



# **RESOLUTION BOOKLET**

ZURICH 2013

73<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF  
THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

**Additional decision by the GB: Country Code Designation for Kosovo**

The proposed country code designation for delegates from Kosovo, as used at the 1st Selection Conference of the EYP Initiative in Kosovo is “ \*KS “. In the resolution booklet this is defined as:  
\*KS – Delegates from the European territory of Kosova as defined by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX).

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## **Programme of the General Assembly**

### **Day I – Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

09:45–10:30	Opening of the General Assembly
10:30–11:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on International Trade
11:15–11:45	Coffee break with surprise activity
11:45–12:30	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Culture and Education
12:30–13:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Constitutionnal Affairs I
13:15–13:30	Transfer to restaurant
13:30–14:30	Lunch
14:30–14:45	Transfer to General Assembly venue
14:45–15:30	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I
15:30–16:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutionnal Affairs II
16:15–16:45	Coffee break
16:45–17:30	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs II
17:30–18:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II

### **Day II – Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

09:30–10:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
10:15–11:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs III
11:00–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–12:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
12:15–13:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection
13:00–13:15	Transfer to restaurant
13:15–14:15	Lunch
14:15–14:30	Transfer to General Assembly venue
14:30–15:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
15:15–16:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee Employment and Social Affairs
16:00–16:30	Coffee break
16:30–17:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development
17:15–18:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs I
18:00–19:00	Closing Ceremony

## Procedure of 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

- Presenting of the motion for the resolution
- Reading of the operative clauses
- Points of information
- 3 minutes to defend the motion for the resolution
- 3 minutes to attack the motion for the resolution
- 1 minute to respond to the attack speech
- General debate
- 3 minutes to sum-up the debate
- Voting procedure
- Announcing the votes

### Point of information

During points of Information, the committee placard may be raised and delegates can ask the proposing committee to clarify specific words and abbreviations. Note that points of information must ask for a factual answer. All other points must wait until the general debate.

### Point of personal privilege

Request for a delegate to repeat a point that was inaudible.

### Point of order

A delegate feels that the board has not properly followed parliamentary procedure. The placard is used by chairpersons after a request from a delegate.

### Direct response

Once per debate, each committee may use the Direct Response sign. Should a committee member raise the Committee Placard and the “Direct Response” sign, the board recognises them immediately. The direct response sign is used to contribute to the point made directly beforehand.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on International Trade

### **China's monopoly on rare earth elements (REEs): how should Europe help to guarantee sustainable supply of REEs, whilst ensuring the viability of reserves and reducing the environmental impact of their mining worldwide?**

Submitted by: Simona Della Valle (ES), Can Elvanlioglu (TR), Ani Karapetyan (AM), Anna Marija Kiesnere (LV), Julia Kurganovich (BY), Rona McKee (UK), Clemens Munter (AT), Andrada Alina Oprea (RO), Oleksii Prylipka (UA), Floris Rijssenbeek (CH), Marissa de Swart (NL), Merle Rüder (DE), Timothy Henry Charles Tamm (EE), Hans Maes (Chairperson, BE)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Emphasising that rare earth elements (REEs) are essential for virtually all technological products, particularly for green technologies, which constitute one of the EU's most important industries,
- B. Alarmed by the fact that the demand for REEs is growing by 8-10%<sup>1</sup> per year, and will soon surpass global supply,
- C. Noting that the exploitation of REEs is very technology- and capital-intensive,
- D. Concerned by the widespread disregard for environmental protection policy and labour laws as well as human rights in REE mining, aggravated by the tendency to prioritise economic benefits over health and environment,
- E. Deeply concerned by China's reduction of their REE export quota, claiming that this will preserve domestic supply and protect the environment,
- F. Aware that this gives China a competitive advantage through the:
  - i) increase of prices outside of China and lowering their domestic prices,
  - ii) shift of technology production to China,
- G. Guided by the fact that EU-China relations have worsened due to trade barriers on both sides,
- H. Noting with regret that a large proportion of REE mines in China operate illegally,
- I. Recognising the existence of small REE deposits in the EU, but which are not currently being exploited due to the:
  - i) lack of research and exploration,
  - ii) lack of knowledge on REE processing,
  - iii) non viable economic conditions,
  - iv) negative impact on the environment,
  - v) long establishment periods time for opening new mines,
- J. Observing that some countries with REE resources have banned extraction due to the negative environmental impact,

<sup>1</sup> De Boer, Lammertsma, Scarcity of Rare Earth Elements, KNCV, Amsterdam University, 2012, pp. 13.

- K. Noting with concern that treatment and refining of REEs is environmentally damaging and results in acid leakage, water pollution and radioactive waste, thus causing severe health risks,
  - L. Noting with approval China's endeavours to combat environmental pollution,
  - M. Deeply regretting that Member States fail to efficiently recycle products containing REEs;
- 
- I. Whereas China accounts for 97% of the worlds supply of REEs, despite having only 40% of the worlds known reserves<sup>2</sup>;
  - II. Whereas the European Parliament adopted a 'Resolution on an effective raw materials strategy' (September 12, 2011, A7-0288/2011);
  - III. Whereas both China and the EU apply trade barriers towards each other, in accordance with the resolution of the European Parliament on EU-China relations (April 20, 2012, A7-0141/2012);
  - IV. Whereas China enacted in 1993 the 'Provisional Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Resource Taxation' to levy natural resource taxes on REE producers in order to combat environmental damage and undermine illegal mining;
  - V. Whereas currently less than 1% of REE resources are being recycled due to the lack of sustainable recycling technologies and/or collection infrastructure<sup>3</sup>;

### **Decreasing Dependence on REE Imports**

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate partnerships with countries<sup>4</sup> that have started directing resources into REE mining, in order to increase REE supply in the short term;
- 2. Further calls upon the European Commission to support agreements such as investment funds with developing countries in order to obtain a sustainable and stable import of REEs in the long term;
- 3. Demands that the European Commission increases the proportion of the annual budget dedicated to funding research on REE alternatives;
- 4. Calls upon the European Rare Earth Competency Network (ERECON) to carry out a European Material Flow Analysis (MFA)<sup>5</sup> in order to fill data gaps on REEs material flows;
- 5. Requests that once environmentally friendly extraction of REEs has been achieved, the European Commission commissions exploration for sustainable and economically viable REE deposits within the EU;

### **Sustainable Exploitation**

- 6. Encourages the European Commission to provide China with environmentally friendly mining and processing technologies as well as experts in exchange for an increase in its export quota;

<sup>2</sup> According to a review commissioned by the Royal Netherlands Chemical Society, April 2011.

<sup>3</sup> According to the European Parliament's library briefing on REEs and recycling possibilities, published on May 02, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Such as the United States of America, Australia, and Japan.

<sup>5</sup> A material flow analysis is an analytical method of quantifying flows and stocks of materials or substances in a well-defined system. MFA is an important tool to assess the physical consequences of human activities and needs in the field of industrial ecology.



7. Urges the European External Action Service (EEAS) to voice support for the Chinese government's efforts to combat the problem of illegal mining;
8. Expresses its support for ERECON and advises it to collaborate with all relevant international stakeholders by organising annual summits;

#### **Combating Environmental Damage**

9. Urges Member States to promote increasing the recycling of REEs through urban mining<sup>6</sup> by:
  - a) researching more sustainable recycling methods,
  - b) improving efficiency of collection infrastructure and raising awareness,
  - c) pushing for alternative product designs that enhance recyclability and/or lower the demand for REEs;
10. Urges the Member States to cooperate in implementing a pan-European network with the aim of providing best practices and recycling facilities, such as collection points for used electronics, and additionally to grant financial compensations to further encourage these actions;
11. Calls upon the United Nations Environmental Programme's (UNEP) Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) to report on REE production companies in order to ensure transparency;
12. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation imposing a tax penalty on EU enterprises that continue to buy REEs from companies that do not meet the criteria set by EU experts according to the reports issued by the UNEP DEWA in order to ensure environmental sustainability.

<sup>6</sup> Urban mining is the process of reclaiming compounds and elements from products, buildings, and waste; frequently used to recycle REEs.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Culture and Education

### **Working with the watchdogs: responding to recent concerns about media regulation in the United Kingdom and Hungary, how should European decision-makers in tandem with the ‘fourth estate’ achieve free and pluralistic media that sustain European democracy?**

Submitted by: Arbina Ajdar (MK), Joana Cavaco (PT), Cliona Cowhig (IE), Charles Duval (FR), Okechukwu Egbete (UA), Christina Georgopoulou (GR), Storm Gibbons (NL), Katie Harrison (UK), Triin Kaup (EE), Marko Kazic (RS), Furkan Saygin Sener (TR), Emma Skelly (IE), Jana Todorovic (RS), Yannick Van Bogaert (BE), Katerina Zejdlova (CZ), Priit Piip (Chairperson, EE)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Convinced that free speech constitutes a fundamental right,
  - B. Aware of the crucial watchdog<sup>1</sup> role that free and independent media plays in a democratic society,
  - C. Recognising that pluralism is not only produced by diversity of media ownership but also diversity of opinion,
  - D. Having studied the diversity of ethical standards, explaining the large difference in the enforcement of e.g. privacy laws in the EU,
  - E. Observing that each Member State has different press regulation policies,
  - F. Noting that existing media initiatives<sup>2</sup> are research based and lack decision-making powers,
  - G. Emphasising the need for a balance between individuals’ right to privacy and the public interest,
  - H. Believing in a connection between the lack of interest in and media coverage of European affairs and the lack of European identity,
  - I. Viewing with appreciation EuroParlTV and similar initiatives for providing a source of information for politically interested Europeans,
  - J. Alarmed by the considerable socio-political power of media barons<sup>3</sup> and the consequent encroachment of pluralism;
- 
- I. Whereas Article 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers;
  - II. Whereas Italy’s former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi still owns 38.6% of the nation’s largest commercial broadcaster Mediaset, which also broadcasts in Albania, Croatia, Switzerland, Malta, San Marino and Slovenia;

<sup>1</sup> Watchdog journalism acts as a protector or guardian against inefficiency, illegal practices, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Media initiatives such as Mediadem, MediaAcT, Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom work for the greater transparency and more pluralistic media in Member States.

<sup>3</sup> A media baron is a successful entrepreneur or businessman who controls, through personal ownership or via a dominant position in any mass media related company or enterprise consumed by a large number of individuals.



### **Pan-European Press Regulation**

1. Supports the European Commission in initiating legislation that leads to greater regulation of press in Member States;
2. Calls for the European Commission to initiate the amendment of Article 197 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>4</sup> to establish a pan-European Regulatory Body (PERB) to set and implement minimum standards for press freedom and media regulation across the EU;
3. Further requests that the PERB consist of one academic and one journalist from each Member State to work with or set up national regulatory bodies in creating country specific means to achieve its goals;
4. Emphasises the need for the PERB to possess a mandate to:
  - a) deliver warnings and fines should Member States fail to adhere to the PERB's media freedom standards,
  - b) establish a Standard pan-European Regulation Mark granting newspapers certification of ethical conduct;
5. Proposes that the PERB organise annual conferences that would:
  - a) enable discussions and knowledge sharing on press regulation and press ethics,
  - b) allow representatives of Member States to evaluate the effectiveness of EU media regulation,
  - c) assess the level of media pluralism,
  - d) foster cooperation between media pressure groups, regulatory bodies and national governments;
6. Calls upon PERB to explicitly define public interest to prevent violation of the right to privacy;

### **Increasing European Identity**

7. Urges the Member States to promote knowledge on aspects of European and national identity:
  - a) a social media campaign in each Member State providing accessible information about Member States,
  - b) a short video competition where the winner in each Member State will be broadcast across the EU;
8. Recommends that Member States support national broadcasters who produce features on European Culture or of European relevance;

### **Sustaining Democracy and Pluralistic Media**

9. Calls on Member States to take steps to exclude politicians from executive roles in media organisations;
10. Condemns monetary transfers between media and political group;
11. Further recommends Member States to provide public broadcast services with adequate resources to ensure:
  - a) a reliable and unbiased source of information,
  - b) representation of minorities in the media;

<sup>4</sup> Article 197 of the Lisbon Treaty states that the administrative cooperation becomes the competence of the EU guaranteeing the effective implementation of EU law. Currently the article restricts harmonisation of the laws and regulations in the Member States.



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12. Request that the European Commission initiate legislation to limit the market share of any single owner to a maximum of 30% in any one form of media in all Member States.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs I

**The creation of a powerful institution with monetary and supervisory powers at the heart of Europe: which role should the European Central Bank (ECB) best play in the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) and how can effective, fair, transparent and democratically accountable supervision of the European banking sector be guaranteed?**

Submitted by: Alexander Bratthall (SE), Daniel Černín (CZ), Ana Chutkerashvili (GE), Alice Féray (FR), Alise Golovacka (LV), Tadeus Hogenelst (NL), Willem Koelewijn (NL), Milan Mag (HU), Dan Marta (RO), David Mc Elligott (IE), Panagiotis Patikos (GR), Marja Pentikäinen (FI), Annemari Sepp (EE), Monika Tarvydytė (LT), Rónán O'Connor (Chairperson, IE)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Acknowledging that there is a general lack of trust in Eurozone banks as a result of the banking crisis,
- B. Concerned that the EU bore the financial cost of the banking crisis yet lacked the supervisory power which may have prevented it,
- C. Concerned by the conflict of interest between supervisory and monetary powers that may arise within the European Central Bank (ECB) if it holds both monetary and supervisory powers,
- D. Acknowledging that supervising 6,000 financial institutions may cause practical difficulties for the SSM,
- E. Drawing attention to the lack of accountability caused by informal communication between the ECB and the SSM in making supervisory decisions,
- F. Believing that common guidelines on the supervision of banks under the remit of the SSM, regardless of their size, are crucial to ensure that long-term stability is achieved,
- G. Aware of the fact that competitive supervision<sup>1</sup> between Member States is unsustainable and can result in bankruptcy,
- H. Supports the creation and implementation of the Single Supervisory Handbook<sup>2</sup> by the European Banking Authority<sup>3</sup> (EBA),
- I. Welcoming that a non-Eurozone Member State can join the SSM on a voluntary basis,
- J. Affirming that the main goal of the SSM is to achieve economic stability through effective, fair, transparent and democratically accountable supervision,

<sup>1</sup> Competitive supervision refers to the period during the economic boom during which national supervisors used light-touch supervision as a means to appear more attractive for banking practice and create exponential short-term growth.

<sup>2</sup> The Single Supervisory Handbook is a set of guidelines to be produced by the EBA to ensure the integrity of the single market and ensure coherent coordination of banking supervision in all 28 EU countries.

<sup>3</sup> The EBA is an independent body that creates regulation for EU financial institutions through a process of advisement of the ECB.

- I. Whereas criteria have already been created to differentiate between banks that will be directly supervised by the SSM and those supervised by national supervisory authorities, based upon the economic scale of the institution and the relative scale of that institution to the GDP of the country in which it operates;
- II. Whereas the European Parliament (EP) resolution on a proposal for a 'Council regulation conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions' (P7\_TA-PROV(2013)0213) passed by the EP gave the parliament power to appoint the chair and vice-chair of the SSM and access to information on the operations of the SSM;
- III. Whereas according to the aforementioned resolution the SSM will operate as a subsidiary of the ECB;
- IV. Whereas ultimately under the aforementioned resolution all SSM board decisions will have to be approved by the Governing Council of the ECB;

#### **Transparent Operation of the SSM**

1. Confirms that the SSM should primarily be established from the perspective of Eurozone financial integrity and that the bureaucratic processes reflect this;
2. Requests that the ECB publish an annual report on the activities of the SSM with regards to maintaining the stability of the banks under its remit;
3. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation with regard to the institutional framework of the ECB, to provide traceability in the decision-making process between the Supervisory board and the Board of Governors;

#### **SSM as a Supervisory Authority**

4. Authorises the European Commission to initiate legislation for the creation of 'Chinese Walls'<sup>4</sup> between monetary and supervisory capacities within the ECB;
5. Expresses its satisfaction with the present criteria for determining the significant banks that will be directly supervised by the SSM;

#### **Relationship Between the ECB, SSM, and National Supervisory Authorities**

6. Recognising that the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM)<sup>5</sup> will operate most effectively when established as a subsidiary of the ECB because the expertise of the ECB are most suited to its pragmatic needs;
7. Approves of the SSM's authority to overrule the decisions of national supervisors as it sees fit;
8. Requests Member States to harmonise the supervisory practices between the SSM and their respective national supervisory authorities through the Single Supervisory handbook;
9. Further resolves to indirectly supervise banks that are not systemically significant through national supervisory authorities in coordination with the SSM.

<sup>4</sup> A Chinese Wall is a policy through which an institution keeps particular aspects of its operation entirely separated, preventing any interaction between the stakeholders.

<sup>5</sup> The SSM is a supranational mechanism tasked with the supervision of all financial institutions within the countries over which it has jurisdiction.

## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I**

**Beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP): in the light of the 'Trio Programme' priority for Europe to look beyond growth in capital, how should Europe consider environmental progress, well-being and other indicators alongside more traditional measures of development?**

Submitted by: Myrto Apostolidou (GR), Greta Ardito (IT), David Blacher (AT), Pawel Borowski (PL), Dima Markin (RU), Dagnija Meiere (LV), Caoimhe O'Rourke (IE), Katarzyna Obroślak (PL), Kim Peters (NL), Judīte Petroviča (LV), Viktoria Piekarska (DE), Miguel Vera Campuzano (ES), Arbnor Zejnullahu (KS\*), Sophie Scannell (Chairperson, IE)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Recognising that while Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a valid measure of economic growth it is not adequately indicative of overall development<sup>1</sup>, given its inability to measure social and environmental factors,
- B. Further disappointed by the widely held assumption that economic growth and development are equivalent,
- C. Noting with regret that the European Cohesion Fund<sup>2</sup> (ECF), the European Social Fund<sup>3</sup> (ESF), and the European Regional Development Fund<sup>4</sup> (ERDF) distribute their financial support solely according to GDP without considering environmental and social development,
- D. Welcoming the desire of the EU to strive for a more holistic understanding of development, and to focus on more than just GDP, as articulated by the European Parliament (EP), the European Commission, and the Council of the EU in the most recent Trio Programme<sup>5</sup>,
- E. Viewing with appreciation the contribution of the Beyond-GDP<sup>6</sup> conference of 2007 to the movement toward, and the discourse around, finding new indicators of development,

<sup>1</sup> Where development is defined as a comprehensive process involving economic, social and environmental progress and corresponding improvements in quality of life.

<sup>2</sup> A European fund that serves to stabilise and reduce economic and social shortfall in Member States, where eligibility is primarily determined by having a GDP of less than 90% of the EU average.

<sup>3</sup> A European fund that aims to support employment and promote economic and social cohesion, where eligibility is determined primarily by having a GDP of less than 75% of the EU average.

<sup>4</sup> A European fund aiming to strengthen economic and social cohesion by correcting regional imbalances and supporting convergence, competitiveness, employment, and territorial cooperation, with eligibility determined primarily by having a GDP of less than 75% of the EU average.

<sup>5</sup> An 18 months plan prepared by the next three countries due to hold the EU Council Presidency designed to outline the key objectives of the Council over the duration of three full terms. The current Trio Programme (Ireland, Lithuania, Greece) covers January 2013 to July 2014.

<sup>6</sup> A conference hosted by the European Commission, European Parliament, Club of Rome, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) aiming to clarify the appropriateness of various indicators and how they can be best integrated into policy making.

- F. Recognising that a successful indicator must include among its attributes:
  - i) transparency,
  - ii) reliability, accuracy, and sensitivity,
  - iii) standardisation,
  - iv) a basis upon recent data,
  - v) relevance to policy aims,
  - vi) easy use,
  - vii) easy understanding,
- G. Believing the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)<sup>7</sup> to be a valid adjustment to GDP as a measure of economic growth that also incorporates environmental and social factors not measured by GDP,
- H. Noting with appreciation that the GPI incorporates measurements of several of the aims of key EU strategies, such as the Sustainable Development Strategy<sup>8</sup> and Europe 2020<sup>9</sup>,
- I. Aware of the potential of self-reported well-being indices<sup>10</sup> to measure progress,
- J. Further aware that the current lack of sufficient precision of these indices makes them unsuitable for concrete policies and actions,
- K. Convinced of the need for successful indicators in order to make informed policy decisions;
  
- I. Whereas Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) admits responsibility for a sustainable Europe, and proposes to implement an EU wide framework to monitor and evaluate European environmental economic accounts;
- II. Whereas the most recent Trio Programme 17426/12 of December 7, 2012 defines a priority for Europe to look beyond growth in capital in order to achieve the goal of sustainable development;
- III. Whereas the report “Alternative Progress Indicators to GDP”, commissioned by the EP committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and authored by Goossens et. al., stated that GPI could be used as a single integrated and top level indicator;
- IV. Whereas the Beyond GDP conference held in 2007 expressed the significance of creating an indicator that would be as easy to measure, use and understand as GDP and would be sensitive to economic, environmental and social development;

<sup>7</sup> GPI is a measure based upon GDP that calculates a monetary value of the positive and negative externalities of social and environmental factors and uses this to adjust GDP.

<sup>8</sup> An EU policy aiming to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, based on economic, social, environmental and global governance factors.

<sup>9</sup> An EU policy aiming to ensure “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” by 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Indices that gather data from large scale surveys of EU citizens.

### **Data Collection, Application, and Accuracy**

1. Emphasises that the development of a country should include not just economic growth but also environmental and social sustainability;
2. Calls upon EUROSTAT<sup>11</sup> and associated agencies<sup>12</sup> to commence frequent calculation of the GPI for all European countries;
3. Calls upon EUROSTAT to frequently evaluate the components of the GPI with the possibility of modifying them to maintain relevance to key objectives of future EU strategies;
4. Encourages the European Commission to further research into indicators using self reported data and surveys to measure well-being;

### **Changes to the Contribution Policy**

5. Supports the continued use of Gross National Income (GNI) as the main indicator for a country's contribution to the EU because:
  - a) it excludes depreciation and appreciation of assets,
  - b) it takes into account only the capital possessed by a country,
  - c) it includes indirect taxation and subsidies, and thus reflects actual profits;
6. Calls upon the European Commission to propose a reduction in the annual contributions of Member States to the European Union where they present high achievements in social and environmental sustainability;

### **Changes to the Fund Allocation Policy**

7. Supports the GPI given that:
  - a) It is measured in monetary terms, and can thus be compared on the same scale as GDP,
  - b) It includes social and environmental factors such as income distribution, crime rate and pollution;
8. Endorses the use of the GPI by the European Commission and its agencies as the main indicator of development;
9. Reaffirms the use of GDP as a basis for the GPI in preference to any other purely economic measurement such as NNI, GNP, NDP etc;
10. Urges the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), and European Cohesion Fund (ECF) to adapt their criteria from GDP to GPI;
11. Further trusts that all other aspects of the ERDF, ESF, and ECF should remain as previous, including the management and control systems that govern these funds.

<sup>11</sup> EUROSTAT is the statistical office of the European Union.

<sup>12</sup> Such as the European Environmental Agency and the European Earth Observation Programme.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs II

**‘Lobbying the European Parliament (EP) for the common welfare? In the light of discussions about the introduction of a legislative footprint and increased civic participation, what strategy should the EP adopt towards interest representation and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as legitimate partners in policy-making?’**

Submitted by: Elisabeth Adamoudi (GR), Maxime Anceau (FR), Timon Fahl (DE), Joshua Giovanni Honeycutt (IT), Teresa Kerkhoff (DE), Maciej Kuczyński (PL), Alice Munnelly (IE), Miguel Paiva (PL), Biljana Petrović (RS), Maximilian Richter (SE), Lena Vogel (CH), Teresa Gisinger (AT), Cassie Tingen (NL), Valeriia Cherednichenko (Chairperson, UA)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Guided by the three principles of democratic governance in Europe as stated in the Treaty of Lisbon, namely:
  - i) participatory democracy,
  - ii) democratic equality,
- i ii) representative democracy,
- B. Deeply concerned by the bribery scandal of 2011 in which three Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) accepted funds in exchange for legislative favours<sup>1</sup>,
- C. Recognising lobbying<sup>2</sup> as a key source of information for democratic policy-making,
- D. Affirming the role of the European Parliament (EP) as a model for its Member States with regard to lobbying policies and transparency,
- E. Noting with regret that only 5,872 of an estimated total of 15,000 lobbyists<sup>3</sup> to the EP in Brussels are part of the Transparency Register (TR) as of July 24, 2013,
- F. Referring to Article 298 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>4</sup> as the legal basis for a mandatory Transparency Register,
- G. Alarmed by the large amount of falsified information submitted to the TR by interest groups<sup>5</sup>,
- H. Bearing in mind that communication between interest groups and MEPs occurs through the following channels:
  - i.) e-mail (54%),

1 EurActiv: Journalistic spoof traps MEPs in bribery affair, <http://www.euractiv.com/future-eu/journalistic-spoof-traps-meps-br-news-503281>, March 21, 2011.

2 Lobbying is the act of attempting to influence business and government leaders to create legislation or conduct an activity that will help a particular organisation, <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/lobbying.html>

3 Transparency Register Statistics, <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/statistics.do?locale=en&action=prepareView>

4 TFEU, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0047:0199:en:PDF>

5 215 out of 404 quality checks performed by the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat contained false information, Annual Report on the operations of the Transparency register 2012, <http://www.transparencyinternational.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2012-09-19-TI-Recommendations-on-Transparency-Register.pdf>



- ii.) personal appointments (19%),
- iii.) the telephone (18%),
- iv.) informal conversations (9%)<sup>6</sup>,
- I. Aware that 37% of legislative amendments are submitted by representatives of interest groups<sup>7</sup>,
- J. Taking into account the unbalanced representation of lobbying institutions, with the distribution as follows:
  - i.) companies (70%),
  - ii.) NGOs (10%),
  - iii.) government (20%);
- K. Remembering that the European Commission consults and financially supports a variety of different stakeholders, such as Non-governmental Organisations and Think Tanks;
- I. Whereas the EP decided on May 11, 2011 to conclude an interinstitutional agreement with the European Commission on a common Transparency Register (2010/2291(ACI));
- II. Whereas the Conference of Presidents approved the Code of Conduct for MEPs on the recommendation of the Bureau on July 7, 2011;

### **Transparency Register**

1. Calls upon the Secretariat to impose mandatory inclusion for interest groups which aim at continuously influencing policy-making prior to official contact with MEPs in the TR;
2. Urges the Council of the EU to join the European Commission and the EP in using the TR;
3. Calls upon the European Commission to introduce the following measures to ensure the effectiveness of the TR:
  - a) The removal of interest groups which submit incorrect information which remains unamended after a warning period of 10 days from the TR for one year,
  - b) Registered parties to update information submitted every two years;
4. Requests that the Secretariat increase the number of checks to 20% of all registered parties checked every six months;
5. Invites the European Commission to revise the aforementioned inter-institutional agreement<sup>8</sup> to provide for access for groups which have joined the TR to an online platform which allows registered parties to contact MEPs via purpose-made accounts for lobbying,
6. Declares accordingly that registration will give direct access to the TR platform as the exclusive means of contacting an MEP online to officially engage in lobbying activities;
7. Further invites the EP to adopt the European Commission's practice of informing interested parties about public consultations and roadmaps<sup>9</sup> through the TR platform;

<sup>6</sup> Procedural or substantive legitimacy? How to reconcile deliberative quality and interest representation, Wilhelm Lehmann, Policy Department Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs European Parliament, <http://uaces.org/documents/papers/0901/lehmann.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> See Whereas Clause I.

<sup>9</sup> A roadmap gives a first description of a planned European Commission's initiative, [http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned\\_ia/planned\\_ia\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/planned_ia_en.htm)

### **Ensuring Transparency in the Legislative Process**

8. Further requests every EP's piece of legislation and its origin, as well as agendas and minutes of meetings of EP expert groups, to be published on the official website of the EU<sup>10</sup>;
9. Supports the existing Code of Conduct for MEPs and the Bureau's sanctions for MEPs who engage with unregistered interest groups;
10. Establishes an internal procedure through which the exclusion for two years of MEPs who leave the EP to professionally engage with interest groups registered in the TR<sup>11</sup> would occur;
11. Calls upon MEPs to use the legislative footprint as an annex to legislative reports in the legislative process<sup>12</sup>;

### **Interest Representation**

12. Introduces calls for representatives of interest groups registered on the TR to form expert groups with a registered representative each, to be implemented through the TR platform;
13. Encourages Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to collaborate and thus increase their lobbying ability and influence.

<sup>10</sup> <http://europa.eu/>

<sup>11</sup> Transparency International 2012 – Report; Money, Politics, Power: Corruption Risk in Europe.

<sup>12</sup> A legislative footprint is a list to be drawn up by MEPs of the time, person and subject of all discussions he or she had during the work on a legislative dossier.



## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs II**

### **Culture change within the banking industry: how can the EU support a sector that works better for the general public without driving investment and bankers out of Europe?**

Submitted by: Benjamin Babicz (HU), Liam Cowley (IE), Cristina Crespo (ES), Kinga-Klara Darida (RO), Dominik Etzenbach (DE), Doris Fonseca Lima (CH), Panagiotis Georgopoulos (GR), Ida Hafskjold (NO), Timur Ikramov (CY), Naomi Lawson (UK), Johannes Pieter Louwerse (NL), Meeri Sõelsepp (EE), Ian Perring (FI), Anton Verkhovodov (UA), Anar Kučera (Vice-President, CZ)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Noting with deep concern the overly profit-oriented and self-serving culture, as well as lack of transparency, within the banking industry,
  - B. Deeply disturbed by the possible spill-over effects of risks from investment banking into commercial banking, sometimes accompanied by a 'too-big-to-fail' mentality,
  - C. Guided by the need to support a sustainable banking sector that benefits the general public and retains investment in Europe, especially regarding financing of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises,
  - D. Welcoming the presence of banks with a comparatively ethical approach to banking and investment,
  - E. Appreciating measures to regulate and supervise the banking sector on EU level through:
    - i) recent legislative actions,
    - ii) the work of the European Banking Authority<sup>1</sup> (EBA) and Single Supervisory Mechanism<sup>2</sup> (SSM),
  - F. Having considered the failure of some regulatory and supervisory bodies to adequately fulfil their responsibilities and the negative impact of such failure on banking culture,
  - G. Fully believing in the potential of consumer power to steer a change in banking culture,
  - H. Acknowledging that excessively restrictive measures on the banking system would encourage banks to relocate outside of the EU,
  - I. Deeply concerned that banks were bailed out by the taxpayer;
- 
- I. Whereas the High-level Expert group on reforming the structure of the EU banking structure has made numerous recommendations;
  - II. Whereas the Banking Commission of the Parliament of the United Kingdom published a report called "Changing banking for good";
  - III. Whereas banks promoting ethical banking have formed the Global Alliance – For Banking

<sup>1</sup> The EBA is an independent body that creates regulation for EU financial institutions through a process of advisement of the ECB.

<sup>2</sup> The SSM is a supranational mechanism tasked with the supervision of all financial institutions within the countries over which it has jurisdiction.

on Values;

- IV. Whereas the report “Changing banking for good: It’s all about the culture” of Chartered Institute of Personnel Development<sup>3</sup> (CIPD) states that 40% of interviewed bankers believe that change in board would be most effective tool in changing the culture of banking;
- V. Whereas the report “Changing banking for good: It’s all about the culture” of Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) further states that two thirds of interviewed bankers believe that some employees are still rewarded in a way that incentivises inadequate behaviour;
- VI. Whereas the European Parliament (EP) passed the Own Initiative Report A7-0231/2013;
- VII. Whereas the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and the fourth edition of the Capital Requirements Directive (CRD IV) incorporate parts of Basel III into EU legislation;

### **Responsible Banking**

- 1. Urges the European Commission to initiate appropriate legislation to make investment bankers personally responsible for losses with amendments to CRR and CRD IV complementing the yearly bonus cap of 200% of basic salary with a mandatory bonus-malus system<sup>4</sup>;
- 2. Further requests the European Commission to initiate legislation that would increase responsibility of board members in banking industry, enforced by Member States national supervising authorities and coordinated by the SSM;
- 3. Recommends the European Commission, EP and the Council of the EU to swiftly implement the rest of the Basel III package<sup>5</sup>;

### **Ethical Banking**

- 4. Endorses the initiation of a mandatory grading system for ethical banking by the EBA in cooperation with national regulatory authorities, the financial industry and Non-Governmental Organisations, focusing mainly, but not exclusively, on transparency, social responsibility, and sustainability;

### **Supervision and Regulation of Banking Industry**

- 5. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation for mandatory separation of investment and commercial banking, regarding the banks own capital, trading operations and, sales network;
- 6. Requests that the European and national supervisory authorities use their power to assess financial products and make use of available measures to ensure financial stability;
- 7. Authorises European Commission to initiate legislation that structures re-capitalisation of banks in following order:
  - a) shareholders contribute with capital worth their shares,
  - b) bond holders have to write off their bond value,
  - c) large clients with assets worth more than €100,000 progressively write off parts of their assets,

<sup>3</sup> The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development is the world's largest Chartered HR and development professional body.

<sup>4</sup> Business arrangements which alternately reward (bonus) or penalise (malus).

<sup>5</sup> The Basel III package defines minimum standards on bank capital adequacy.



- d) additional capital is provided through funding from public sources;
- 8. Encourages Member States to equip national supervisory bodies with more resources to allow more efficient and effective supervision.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II

**Bearing the risks and reaping the benefits of genetically modified crops: what stance should Europe take considering both their potential to boost agricultural production and efficiency worldwide as well as the environmental, public health and socio-economic impact of their application?**

Submitted by: Margaux Allain (FR), Andra Pop Jurj (RO), Răzvan Calcan (RO), Francesco Delorenzi (BE), Katarzyna Faszczewska (PL), Anna Galkina (RU), Peyman Khaljani (DE), Patrick Koepsel Sanz (ES), Līna Orste (LV), Leonor Rodrigues (PT), Robertas Skliaustas (LT), Nina Thomic (AT), Kim van Winkel (NL), Filip Vasiljević (RS), Saki Shinoda (Chairperson, CH)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Reaffirming the objective of existing EU regulation in relation to genetically modified crops (GMCs) to maintain a high level of protection of human life and health, animal health and welfare, environment and consumer interest,
- B. Further desiring the effective functioning of the internal market while ensuring the above,
- C. Emphasising the potential benefits of GMCs, such as increased agricultural productivity, enhanced nutritional value, rehabilitation of damaged environments, longer shelf lives, drought resistance, and reduced pesticide usage,
- D. Deeply convinced that both Member States and European institutions should be involved in legislative decisions regarding GMCs,
- E. Deeply concerned by the decreasing ratio of arable land to world population, the annual loss of crops before harvest, inefficient food distribution, and the resulting threat to future food security,
- F. Guided by the precautionary principle<sup>1</sup> and its application to post-market monitoring<sup>2</sup>,
- G. Alarmed that the EU's comparatively change-averse and strict regulation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) hinders the competitiveness of the EU in the fields of research and trade,
- H. Deeply concerned by the domestic economic losses and negative impact on international trade caused by the asynchronous approvals<sup>3</sup> of GMOs in the EU,
- I. Taking into account the role of competition law and market forces in mitigating the risks associated with monopolies of seeds GMCs,

<sup>1</sup> According to the precautionary principle, when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically.

<sup>2</sup> The practice of monitoring the safety to health and environment of a GM product after it has been placed on the market.

<sup>3</sup> Differing speeds of authorisation between countries can result in GMCs being approved at different times, potentially causing conflicts in trade of agricultural commodities that are approved for cultivation in one country but not for import in another.



- J. Noting with concern that current labelling requirements do not allow consumers to make an informed choice about food and feed products containing GMOs,
  - K. Keeping in mind that despite the potential risks of experimental GMCs to public health, the current standard of food safety for approved products is sufficient,
  - L. Convinced that the public perception of GMOs is formed without complete information,
  - M. Taking into account that current conventional agriculture techniques<sup>4</sup> have negative environmental impacts, such as contribution to global warming through CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, chemical pollution, and soil erosion caused by monocultures,
  - N. Recognising that while the aforementioned techniques also apply to the cultivation of GMCs, these have potential to reduce or even reverse undesirable effects on the environment,
  - O. Aware that the cultivated GMCs could potentially contaminate non-genetically modified crops and wild habitats;
- 
- I. Whereas the EU's current regulation, most notably Directive 2001/18/EC, Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, and Regulation (EC) 1830/2003, mandates extensive assessment and management of risks of GMOs to health and environment, including the re-evaluation and renewal of approvals of GM products every ten years;
  - II. Whereas research conducted by the University of Reading has shown that the European agricultural sector foregoes up to €930 million per year due to restrictions on GMO use;
  - III. Whereas current regulation mandates traceability and labelling for products consisting, containing or produced from GMO's except where it has less than 0.9% GM material;
  - IV. Whereas the Eurobarometer Special Survey 341 showed that the majority of EU citizens hold negative opinions on GMOs and also lack information about GMOs;
  - V. Whereas the European Commission has issued a Recommendation 2010/C200/01 on coexistence<sup>5</sup> that is part of the risk assessment process and encompasses measures that promote farmers' education on the subject;
- 
- 1. Urges the European Commission to draft long term plans with regards to the realisation of potential benefits of genetically modified technology, whilst remaining cautious of potential socio-economic, public health, and environmental risks;
  - 2. Supports the European commitment to achieve the aforementioned objectives by the continued development of:
    - a) Improved methods of risk assessment,
    - b) Peer review of research among European academic institutions;
  - 3. Confirms the right of Member States under the safeguard clause<sup>6</sup> to prohibit the cultivation of GMCs on their territory based on new scientific evidence of potential risks to human health or the environment;

<sup>4</sup> Conventional agriculture contrasts with organic or GM agriculture and is the body of the most widespread agricultural techniques, such as the use of chemical fertilisers and plant protection products.

<sup>5</sup> Coexistence measures ensure farmers can cultivate the types of agricultural crops (GM, conventional or organic) they choose.

<sup>6</sup> Subject to an EU decision, a Member State may provisionally ban the placing on the market on its territory of an approved GMO, provided new safety information is available, Article 23, Directive 2001/18/EC.



4. Encourages the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and Member States to accelerate the Post-Market Environmental Monitoring<sup>7</sup> of GMCs authorised for cultivation;

#### **Socio-economic**

5. Endorses the continuation of the European Commission's programmes to encourage further research and development of new and innovative uses of GMCs;
6. Expresses its desire for the European Commission and the Member States to collaboratively address bureaucratic inefficiencies by reducing the duration of the EU GMO authorisation processes;
7. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation to create mechanisms to tackle the risks associated with the monopoly on genetically modified seeds including the reduced choice of farmers and barriers to innovation;
8. Further recommends the European Commission to:
  - a) encourage research outside of the private sector,
  - b) reassess the effectiveness of the patent system in light of biotechnology innovations,
  - c) ensure that the existing antitrust and competition law are fully implemented;
9. Calls upon Member States to increase public awareness and understanding of GMCs in order to promote decisions that are democratic and have a scientific basis;

#### **Public Health**

10. Calls upon the European Commission to continue the already existing high regulatory standards on GMOs thus ensuring high public health and eliminating unacceptable risks;
11. Further requests the European Commission to initiate legislation to ensure that labelling of GMO-derived products is more visible and contains more traceability information to enable informed consumer choices and general awareness;

#### **Environmental**

12. Recommends that the agricultural sector makes combined use of GMCs and other agricultural technologies and techniques, such as energy-efficient vehicles or crop rotation, to mitigate negative environmental impacts of farming;
13. Further draws attention of the Member States to the Commission Recommendation 2010/C200/01 to prevent contamination by GMCs, safeguard biodiversity, and maintain the quality of non-GM products.

<sup>7</sup> Post-Market Environmental Monitoring (PMEM) plans are submitted with GM applications and aim to identify possible unanticipated direct or indirect adverse effects. Since 2010, EFSA has evaluated the monitoring reports for GMCs approved for cultivation.

## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

**The fear of rising ‘benefit tourism’: anticipating the removal of the restrictions to free movement for Bulgarian and Romanian citizens in 2014 and bearing in mind complaints of unequal access to social benefits within the Union, how should basic EU liberties be safeguarded whilst considering the socio-economic pressures placed upon the welfare systems of Member States?**

Submitted by: Tim Backhaus (FI), Tom Cantillon (IE), Anna Diehm (DE), Samuel Fely (FR), Aleksandra Gajewska (PL), Teodora Jovanović (RS), Oliver Matonoha (CZ), Flora Mavri (CY), Aleksander Musiał (PL), Katie Pennick (UK), Fahad Saher Fahad (NL), Sarah Streicher (AT), Stella Tsantekidou (GR), Ege Yücel (TR), Gustaf Danielsson (Vice-President, SE)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Recognising that the main factors driving intra-EU migration are labour market conditions and opportunity differentials,
- B. Approving that intra-EU migration helps Member States to mitigate demographic problems,
- C. Emphasising the importance of the Single Market in increasing Europe’s economic prosperity, as it created an additional 2.75 million jobs and increased the Gross Domestic Product by 2% between 1996 and 2006 by tearing down internal borders and reducing ‘red tape’<sup>1</sup>,
- D. Noting with approval that the net contribution of intra-EU migrants to the economy is positive<sup>2</sup>,
- E. Expresses its hope that intra-EU migration will facilitate cross-European dialogue and integration, as long as the process does not happen at the cost of national identities,
- F. Concerned by the lack of statistics surrounding ‘benefit tourism’<sup>3</sup> and intra-EU migration, resulting in:
  - a) ineffective planning, leading to major infrastructural pressure,
  - b) the exacerbation of existing stigmas surrounding immigrants, their use as political scapegoats, and media sensationalism,
  - c) a lack of understanding of the impact of intra-EU migration,
- G. Recognising that immigrants tend to settle in clusters, which places a large strain on local communities and inhibits the integration of such immigrants into society,
- H. Noting with concern the lack of effective sanctions on those who abuse welfare systems,

<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/benefits\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/benefits_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MPIEurope-FreeMovement-Drivers.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Benefit tourism – A term used to describe the phenomenon of EU citizens who move to Member States with more welfare systems in order to take advantage of those.

- I. Convinced that intra-EU labour mobility can ease the skills mismatch on the European labour market,
  - J. Disapproving of the United Kingdom's continued application of the "Right to Reside Test"<sup>4</sup>;
- 
- I. Whereas Article 20.2 (a) and Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provide for freedom of movement and right to reside;
  - II. Whereas Regulation (EEC) 1408/71 and Regulation (EEC) 574/72 provide for coordination of social security schemes among Member States;

### **Improving Data Availability**

- 1. Fully supports the respective legislation on freedom of movement and social security coordination;
- 2. Calls upon EUROSTAT to extend its statistics database with particular regard to:
  - a) the number of intra-EU migrants,
  - b) the number of people who are abusing the welfare system,
  - c) the employment status of migrants;
- 3. Further instructs EUROSTAT to gather the necessary data in order to effectively identify trends in migration patterns;

### **Socio-economic Pressures of Intra-EU Migration**

- 4. Calls upon Member States to supply newly arrived immigrants with information concerning where to find accommodation and work;
- 5. Requests the creation of free cultural and language classes for intra-EU migrants jointly funded by Member States and the EU;
- 6. Recommends that the aforementioned classes are mandatory for EU citizens applying for the residence permit unless they demonstrate sufficient prior knowledge of the culture and language of the Member State in question, which will be determined by a basic test;
- 7. Authorises the European Commission to initiate amending the annual budget to allocate funding for communities that experience a large influx of immigrants to be invested in necessary infrastructure;
- 8. Further requests the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion to establish a blacklist with names of EU-migrants who have been convicted of abusing the welfare system that will be shared amongst all Member States;
- 9. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation that would allow Member States to refuse residence for a period of two years to people who have repeatedly abused the welfare system of the host country;
- 10. Immigrants with families residing with them will be exempt from the aforementioned legislation and instead be sanctioned according to the host country's legislation;
- 11. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate amending the annual budget to allocate further funding for the European Cohesion Fund to decrease differences in standards of living between Member States.

<sup>4</sup> The Right to Reside test is a cultural knowledge and language test imposed unilaterally by the United Kingdom imposed on non-british citizens to determine their eligibility to receive welfare benefits.



## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs III**

### **Off-shore tax havens within and outside Europe: how can Europe jointly address the criminal avoidance of taxes while respecting the citizens' right to privacy and foreign states' sovereignty?**

Submitted by: Ada Aadeli (FI), Yiğit Akdemir (TR), Nikol Bujanić (HR), Gabor Lorand Darida (RO), Gabriela Grzywacz (PL), Ruxandra Ioanitescu (RO), Karl Jakob Kammler (NO), Dmytro Kharchenko (UA), Artur Kula (PL), Leying Lee (UK), Olga Magneeva (RU), Silvia Meletti (IT), Pavel Mládek (CZ), Anaïs Mousset (FR), Lorel Scriven (UK), Dimitris Zacharias (Chairperson, GR)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Recognising a tax haven as a locale or jurisdiction which offers foreign investors and account holders:
  - i) only nominal tax rates,
  - ii) supplementary administrative and legal services,
  - iii) political and economic stability,
- B. Aware of the propensity of tax havens to withhold information from international and national taxation authorities,
- C. Noting with regret the €1 trillion annual revenue gap in the EU economy and its subsequent effects on the funding of social and economic policies which is fuelled by non-compliance with tax regulation<sup>1</sup>,
- D. Further noting that over two-thirds (\$12 trillion)<sup>2</sup> of global offshore wealth can be found in EU tax havens,
- E. Emphasising the distinction between the illegal practice of tax evasion and the utilisation of the loopholes in different legal frameworks,
- F. Recognising Member States' right to fiscal sovereignty that hinders the centralisation of tax governance,
- G. Taking into consideration that mismatches in the European tax governance framework allow individuals and organisations to legally avoid tax payments,
- H. Observing that national taxation authorities are constrained by national borders despite the large number of bilateral agreements<sup>3</sup> proposing measures to tackle tax evasion and criminal tax avoidance,
- I. Realising that Member States' national tax authorities lack the experience and know-how necessary to successfully implement European Commission taxation guidelines and

<sup>1</sup> Eurostat, European Commission – Statistical Books, "Taxation Trends in the European Union – Data for EU Member States, Iceland and Norway", 1 Development of the overall tax revenue in the European Union, pp. 21-24, 2013 edition, Taxation and Customs Union.

<sup>2</sup> "Tax on the 'private billions' now stashed away in havens enough to end extreme world poverty twice over, Oxfam International, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> An arrangement between two jurisdictions that mitigates the problem of double taxation that can occur when tax laws consider an individual or company to be a resident of more than one jurisdiction. A bilateral tax agreement can improve the relations between two countries, encourage foreign investment and trade, and reduce tax evasion.

recommendations,

- J. Deeply conscious of the conflict between the transparency necessary in international financial practices and the account holders' right to privacy,
- K. Welcoming the participation of international stakeholders such as the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), G8, G20, etc. in the fight against criminal tax avoidance,
- I. Whereas the European Commission Contribution to the European Council of May 22, 2013; named "Combating Tax Fraud", underscores the European Council's pending adoption of the amended EU Savings Taxation Directive;
- II. Whereas the "Action Plan to Strengthen the Fight Against Tax Fraud and Evasion" Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament (EP) and Council of the EU (COM(2012) 722 Final) presents current initiatives, proposals for improvement and future initiatives regarding good tax governance;
- III. Whereas the European Commission proposal to amend the EU Savings Taxation Directive in 2008 extends its scope to other areas of financial activity so as to consolidate the diverging tax frameworks of Member States; {SEC(2008) 2767, SEC(2008) 2768}
- IV. Whereas the EP's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs underlined the need for sanctions on non-compliant third-parties in its recent "Report on Fight Against Tax Fraud, Evasion and Tax Havens";

### **Common Definition of a Tax Haven**

- 1. Designates the European Commission and its Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD) to establish a common definition of a tax haven in order to consolidate efforts to prosecute individuals and organisations engaging in tax evasion practices;
- 2. Calls on the OECD and other international organisations with competence in tax practices to approve the aforementioned definition;
- 3. Urges the DG TAXUD to create a dynamic, international 'blacklist' of locales and jurisdictions classified as tax havens based on the above-mentioned definition;
- 4. Requests the European Commission to prioritise the information and recommendations reported by existing expert groups which identify mismatches and loopholes in tax systems of Member States;

### **Tackling Tax Evasion**

- 5. Asks European Commission, EP and the Council of the EU to adopt and implement the European Commission's "Action Plan to Strengthen the Fight Against Tax Fraud and Evasion" which aims to reduce the mismatches between Member States;
- 6. Urges the EP and Council of the EU to adopt the proposal of the European Commission to implement the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB) so that taxes are collected in accordance with where companies are generating revenue instead of where the headquarters are located;
- 7. Instructs the Council of the EU to adopt the revised EU Savings Taxation Directive<sup>4</sup> as proposed by the European Commission;

<sup>4</sup> The European Commission on 13 November 2008 adopted an amended proposal to the Savings Taxation Directive, with a view to closing existing loopholes and better preventing tax evasion.



8. Further requests the European Council to grant a mandate to the European Commission in order for the latter to enter negotiations with Switzerland, Andorra, Lichtenstein, Monaco, and San Marino in order to extend the EU Savings Taxation Directive;
9. Requires that Member States' national tax authorities create a dynamic, public 'blacklist' of for-profit organisations that engage in aggressive tax planning activities;
10. Authorises the European Commission to initiate legislation on Aggressive Tax Planning which includes country-specific recommendations such as the General Anti-Abuse Rule;

#### **Incentive and Sanction Schemes**

11. Invites Member States' governments to grant one-time amnesties to organisations that admit to past illegal non-compliance to tax regulations;
12. Stresses the need for the European Commission and Member States to agree on an ambitious, coordinated position with the cooperation of G8, G20 and the OECD that makes automatic exchange of information a global standard;
13. Demands Member States to enforce the International Financial Reporting Standards<sup>5</sup> (IFRS) over European companies and international companies operating within the EU, thus allowing taxation authorities to assess legal compliance of for-profit organisations;
14. Endorses European Institutions and Member States to exclude for-profit organisations engaging in aggressive tax planning activities from public tenders and contracts.

<sup>5</sup> A set of international accounting standards stating how particular types of transactions and other events should be reported in financial statements. IFRS are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

**‘Glass ceiling’ effect vs. low public pan-European support for gender quotas: learning from the early lessons of the Commission’s strategy for equality between men and women 2010-2015 and the Council of Europe’s Gender Equality Programme of 2012, how should European stakeholders seek to achieve gender parity across the continent?**

Submitted by: Aleksandra Bieluk (PL), Brendan Byrne (IE), Karlis Fokrots (LV), Adrian Galleoni (SE), Armand Mihai Ionescu (RO), Güniz Kama (TR), Barış C. Kaştaş (TR), Claire Liaubet (FR), Elsa Lund (DE), Anna Melkina (RU), Volha Menshykava (BY), Daniel Novák (SK), Anja Petrović (RS), Martha Saunders (UK), Sophie Silverstein (CH), Sophie Hall (Chairperson, CH)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Noting with regret the gap between the legislative gender equality in EU treaties, directives and Member States’ national law and de facto equality,
- B. Deeply conscious that women are outnumbered by men in decision-making positions in politics, business and academia<sup>1</sup>,
- C. Noting with regret that eleven Member States have failed to reach the 60% female employment rate stated in the Europe 2020 goals by as much as 22.3 percentage points,
- D. Alarmed that women in Member States make up 60% of university graduates but only hold 20% of research and expert positions<sup>2</sup>,
- E. Further noting that women constitute 75%<sup>3</sup> of part-time workers in Member States due, to a large extent, to their disproportionate share of family responsibilities,
- F. Believing that gender quotas are not an effective measure to combat gender inequality because:
  - i) they neglect the root causes of gender inequality,
  - ii) positive action perpetuates an image of women as inferior,
  - iii) they fundamentally undermine the principle of meritocracy,
- G. Emphasising that pervasive gender stereotypes form both men’s and women’s educational preferences and consequently lead to gender-based segregation of the labour market,
- H. Expressing its appreciation for the adoption of gender mainstreaming recommendations from the Council of Europe (CoE) in:
  - i) pre-service teacher training in 26 countries,

<sup>1</sup> The special Eurobarometer report 376 „Women in Decision-making“ (2012) found that less than 30% of large companies in the EU had more than one woman on the board and across Europe women make up a quarter of MPs and national government members.

<sup>2</sup> Eurostat, cited in the European Commission Directorate for Justice factsheet „Women on boards: the economic argument“ (2012).

<sup>3</sup> Eurostat, cited in the European Commission Directorate for Justice factsheet „Women on boards: the economic argument“ (2012).





- ii) in-service teacher training in 34 countries,
- I. Noting with regret that the uneven distribution of parenting responsibilities is exacerbated by differences between maternity and paternity rights,
- J. Deeply disturbed that more than 40% of European women face sexual harassment in their place of work<sup>4</sup>, as well as by the cultural acceptance of such behaviour by both men and women,
- K. Alarmed that women's self-perception makes them less willing to enter competitive sectors;
- I. Whereas the CoE's Gender Equality Programme<sup>5</sup> reaffirms that gender equality is central to the protection of human rights;
- II. Whereas the Gender Equality Index of the European Institute of Gender equality<sup>6</sup> (EIGE) concluded that the EU is only halfway to achieving gender equality<sup>7</sup>;

### **Gender Equality in the Private Sector**

1. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation requiring Member States to provide childcare which is not prohibitively expensive;
2. Calls upon the EIGE to create a "Gender Friendly Company" Index, similar to the Gender Equality Index, to rank companies' level of gender equality on criteria such as:
  - a) gender mainstreaming in recruitment strategy,
  - b) flexibility and ease of parental leave,
  - c) childcare provisions,
  - d) equal representation of both genders on all levels;
3. Recommends the establishment of a "Gender equality" label which the top quartile of the Gender Friendly Company Index may use<sup>8</sup>;
4. Instructs the EIGE to help companies develop suitable gender equality measures such as:
  - a) voluntary quotas,
  - b) gender blind selection,
  - c) childcare facilities through individual consultation;
5. Supports the use of networks promoting women in the private sector like the European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors<sup>9</sup> and calls for continued support for

<sup>4</sup> Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in the European Union", report published by the European Commission.

<sup>5</sup> Launched in 2012, the CoE's Gender Equality programme aims to ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality into all CoE's policies and support the implementation of its gender equality standards.

<sup>6</sup> "The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is an autonomous body of the EU, established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, and the fight against discrimination based on sex, as well as to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality".

<sup>7</sup> In its 2013 Gender Equality Index Report, EIGE's index found that the European average was 54.0 (with 100 being full gender equality).

<sup>8</sup> Recommendation 1281 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE calls for the competent authorities of member states to "include gender sensitivity and the promotion of equality in all initial and in-service teacher training and in the training of vocational advisors".

<sup>9</sup> The European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors is a network of around 270 female entrepreneurs campaigning to encourage women to set up their own businesses.



such schemes by relevant EU institutions;

6. Calls on the Federation of European Employers<sup>10</sup> (FedEE) to urge member companies to target sexual harassment as a part of standard training procedure;

### **Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Education**

7. Urges Member States to combat gender stereotypes by holding career days in educational institutions attended by experts from fields dominated by the other gender;
8. Calls upon member states of the CoE to raise awareness of gender bias in the educational system by continuing the CoE's programme<sup>11</sup> training teachers on gender mainstreaming;
9. Urges member states of the CoE who have not yet adopted the pre-service and in-service teacher training on gender equality recommended by the CoE to do so;
10. Furthermore calls on the CoE to supplement these recommendations with the inclusion of gender issues in respective national school curricula.

<sup>10</sup> Established in 1989 with the support of the European Commission, the FedEE is the leading organisation for multinational employers operating in Europe.

<sup>11</sup> Recommendation 1281 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe calls for the competent authorities of member states to “include gender sensitivity and the promotion of equality in all initial and in-service teacher training and in the training of vocational advisors”.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

**Linking the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy to public procurement policy: building on current reform proposals modernising tendering in the EU to guarantee 'best value for money', which criteria and instruments should the EU and its Member States use in order to ensure transparent, efficient and competitive use of public funds?**

Submitted by: Hana Ivana Breitenfeld (HR), Sophia Chahine (FR), Jannis Haendke (DE), Såde Kanervisto (FI), Niklavs Matusevics (LV), Sabrina Ariana Mellerowic (DE), Vasileios Mornto (GR), Anamaria Olaru (RO), Margarita Samouridou (CY), Marek Šebo (SK), Leo Sjöberg (SE), Maria Chiara Storer (IT), Magdalena Wilfort (PL), Olena Yermakova (UA), Marius Aure (Chairperson, NO)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Noting with regret that in the tendering<sup>1</sup> process of awarding public contracts, horizontal considerations<sup>2</sup> are left secondary to the Most Economically Advantageous Tenders (MEAT),
- B. Considering that between 2006 and 2008 Small and Medium sized Enterprises<sup>3</sup> (SMEs) secured only between 31% and 38% of the estimated total contract value of public procurement, while their overall share in the economy, as calculated on the basis of their combined turnover, was 52%<sup>4</sup>,
- C. Expressing its appreciation for the existence of pan-European electronic procurement platforms such as PEPPOL<sup>5</sup>,
- D. Noting the important role public procurement of innovative solutions (PPIs)<sup>6</sup> and pre-commercial procurement (PCPs)<sup>7</sup> hold in reaching the Europe 2020<sup>8</sup> Strategy's target of 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) being spent on Research and Development (R&D),
- E. Confident that PCPs and PPIs results in increased European competitiveness globally whilst providing public authorities with products that most cater to their specific needs,

1 Tendering can be defined as the act of inviting a given firm or organisation to make a bid, offer or a proposal to provide a specific good or service.

2 Horizontal considerations are non-price related criteria that are included in the selection of a tender, such as economic, social, political and environmental aspects.

3 SMEs are firms that employ fewer than 250 persons, with an annual turnover that does not exceed €50 million,

4 Green Paper on the modernisation of EU public procurement policy towards a more efficient European Procurement Market, p. 28.

5 An e-auctioning platform enabling European businesses to access the European public procurement market more easily, efficiently and in a transparent way.

6 PPI is a tool used when the procurer act as the lead customer or early adopter when it is not available on a large scale commercial basis due to a lack of market commitment to deploy.

7 PCP is a tool used to procure specific R&D services that address challenges of public interest for which there is no technological solution yet available.

8 The Europe 2020 Strategy is the European Union's ten-year growth strategy plan seeking smarter, more inclusive and sustainable growth. It sets out five targets to be reached by the end of the decade.



- F. Recognising that public procurement in the EU is bound by international trade agreements such as the General Procurement Agreement (GPA) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) resulting in:
  - i) a more harmonised system amongst the GPA signatory states,
  - ii) equal access to a global open market,
- G. Realises that a small change in public procurement policy can save tens of billions of Euros as the total market value of the public procurement is 18% of the EU's GDP,
- H. Recognising that Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are attractive to both the private and the public sector due to the shared responsibilities, expenses, the allocation of risk, as well as benefits of such partnerships,
- I. Believes that an open and accessible public procurement market will provide the best value for money for the public sector,
- J. Regrets that protectionist measures are still prevalent when it comes to public procurement and tendering processes,
- K. Alarmed by the fact that up to 25%<sup>9</sup> of the public contracts' value is lost to corruption,
- L. Welcoming the efforts of the European Commission in making the tendering process more transparent by publishing the European Official Journal which includes:
  - i) formal contract invitations,
  - ii) notifications about successful tenderers,
  - iii) annual estimated procurement volume for every contracting authority;
- I. Whereas the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy considers public procurement a viable redistributive tool to reach economic, social, environmental sustainability targets;
- II. Whereas the 2004/17/EC and the 2004/18/EC Directives are currently being replaced by a set of modernised reforms in order to foster growth and job creation;

### **Horizontal Considerations**

- 1. Requests that all public procurers<sup>10</sup> on European and national level consider economic, environmental and social sustainability aspects when procuring;
- 2. Confirms that public procurers should have the ultimate right to choose the option that best fits their needs;
- 3. Further requests that public procurers seek a balance between price and quality in compliance with the Europe 2020 Strategy;
- 4. Encourages public procurers to consider bids' life-cycle costs in the selection process;

### **Innovation and Competitiveness**

- 5. Recommends that public procurers on the European and the national level to embrace PCPs and PPIs in order to boost R&D and innovation;

<sup>9</sup> Corruption report published on 9 April 2013 by the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.

<sup>10</sup> Public procurers will in this context be understood as any national, regional or local governmental body governed by public law.

### **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

6. Encourages the EP and the Council of the EU to adopt legislation proposed by the European Commission that facilitates SMEs' access to public contracts by:
  - a) splitting contracts into lots,
  - b) allowing sub-contracting;
7. Further supports EP and the Council of the EU to adopt the legislative proposal by the European Commission that enables SMEs to found consortia when making an offer to a tender, thus increasing their access to a wider public procurement market and increasing their chance to get the contract in question;
8. Agrees with the European Parliament's stance to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles for SMEs by the use of self-declarations of information, meaning that only the winning bidder needs to provide documentation that they fulfil requested criteria;

### **Simplifying the Procedure**

9. Urges public procurers not to require unnecessary criteria such as:
  - a) overly extensive references,
  - b) history in procurement process,
  - c) too high minimum turnover,
  - d) too narrow conception of the product, but rather focus on the required properties of the product;
10. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation that establishes an European Electronic Procurement Passport<sup>11</sup> containing all the applicants' necessary information in order to avoid extensive bureaucracy and repeated tendering applications;
11. Further encourages public procurers to use e-auctions as they offer a more open, transparent, competitive platform for tendering;
12. Further requests the European Commission to initiate an amendment to the annual budget to allocate funding into research on alternative indicator mechanisms that allow public procurers to compare offers based on their environmental, social and economic benefits.

<sup>11</sup> The Public Procurement Passport is envisioned to be a EU-wide electronic procurement passport serves to prove that the holder thereof complies with EU rules on public procurement.

## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**

**Emission trading vs. carbon tax in the absence of an international agreement: working towards a decarbonised European economy whilst trying to maintain global competitiveness, which reforms and policies should the EU pursue at home in order to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions?**

Submitted by: Johann Abrahams (DE), Lourenço Cruz (PT), Zuzanna Gil (PL), Eleanor Janik (UK), Shiofra O'Toole Jeyasundaram (IE), Tuulia Karvinen (FI), Yauheni Kasko (BY), Ilir Kola (AL), Charalambos Lappas (CY), Alexandra Diana Lazar (RO), Panagiotis Papanagiotou (GR), Olivera Popovic (RS), Koen Verdenius (NL), Quirin von Blomberg (DE), Nastia Yeremenko (BY), Chris Hall (Vice-President, UK)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Noting that despite its merits, a Carbon Tax system is infeasible as a pan-EU solution due to the absence of the EU's competence in regard to fiscal policy,
- B. Viewing with appreciation the established organisational framework already in place for the EU Emission Trading Scheme<sup>1</sup> (ETS),
- C. Concerned by the current approach to the distribution of carbon allowances,
- D. Recognising the damaging effect of the surplus of approximately 2 billion allowances<sup>2</sup> which currently exists in the carbon trading market,
- E. Disappointed that the proposed amendments<sup>3</sup> to Directive 2003/87/EC<sup>4</sup> only affect the timeframe of allocations rather than a permanent reduction of the total amount of allowances in the market,
- F. Noting with regret that despite their high emission levels, certain industries<sup>5</sup> receive free allowances in the ETS resulting in windfall profits,
- G. Alarmed that the high level of volatility in the price of carbon allowances undermines the incentivising aspects of the ETS,
- H. Deeply concerned by the adverse consequences of carbon leakage<sup>6</sup> on the EU economy and on the effectiveness of current greenhouse gas reduction policies,

<sup>1</sup> The EU ETS is the largest cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions in the world.

<sup>2</sup> 'EU ETS at a crossroads: Recalibrating an oversupplied market to spur investments and innovation' – Climate Action Network Europe, Sandbag, WWF and Greenpeace, January 2012.

<sup>3</sup> The amendment (COM(2012) 416 final of 7 July 2012) adds the following sentence to the original directive: "The Commission shall, where appropriate, adapt the timetable for each period so as to ensure an orderly functioning of the market."

<sup>4</sup> The directive which set up the EU ETS in 2003.

<sup>5</sup> The most prevalent of which are steel production, concrete production, and the aviation industries.

<sup>6</sup> The movement of high emitting firms to states where carbon emission is less regulated.

- I. Believing that the ETS has the potential to become an inter-continental system ensuring:
    - i) The EU economy remains competitive,
    - ii) Carbon emissions are reduced on a global scale,
  - J. Disappointed that high fossil fuel consuming industries receive excessive subsidies from national governments equivalent to 2.5% of global gross domestic product<sup>7</sup>,
  - K. Reaffirming the European Commission's mandate to regulate over the emissions trading market, in order to act as an authority on allocation and to supervise trading;
- 
- I. Whereas Directive 2003/87/EC to the European Parliament (EP) and the Council of the EU adopted on October 13, 2003 established a scheme for the greenhouse gas emissions allowance trading within the Community;
  - II. Whereas COM(2012) 416 final of 7 July 2012 amends Directive 2003/87/EC clarifying provisions on the timing of the auctions of greenhouse gas allowances;
  - III. Whereas the Member States are binding signatories of the Kyoto Protocol and the emission reduction targets therein;
- 
1. Believing a cap-and-trade system as the most effective policy for attaining the EU's commitment to the 2°C goal stated in the Kyoto Protocol, which translates into 400ppm of carbon in the atmosphere<sup>8</sup>,

#### **ETS Allocation Reforms**

2. Recommends the European Commission initiate a proposal that removes 1.5 billion ETS allowances from Phase Three<sup>9</sup> auctions and allocation;
3. Invites the European Commission to initiate legislation that increases the current Phase 3 allocations' reduction from 1.74% per year to at least 2.6% per year;
4. Requests the European Commission propose an amendment to Phase 3 of the ETS with the aims of:
  - a) ensuring that the plans to limit the allocation of free allowances to the aviation, manufacturing and commodity processing industries are implemented,
  - b) increasing the net proportion of those allowances allocated from 45% to 60%;

#### **ETS Price Control Reforms**

5. Calls for 500 million ETS allowances be held back from auction and allocation by national governments, only to be released to the market on instruction from the European Commission's Directorates General for Climate Action (CLIMA), and Enterprise and Industry (ENTR) in consultation with the European Environmental Agency;
6. Entreats the European Commission to initiate legislation enforcing a minimum price of €6 per carbon allocation, set to gradually increase to a minimum price of €25 per carbon allocation by the end of Phase 3 of the ETS in 2020;

<sup>7</sup> Stated in IMF Report #012813, 2013.

<sup>8</sup> 'The Carbon Crunch': Dieter Helm – The Kyoto Protocol states a goal to not increase the global average temperature by 2 degrees over pre-industrial revolution levels, which equates to 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

<sup>9</sup> Phase 3 is the third of four stages of implementation of the ETS, for which the allocation and auctioning of allowances has been postponed until 2019.



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

### **Non-structural Reforms**

7. Encourages DG CLIMA to take the lead in fostering cooperation between the ETS and other current, and future, emissions trading schemes;
8. Proposes the revenue collected from auctions and reduced subsidies be used by National Governments for:
  - a) mitigation of the damages caused by greenhouse gas emissions,
  - b) investment in research and development of carbon efficient energy sources.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

### Mitigating skills and qualification mismatch with Europe's labour market requirements: how can Europe best satisfy the demands of its employers and future employees in order to improve the employability and prospects of younger generations?

Submitted by: Hannes Ahlvin (SE), Ilaria Bancila (RO), Hollie Brown (UK), Amy Campo (ES), Chibuye Changwe (NL), Marija Demirović (RS), Irem Erduran (TR), Egzona Ferati (KS\*), Tommy Mallen (IE), Enklajd Marsela (AL), João Neves (PT), Bogusz Olszewski (PL), Maris Rutkis (LV), Liisa Lotta Tomp (EE), Alice Woda (FR), Zahra Runderkamp (Chairperson, NL)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Alarmed by the most recent numbers which indicate a youth unemployment rate<sup>1</sup> in the EU27 of 23.1%<sup>2</sup> compared to the unemployment rate of 11% for all ages, hereby hitting a historic high,
- B. Deeply concerned by the skills mismatch<sup>3</sup> between young people<sup>4</sup> leaving education and entering the labour market that reduces the prospects of these future generations to find a job, as well as the high number of young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) in the EU<sup>5</sup>,
- C. Emphasising the importance of vocational training<sup>6</sup> and the need for investments therein as one of the main means of addressing the skills mismatch,
- D. Noting with deep concern that 30.1% of young people have been unemployed for more than 12 months and are facing difficulties in finding a long-term job<sup>7</sup>,
- E. Viewing with appreciation the Youth Guarantee scheme<sup>8</sup> starting in 2014, which each Member State will introduce according to its individual needs and promise every young person a job offer, education or training within 4 months of finishing their education,

1 The youth unemployment rate is the percentage of 15-24 year olds willing and seeking to obtain a job but unable to do so.

2 Numbers provided by Eurostat, [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics)

3 Skills mismatch is the outcome of the complex interplay between supply and demand of skills within a market economy causing a deficit in the necessary skills for the labour market.

4 Youth is defined as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years.

5 7.5 million young people aged 15-24 are currently NEETS according to Eurofound, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, is a Eu-ropean Union body. Eurofound was set up by the Council to contribute to the planning and design of better living and working conditions in Europe and to provide knowledge as input to better informed poli-cies to combat unemployment by creating jobs.

6 Vocational training is training that emphasises skills and knowledge required for a particular job function or trade.

7 42% of young employees only have a temporary contract and 32% are working part-time; The European Commission; Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

8 Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee/\*COM/2012/0729 final – 2012/0351. The EC has set aside €6 billion for the implementation of the scheme, though it is widely discussed if this is enough for sustainable implementation.



- F. Acknowledging that the number of people with low-level qualifications is expected to fall between 2006 and 2020 by more than 17 million<sup>9</sup>,
  - G. Noting with regret that 36% of European companies experienced difficulties finding skilled staff<sup>10</sup>,
  - H. Noting that the highest level of job creation<sup>11</sup> in the EU is predicted to be in the industries of tourism, culture and leisure activities,
  - I. Deeply regretting that 36% of the population of the EU is working below their level of qualification<sup>12</sup>,
  - J. Noting with appreciation that in countries with high proportions of apprentices, traineeships, and internships relative to the employed population, youth unemployment is considerably lower,
  - K. Viewing with appreciation the work done by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to further develop skills of young people by means of non-formal education,
  - L. Recognising that social backgrounds influence your participation in non-formal education;
- 
- I. Whereas the issue of youth unemployment and skills mismatch is taken into account by the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018, Youth Employment Package, Europe 2020, Rethinking Skills in Europe, Erasmus for All, Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Youth on the Move, Youth Opportunities Initiative;
  - II. Whereas according to Eurofound the yearly costs of young NEETs has reached €153 billion in 2011;

### Education and Training

1. Calls upon Member States to further enhance their educational systems by:
  - a) supporting schools and universities to work alongside European research and development institutions, ensuring that students entering the labour market are equipped with the suited skills,
  - b) including classes alongside traditional studies in secondary education offering skills applicable to both inside and outside the workplace ensuring young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge most desirable to potential employers,
  - c) further incorporating careers education into all Member States' national education curricula to aid students in their career choices earlier on,
  - d) implementing more vocational courses which would use non-academic methods to support individuals with alternative needs and interests, such as early school leavers,
  - e) further focussing on practical language skills in national curricula;
2. Encourages NGOs and non-formal education projects in reaching out to young people from different social backgrounds;
3. Strongly recommends individual Member States to provide tax discounts to all enterprises where at least 5% of the total number of employees are interns in training;

<sup>9</sup> CEDEFOP, Future Skills Supply in Europe, Medium Term Forecast up to 2020, Key Findings.

<sup>10</sup> Commission Staff Working Document; Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2012.

<sup>11</sup> 5.5 million jobs; CEDEFOP, Research paper nr. 26, Future Skills Supply and Demand in Europe, Forecast 2012.

<sup>12</sup> Estimation by CEDEFOP.

4. Encourages companies to produce information packages for universities and vocational institutions listing the desirable qualifications and skills required for certain professions;
5. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate a directive which will further incorporate 'Erasmus for Entrepreneurs'<sup>13</sup> at universities and high schools in all Member States to increase entrepreneurship among young people, including those in vocational training;

#### **Supporting Current EU Initiatives**

6. Demands that the European Commission substantially increases the relevant budgetary chapter within the given Multiannual Financial Framework to contribute towards the Youth Guarantee;
7. Calls upon the European Commission to amend the Youth Guarantee to extend the age limit to include people up to the age of 30, provided that those have been unemployed for more than 12 months since they have finished their education;
8. Further requests amendments which would ensure that the jobs, training, or education offered to NEETs participating in the Youth Guarantee scheme are to be divided such that it is inversely proportional to the income of their household;
9. Invites Member States with low levels of vocational training opportunities to make use of assistance from the International Education and Training Association<sup>14</sup> (IVETA), the European Training Foundation<sup>15</sup> (ETF) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training<sup>16</sup> (CEDEFOP) to further develop their vocational training pro-grammes;
10. Encourages the remodelling and improvement of vocational education institutions in co-operation with IVETA, ETF and CEDEFOP alongside the flagship initiatives<sup>17</sup> indicated in the Europe 2020 Strategy and the EU's areas for smart growth and calls upon the Com-mission to provide for such remodelling through appropriate legislation;
11. Urges the European Commission to further enhance the competence of the EU Skills Panorama as an analytical tool in order to improve labour mobility within the EU;
12. Recommends that the remaining Member States which have not yet done so gradually implement the flexicurity<sup>18</sup> system to further enhance the opportunities for young people in the labour market;
13. Calls upon Member States to review their respective legal frameworks for entrepreneurial start-ups so as to make it easier for young people to get involved in entrepreneurial activi-ties.

13 Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a cross-border exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other European Union countries.

14 IVETA is an organisation and network of vocational educators, vocational skills training organisations, business and industrial firms, and other individuals and groups interested or involved in vocational edu-cation and training worldwide.

15 The European Training Foundation is an EU agency that helps developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems.

16 CEDEFOP's mission is to support development of European vocational education and training policies and contribute to their implementation.

17 The three flagship initiatives include Youth on the Move, aiming at, amongst others, equipping young people for the job market and improving all levels of education and training.

18 The flexicurity model is a combination of easy hiring and firing, providing flexibility for employers, and high benefits for the unemployed. This must be combined with training to increase job mobility.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development

### A framework for ‘common but differentiated global responsibilities’: how should Europe contribute to a fair distribution of the costs for climate mitigation and adaptation between the developed and the developing world?

Submitted by: Manana Asatiani (GE), Deirdre Campbell (IE), Eleni Costa (CY), Yiğit Efe Dalyan (TR), Valerie Donschachner (AT), Vlad Gaujaneanu (RO), Carolina Herranz-Carr (ES), Weronika Kuc (PL), Ariane Martinez Oeckel (DE), Ijon Muca (AL), Ciara Robinson (UK), Beatriz Rodrigues (PT), Jessica Salvi (FR), Jingcheng Zhao (SE), Maximilian B. Kiehn (Chairperson, DE)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Recognising the ethical responsibility of the EU for the costs of climate adaptation<sup>1</sup> and mitigation<sup>2</sup> due to its historical emissions,
- B. Declaring that the EU shares equal responsibility for climate change with countries that share the environmental impact and have reached an equal level of human development,
- C. Acknowledging that the EU has the political and socio-economic means to further address environmental issues,
- D. Noting with deep concern that current methods<sup>3</sup> of investment in environmental research and infrastructure are insufficient,
- E. Observing the lack of consequences for leaving international environmental agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol<sup>4</sup>,
- F. Deeply concerned that the country categorisation of the Kyoto Protocol does not reflect that many developing countries now contribute to climate change more than developed countries,
- G. Aware that the current classification of developed and developing countries is not a suitable means of distinguishing between their impact on climate change,
- H. Fully alarmed by the lack of legally binding agreements in the Kyoto Protocol for numerous developing countries with high emissions,

1 The efforts taken to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions (including but not limited to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) with a variety of methods such as new technologies and products, renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency improvements for existing systems.

2 The ability to respond to current or expected consequences of climate change to reduce potential harm or even anticipate potential benefits.

3 The 20-20-20 framework of the EU to combat climate change through a 20% reduction in the EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, raising the portion of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20% and improving energy efficiency by 20%.

4 The Kyoto Protocol is the only global legally binding piece of international environmental law. Set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty aiming to set up legally binding commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions.



- I. Viewing with appreciation Member States' implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, in particular through:
    - i) The Clean Development Mechanism<sup>5</sup> (CDM),
    - ii) Joint Implementation<sup>6</sup> (JI),
  - J. Emphasising the need to limit the overall energy consumption of European households,
  - K. Fully aware that private enterprises are significant producers of CO-2 emissions,
  - L. Affirming the successful implementation of the current European Emissions Trading Scheme,
- 
- I. Whereas only countries listed in Annex I of the Kyoto Protocol<sup>7</sup> are obliged by legally binding agreements,
  - II. Whereas China and the United States of America emit 40.8% of the world wide global CO-2 emissions and the EU is the third biggest emitter of CO2 emissions with 13.98%;
- 
1. Encourages the European Commission to emphasise the EU's leading role in the successful implementation of climate change mitigation adaptation strategies;

#### **European Contribution to Adaptation and Mitigation**

2. Calls upon the European Commission to establish a pan- European competition for public and private research groups to further develop research into climate mitigation and adaptation;
3. Endorses the introduction energy consumption limits for households in each Member State to decrease energy usage by:
4. Encourages Member States to limit household energy consumption by:
  - a) taking local and regional differences into account in setting up aforementioned limits
  - b) offering tax reductions to households who consume less than the agreed limit,
  - c) introducing fines for households which exceed said limit;
5. Requests the European Commission to levy special taxes on imported products which do not comply with European environmental standards;
6. Further recommends to the European Commission that the aforementioned revenue be directed to the regions most vulnerable to climate change;

5 The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), as defined in the 12th article of the Kyoto Protocol, allows a country (Annex B Party) to set up an emission-reduction project in a developing country. Annex B Party countries are: The 15 States who were EU members in 1997, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, US, Canada, Hungary, Japan, Poland, Croatia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Norway, Australia, Iceland.

6 The Joint Implementation, as defined in the 6th article of the Kyoto Protocol, allows a flexible and cost-efficient means of fulfilling their Kyoto commitments, by investing in an other Annex B Party country.

7 The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Appendix I: Parties include the industrialised countries that were members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) in 1992, plus countries with economies in transition (the EIT Parties), including the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States.



### International Climate Change Negotiations

7. Further calls upon the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) to define a new index evaluating countries' responsibility for climate change, based upon several indicators, such as:
  - a) the Human Development Index<sup>8</sup>,
  - b) total carbon emissions per country,
  - c) carbon emissions per capita;
8. Emphasises that the aforementioned new index does not take the historical impact of countries' CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into account;
9. Further requests DG CLIMA to suggest a reclassification of the countries in the appendices of the Kyoto Protocol by usage of the aforementioned index;
10. Encourages Member States' diplomatic entities and DG CLIMA to offer countries that sign and participate in binding agreements combatting climate change, such as the Kyoto protocol, more cooperation in all political fields;
11. Expresses its hope that the European Commission make the USA commit to international climate change agreements on integral parts of USA-EU free trade negotiations.

<sup>8</sup> The Human Development Index (HDI) is a measurement tool to evaluate a country's development. The HDI takes life expectancy, educational attainment, income and further indicators on health, education and living standards into account.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs I

**‘The faulty set-up of the Eurozone? Should the EU compensate for its Member States’ lost ability to shape monetary policy and how can the issue of macroeconomic imbalances within the Union best be addressed?’**

Submitted by: Maddalena Conte (IT), Tomáš Fábry (SK), Harry Heath (UK), Václav Huk (CZ), Adela Alexandra Iacobov (RO), Dimitra Karakioulaki (GR), Johanne Marcdargent (FR), John McGuinness (IE), Alexander Nevrov (FI), Aleksandra Novaković (RS), Beatrice Reichel (SE), Fatih Seyfi (DE), David Soler Crespo (ES), Lolita Viller (RU), Oskar Wallner (SE), Jan Václav Nedvídek (Chairperson, CZ)

*The European Youth Parliament,*

- A. Recognising that the Eurozone does not entirely fulfil the criteria of an Optimal Currency Area<sup>1</sup> (OCA), namely:
  - i) labour mobility,
  - ii) capital flow,
  - iii) economic homogeneity,
- B. Noting with regret that the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines<sup>2</sup> were not met by all Member States due to the lack of a functioning enforcement mechanism,
- C. Acknowledging that the EU has already recognised the faulty set-up of the Eurozone and is in the process of revision thereof,
- D. Noting with regret that the Eurozone lacks resistance to asymmetric shocks<sup>3</sup>,
- E. Aware of the inefficiency of having a monetary union without adequate fiscal integration,
- F. Bearing in mind that whilst the European Monetary Union (EMU) was founded on the idea of supranational economic interests, Member States continue to prioritise their own national interests,
- G. Convinced that the vision of a politically integrated EMU preceded and continues to overrun considerations of economic sustainability,
- H. Noting with concern that excessive borrowing by Member States’ governments may be facilitated by the existence of bailout funds,
- I. Realising that the common monetary policy set by the European Central Bank has impacted the Member States’ economies asymmetrically, thus benefiting some at the expense of others,
- J. Emphasising that financial compensation through fiscal transfers within the EMU is not feasible due to the:
  - i) lack of public and political support for increased economic integration,

<sup>1</sup> An OCA is a geographical region in which sharing a single currency would maximise economic efficiency.

<sup>2</sup> The Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, also known as the Maastricht or the Convergence Criteria, is a list of criteria which serves to determine a country’s ability to enter the Eurozone and remain in it.

<sup>3</sup> A change on microeconomic condition which affects different parts of a country or different countries of a region differently. This concept is often mentioned as a source of difficulty for countries which share a common currency.

- ii) difficulty of raising funds for such transfers due to legal and political reasons,
- iii) inability of lenders to ensure that money is spent on projects encouraging economic growth, such as building infrastructure;

- I. Whereas labour mobility is provided for on theoretical level by the Schengen Agreement;
- II. Whereas the Stability and Growth Pact based on Articles 121 and 126 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union outlaws excessive sovereign debt;
- III. Whereas Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 on the strengthening of budgetary surveillance and coordination of economic policies is in place as a part of the 'Sixpack'<sup>4</sup>;

### **Avoiding Further Fiscal Integration**

- 1. Demands that the European Council refrain from directing the process of European integration towards a fiscal union until sufficient economic and cultural homogeneity and democratic consent are achieved across the EMU countries;
- 2. Affirms the critical role of the Structural and Cohesion Funds in compensating for the Member States' lost ability to shape monetary policy and in addressing the macroeconomic imbalances within the Union;
- 3. Further affirms the positive role the aforementioned funds play in diminishing the negative impact of asymmetric shocks;
- 4. Urges the European Council to ensure that the 2014 - 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework<sup>5</sup> expands the financial resources available to the Structural and Cohesion Funds;

### **Amending Existing Measures**

- 5. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate legislation to facilitate voluntary further contributions to the aforementioned funds by the Member States;
- 6. Expresses its appreciation for the current strict adherence to the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and calls for the continuation of this trend;
- 7. Endorses the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure<sup>6</sup> whilst urging the Eurozone Member States to comply with the action plan resulting therefrom in order to avoid sanctions imposed through the Excessive Imbalance Procedure<sup>7</sup>;
- 8. Instructs the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs to explore the legal possibilities of the Parliament's ability to supervise the full implementation of the Single Supervisory Mechanism<sup>8</sup> (SSM) in order to avoid any further bailouts.

4 The 'Sixpack' summarises the EMU's economic governance and reforms the Stability and Growth Pack, whilst introducing new economic surveillance mechanisms.

5 The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the European Union is a seven-year framework regulating its annual budget. It must be renewed every seven years in a unanimous decision of the European Council and approved of by the European Parliament.

6 The Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure aims at identifying possible risks of macroeconomic imbalances and preventing them, as well as tackling the already existing ones. The procedure carries out in-depth analyses of those Member States' economies in absence of financial stability in consultation with the governments of those states and provides them with an action plan to improve their economic stability.

7 The Excessive Imbalance Procedure is the corrective arm of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedures. It can impose sanctions on Member States which fail to comply with the action plans provided by the preventive arm.

8 The SSM is a supranational financial supervisory authority that will be responsible for the regulation of Eurozone banks.





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