sup>
  - B. Bearing in mind the interdependence of the Russian and EU economies and its consequent impact on both trade and political relationships,
  - C. Acknowledges that the high level of corruption in Russia's economy deters foreign direct investment,
  - D. Deeply concerned by the lack of freedom of expression and further human rights infringements, as exemplified by the currently restrictive Russian electoral system,<sup>50</sup>
  - E. Accepts that, whilst the EU had no cohesive policy towards Russia in the past, it is now developing a common policy,
  - F. Noting the wider geopolitical and historical context and its role in shaping a Russian mentality which prioritises personal and national economic stability over democratic values,
  - G. Further noting with deep concern the different approaches of the EU and Russia towards foreign policy, from co-operation in more practical policy areas, such as the fight against international crime, to disagreement in major international issues, such as the recent civil war in Syria,
  - H. Regrets the recently passed legislation in Russia, which restricts peaceful public demonstrations, the work of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and internet freedom, whilst making it easier to be convicted of treason;
1. Supports the review, amendment and renewal of the PCA on the basis of the Four Common Spaces between the EU and Russia in order to particularly protect human rights and simultaneously pursue stable economic relations through mutual growth and integration as an equal partner;
  2. Emphasises the importance of a better economic environment in Russia through:

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<sup>48</sup> The European Union concluded several Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Eastern European countries. The PCA between the EU and Russia entered into force in 1997 and expired in 2007. The aim of these agreements is to strengthen democratic values and develop economic ties through political dialogue.

<sup>49</sup> The Four Common Spaces set out road maps of actions in four areas since 2005: 1. Economy; 2. Freedom, Security and Justice; 3. External Security; 4. Research, Education and Cultural Aspects.

<sup>50</sup> The current electoral system makes it unnecessarily difficult to form opposition parties and triggered social unrest after the contested 2011 and 2012 elections.

- a) maintaining the amount of current investments in sustainable areas,
  - b) working with Russia to help it become a business friendly environment for private companies, by resolving human rights issues such as the right to a fair trial and the right to do business without fear of extortion,
  - c) gradually increasing investment in sustainable areas of Russia's economy, dependent on improvements in the human rights situation;
3. Recommends the appointment of one full time EU Human Rights ambassador to Russia to represent the opinion of the EU and to create a constructive dialogue with Russia, whilst reporting back to the Foreign Affairs Council<sup>51</sup> of the Council of the European Union and the European External Action Service (EEAS)<sup>52</sup>;
4. Promotes a greater firsthand experience and understanding of democratic values through:
- a) Enabling easier travel by clarifying visa requirements and simplifying procedures for short-term visits as a crucial part of the new PCA,
  - b) supporting youth exchange programmes between Member States and Russia;
5. Encourages Member States to support pre-existing international NGOs situated in Russia in order to help Russian society to improve democracy from within, while negotiating with Russia with regard to the abolishment of the recently passed law which restricts funding of national NGOs.

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<sup>51</sup> Meeting once per month of the Member States' Foreign Ministers chaired by Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to ensure coherence in the EU's external action across the range of instruments at the EU's disposal.

<sup>52</sup> The European External Action Service conducts the EU's Foreign Policy under the directions of the Foreign Affairs Council and the High Representative

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

As energy prices reach their most volatile in decades and criticism of the European Union Emission Trading Scheme grows, what actions should the EU take regarding its current support for emissions trading?

Submitted by: Johann Abrahams (DE), Romanie Assez (BE), Maddalena Conte (IT), Diana Costa (PT), Eleni Costa (CY), Kimberley Fritsch (FR), Panayotis Georgopoulos (GR), Henrik Sætrang Haakonsen (NO), Elvis Lediņš (LV), Amy Campo McEvoy (ES), Gizem Okumuş (TR), Arno Rupp (AT), Benjamin Strömberg (SE), Ana Zemlicof (RO), Jari Marjelund (Vice-President, FI)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognising the role of the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) as the EU's primary mechanism for reducing carbon emissions,
  - B. Adopting the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by 20% by 2020,
  - C. Believing emissions trading to be an effective mechanism for reducing emissions cost-effectively,
  - D. Deeply concerned that the EU ETS has been unable to set the price of emission allowances on an effective and consistent level in its first two trading periods,
  - E. Alarmed by the initial over-allocation of emission allowances and subsequent windfall profits for companies during the first two trading periods,
  - F. Noting with regret that not all greenhouse gases, such as methane, are included in the EU ETS,
  - G. Noting with concern the observed acts of fraud within the EU ETS,
  - H. Welcoming the stringent reductions in the availability of emission allowances on the market in the third trading period,
  - I. Further welcoming the gradual move from allocating emission allowances free of charge to auctioning them,
  - J. Acknowledging that the EU constitutes only 14% of the global carbon emissions and any unilateral climate measures taken by the EU are subsequently ineffective in tackling climate change,
  - K. Taking into account the difficulties in the establishment of emission trading schemes in developing nations due to their undeveloped energy infrastructures,
  - L. Alarmed by the potential negative impact of the EU ETS in the competitiveness of European companies in comparison to industries located in regions with less stringent emission trading or other emission reduction systems,
  - M. Further alarmed by carbon leakage;<sup>53</sup>
1. Urges the European Commission to monitor the overall emission reductions in Member States and maintain the emission cap on an adequate level to control the price;

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<sup>53</sup> Relocation of European companies or their operations to regions with less stringent emission trading systems or environmental standards.

2. Reaffirms the EU's objective of auctioning 50% of emission allowances in 2013 and gradually moving to full auctioning of carbon allowances by 2027;
3. Calls upon the EU to increase the percentage of funding received from allowance auctioning and used in the development of green technology to 60% by 2015;
4. Urges the EU to direct the aforementioned percentage of funding to support research and development programmes in the field of green technology;
5. Requests that the EU include all greenhouse gases in the emission trading scheme by 2016;
6. Urges the European Commission to implement more stringent security measures to prevent fraud and other criminal offenses within the EU ETS;
7. Calls upon the EU to actively work towards the establishment of emission trading schemes in both developed and developing nations bilaterally and through the United Nations Framework Conference for Climate Change (UNFCCC);
8. Further calls for the EU to link the EU ETS to established and functioning emission trading schemes elsewhere;
9. Encourages the EU to assist other nations in managing their energy infrastructure and setting up emission trading schemes;
10. Authorises the EU to initiate negotiations with international umbrella organisations for different industries to agree on international emission standards so as to prevent carbon leakage.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

With slow progress in achieving gender parity across Europe in both political positions and the private sector, what is the role of women in perpetuating inequality in the workplace? To what extent should the EU and Member States take more radical action in order to unlock the full potential of Europe's female labour force?

Submitted by: Ada Aadel (FI), Andrea Asker Svedberg (SE), Ilaria Bancila (RO), Holly Brown (GB), Ida Jokstad Hafskjold (NO), Krystsina Kalbasnikava (BY), Laura Kampare (LV), Rita Gomes Faria Leitão (PT), Kristina Loike (AT), Elsa Lund (DE), Margherita Piromalli (IT), Léana Tardivo (FR), Berkok Yüksel (TR), Marketa Židová (CZ), İrem Tümer (Chairperson, TR)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply conscious that traditional gender stereotypes prevent women from having equal professional opportunities to men and create labour segregation,
- B. Alarmed by the upcoming need for more human capital<sup>54</sup> in the EU as a consequence of the ageing population leading to a decrease in both the quality and quantity of the workforce,
- C. Noting with regret the unsatisfactory level of implementation of EU directives related to gender equality,
- D. Keeping in mind that policies concerning gender equality have to respect cultural diversity and differences among Member States,
- E. Recognising that gender quotas can be temporary measures which serve as tools to achieve a higher level of gender balance in the labour force,
- F. Emphasising the importance of meritocracy<sup>55</sup> during the selection of potential employees,
- G. Having considered that only 65.6% of women, as opposed to 90.3% of men, with children work due to factors including:
  - i) childcare,
  - ii) parental leave<sup>56</sup>,
  - iii) work-life balance,
- H. Deeply concerned that, despite representing 60% of university graduates across Europe, women obtain only 23.3% of top positions within European companies,
- I. Noting with deep concern the fact that women only account for 30% of all entrepreneurs across Europe,
- J. Convinced that gender diversity in companies has multiple positive effects such as increased profits, broader viewpoints, and more effective decision-making;

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<sup>54</sup> Human capital is the stock of competencies, knowledge, social and personality attributes within a population, combined with their ability to perform labour so as to produce economic value.

<sup>55</sup> Meritocracy is the implementation of advancement based upon intellectual talent and perceived ability.

<sup>56</sup> Parental leave is an employee benefit that provides paid or unpaid time off work to care for a child in the period following childbirth.

1. Invites Member States to take necessary steps to ensure full implementation of the EU Directives on Parental Leave<sup>57</sup>, Equal Treatment in Employment<sup>58</sup> and Self- Employment<sup>59</sup>;
2. Resolves that gender quotas should not be mandatory across the EU;
3. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate directives on:
  - a) implementation of career advice at school as a tool to counteract gender segregation in the labour market,
  - b) quality and availability of childcare services to set a common standard across Europe;
4. Urges Member States to support companies, through incentives such as tax benefits, that implement working arrangements such as flexible and/or compressed working hours<sup>60</sup>, provide childcare and include gender diversity in their corporate governance practices<sup>61</sup>;
5. Further calls upon the European Institute on Gender Equality<sup>62</sup> (EIGE) to work in co-operation with NGOs at a local level to direct attention to the issue of gender equality by organising workshops, conferences and trainings;
6. Asks the relevant EU institutions to work in co-ordination with the European Women’s Lobby<sup>63</sup> (EWL) to establish a network of ‘Gender-Diverse’ companies that will admit institutions meeting certain progress indicators on:
  - a) equal pay,
  - b) female employment rate,
  - c) distribution of female workers at different levels,
  - d) ‘family-friendly’ arrangements such as parental leave and flexible working hours;
7. Further asks the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions<sup>64</sup> (Eurofound) to assist companies in ensuring the inclusion of necessary measures for job security and maintenance of skills for parents who take parental leave in employment contracts;
8. Authorises the EIGE to create a knowledge and policy sharing platform for Member States and develop an online database of policies relating primarily to female entrepreneurship;
9. Decides to include a new portfolio in the Youth in Action Programme<sup>65</sup> (YIA) that will give financial grants to projects on female entrepreneurship, gender diversity in the workplace and female leadership training.

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<sup>57</sup> Directive 96/34/EC focuses on ensuring the implementation of at least 3 months of parental leave.

<sup>58</sup> Directive 2000/78/EC establishes a general framework for equal treatment in employment and observes progress in Member States by setting up bodies,

<sup>59</sup> Directive 86/613/EEC focuses on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity.

<sup>60</sup> These working arrangements permit employees to distribute their required weekly hours in a different manner to the traditional five-day week.

<sup>61</sup> A set of principles and mechanism that regulates the inner workings of a company.

<sup>62</sup> EIGE is an EU institution that was founded to support the European Commission and Member States in implementing objectives for promoting gender equality.

<sup>63</sup> EWL is the largest umbrella organization of women’s associations in the EU, working to promote women’s rights and gender equality.

<sup>64</sup> An EU body that was established to contribute to the planning and design of better living and working conditions in Europe.

<sup>10</sup> YIA is an EU programme that provides funding for projects that inspire a sense of active European citizenship.

## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Equal opportunities for all: what action should the European Union take to ensure youth with migration background have equal access to education throughout Europe and what is the responsibility of the individual?

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### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into consideration the difficulty non-EU students face during their studies in the EU, due to high tuition fees and specific documents required,
- B. Aware that two out of three immigrants come to Europe from a non-EU country,
- C. Recognising that the EU has no impact on non-EU countries' educational policies,
- D. Noting with deep concern that the increasing number of immigrants and refugees within the EU borders contributes to the formation of isolated ethnic communities,
- E. Fully believing that schools close to the above mentioned communities are mainly attended by young people with migration backgrounds, negatively affecting their educational level,
- F. Deeply concerned that xenophobia might discourage students with a migration background from attending school and subsequently widen the knowledge and academic performance gaps between them and native students,
- G. Having noted that the difficult integration process children with migration backgrounds experience has a negative impact on their educational process,
- H. Deeply convinced that early integration can be achieved by a provision of additional support for children with migration backgrounds,
- I. Observing that the poor knowledge of the host country's language is one of the main obstacles for the integration and the education of the young people with migration backgrounds,
- J. Deeply conscious of the existing communication gap, between teachers and students with a migrant background or their parents, resulting from language and cultural differences,
- K. Realising that a high percentage of students with migrant roots are leaving school before having gained any kind of qualification,
- L. Alarmed by the rising brain drain<sup>66</sup> in Europe,
- M. Seeking the enhancement of mobility to less academically attractive countries,
- N. Bearing in mind the Lifelong Learning Programme<sup>67</sup> which is rather well implemented,

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<sup>66</sup> The process of students leaving their own country without aiming to join its labour force later on.

<sup>67</sup> A programme issued by the European Commission in the education and training sector which allows people of different ages and backgrounds to engage in different learning experiences.

- O. Aiming for a harmonised higher education access procedure, balanced school standards and common diploma recognition in Europe,
1. Urges Member States to simplify visa request procedures for students interested in studying abroad by decreasing the capital they have to have to obtain it;
  2. Encourages an agreement between EU and non-EU countries ensuring that the difference in the fees for EU and non-EU students will be paid by the non-EU students' government on a condition that the individuals will return to work in their native country for a pre-determined amount of time;
  3. Calls for nationally-financed migrant support centres that will provide
    - a) information about the host country,
    - b) guidance towards integration,
    - c) support in both native and host languages.
  4. Recommends Member States invest in schools located in areas where non-native ethnic groups form the majority of the community, especially focusing on employing highly qualified teachers to raise the standard of education;
  5. Further recommends raising awareness on the cultural side of integration through education by establishing multi-cultural subjects at school, offering workshops and events;
  6. Affirms that host countries should provide additional support for children with migration background with the host country language and, if requested and feasible, in their native tongue;
  7. Emphasises the importance of special training for teachers which would enable them to efficiently work with students with migration backgrounds and better communicate with their parents;
  8. Considers the creation of a Parents Teachers Association (PTA)<sup>68</sup>-like association in order to develop a productive environment for students and co-operation between schools and parents;
  9. Expresses its appreciation for further usage of e-learning as a means to equal access and as an additional tool for the learning process in lower and higher education;
  10. Supports the implementation of internships, vocational training and orientation programmes for the labour market provided by schools and universities;
  11. Authorises the establishment of EU-funded universities in non-Member States to provide potential migrants with EU education standards;
  12. Draws attention to the importance of further implementation of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP);
  13. Endorses the creation of a European mandatory level of education, such as the acquisition of a secondary school diploma;
  14. Recommends a common system of academic performance evaluation in all European countries making sure that students are placed at the same grade as their home country's when moving to another country.

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<sup>68</sup> An American association which encourages a better communication between parents and teachers.



## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

With relentless violence continuing in Syria, is it acceptable for the international community to stand by engaging in cyclical discussion? What action should the EU take to protect the safety and security of those in the affected region in the wake of the Arab Spring?

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### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Condemns the extensive human rights violations in Syria, committed predominantly by pro-government forces and including, but not limited to: torture, arbitrary arrests and sexual violence,
  - B. Realising that Syria is not a democratic country and that the Alawi minority government has continuously suppressed other cultural and religious groups,
  - C. Convinced of the benefits of democracy to establish peace and stability in the affected region,
  - D. Noting with satisfaction the merits of Kofi Annan's 6 point peace plan,
  - E. Bearing in mind that the opposition is divided between different organisations which:
    - i) disagree about the legitimacy of the use of force against the government,
    - ii) disagree about the need for international intervention,
    - iii) represent different groups in society, most importantly the Kurds and the Sunnis,
  - F. Alarmed by the fact that Syria holds the third largest stock of biological and chemical weapons globally and threatens to put them to use in case of a foreign military intervention,
  - G. Taking into account that Russia and China continue to veto the UN Security Council's attempts to impose sanctions and approve military intervention in Syria,
  - H. Taking into consideration that the EU and US sanctions adversely affect the Syrian population,
  - I. Noting with deep concern that there is insufficient capacity to take in refugees in the neighbouring countries,
  - J. Expressing the hope that Syrian refugees can safely return to their homeland following the end of the conflict,
  - K. Fully aware that 228 million Euros have been spent by the EU on humanitarian aid in the region, whereas the United Nations (UN) has requested over 420 million Euros to help the Syrian population,
  - L. Deeply concerned by the number of Kurds that live in Syria without citizenship,
  - M. Deeply disturbed that there are severe limitations on freedom of speech in Syria, including censorship of the internet, use of propaganda, and forbidding international journalists entry into the country;
1. Urges the UN Security Council to authorise a No Fly Zone above Syria until the end of the conflict, implemented by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO);
  2. Further urges the UN Security Council to approve a peacekeeping mission in Syria if a peace agreement is signed between the government and the opposition;

3. Resolves that if all other means have failed to force the Syrian government to protect the basic safety and security of its own citizens, the EU will support a peace enforcement mission by the UN;
4. Requests Syria to ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
5. Recommends sending EU observers once the conflict has ended to assist in the development of democratic values;
6. Encourages a unified opposition that strives for a democratic transition through dialogue with the government;
7. Proclaims that the use of chemical or biological weapons by the Syrian government is sufficient reason for a peace enforcement mission by the UN;
8. Trusts the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs to engage in negotiations with Russia and China regarding the implementation of sanctions and an arms embargo through the UN Security Council;
9. Further requests the UN Security Council to approve the creation of a safe zone<sup>69</sup> for internally displaced people<sup>70</sup> (IDPs) in Syria;
10. Calls for the stimulation of basic economic activities within the safe zone;
11. Recommends that the EU increases its contribution to the UN humanitarian aid programme for the region;
12. Calls upon the Syrian government to give the Kurds the opportunity to take up full Syrian citizenship;
13. Expresses its hope that the Syrian government will allow Internet Service Providers<sup>71</sup> (ISPs) to operate freely within Syrian territory.

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<sup>69</sup> A closed off area in which humanitarian support can be provided to internally displaced people.

<sup>70</sup> IDPs can be distinguished from refugees by reference to the fact that they have not left their home country.

<sup>71</sup> An organisation that provides access to the internet.



**Amsterdam 2012**

A stylized black outline of a windmill with four sails, positioned between the words 'Amsterdam' and '2012' in the main title.

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71<sup>st</sup> International Session of the European Youth Parliament