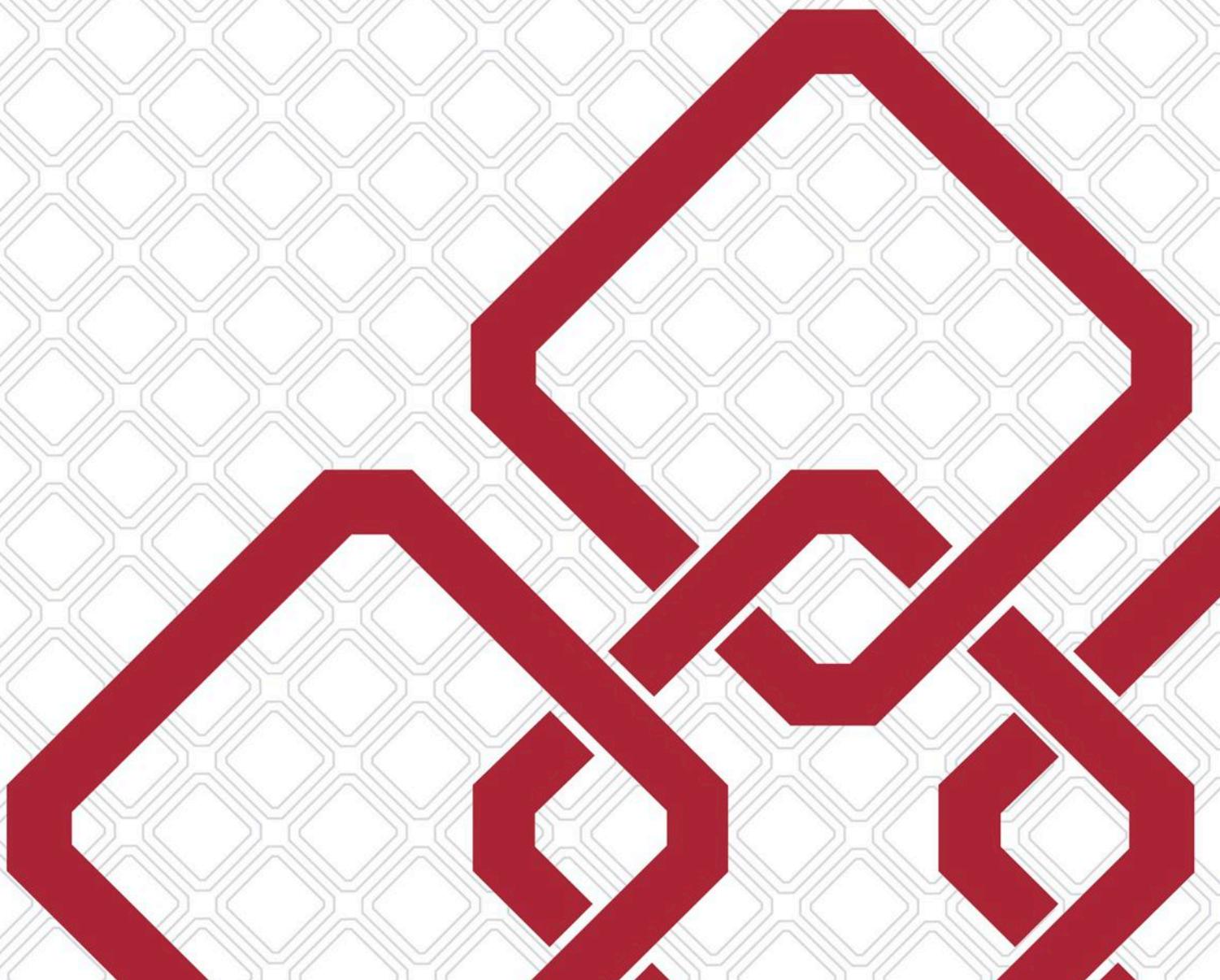


BARCELONA 2014

WALKING TOWARDS A COMMON EUROPEAN SPIRIT

RESOLUTION BOOKLET

July 25th - August 3rd, 2014





BARCELONA2014



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES

VOTING RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on International Trade - Passed

(For: 105; Against: 95; Abstention: 6)

Committee on Foreign Affairs - Passed

(For: 102; Against: 99; Abstention: 10)

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality I - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs II - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality II - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Culture and Education - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Transport and Tourism - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Constitutional Affairs - Passed

(Show of hands)

Committee on Security and Defence - Passed

(Show of hands)

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

With the Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU (COFACE) naming 2014 as the year for ‘Reconciling Work and Family Life’, what should be done to strengthen single parents’ position in the labour market, and to ensure that neither gender is financially punished for having children?

Submitted by: Davide Acierno (IT); Milena Arsić (RS); Cecilia Axelsson (SE); Rafael de Azua (ES); Gatis Bērziņš (LV); Alexandu Pașata (RO); Liisa Rajamets (EE); Leonor Rodrigues (PT); Philippa Rytönen (FI); Gabrielė Šimakauskaitė (LT); Emre Tamerler (TR); Segen Tezare (CH); Varvara Tyurina (RU); Katarzyna Wawrzkowicz (PL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Realising that 10.4%¹ of households with children in the EU are run by single parents,
- B. Concerned that the needs of both parents and children are not always fulfilled due to the great disparities displayed in paid maternity and paternity leaves² across the EU,
- C. Recognising the lack of information regarding the situation of single fathers, who represent 1.2%³ of EU households with children,
- D. Noting with regret that paid transferable parental leave⁴ legislation has not yet been implemented in all Member States, therefore forcing women away from the labour market,
- E. Deeply disturbed by the high risk of child poverty in single parent households, reaching 34%, compared to 19% in households with two parents⁵,
- F. Having considered the double burden of work and family responsibilities which results in:
 - i) negative long-term effects on financial security and economic independence,
 - ii) social exclusion⁶ of parents and their children,
- G. Bearing in mind teenage single parents are a particularly vulnerable group as they face a higher risk of poverty due to an incomplete education,
- H. Fully aware of the issues single parents face when entering or re-entering the labour market,
- I. Alarmed that single parents are perceived to be unreliable employees as their family responsibilities can lead to inflexibility,

¹ European Union Labour Force Survey (EU LFS) 2010

² The Council Directive 2010/18/EU establishes a minimum of 4 months for parental leave without limiting this time to paid paternal leave.

³ EU LFS 2010

⁴ Transferable parental leave can be distributed amongst both parents.

⁵ EU LFS 2010

⁶ Social exclusion is the exclusion from the prevailing social system and its rights and privileges, typically as a result of poverty or the fact of belonging to a minority social group.

- J. Deeply concerned by insufficient child care services throughout the EU resulting in only 47.9% of employed single mothers working full-time⁷,
 - K. Emphasising that the rate of part-time working single mothers who reach higher education is only 22%⁸,
 - L. Concerned by the current status of state aid for single parents in the EU, because:
 - i) state aid varies between Member States,
 - ii) single parents have difficulties with the application procedure,
 - iii) non-widowed single parents are not sufficiently supported in all Member States,
 - M. Observing the poor system of monitoring the payment of child maintenance during and after the process of divorce,
 - N. Noting with deep concern that the Barcelona Objectives⁹ will not be fully met by 2020 in all Member States;
1. Reaffirms that social policy should remain a shared competence of the EU and its Member States;
 2. Proposes an Open Method of Coordination (OMC)¹⁰ amongst Member States in:
 - a) state aid for single parents,
 - b) conditions of parental leave,
 - c) labour conditions for single parents,
 - d) the management of child-care services,
 - e) actions for recovering owed maintenance from non-custodial parents;

Gender Gap

3. Urges the European Commission to initiate a Council Directive to establish a minimum of 4 months of paid parental leave with at least 80% of the former salary for all parents in the EU until 2030 which shall be funded by the European Social Fund (ESF)¹¹;
4. Calls upon Eurostat¹² to include the same depth of research on single fathers as on single mothers in their annual reports, such as the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU LFS)¹³;

Financial Issues

5. Asks Member State governments to create educational initiatives such as Care to Learn¹⁴;

⁷ 55.7% of employed mothers with partner work full-time (Source: LFS 2010)

⁸ EU LFS 2010

⁹ The Barcelona Objectives are a part of the Europe 2020 strategy and aim at developing childcare facilities for young children in Europe with a view to sustainable and inclusive growth.

¹⁰ OMC is an intergovernmental mean of coordination gathering volunteering Member States on subjects such as health or social inclusion.

¹¹ The ESF is Europe's main instrument for ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens.

¹² Eurostat is the statistical office of the EU.

¹³ EU LFS is an annual survey made by all EU Member States, two candidate countries and three countries of the European Free Trade Association to gather data about the labour market.

¹⁴ Care to Learn is an initiative by the UK government to support young parents under the age of 20 to study by helping with childcare costs.

6. Encourages Member States to offer tax reductions to companies who offer flexible full-time working hours¹⁵ for single parents in accordance with their children's needs with conditions specified and adapted to each Member State;
7. Urges the European Parliament to establish funding for an annual European Grant for projects targeted at single parents;

Lack of sufficient job opportunities

8. Recommends the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)¹⁶ address the issues of the educational level of single parents through extending already existing educational infrastructure in accordance to the labour market such as:
 - a) educational workshops and on-the-spot trainings to acquaint single parents with the labour market,
 - b) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)¹⁷ with verified certificates to increase the qualifications of single parents, like those provided by edX¹⁸ and Coursera¹⁹,
 - c) correspondence courses²⁰ which enable the acquisition of a university degree;

Governmental Support

9. Suggests that Member States provide financial aid to single parents actively looking for, or already in, employment in accordance with their income;
10. Emphasises the need to develop the European Network of Single Parent Families (ENoS)²¹ to include information on partner organisations in each Member State as well as the support given by the EU and Member States;
11. Expresses its appreciation of and desire to further encourage Non-Governmental Organisations and other institutions which help single parents by guiding them through the process of receiving state aid and maintenance.

¹⁵ The term 'flexible working' describes a type of working arrangement which gives some degree of flexibility on how long, where, when, and at what times employees work.

¹⁶ EPSCO brings together ministers responsible for Employment, Social Affairs, Health, and Consumer Policy from all Member States.

¹⁷ A MOOC is a model for delivering learning content that is normally used in conventional education to anyone interested, with no limit on attendance and no tuition fee.

¹⁸ edX is a website that provides MOOCs from top ranked universities such as Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Berkley and verified certificates for several courses.

¹⁹ Coursera is an education platform that partners with top universities and organisations worldwide to offer MOOCs for free.

²⁰ A correspondence course is a form of education that involves teaching on an individual basis to students who are not physically present.

²¹ ENoS is an association of lobbyists for single parents and their children who want to take responsibility for a family-friendly society in Europe.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Opposition to certain aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) continues to rise, highlighting concerns and slowing what was initially considered inevitable acceptance on both sides of the Atlantic. What position should the EU take towards the TTIP negotiations?

Submitted by: Vanja Banković (RS); Gregor Bauer (CZ); Niall Buckley (IE); Răzvan Certezeanu (RO); Julia Coquard (SE); Luis Freitas (PT); İrem Gökdoğan (TR); Asiya Gubaydullina (RU); Henriikka Hakala (FI); Yll Haziri (XK); Cloé Oksenhendler (FR); David Plahl (DE); Elissavet Sandaltzopoulou (GR); Silvia Tănăsescu (EE); Kristin Verpe (NO).

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with satisfaction that TTIP, if signed by 2015, could bring both the EU and the US an annual economic growth of €119 billion and €95 billion¹ respectively,
- B. Taking into consideration that eliminating tariff barriers completely would be of particular benefit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs),
- C. Believing that TTIP would be an effective means of combating the alarming unemployment in Europe,
- D. Having considered the controversy over the Investor-State Dispute Settlements (ISDS)² specifically concerning:
 - i) the use of international arbitration tribunals instead of the EU and the Member States' judicial authority,
 - ii) the preferential nature of ISDS procedures favouring foreign investors and therefore undermining the principles of fair and equal treatment,
 - iii) transparency issues,
 - iv) the fear of investors filing ISDS suits as a disincentive for governments to regulate in the public interest,
- E. Keeping in mind that investors from the EU utilise the ISDS most frequently,
- F. Recognising the differences between the EU and the US in standards and regulations regarding labour rights, consumer protection, intellectual property rights, data privacy, food safety and agriculture, environmental protection, chemical and pharmaceutical approval,

¹ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2014/may/tradoc_152462.pdf

² ISDS is an instrument of international public law which allows foreign investors to initiate a dispute settlement in front of an international arbitration tribunal against its host state based on a Free Trade Agreement signed by the investor's home country and the host country.

- G. Aware that, despite existing subsidies, small scale local agricultural production in the EU will possibly face the negative effects of increased competition brought about by the TTIP,
- H. Highlighting the importance of Geographic Indicators (GIs)³ with respect to preserving the diversity of cultural identities in the EU and the economic benefits they bring,
- I. Noting with concern that the exclusion of financial services from the TTIP negotiations imposes a risk of regulatory arbitrage in the EU-US free trade zone,
- J. Taking into account criticism on the lack of transparency about the negotiations caused by:
- i) the conflict between the necessity of confidentiality and the democratic importance of transparency,
 - ii) a growing opposition from several interest groups such as NGOs, trade unions, lobbyists, environmental protection organisations⁴,
 - iii) the limited opportunities for all interest groups to be included in the consultation process,
- K. Noting with concern that the non-binding nature of the Safe Harbour Agreement⁵ can potentially result in a conflict between stricter EU privacy laws and more lenient US privacy legislation,
- L. Viewing with appreciation that the aim of the negotiations is to reach an umbrella agreement which would enable continuous discussions on regulatory updates by the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC)⁶,
- M. Appreciating that the current framework of TTIP negotiations can serve as a blueprint for future Free Trade Agreements (FTAs),
- N. Acknowledging the repercussions of the different impacts TTIP will have on countries not party to the treaty due to the potential increase in demand and competition,
- O. Recognising that increased oil imports from the US could result in economic benefits for the EU;
1. Calls upon the European Commission to continue the negotiations with the aim of finalising the TTIP Agreement by 2015 in order to reap the benefits, as originally envisioned;
 2. Reassures that the core standards set by EU legislation concerning health, environment, labour rights, and consumer protection are non-negotiable;
 3. Reaffirms the need to include ISDS procedures in the TTIP to ensure that its investment principles are mutually respected;
 4. Supports the following improvements to the ISDS procedures as proposed by the EC:
 - a) all litigation costs are to be covered by the losing party in the case of frivolous claims,
 - b) clarifying the definition of an investor in order to eliminate legislative loopholes,
 - c) in order for the investors to qualify for compensation a limited set of basic rights have to be breached including: denial of justice, disregard of fundamental principles of due processes, manifest arbitrariness, targeted discrimination and abusive treatment,

³ GI are indications which identify a good as originating from a region, where it's given quality or reputation characteristics attributable to that region of origin.

⁴ This opposition led to the launch of a European Citizens Initiative (ECI) against TTIP which is expected to be registered in the upcoming weeks.

⁵ Safe Harbour is a streamlined process for US companies initiated by the EC to comply with the EU directive 95/46/EC on the protection of personal data.

⁶ The RCC will consist of representatives from regulators/competent authorities and trade representatives as well as the EC's Secretariat General and the US Office for Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) which will meet on a yearly basis to continue the regulatory cooperation and to make an annual Regulatory Programme.

- d) guaranteeing the sued state the right to veto two out of three judges of the arbitration tribunal;
5. Further requests that arbitration documents are published and access to trials is granted, allowing interest groups to make submissions and publishing a comprehensive report for each tribunal;
 6. Further encourages future cooperation between the EU and the US on drafting new legislation related to the topics included in the TTIP;
 7. Calls for the identification of possible compatible regulations in order to decrease costs caused by excessive bureaucracy;
 8. Recommends the US to implement the GI labelling standards of the EU;
 9. Expresses its hope that the US will revise and update their regulatory legislation on chemicals and pharmaceuticals;
 10. Emphasises that TTIP will not be used to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)⁷ or to decrease its funding;
 11. Calls upon the European Commission to re-introduce the financial sector in the TTIP negotiations with the US;
 12. Urges the European Commission to liaise with and increase the number of interested parties in the TTIP negotiations such as NGOs, lobbyists, trade unions, and labour groups;
 13. Invites the European Commission to publish more comprehensive reports on negotiations;
 14. Requests the European Commission to revise and update the Safe Harbour Agreement to ensure the incorporation of the seven principles of this Agreement;
 15. Encourages the EU to promote the standards established by TTIP in future FTA negotiations;
 16. Expresses the appreciation for the initiative to reform The US Energy Policy and Conservation act (1975)⁸.

⁷ Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the EU's framework for agriculture, the objectives of which are stated in article 39 of the Treaty of Rome (1957).

⁸ The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (EPCA) is a United States Act of Congress that responded to the 1973 oil crisis by creating a comprehensive approach to federal energy policy. The primary goals of EPCA are to increase energy production and supply, reduce energy demand, provide energy efficiency, and give the executive branch additional powers to respond to disruptions in energy supply. Reforming this policy would allow increased oil imports from the US to the EU market, establishing a more reliable energy supply.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Enlargement policy as the EU's strongest foreign policy tool? In light of Turkey's ongoing oppression of popular opposition, how should the EU best use the country's accession talks to encourage sustainable democratisation processes and respect for Human Rights?

Submitted by: Lena Althen (DE); Ivana Biga (RS); Ana García (ES); Nina Giesen (NL); Areg Kochinyan (AR); Nicklas Kövamees (SE); Milan Mag (HU); Daniel Míka (CZ); Triin Naudi (EE); Anastasia Ntracha (GR); Louis Poumeaud (FR); Jack Sargent (IE); Laura Stern (AU); Mari Vetti Frostad (NO); Atjon Zhiti (AL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Regretting that the EU's strongest foreign policy tool, being enlargement, limits the EU's sphere of influence to potential candidate countries,
- B. Further regretting that this makes the EU a weak international actor in relation to countries who are not eligible for accession,
- C. Alarmed that differing Member State views towards candidate countries further limit the use of accession as a foreign policy tool,
- D. Aware that accession can be used as a foreign policy tool by opening further negotiations on chapters of the Community acquis or threatening suspension,
- E. Recognising the positive impact of bilateral relations resulting from EU enlargement in the Western Balkans,
- F. Noting with approval that the accession talks have promoted human rights in candidate countries in areas such as:
 - i) freedom of expression,
 - ii) freedom of assembly,
 - iii) rights of minorities and women,
- G. Affirming that in the 13 new members of the fifth enlargement of the EU a reduction in corruption and organised crime occurred as a result of undergoing a viable democratisation and stabilisation process,
- H. Deeply concerned by the inability of the Eastern Partnership Project¹ to react to geopolitical and situational changes in the region,
- I. Disappointed that Turkey's refusal to recognise the Republic of Cyprus and the closure of its ports to Cypriot planes and vessels in violation with the customs agreement, has led Cyprus to block accession negotiations on eight chapters of the Community acquis²,

¹ The East Partnership Project is an initiative of the EU to establish relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

- J. Deeply disturbed by the oppression of popular opposition in some candidate countries such as Turkey,
1. Aims to reform the premises of accession negotiations for any potential Member States in order to achieve sustainable democratisation and respect for human rights;
 2. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate the process of a treaty change altering the voting requirement for opening negotiations on chapters of the *acquis* from a unanimous vote to consensus minus two;
 3. Approves the ability of the Directorate General for Enlargement to temporarily halt or refuse to begin negotiations on Chapter 23 of the Community *acquis*³ in cases of persistent human rights violations;
 4. Requests that the European Commission initiate a review of the Privileged Partnership status⁴ and its effectiveness;
 5. Invites the European Commission to reform the European Neighbourhood Policy⁵ through:
 - a) renewing the relations with the East Partnership Project countries by resuming negotiation and cooperation,
 - b) supporting the use of the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁶ and regional initiatives within it,
 6. Endorses the use of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Program (TAIEX)⁷ and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II⁸ for the provision of technical and financial assistance to candidate countries during accession negotiations in proportion with the progress made on Chapters of the Community *acquis*;
 7. Encourages more efficient funding dissemination by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights⁹ for civil society Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) operating in candidate countries;
 8. Supports the use of Europeaid¹⁰ and the European External Action Service¹¹, as alternative foreign policy tools to enlargement;
 9. Further calls on the Commissioner on Enlargement to condemn the oppression of popular opposition in Turkey;
 10. Urges Turkey to comply with its obligations under the customs union of opening its ports to Cypriot vessels and further to recognise the Democratic Republic of Cyprus;

² The Community *acquis* is a document of 35 chapters including all EU legislation, treaties and declarations necessary for accession.

³ Chapter 23 concerns legislation concerning the Judiciary and Fundamental Rights.

⁴ Privileged Partnership is a generic term for cooperation between EU Member States and non Member States to achieve common goals.

⁵ The European Neighbourhood Policy is a foreign relations instrument of the EU.

⁶ The European Neighbourhood Instrument is the financial arm of the European Neighbourhood Policy which came into force in May 2014.

⁷ TAIEX is an institution-building instrument for short-term assistance in adoption, application and enforcement of the *Acquis Communautaire*.

⁸ Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) is an EU fund which helps candidate countries with Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes and Rural Development Programmes.

⁹ The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights provides support for the promotion of democracy and human rights in non-EU countries.

¹⁰ Europeaid is a new Directorate General responsible for designing EU development policies and delivering aid through programmes and projects across the world.

¹¹ The European External Action Service ensures that all the different activities that the EU performs abroad are consistent and effective.

11. Encourages the adoption of the proposed Law Enforcement Monitoring Commission in Turkey as an independent supervisory body overseeing police offences and conducting impartial investigations;
12. Recommends the amendment of Articles 125, 214, 215, 216 and 220¹² of the Turkish penal code to ensure freedom of expression of journalists and broadcasters.

¹² Article 125 of the Turkish Penal Code criminalises defamation. Articles 214, 215, 216 and 220 are designed to protect public order and are regularly used against journalists and broadcasters.

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

With the reporting stage of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive presenting a bleak outlook for European waters and coastlines, what more should be done to lessen the damaging human impact of over-fishing, littering, and climate change on Europe's seas?

Submitted by: Paul Crişan (RO); Valeryia Dele (BY); Imogen Findlay (UK); Siebe Geerts (BE); Christina Georgopoulou (GR); Maria Gomez-Bestue (ES); Timothée Guichoux (FR); Dion Koreman (NL); Zuzanna Laudańska (PL); Lorenzo Leuenberger (CH); Nestan Mamukashvili (GE); Flora Mavri (CY); Christine Meiser (DE); Ömer Can Özkan (TR); Laura Uusitalo (FI).

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply concerned by the damage done on European waters and coastlines by human actions, in particular:
 - i) stock depletion and loss of biodiversity through overfishing,
 - ii) littering,
 - iii) climate change,
- B. Recognising the potential of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹ (MSFD) to address the issues of littering and overfishing,
- C. Convinced that the EU's 2030 goals are insufficient to combat climate change,
- D. Bearing in mind the transboundary nature of the marine environment,
- E. Aware of the large environmental differences between the four European marine regions, namely the Baltic Sea, the North-East Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea,
- F. Noting with concern that the nature of the MSFD as a framework directive leads to different countries within the same marine region having different definitions of Good Environmental Status (GES)²,
- G. Fully alarmed that the targets set by each Member State in their Marine Strategies frequently lack ambition;
- H. Highly aware that Member States' willingness and ability both to set and achieve GES targets is dependent on domestic political and economic factors,

¹ The Marine Strategy Framework Directive of 2008 sets the target of reaching Good Environmental Status (GES) by the year 2020. As a Framework Directive, it sets 11 descriptors relevant to establishing what GES is, but demands that each Member State establish its own definition of GES for its waters and measures to achieve it.

² Good Environmental Status is defined in article 3 of the MSFD as "The environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive". Precise criteria for Good Environmental Status are defined by each Member State for its own waters.

- I. Emphasising that the lack of quantitative targets set for GES in the MSFD leaves room for ambiguity when monitoring progress to achieving GES,
 - J. Regretting that the use of the Regional Sea Conventions (RSC)³ to facilitate implementation of the MSFD as encouraged in the MSFD⁴ is limited because:
 - i) the RSCs include non-Member States,
 - ii) the definition of the proposed cooperation is vague,
 - iii) the European Community is not a party to the Bucharest convention,
 - K. Noting the need for inclusion of non-state stakeholders in the Regional Sea Conventions, with regard to:
 - i) the sharing of scientific research,
 - ii) consultation during the decision-making process,
 - L. Fully aware that the monitoring and reporting of GES targets varies greatly from Member States in both thoroughness and methods of data collection,
 - M. Noting with regret the absence of comprehensive and up-to-date data on the marine environment in Europe necessary to:
 - i) set quantitative GES goals,
 - ii) monitor the implementation of measures to achieve GES in all four marine regions,
1. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate a revision of the MSFD to include:
 - a) different, specific definitions of GES for each the four marine areas within the RSCs
 - b) quantitative targets for each of the 11 descriptors outlined in the MSFD⁵;
 2. Proposes to the Directorate-General for the Environment to invite all parties of the Regional Sea Conventions, NGOs and experts to an annual conference to discuss coordinated issues;
 3. Approves of the efforts of the Marine Strategy Coordination Group (MSCG)⁶ to exchange information between the four regions and organise arrangements for coordinated issues;
 4. Encourages non-Member States who are party to the RSCs to adopt the targets for marine environmental protection which will be set out in the revised MSFD;
 5. Encourages cooperation in the Regional Sea Conventions between all parties and non-state stakeholders in an advisory role, including environmental NGOs, coastal industries and experts;

³ The four European Regional Sea Conventions are: the Convention for the Protection of of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic of 1992 (OSPAR), the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Baltic Sea Area of 1992 (HELCOM), the Convention for the Protection of Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean of 1995 (UNEP-MAP) and the Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea of 1992 (The Bucharest Convention).

⁴ Article 13 of the MSFD states that: "Where practical and appropriate, existing institutional structures established in marine regions or subregions, in particular Regional Sea Conventions, should be used to ensure such coordination".

⁵ Annex I of the MSFD lists 11 qualitative descriptors for interpreting what GES means in practice, namely: Biodiversity, non-indigenous species, commercial fish and shellfish, food webs, eutrophication, sea-floor integrity, hydrographical conditions, contaminants, contaminants in seafood, marine litter, and energy including underwater noise.

⁶ The Marine Strategy Coordination Group is a group of stakeholders of the MSFD.

6. Endorses the European Commission's pursuit of an amendment of the Bucharest Convention allowing the European Community to accede;
7. Calls for the European Commission Directorate-General of the Environment to set guidelines for Member States to do the necessary scientific research and data collection in order to:
 - a) set the quantitative criteria for GES,
 - b) monitor implementation of measures to achieve GES,
 - c) ensure concrete and complete reporting;
8. Welcomes the higher 2030 climate and energy goals set out in the Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY I

With the appalling results of the EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights' study into violence against women, how should the EU encourage Member States to make a marked reduction in physical, mental, and sexual abuse of women?

Submitted by: Susanna Carta (IT); João Filipe (PT); Naomi Foale (UK); Kristi Kadzadej (AL); Triin Kaup (EE); Karolina Kraft (SE); Maciej Kryński (PL); Pavel Mládek (CZ); Elmar Nazirli (AZ); Christopher Nölte (DE); Lilpar Özcan (TR); Sophie Perry (IE); Biljana Petrovic (RS); Dana Kristiāna Skrupska (LV); Nastassia Yaromenka (BL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed that one in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence¹ since the age of 15,
- B. Aware most long-term violence is domestic and the majority of violence against women is caused by men that they know well²,
- C. Noting with regret the extent, prevalence and limited awareness of violence against women,
- D. Deeply concerned by the fact that people actively ignore violence against women or even accuse the victims,
- E. Aware of the effects of a patriarchal society, which often include, yet are not limited to:
 - i) misrepresentation, objectification and sexualisation of women in the media,
 - ii) propogation of the perception of male dominant,
- F. Noting with deep concern that only 36 countries have signed the Istanbul Convention³ 13 of them have ratified, suggesting ending the violence against women is not their national priority,
- G. Recognising the incapability of the law enforcement agencies when addressing the act of violence against a victim,
- H. Observing the lack of a common European strategy level that tackles violence against women and through effective cooperation Member States and non-governmental organisations (NGO),

¹ European Union: European Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey*, 2014, ISBN 978-92-9239-342-7

² European Union: European Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Violence against women: an EU-wide survey*, 2014, ISBN 978-92-9239-342-7

³ <http://www.conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=210&CM=&DF=&CL=ENG> (Status as of: 30/7/2014) - "(Istanbul Convention) is a Council of Europe convention against violence against women and domestic violence which was opened for signature on May 11, 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey. The convention aims at prevention of violence, victim protection and "to end with the impunity of perpetrators".

- I. Taking into account that the vast majority of violence against women go unreported due to:
 - i) economic dependency on the perpetrator,
 - ii) fear of the perpetrator not being sufficiently punished,
 - iii) lack of trust in law enforcement agencies,
 - iv) difficulties of proving some cases of abuse due to the lack of evidence,
 - v) victims blaming themselves,
 - vi) victim shaming,
 - J. Emphasising that existing data on violence against women is not sufficient nor comparable between Member States,
 - K. Fully aware that abuse of women can lead to far reaching social and economic consequences for victims, which is compounded by the lack of support and professional help available for both the physical and mental health impacts of violence,
 - L. Emphasising that rape can occur between married partners and some countries, such as Lithuania, are lacking a specific criminal offense addressing marital rape,
 - M. Bearing in mind the size of the human trafficking problem as evidenced by approximately 16.000 women who have been trafficked within 24 Member States between 2008 and 2010⁴,
 - N. Realising that the diverse range of cultural backgrounds across the EU affects the perception and treatment of women,
 - O. Bearing in mind the lack of standardised definitions for different forms of violence against women amongst the Member States;
1. Calls upon the Directorate General for Justice (DG for Justice)⁵ to implement campaigns that promote zero tolerance to violence against women throughout engagement with local organisations, community groups and academics;
 2. Supports the wider ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention;
 3. Emphasises the need for standardised definitions of the various forms of physical, mental and sexual abuse in order to conduct data collection within the EU for the sake of transparent, easily accessible and comparable data;
 4. Expresses its appreciation of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)⁶ for promoting gender equality and collecting, recording, analysing and disseminating new data, which will be collected according to the standardised definitions;
 5. Calls upon development of a common EU strategy for further cooperation with, and support of developing and established NGOs such as European Women's Lobby (EWL)⁷, Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)⁸ and Amnesty International⁹;

⁴ European Union: Eurostat, *Trafficking in Human Beings*, 2013, ISBN 978-92-79-22842-1

⁵ DG for Justice is responsible for fundamental rights and citizenship policies at the EU level. The gender equality portfolio also fall under the portfolio of this DG.

⁶ The European Institute for Gender Equality is a Vilnius-based agency of the European Union inaugurated in 2007. It was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of 20 December 2006. Recruitment of its Director was advertised in April 2007. This European Institute supports the EU institutions and the Member States in promoting equality between women and men and combating sex discrimination.

⁷ The European Women's Lobby (EWL) is an NGO founded in 1990 and the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. The EWL is one of the longest-standing European level NGOs, and works closely with European Institutions and civil society partners.

6. Encourages Member States to make the necessary changes in their law enforcement system to:
 - a) ensure easy access to judicial aid to the victims,
 - b) impose higher penalties for crimes related to violence against women;
7. Calls upon the DG for Justice to assist Member States in the establishment of dedicated Violence Against Women Task Forces (VAWTFs) in law enforcement;
8. Urges Member States to adopt the standardised Voluntary Support Methods¹⁰, provided by the afore-mentioned VAWTFs which will include, but not be limited to, the access to:
 - a) legal advice,
 - b) communication with a liaison officer,
 - c) a national hotline for both victims and witnesses of violence,
 - d) counselling,
 - e) physical and mental health care,
 - f) victim support groups,
 - g) financial support for those who are economically dependent on the perpetrator;
9. Requests that the victims, in particular those with children, have the right to seek shelter in a safe house where they will receive appropriate support;
10. Expresses its appreciation for the Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI)¹¹ which works to improve gender equality in the workplace;
11. Emphasises the violence against women through national education systems in classes which specifically address personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)¹²;
12. Urges Member States to further invest in the training of healthcare professionals to identify and help victims overcome the effects of violence against women.

⁸ WAVE is a network of European women's non-governmental organisations working in the field of combating violence against women and children (women's refuges, counselling centres, SOS hotlines/helplines, organisations focusing on prevention and training, etc.)

⁹ Amnesty International (commonly known as Amnesty and AI) is a non-governmental organisation focused on human rights with over 3 million members and supporters around the world. There are six key areas which Amnesty deals with: Women's, children's, minorities' and indigenous rights, ending torture, abolition of the death penalty, rights of refugees, rights of prisoners of conscience, protection of human dignity.

¹⁰ Voluntary Support Methods are the opportunities that will be provided by Violence Against Women Task Forces to the victims of violence.

¹¹ The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions.

¹² Government of the United Kingdom: Department for Education, *Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)*, 2013, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-social-health-and-economic-education-pshe/personal-social-health-and-economic-pshe-education>

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

Empty rhetoric or making a real difference in the fight against Climate Change? With the EU's 2030 and 2050 goals being criticised by environmental groups for a lack of ambition, what should the EU's priorities for combating climate change be?

Submitted by: Ana Rita Alves Andrade (PT); Katerina Athienitis (CY); Piotr Cichocki (PL); Andrei Cretu (RO); Nina Kankanyan (AM); Patrik Kumpulainen (FI); Tamara Macharashvili (GE); Jannik Malte Meissner (DE); Mari Liis Pedak (ET); François Poumeaud (FR); Antonio Morilla Silva (ES); Athanasios Theocharis (GR); Andrija Vasilijević (RS); Anna Elina Vitola (LV)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed that an average global temperature rise of 2°C from pre-industrial levels will cause irreversible changes in the climate which include, but are not limited to:
 - i) extreme weather conditions,
 - ii) extinction of flora and fauna species,
 - iii) infectious disease epidemics¹,
- B. Emphasising the recent projections which suggest that failing to adapt to climate change will cost the EU at least €100 billion per year by 2020²,
- C. Having considered that the proposed Green Paper on a Framework for Climate Change and Energy Policies³ has been criticised for a lack of ambition and commitment,
- D. Having examined that the energy efficiency target that was a part of the EU 2020 Strategy⁴ will not be achieved largely due to its non-binding nature,
- E. Realising that the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)⁵ has certain structural dysfunctions such as surplus allowances,

¹ Climate Change Factsheet. European Union, 2012.

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/docs/factsheet_climate_change_en.pdf

² Climate Change Factsheet. European Union, 2012.

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/docs/factsheet_climate_change_en.pdf

³ The Green Paper was published by the Commission in March 2013, and is expected to be finalised by October 2014. This proposal includes the new targets that the EU will aim for after the expiration of the 2020 goals.

⁴ The EU 2020 Strategy sets three goals for the EU to reach until 2020: a 20% cut in GHG emissions, a 20% increase in renewable usage, a 20% improvement in energy efficiency.

- F. Bearing in mind that forests play an important role in carbon absorption and the prevention of extreme weather conditions,
- G. Viewing with appreciation the crucial role NER300⁶ has played in the innovation, research and development of renewable energy and green technologies,
- H. Recognising that the transport sector is the second highest contributor to EU greenhouse gas (GHG)⁷ emissions⁸,
- I. Noting with regret that fossil fuels receive greater levels of subsidisation than renewable energy in many Member States⁹,
- J. Welcoming the Council Decision 2010/787/EU¹⁰ that will gradually phase out coal subsidies by 2018,
1. Calls upon the European Commission to amend the 2030 Framework proposal by:
 - a) increasing the GHG reduction target from 40% to 45%¹¹,
 - b) setting out a 40%¹² overall EU energy efficiency target,
 - c) increasing the target on renewable energies from 27% to 36%¹³,
 2. Proposes that the GHG reduction target is achieved through a 49% reduction for ETS sectors¹⁴ and a 34% reduction for non-ETS sectors¹⁵;
 3. Invites the European Council to agree on an Effort Sharing Decision¹⁶ to achieve the proposed 45% energy efficiency target;
 4. Resolves to achieve the increase in the use of renewable energy through national targets that are differentiated according to Member States' economic and geographic potential,

⁵ The ETS is a cap and trade system for carbon emissions. It covers around 45% of emissions in industry by putting a limit on overall emissions from high-emitting industry sectors, and letting the companies buy and sell emission allowances as needed.

⁶ The NER300 programme, which is financed from the proceeds from the sale of ETS allowances, is one of the world's largest programmes to support the development of innovative low-carbon technologies.

⁷ Greenhouse gases are natural and industrial gases that trap heat from the Earth and help warm the surface of Earth. Greenhouse gases include, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride.

⁸ Reducing emissions from transport, European Commission Website, Last updated 09/07/2014. http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/transport/index_en.htm

⁹ The European Wind Energy Association Blog. <http://www.ewea.org/blog/2013/02/fossil-fuel-subsidies-are-public-enemy-number-one/>

¹⁰ Decision 2010/787/EU includes the gradual phase-out of coal subsidies until 2018, on condition that a plan mitigating the environmental impact of the use of coal is put in place and the amount of aid is gradually reduced.

¹¹ Based on the IPCC scenarios, with a 45% target the EU can achieve a 95% reduction on GHG's emissions by 2050, the ideal scenario, instead of the minimum 80% that the current 40% target on the 2030 Framework would allow.

¹² A 40% energy efficiency target for 2030 would grow Europe's economy at a rate of 4% a year, spark an annual 3.15% boost in employment and cut fossil fuel imports by €505 billion a year, say sources with access to a report prepared for the EU's forthcoming energy efficiency review.

¹³ This figure is based on International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) REmap 2030 Renewable Energy Roadmap.

¹⁴ The ETS Sectors cover more than 11,000 power stations and manufacturing plants in Member States. In total, around 45% of total EU emissions are limited by the ETS.

¹⁵ Non- ETS sectors are sectors that are not covered by the ETS. These include transportation, housing, agriculture and waste management among others.

¹⁶ An Effort Sharing Decision is a decision that enables the Member States to decide on the burden-sharing among themselves. The current EDS sets binding annual emission targets for Member States.

5. Calls for the European Commission to amend the proposed ETS reform¹⁷ so that:
 - a) the proposed set-aside mechanism is increased from 12 to 15%;
 - b) forestry credits¹⁸ are introduced;
6. Asks the European Commission to support the electrification of regional railway networks through the Cohesion Fund¹⁹;
7. Expresses its appreciation for the 'Connecting Europe Facility'²⁰ Programme that is a part of the 2014-2020 EU budget;
8. Authorises the Directorate- General for Climate Change (DG CLIMA)²¹ to extend the NER300 programme until 2020,
9. Calls upon DG CLIMA to include energy storage and carbon capture and storage²² technology grants in the renewed NER300 programme;
10. Encourages the Member States to allocate funds from phased-out coal subsidies to renewable energy infrastructure.

¹⁷ The ETS Reform was recently proposed by the European Commission and it includes the creation of a mechanism to set aside some allowances in order to control the price level.

¹⁸ Forestry credits are carbon allowances issued from planting forests in order to mitigate climate change effects.

¹⁹ The Cohesion Fund is aimed at Member States whose Gross National Income per inhabitant is less than 90% of the EU average.

²⁰ The Connecting Europe Facility is an instrument that will support the development of high-performing, sustainable and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services.

²¹ DG CLIMA is the main vehicle through which the climate change related functions of the European Commission are carried out. These include the development and implementation of international and domestic climate action policies and strategies.

²² Carbon capture and storage is the process of capturing waste CO₂ from large point sources, transporting it to a storage site and depositing it where it will not enter the atmosphere.

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

With the EU's stance on State aid growing stronger in the past three decades, and tax policies such as the UK's 'Patent Box'¹ being questioned by the Commission, how should the EU adjust acceptable State aid actions to protect necessary causes and competition, without damaging Member States' rights to remain financially attractive?

Submitted by: Aslıhan Başak Akalin (TR); Jill Baer (GE); Merel Blok (NL); Flora Böwing (AT); Olga Budinskaya (UA); Bils Gūtfricis (LV); Bartosz Kubiak (PL); Jianan Liu (CH); Yuliya Mahazinschchikava (BY); Valentina Moles (IT); Maija Pajamo (FI); Oriol Roche (ES); Tomina Vodarici (RO); Milana Yandieva (CZ)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Realising that State aid actions place a burden on taxpayers and can distort competition in the internal market by giving recipients an unfair advantage over competitors from other Member States;
- B. Declaring that, contrary to the assumptions made in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)², State aid can be a useful measure to correct market failures³;
- C. Viewing with appreciation the long-term economic and social benefits of State aid provided under the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)⁴, such as regional aid, support for disabled workers or aid in the field of research and development;
- D. Noting with approval the following points from European Commission's State aid Modernisation (SAM)⁵ reform programme:
 - i) increased transparency requirements,
 - ii) new and expanded categories of aid measures included in the revised GBER,
 - iii) prioritised investigation of those cases with the largest impact on the internal market,

¹ The UK's Patent Box gives a reduced 10% corporate tax rate on profits earned from patented inventions. The name is also used to refer to similar schemes in other EU countries.

² TFEU Article 107(1): "(...) Any aid granted by a Member State or through State resources in any form whatsoever which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods shall, in so far as it affects trade between Member States, be incompatible with the internal market."

³ In economic theory, market failure occurs in when the quantity of a product demanded by consumers does not equate to the quantity supplied by suppliers. This is a direct result of a lack of certain economically ideal factors, which prevents equilibrium. Examples of market failures include externalities, public goods and monopolies.

⁴ As a rule, State aid measures must be passed to the European Commission for prior approval. However, the GBER exempts aid measures from prior notification if certain conditions are fulfilled.

⁵ On 8 May 2012, the European Commission set out a reform programme in its Communication on State aid modernisation. It aims to foster economic growth in a strengthened, dynamic and competitive internal market; to focus enforcement on cases with the biggest impact on the internal market; and to streamline rules and ensure faster decision-making.

- iv) a reduction of bureaucracy by raising the ceiling of aid covered by the de minimis regulation⁶
 - v) an extended deadline for Member States to report their State aid measures covered under the new GBER to 20 working days after adopting it;
 - E. Aware of the postponement of the SAM programme due to the economic crisis of 2008, which demanded the introduction of temporary emergency State aid rules;
 - F. Expressing its appreciation for the European Commission's revised Banking Communication⁷, which requires banks to present a restructuring plan before receiving rescue aid from a Member State;
 - G. Noting with concern the extensive administrative burden placed on Member States by the State aid notification process⁸;
 - H. Regretting that the legal investigation, supervision and evaluation of State aid cases by the European Commission has recently been declared insufficient by the European Court of Justice,
 - I. Alarmed that the European Court of Justice quoted non-binding European Commission guidelines in its rulings on disputed State aid actions which potentially harms the economic sovereignty of Member States,
 - J. Deeply concerned that the ambiguity of the legal definition of State aid in the TFEU allows for diverging interpretations of State aid rules by Member States, causing uncertainty about measures such as the UK's 'Patent Box';
1. Calls upon the European Commission to gradually decrease the scope for State aid to sunset industries⁹ in its rescue and restructuring guidelines¹⁰;
 2. Calls for more exemptions for State aid in industries that are most likely to significantly contribute to GDP and employment in the long run;
 3. Urges the European Commission as well as each Member State publish accessible documents for local governments and undertakings which clarify State aid concepts, rules and procedures;
 4. Proclaims that the legitimacy of State aid should be determined according to the principles of legitimacy, necessity and proportionality.¹¹
 5. Recommends the European Council to strengthen the legal basis of State aid regulation in the TFEU, incorporating existing soft and hard law regulating State aid,
 6. Calls upon the Economic and Financial Affairs Council to negotiate common and legally binding State aid rules in accordance with the TFEU,

⁶ The de minimis rule exempts relatively small amounts of State aid from the requirement to notify the European Commission in advance. The ceiling of aid exempted under this regulation was recently increased to €200 000 from €100 000.

⁷ The European Commission has adopted temporary State aid rules for support of the financial sector during the crisis so as to ensure financial stability while minimising distortions of competition between banks and across Member States in the single market. It comprises the Banking Communication, the Recapitalisation Communication, the Impaired Assets Communication and the Restructuring Communication.

⁸ Member States are normally required to notify the European Commission in advance of proposed State aid, so that the Commission can ensure compliance with State aid rules. Exceptions are de minimis aid and aid falling within the GBER.

⁹ A sunset industry is an old and declining industry.

¹⁰ Rescuing and restructuring aid is excluded from the GBER and instead covered in the separate Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring non-financial undertakings in difficulty ('R&R guidelines').

¹¹ The legitimacy principle requires the State aid measure to be aimed at serving the public interest. Necessity requires that there is no alternative way to achieve this aim. Proportionality demands that the social benefits of the measure outweigh the social costs.

7. Considers fiscal measures such as the UK's 'Patent Box' legitimate under the aforementioned criteria, regardless of whether or not the European Commission classifies such measures as State aid;
8. Calls upon the European Commission to supervise State aid measures subject to notification even more closely and effectively by prioritising its investigations according to total sum of aid and the period of time for which it is granted,
9. Endorses the regular reevaluation of long-term State aid actions subject to notification to ensure their continued compatibility with the internal market, with the frequency of reevaluation decreasing over time;
10. Strongly encourages the European Commission and the European Court of Justice to include economic disparities in their considerations when evaluating similar State aid actions in different Member States.

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

Catalonia and Scotland's struggle for autonomy continues to keep the questions of national self-determination and autonomy relevant. What should the EU's stance towards populations within its borders who seek independence be?

Submitted by: Tim Abt (DE); Inès Barkatou (FR); Joseph Caulfield (IE); Claire Finaut (BE); Dmitrij Hladký (CZ); Barış Can Kaştaş (TR); Annie MacConnachie (UK); Karen Melkomyan (AM) ; Irene Patanè (IT); Inna Shcherbyna (UA); Enki Shehu (AL); Bill Sydney Sandstrom (NO); João Teles (PT); Kalliopi Terzidou (GR); Mateu Tomi (ES);

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognising that there is no set precedent or case study of a region gaining independence from a Member State and who also wished to stay in the EU,
- B. Reaffirming that historical precedents and international law absolve seceding territories from the treaty obligations of the host state, including membership to the EU,
- C. Fully aware of the economic implications of secession for the host and breakaway region,
- D. Considering that potential breakaway regions are part of a Member State, the current accession process, which is designed for new countries that wish to join, is unsuitable because:
 - i) the region would have previously adopted EU legislation and already complied with the majority of the political criteria and administrative and institutional capacities¹ necessary to join,
 - ii) the current waiting period for admission into the EU is extensive and cannot be reduced for new potential members and puts unnecessary strain on breakaway regions,
- E. Concerned by the lack of information available to those eligible to vote in an independence referendum detailing the implications breakaway regions face,
- F. Recognising the influence that information detailing the consequences of re-applying for EU membership could have on the outcome of independence referendums,
- G. Reaffirming that the EU supports democratic procedures and the right to self-determination while maintaining an impartial position on the matter of independence,
- H. Bearing in mind that according to international law² there are at least three possibilities following the outcome of a successful independence vote:

¹ Political Criteria: stability of the institutions safeguarding democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities.

Administrative and Institutional Capacities: acceptance of the Communities ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of the political and economic and monetary union.

- i) both continuation and secession of the host and breakaway region³,
 - ii) dual separation⁴,
 - iii) complete dissolution⁵,
- I. Taking note of possible social tension and political disconnection amongst the populations of both the host and breakaway regions following a referendum result,
 - J. Aware of the population in the breakaway region that may wish to remain a citizen of the host country after the referendum has passed,
 - K. Recognising that the currency to be used in a breakaway region after a successful independence referendum is a point of debate between the host country, the breakaway region, and the EU, as according to Article 49⁶ of the TFEU, a new Member State will have to adopt the Euro,
 - L. Aware that there are cases where the central government of the host country is unwilling to cooperate and to recognise a referendum which creates political uncertainty and instability both on a regional, national and European level;
1. Calls for the establishment of a new and separate accession process for territories breaking away from Member States that fully takes into account the separate needs of the regions trying to gain independence;
 2. Urges that the new accession process enables the breakaway region to become an active observer⁷ with European Economic Area (EEA)⁸ membership to enable a full and complete transition process;
 3. Recommends that, following a referendum where a decision is made for a region to split, negotiations are began immediately, monitored by EU delegations, to ensure both the host country and breakaway region comply with the Copenhagen Criteria⁹;
 4. Affirms that following the necessary monitoring period where the breakaway region complies with the EU law and provisions, the drafting of an accession treaty has to be ratified by every Member State;
 5. Considers the need for the breakaway region to retain its active observer status even if the ratification of the accession treaty fails so as to provide a degree of political stability;
 6. Recommends that the host state retain its EU membership whilst being monitored, to ensure that the Copenhagen Criteria are still upheld during the transition process and after the regional secession;

² The Vienna Convention on Succession of States in respect of Treaties outlines this case but the question of succession is complex as noted by the German Federal Supreme Court who said that 'the problem of state succession is one of the most disputed areas of international law'

³ The host country retains its treaty obligations and membership of international organisations meanwhile the breakaway region does not

⁴ Both entities would retain and continue with its previous arrangements

⁵ Both entities would not retain any of their previous arrangements

⁶ Article 49 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU gives the outline of the conditions required for EU membership, with each accession treaty detailing the exact conditions.

⁷ In the current accession process, a country becomes an active observer during the period between the accession treaty is signed and the date laid down on the treaty when the country is expected to become a full member. An active observer is entitled to speak, but not vote in the EU bodies.

⁸ The EEA (The European Economic Area) was concluded in 1994 between the European Communities, all EU Member States and all EFTA members. The objective of the EEA agreement is to establish a dynamic and homogeneous European Economic Area, based on common rules and equal conditions of competition.

⁹ The Copenhagen Criteria are the criteria by which any new state wishing to joining the EU must meet, such as

7. Urges the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)¹⁰ to develop an adjusted financial programme to aid the economic readjustment of the host country and the breakaway region by coordinating trade;
8. Recommends that host states and their respective breakaway regions maintain amicable relations by granting each other mutual special rights, including but not limited to:
 - a) a common travel area,
 - b) reciprocal voting rights¹¹,
 - c) the option to obtain dual citizenship for citizens from both the breakaway state and the host country;
9. Encourages the European Commission to take an official stance outlining the details of the accession procedure with the aim of informing eligible referendum voters;
10. Urges the European Commission to maintain a neutral stance on whether or not a breakaway region should seek independence;
11. Affirms the possibility for breakaway regions, through bilateral agreements, to retain the right to use the Euro as their currency while being under economic monitoring following secession,
12. Calls upon the European Commission to act as an impartial mediator between central governments and regional authorities that demand independence advocating legitimate referenda.

¹⁰ The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is a fund allocated by the EU that aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion within its borders by correcting imbalances between its regions

¹¹ Reciprocal voting is the practice of extending the right to vote to the citizens of another country, with said country reciprocating by extending their voting rights.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY II

A recent Commission press release stated that “Women still work on average 59 days ‘for free’ every year compared to their male counterparts”. Considering such statements, what should be done to address the European Gender Pay Gap?

Submitted by: Ignacio Argüelles (ES); Solomiia Barida (UA); Irem Erduran (TR); Ieva Ērgle (LV); Haykuhi Ghazaryan (AM); Eveliina Hannikainen (FI); Elena Odysseos (CY); Francisca Patrício (PT); Evgeniya Petrukhina (RU); Julia Schwarzer (DE); Nikita Suajani (NO); Cassie Tingen (NL); Jaan Kristjan Utno (EE); Filip Volf (CZ); Anna Zellweger (CH)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Emphasising that the fundamental right of equal pay for work of equal value for both women and men is enshrined in the EU Treaties¹,
- B. Noting with deep concern that the unadjusted Gender Pay Gap (GPG)² currently stands at a level of 16.4% in the EU, varying from a 30% in Estonia to 2.4% in Slovenia³,
- C. Confident that providing equal payment and working opportunities for men and women will increase competition in the workplace, thereby fostering economic growth,
- D. Fully aware that society assigns certain gender-based stereotypes, thus affecting employment prospects,
- E. Viewing with appreciation the EU measures that support Member States in their GPG policy making efforts, such as the “Directive on Equal Pay for work of equal value”⁴,
- F. Taking into account that the European GPG has not yet reached the goals set in the “Strategy for equality between women and men (2010 – 2015)”⁵,

¹ The right of equal pay for work of equal value for both women and men was originally stated in the Treaty of Rome and currently stated in the Article 157 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

² Unadjusted Gender Pay Gap represents the difference between average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees and of female paid employees as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of male paid employees. All employees working in businesses with ten or more employees, without restrictions for age and hours worked, are included.

³ Data for 2012 from the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

⁴ The Equal Treatment Directive 2006/54/EC is an act of the EU that implements the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation.

⁵ The Strategy for equality between women and men (2010 – 2015) is a five-year work programme adopted by the European Commission on gender equality in Europe, based around five priorities: equal economic independence for women and men; equal pay for work of equal value, equality in decision-making; dignity, integrity and ending gender-based violence and promoting gender equality beyond the EU.

- G. Noting with satisfaction the targets and initiatives of the Europe 2020 Programme⁶ concerning equality in the labour market,
- H. Observing the horizontal segregation of the labour market, where male-dominated sectors are more valuable and better paid, whilst female-dominated occupations are often more vulnerable to austerity measures,
- I. Noting with regret the vertical segregation of the labour market that shows an overrepresentation of female employees in lower paid sectors and underrepresentation in decision-making positions,
- J. Concerned that female entry into the labour market remains low despite the high number of successful female graduates,
- K. Aware that Member States' use of different methods and regulations concerning the GPG results in a lack of suitable data when making comparisons across countries,
- L. Deeply concerned about the lack of transparency and availability of data regarding payment policies in companies,
- M. Viewing with appreciation the variety of actions taken by social partner organisations⁷ across Europe to address the GPG⁸,
- N. Alarmed that parental leave is mostly taken by women, which may negatively affect their career progression, performance and pay,
- O. Recognising the long term negative consequences of the GPG on pensions;
1. Calls upon the European Commission to issue recommendations providing guidelines for the implementation of the existing directives in each Member State;
 2. Further requests the European Commission to create an open counselling platform for Member States to exchange good practices and initiatives;
 3. Recommends the inclusion of the discussion on the GPG as a recurring point on the agenda of the annual Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment⁹;
 4. Supports the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)¹⁰;
 5. Calls upon the European Parliament to appoint a GPG specialised Ombudsman in every Member State;

⁶ Europe 2020 is the EU's growth strategy for the period 2010 - 2020, aiming at smart, sustainable, inclusive growth with greater coordination of national and European policy. The Strategy identifies five headline targets agreed for the whole EU, one of them being to raise the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75%.

⁷ Social partners organisations is a term generally used in Europe to refer to representatives of management and labour (employers' organisations and trade unions). The term 'European social partners' specifically refers to those organisations at EU level which are engaged in the European social dialogue, as provided for under Article 154 and 155 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

⁸ Examples of such initiatives include, for instance, the regular organisations of some form of Equal Pay Day; the provision of online services to calculate the gender pay gap at one's own workplace; or the development of studies and researches in order to better analyse and publicly demonstrate the relevance of the GPG phenomenon.

⁹ The Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment is a forum between the European Commission, the EU presidency and the EU social partners that contributes to the effectiveness of social dialogue for the drafting and implementation of the economic and social policies of the EU.

¹⁰ Equinet brings together 41 organisations from 31 European countries, which are empowered to counteract discrimination as national equality bodies, enabling them to achieve and exercise their full potential by sustaining and developing a network and a platform at European level.

6. Congratulates the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)¹¹ on its projects to successfully eradicate gender stereotypes within the workforce;
7. Invites the EIGE to raise awareness on the aforementioned stereotypes through:
 - a) organising motivational and informative seminars and speeches held by successful female leaders directed at a wide audience, including the educational institutions, as well as public and private companies,
 - b) using social media to make the GPG more visible and spread the existing information;
8. Calls for the creation of an EU wide funding programme in cooperation with the European Network to Promote Women's Entrepreneurship (WES)¹², that would offer training, counseling and financial support for start-ups;
9. Further invites the European social partners, in close cooperation with Member States, to collect relevant information under a common standard with the view to:
 - a) compiling data under the same parameters for a statistic report to be published regularly by Eurostat,
 - b) processing the aforementioned data concerning the average wages of women and men through the EIGE, putting special emphasis on the ratio between genders;
10. Proclaims the creation of a Gender Equality Label to be awarded upon the conclusion of a private audit by a European Commission verified Audit company;
11. Designates the implementation of a transparent system based on the publication of wage margins for different positions in the organisational structure of companies;
12. Urges Member States to introduce an obligatory one month parental leave for both parents, within the framework of the "Council Directive implementing the revised Framework Agreement on parental leave"¹³, with the withdrawal of child benefits, for one month, if the parents fail to comply;
13. Encourages Member States to improve current childcare facilities by:
 - a) sharing best practices to assure sufficient and effective childcare,
 - b) cooperating with local social partners, such as community based organisations,
 - c) implementing a childcare payment system that would differentiate according to income,
 - d) encouraging private companies to create childcare facilities for their employees.

¹¹ EIGE is a EU agency which supports the EU and its Member States in their efforts to promote gender equality, to fight discrimination based on sex and to raise awareness about gender equality issues.

¹² The European Network to Promote Women's Entrepreneurship (WES) has members from 31 European countries, with delegates representing central national governments and institutions with the responsibility to promote female entrepreneurship. WES members provide advice, support, information and contact regarding existing support measures for female entrepreneurs, whilst also helping in the identification of good practices.

¹³ The Council Directive 2010/18/EU applies equally to all workers, men and women. It states that workers are entitled to parental leave on the birth or adoption of a child, that shall be granted for at least a period of four months.

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

With the recent events in Ukraine highlighting the dangers of over-dependence on imported energy, what steps should the EU take to limit reliance on external energy sources and to protect consumers from price shocks?

Submitted by: Sabuhi Afandiyev (AZ); Patrik Bruscek (AT); Alice Castelnuovo (IT); Orestis Collins (CY); Andreea-Gabriela Coman (RO); Diana Fazlitdinova (RU); Marko Ivanović (RS); Judīte Petroviča (LV); Boris Post (NL); Diego Rodríguez Pascual (ES); Martin Stoček (CZ); Margot Sulvic (FR); Marta Sznajder (PL); Aliaksei Varavin (BY);

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Realising that according to Article 4 of the Lisbon Treaty, energy and trans-European networks fall under the shared competences of the EU,
- B. Fully aware that in 2012, the EU's energy mix¹ consisted of:
 - i) 34% petroleum and derived products,
 - ii) 23% gases,
 - iii) 17% solid fuels,
 - iv) 14% nuclear energy,
 - v) 11% renewables,
 - vi) 1% waste, such as landfills²,
- C. Affirming the belief that there are three separate categories of energy consumers:
 - i) domestic consumers,
 - ii) small and medium enterprises (SMEs),
 - iii) heavy industry and manufacturers,
- D. Taking into account the different interests of these three distinct categories of energy consumers,
- E. Concerned that the EU currently imports 53%³ of the energy it consumes and is expected to import 87% of its energy consumption by 2030⁴,

¹ Energy mix is the distribution of different energy sources used for the energy consumption of a territory

² "EU energy in figures - pocketbook 2014", European Commission.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/20140528_energy_security_communication.pdf

⁴ Enforceability of a Common Energy Supply Security Policy in the EU: An Intergovernmentalist Assessment (www.cria-online.org/11_5.html).

- F. Fully aware that the EU's growing over-dependence on energy imports has led to energy policy being used as a political tool,
- G. Noting with regret that six Member States⁵ depend solely on Russia for their gas supply⁶,
- H. Bearing in mind that dependence on a limited number of external energy suppliers makes consumers more vulnerable to price volatility,
- I. Alarmed that a large proportion of the EU's energy supply is imported from or passes through countries that are politically unstable,
- J. Taking into account the discovery of unexploited reserves of natural gas in several Member States which could increase the EU's internal energy supply,
- K. Noting with regret that the European commission's goals to harmonise and complete integration of the EU's internal energy market by 2014 have not been met⁷,
- L. Bearing in mind that the lack of a common, well-functioning energy market may be attributed to:
 - i) Insufficiently developed energy infrastructure,
 - ii) inadequate governance of energy storage schemes,
 - iii) limited interconnection facilities between Member States⁸,
- M. Recognising that a functioning pan-European energy market will:
 - i) increase energy security by diversifying energy supply and reducing imports,
 - ii) lower consumer prices by increasing market competition,
- N. Welcoming the recent European Commission Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the period 2020 to 2030;
 1. Has resolved to strive for a diverse, more independent, more secure and sustainable energy supply for the EU in the spirit of solidarity by decreasing consumption whilst increasing energy efficiency;
 2. Urges all Member States to implement the required legislation to achieve the 2020, 2030 and 2050 goals⁹;
 3. Encourages Member States to vary their respective energy mixes, with an emphasis on increasing the share of renewable energy whilst decreasing the dependency on fossil fuels and nuclear energy by 2050;

⁵ These countries are Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania and Slovakia:
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/20140528_energy_security_communication.pdf

⁶ Occasional Papers 145; p.16

(http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/occasional_paper/2013/pdf/ocp145_en.pdf)

⁷ Communication of the European Commission, "Making the internal energy market work": <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52012DC0663&from=EN>

⁸ For example, between France and Spain there is just one pipeline connection:
http://www.theodora.com/pipelines/europe_oil_and_gas_pipelines_map.jpg

⁹ 2020 goals are to reduce greenhouse emissions by 20%, increase energy efficiency by 20%, and increase the share of renewables by 20%. The 2030 goals are to reduce greenhouse emissions by 40%, increase energy efficiency by 30%, and increase the share of renewable energy to 27%. The 2050 goals are to reduce greenhouse emission by 80%, use 30% less energy than in 2005, increase locally produced energy so as to reduce dependency.

4. Recommends Member States research and invest in domestic renewable resources in order to mitigate the spill over effects¹⁰ of high energy dependence and secure an independent energy market;
5. Further encourages Member States to engage in a dialogue about a unified direction towards non-EU energy suppliers through the Open Method of Coordination (OMC)¹¹;
6. Encourages Member States, especially those which depend on a single energy supplier, to diversify their energy imports to include a broader range of suppliers to decrease the risk of supply shocks and increase their energy security;
7. Calls upon the European Commission, European Parliament and European Council to financially support infrastructural initiatives that increase the EU's interconnectivity, such as:
 - a) a pan-European electricity grid,
 - b) two-way transportation pipelines among Member States,
 - c) smart grid initiatives¹²;
8. Urges Member States to connect their national energy grids to the smart grid and, in particular those less integrated and connected regions such as the Baltics and Eastern Europe¹³;
9. Calls for the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)¹⁴ to further regulate the supranational infrastructural developments that are necessary to further integrate the internal energy market and offer the appropriate expertise where it is required;
10. Encourages the European Commission, European Parliament and European Council to invest in research and development of common energy storage facilities through the Horizon 2020 programme¹⁵ at:
 - a) macro-industrial level,
 - b) national level,
 - c) EU level;
11. Calls for continuing support for the Directive 2010/31/EU of the EP and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings¹⁶, while requesting further improvement in the energy efficiency of this sector;
12. Calls upon the European Parliament to approve the European Energy Security Strategy¹⁷ to enhance emergency management in the energy market.

¹⁰ Spill over effects are externalities of economic activity or processes that affect those who are not directly involved such as imported inflation.

¹¹ The Open Method of Coordination is based principally on jointly identifying and defining objectives to be achieved: http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/glossary/open_method_coordination_en.htm

¹² A smart grid is a modernised electrical grid that uses digital information and communications technology to gather and act on information, such as information about the behaviours of suppliers and consumers, in an automated fashion to improve the efficiency, reliability, economics and, sustainability of the production and distribution of electricity.

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/20140528_energy_security_communication.pdf; p.2

¹⁴ http://www.acer.europa.eu/the_eu_energy_market/Pages/default.aspx

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/20140528_energy_security_communication.pdf; p.2

¹⁶ Directive 2010/31/EU aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32010L0031&from=EN>

¹⁷ The European Energy Security Strategy includes, amongst others, energy security stress tests, the reinforcement of emergency and solidarity mechanisms, and the protection of critical infrastructure: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/doc/20140528_energy_security_communication.pdf

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

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as the backbone of Europe's economy: Given that European programmes for SME finance have failed to achieve a major pan-European breakthrough, what targeted initiatives to improve SME financing conditions should be implemented without unnecessarily distorting capital allocation?

Submitted by: Francesco Delorenzi (BE); Christos Demian (CY); Mate Dvalishvili (GE); Matteo Falsetta (IT); Alice Féray (FR); Jakob Gutschlhofer (AU); Matilde McCann (ES); Anna Mamyán (AM); Milica Simeunović (RS); Leo Sjöberg (SE); Christina Anthi Tourkomichali (GR); Mazens Zibara (LV) Dmytro Zinchuk (UA).

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind that Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)¹:
 - i) account for 99% of all EU businesses,
 - ii) are the largest source of employment and job creation in the EU,
 - iii) drive technological innovation
 - iv) create new markets,
- B. Welcoming the initiatives within the Small Business Act (SBA)² such as Horizon 2020³ and the programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME)⁴;
- C. Fully believing that Member States' distorted distribution of subsidies can distort competition and the natural functioning of the free market,
- D. Deeply disturbed that the European market is fragmented by differing national financial regulations, and consequently:
 - i) tax barriers,

¹ SMEs are firms with a small market share, fewer than 250 employees and a turnover of less than €50 million annually. There are three types of SME; Micro-enterprises with fewer than 10 employees, small enterprises with 10-49 employees and medium-sized enterprises with 50-249 employees.

² The SBA is a policy framework, including legislative proposals, which aim to facilitate SMEs' access to funding and help them thrive.

³ Horizon 2020 is an EU programme for research and innovation which aims to improve Europe's global competitiveness. One of its objectives is to strengthen innovation by investing in key technologies and allowing greater access to capital and support for SMEs.

⁴ COSME is an EU programme running from 2014 to 2020 with a planned budget of €2.3 billion which will support SMEs by improving access to finance, conditions for business creation and growth, and supporting entrepreneurs.

- ii) double taxation⁵,
 - iii) increase in overhead expenses⁶,
 - iv) an increase in administrative costs,
- E. Deeply regretting that the growth and development of SMEs is hindered by the demotivating effect of red tape⁷ and overhead regulatory costs on entrepreneurs,
- F. Fully aware that the restrictions placed upon banks by the Third Basel Accord (Basel III)⁸ make banks less likely to lend to SMEs,
- G. Noting with regret that the funding gap⁹ between SMEs and finance providers is due to:
- i) information asymmetry¹⁰,
 - ii) SME owners' lack of awareness on the importance of keeping thorough financial records,
 - iii) the SMEs' lack of resources to fund private risk assessment and audit services,
- H. Aware that SMEs are unaware of private and public alternatives to bank funding,
- I. Noting with satisfaction the rise of alternative ways to fund SMEs such as, crowdfunding¹¹, e-invoices¹², pre-selling and business angels¹³ platforms,
- J. Realising that the lack of entrepreneurial education within Member States holds back entrepreneurs from maximising their company's growth potential;
1. Calls for the implementation of the SBA's goals to stimulate diversity and growth within private sector finance;
 2. Recommends the annual assessment of COSME and its improvement;
 3. Urges Member States to increase SME access to finance through direct or indirect access to funds by adapting the initiatives of the SBA, which include Horizon 2020 targets;
 4. Calls upon the European Commission to harmonise transaction costs across the internal market by introducing a maximum amount for charges incurred;
 5. Encourages more Member States to further implement double taxation agreements in compliance with the treaties of double taxation avoidance¹⁴;
 6. Urges Member States to offer start-up microenterprises tax exemption from corporate and income tax during their first fiscal year;

⁵ Double taxation is when taxes are paid twice on the same source.

⁶ Overhead expenses are the costs which are necessary for the continued functioning of a business.

⁷ Red tape is the excessive regulation or rigid conformity to formal rules that is considered unnecessary.

⁸ Basel III is a set of agreements of the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision which provides recommendations on banking regulations and standards for bank capital adequacy, stress testing and market liquidity risk.

⁹ The funding gap is the amount of money needed to fund the ongoing operations or future development of a business, which is not currently provided by cash, equity or debt.

¹⁰ Information asymmetry occurs in transactions where one party has either more or better information than the other.

¹¹ Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by through contributions from a large number of people, typically via the internet.

¹² E-invoices are a form of electronic billing.

¹³ Business angels are high net worth individuals who provide financing to small businesses in exchange for an equity stake in the business.

¹⁴ Double taxation avoidance treaty is the agreement between two countries so that the taxpayer does not pay taxation of income in two countries for the same income.

7. Requests that Member States offer banks and investors who invest in SMEs a choice of tax breaks or tax reductions;
8. Invites Member States to cooperate with the aim of establishing a centralised European online database containing the economic track records of SMEs with limited public access;
9. Calls upon the European Commission to establish a European platform where enterprises and international investors can:
 - a) set up profiles which showcase their enterprise,
 - b) match up enterprises to the investors who are likely to invest in it,
 - c) facilitate the communication process between the two agents;
10. Proposes that Member States inform start-ups about the European Investment Bank (EIB)¹⁵, currently available financial instruments and funding schemes provided by the EU immediately upon the registration of their start-up;
11. Further proposes that Member States to collaborate with the European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)¹⁶ and promote well-established crowdfunding platforms;
12. Suggests that Member States to introduce financial education into European school systems.

¹⁵ The EIB is the EU's non-profit long-term lending institution.

¹⁶ The ECN is a professional network promoting adequate transparency, (self-) regulation and governance while offering a voice in policy discussion and public opinion building. The ECN aims to increase the understanding of the key role that crowdfunding can play in supporting entrepreneurship.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Despite the financial literacy initiatives of the OECD, World Bank, EU and national entities, over-indebtedness and a lack of understanding of basic financial concepts and consumer rights still prevail. How should the financial education of the EU citizens' be improved?

Submitted by: Catarina Ferreira (PT); Elisabed Gedevanishvili (GE); Caoimhe Healy (IE); Doroteja Kovacevic (RS); Klaudia Lozuk (PL); Dagnija Meiere (LV); Anastasia Moskou (CY); Elina Mäkela (FI); Diana Raicu (RO); Manon Schürch (CH); Georggios Sidiropoulos (GR); Roma Vaessen (NL); Astrid Vikström (SE); Ekin Su Yilmaz (TR);

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the inadequate financial knowledge of European citizens in all socio-economic strata due to ineffectiveness of financial education,
- B. Acknowledging that the financial illiteracy of young people affects their ability to competently manage their growing purchasing power¹ in the financial market,
- C. Approving of the work of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)², World Bank³, the EU, and national entities in combatting financial illiteracy,⁴
- D. Observing the growing disregard for financial education due to prejudice, stigma and a lack of motivation towards the subject,
- E. Bearing in mind the lack of age-specific financial subjects at all stages education,
- F. Believing that over-indebtedness⁵, and the additional strain this imposes on Member States, can be a result of poor financial education,
- G. Deeply concerned that the consumer tendency to opt for 'quick-fix' solutions results in a growing level of over-indebtedness,
- H. Concerned by the level of asymmetric information⁶ caused by the disparity of information available in a financial market for consumers as opposed to the producers,
- I. Noting with concern the distribution of insufficient information to the consumer about their individual rights;

¹ Purchasing power is the extent to which a person, business, or group has available funds to make purchases.

² The OECD is an International economic organisation which provides a forum where governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to stimulate economic progress and world trade.

³ The World Bank is a unique partnership providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world, aiming to reduce poverty and support development.

⁴ Financial illiteracy is the lack of skills necessary to make informed and effective decisions regarding earning, spending, management of money, and the inability to make use of financial concepts.

⁵ Over-indebtedness is a situation where households or individuals are in arrears on a structural basis, or at a significant risk of getting into arrears in a structural basis.

⁶ Assymmetric information is when one party in a transaction has more or superior information compared to another.

- J. Realising the impracticality of a pan-European financial education system due to the challenging disparities between the initiatives between the Member States;
1. Approves the work of initiatives such as the Consumer Consulting Service (CCS)⁷, the Savings Bank School Service (SBSS)⁸, and the Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation (SBFIC)⁹;
 2. Encourages all Member States to further adopt and create similar programmes on a national level;
 3. Reaffirms the importance of financial education through the aforementioned initiatives in balancing the asymmetric relationship between the consumer and the producer;
 4. Further encourages skills-based and age-appropriate financial education be implemented from primary school onwards, that focus on:
 - a) the responsible use of money,
 - b) comparing and selecting the most appropriate product on the market,
 - c) tracking expenditure,
 - d) understanding loans and credit,
 - e) the importance of long-term plans, such as insurance and pensions;
 5. Calls for a more interactive approach to financial education initiatives undertaken by institutions such as the OECD, EU, World Bank and Member States, through financial competitions for students, free seminars, workshops, conferences, apprenticeships;
 6. Supports cooperation within Member States at a national level to pursue the exchange of knowledge and ideas on financial education.
 7. Further encourages Member States initiate the necessary legislation to establish a Financial Literacy Certificate Scheme¹⁰ as an added requirement for the receipt of establishing grants and academic scholarships;
 8. Recommends that online-based basic financial concept courses be made mandatory in schools from primary education onwards and recognised throughout the EU alongside the Financial Literacy Certificate;
 9. Urges the creation of an EU-centred online platform which would enhance financial literacy through:
 - a) all Member States by providing a forum for best practices and knowledge sharing,
 - b) counselling,
 - c) interactive quizzes,
 - d) online courses meeting the requirements of the Financial Literacy Certificate,

⁷ The CCS assists private households to manage their income well. This service fosters economic knowledge and promotes financial competency.

⁸ The SBSS provides teachers and students with access to an extensive range of material developed by the savings banks' own publishing company, Deutscher Sparkassenverlag.

⁹ The Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation (SBFIC): promotes financial institutions that foster sustainable economic and social development at local, regional, or national level through needs-oriented banking.

¹⁰ A certificate provided after the completion of a course which proves that the holder is aware of basic financial concepts, and has the capacity for financial planning and money management.

- e) information regarding consumer rights and basic financial concepts in all official languages of the EU;
- 10. Trusts teachers to make use of the aforementioned platform in order to find ways of incorporating financial education in their lesson plan;
- 11. Requests that the previously proposed courses and quizzes, to be found on the online platform, meet the requirements of the Financial Literacy Certificate Scheme;
- 12. Expresses its hope for more effective distribution of information regarding consumer rights through the use of:
 - a) flash advertising¹¹ on television explaining consumer rights and disclaimers about consumer protection,
 - b) concise 'terms and conditions' agreements, to be obviously and accessibly displayed on purchases, products and services.

¹¹ A flash advertisement contains a commercial or a campaign message that appears for a short-period of time in between different TV programmes.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Building on the Urban Mobility Package¹. With approximately 70% of the European population living in cities, how should the EU protect the environment whilst embracing technology and efficiency, to improve sustainable urban transport?

Submitted by: Manana Asatiani (GE); Ruben De Bruin (NL); Ignasi Cortés (ES); Catalin Andrei Cristea (RO); Utku Dağtekin (TR); Pedro Duarte Costa (PT); Endre Haugland (NO), Samuel Hönle (AT); Kārlis Jonāss (LV); Jack McGann (IE); Kyprianos Spyrou (CY); Yelyzaveta Skorobreshchuk (UA) Ilya Taktashov (RU); Timothy Henry Charles Tamm (EE); Alessandra Vaghini (IT)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind the EU's 2050 targets, such as :
- i) reducing the total amount of conventionally fuelled cars,
 - ii) using cars for less than half of middle distance travel,
 - iii) increasing the use of the "polluter pays" principle²³,
- B. Deeply disturbed transport accounts for 19% of the energy used in the EU, with 94% produced from fossil fuels⁴,
- C. Taking into consideration that the average EU citizen makes about 1000 journeys a year, 75% of which are made in private vehicles and half of which over a distance of less than 5 kilometres⁵,
- D. Alarmed by the amount of emissions produced by urban transport with:
- i) 25% of all CO₂ emissions in the transport sector being produced by urban transport,

¹ Urban Mobility Package: Guiding document provided by the European Commission on urban mobility. COM/2013/0913. With the Urban Mobility Package, the Commission reinforces its supporting measures in the area of urban transport by sharing experiences, show-casing best practices, and fostering cooperation, providing targeted financial support, focussing research and innovation on delivering solutions for urban mobility challenges, involving the Member States and enhancing international cooperation. <http://eurlex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?qid=1406708070731&uri=CELEX:52013DC0913>

² The polluter pays principle is an environmental policy principle which requires that the costs of pollution be borne by those who cause it.

³ European Commission (2010): Roadmap 2050: A Practical Guide to a Prosperous, Low-Carbon Europe, Page 9. http://www.roadmap2050.eu/attachments/files/Volume1_fullreport_PressPack.pdf

⁴ European Commission: Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050. http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/index_en.htm

⁵ European Commission (2007): Green paper, Page 2: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/urban_mobility/green_paper/doc/urban_mobility_2007_country_sheets_eu27.pdf

- ii) 25% of urban transport CO² emissions caused by urban freight transportation⁶⁷,
- E. Concerned that the total costs of traffic congestion in urban areas are equal to 1% of the EU's GDP⁸,
- F. Acknowledging that some regions in Member States do not have the means to implement modern infrastructure solutions⁹,
- G. Deeply concerned by the potential negative consequences of transit privatisation, especially rising prices for the use of public transport and roads,
- H. Convinced that the purpose of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)¹⁰ is to enable public authorities to benefit from design, construction and management skills as well as financial resources of private enterprises,
- I. Regretting that PPPs are not considered in the Urban Mobility Package¹¹,
- J. Noting with approval the use of user-friendly best practice sharing online platforms such as URBACT¹² and CIVITAS¹³,
- K. Concerned by the lack of centralisation of the aforementioned platforms,
- L. Noting with appreciation that the Urban Mobility Package recognises the need for solutions tailored to the specific needs of different cities and their inhabitants,
- M. Deeply disturbed that the Urban Mobility Package fails to recognise:
 - i) the limited number of targets set in the public transportation sector,
 - ii) the need for better transitions between different means of transport, which are particularly relevant for commuters between urban and rural areas,
- 1. Calls upon the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to:
 - a) dedicate more of the European Cohesion Fund¹⁴ to transport projects,
 - b) increase funding for research projects on more sustainable, secure and efficient modes of public transport;

⁶ Report on The White Paper on a Single European Transport Area by Joint Parliamentary Committee of European Economic Area, on 3 May 2012, page 5: <http://www.efta.int/media/documents/advisory-bodies/parliamentary-committee/jpc-reports/report-2012-05-03.pdf>

⁷ Urban freight transportation is the movement of freight vehicles whose primary purpose is to carry goods into, out of and within urban areas. (European Commission) <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/studies/doc/2012-04-urban-freight-transport.pdf>

⁸ European Commission: Clean Transport, Urban Transport http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/urban/urban_mobility/index_en.htm

⁹ Report for Selected Countries and Subjects: According to Gross Domestic Product per capita statistics of the Member States Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Croatia, Hungary have a GDP lower than 20,000 (at purchasing power parity per capita, in international dollars). <http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

¹⁰ Investopedia (2014): A business relationship between a private-sector company and a government agency for the purpose of completing a project that will serve the public. Public-private partnerships can be used to finance, build and operate projects such as public transportation networks.

¹¹ European Parliament (2006): Resolution on public-private partnerships and Community law on public procurement and concessions (2006/2043(INI)), clause G.

¹² URBACT: European programme which is part of Europe's cohesion policy: its goal is to help implement the Lisbon-Gothenburg Strategy, which prioritizes competitiveness, growth and employment. www.urbact.eu

¹³ CIVITAS: Sharing and financing initiative for promoting public transport. www.civitas.eu

¹⁴ The Cohesion Fund is the financial instrument of EU regional policy, which is intended to narrow the development disparities among regions and Member States.

2. Calls on Member States to establish strict regulations preventing private sector dominance over transport systems;
3. Proposes the unification of URBACT, CIVITAS and other online best practice sharing platforms into one easily accessible, centralised platform which will continue to be supervised by the European Commission;
4. Suggests the European Commission amend the aforementioned proposed platform by including:
 - a) a section on new transport technology case studies from outside the EU,
 - b) examples of both successful and unsuccessful PPPs in the urban transport sector;
5. Calls on the European Commission to amend the Urban Mobility Package by:
 - a) adding a section on PPPs as an option for securing additional funding,
 - b) publishing contract guidelines for PPPs which focus on the length and scope of the partnership,
 - c) implementing a structured approach towards the specific needs of certain cities according to EU regulations regarding size, location and existing infrastructure;
6. Resolves the inefficiencies in the Urban Mobility Package by urging Member States to:
 - a) prioritise the implementation of planned public transportation harmonisation measures,
 - b) expand the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITSs)¹⁵,
 - c) revise their traffic management including speed limits and pollution taxes;
7. Urges Member States to further develop infrastructure networks in suburban areas until 2030;
8. Encourages local governments to implement the use of urban access regulations such as low emission and pedestrian zones in the centres of large, densely populated cities as an additional source of tax revenue;
9. Supports incentives such as discounted tickets and increased density of charging points which promote the use of more environmentally friendly modes of transport such as bicycles, public transport and electric cars for short-distance travel in urban areas;
10. Expresses its hope for the introduction of further financial incentives for the use of low or zero emission cars;
11. Recommends the implementation of park-and-ride¹⁶ systems as well as the use of ITSs for parking solutions.

¹⁵ Intelligent Transport Systems are systems in which information and communication technologies are applied in the field of road transport, including infrastructure, vehicles and users, and in traffic management and mobility management, as well as for interfaces with other modes of transport.

¹⁶ Park-and-ride systems are system for reducing urban traffic congestion, in which drivers leave their cars in car parks on the outskirts of a city and travel to the city centre on public transport. <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/park-and-ride> (Oxford Dictionaries).

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

With the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) being the most ambitious link between the Electorate and policy-creation at a pan-European level, how should the EU strengthen the ECI as a tool for active democracy, and what more can be done to bring citizens closer to EU policy making?

Submitted by: Mariam Chaduneli (GE); Janis Fifka (DE); Nina Huovinen (FI); James Joy (IE); Katerina Koukou (GR); Weronika Kuc (PL); Sébastien Lefèvre (BE); Mathias Marveaux (FR); Anette Piirsalu (EE); Florian Rogner (AT); Daniela Teodora (RO); Max van der Stelt (NL); Matteo Vespa (IT); Olena Yermakova (UA)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Believing that the lack of information and interest in EU politics calls for both the promotion of already available resources as well as the possible introduction of tools for citizens to participate more directly,
- B. Keeping in mind Article 10 of the Treaty on the EU (TEU), which states that the functioning of the EU should be founded on representative democracy,
- C. Welcoming direct democratic tools as a useful addition to representative democracy in order to create an active civil society,
- D. Aware that the European Parliament, the only directly elected body of the EU, does not have the right to initiate legislation,
- E. Acknowledging the right of citizens to address a petition to the European Parliament in accordance with Article 227¹ of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- F. Alarmed by the fact that 84% of Europeans think voter turnout would be higher in European elections if they had more information about the EU's impact on their daily lives and the political parties' manifestos²,
- G. Noting with regret the low turnout of 42.54%³ in the European elections in May 2014, signifying the lack of interest⁴,

¹ Article 227 of the TFEU reads: "Any citizen of the Union, and any natural or legal person residing or having its registered office in a Member State, shall have the right to address, individually or in association with other citizens or persons, a petition to the European Parliament on a matter which comes within the Union's fields of activity and which affects him, her or it directly".

² Eurobarometer survey #364 on electoral rights published in March 2013
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_374_361_en.htm#364

³ The European Parliament <http://www.results-elections2014.eu/en/turnout.html>

⁴ A study from the Eurobarometer published in May 2013 suggests that people do not vote because they don't believe it will change anything (64%), that they are not sufficiently informed (61%), that the European Parliament does not deal with their everyday problems (56%).
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/library/reports/flash375_en.pdf

- H. Taking into account that the media campaign "It's Your Choice"⁵ failed to increase voter turnout despite the EU having spent 18 million euros on the campaign,
 - I. Expressing its satisfaction that in the 2014 European Parliament elections the five main European political parties proposed their candidates for the President of the European Commission,
 - J. Deeply regretting the influence of national political parties in the European elections,
 - K. Viewing with appreciation the existence of the European Economic and Social Committee⁶, the Committee of Regions as well as the European Ombudsman⁷,
 - L. Further noting that, despite transparency being set as an aim of the EU under Article 15⁸ of the TFEU, more efforts should be undertaken to increase accessibility of information,
 - M. Having considered the European Citizens' Dialogue⁹ as a tool to encourage citizens to interact with their authorities,
 - N. Bearing in mind that the European Commission is not obliged to initiate legislative procedure based on an ECI that has met the requirement of 1 million signatures within 12 months,
 - O. Deeply disturbed that 72% of EU citizens have never heard of the ECI¹⁰,
 - P. Having examined that the only ECIs that have met the requirements of 1 million signatures within 12 months had more than 100.000 euros funding, suggesting it is not be accessible to the average citizen,
 - Q. Noting with deep concern the existence of many technical difficulties in organising an ECI, including but not limited to:
 - i) the lack of specific criteria for the European Commission to evaluate a proposal,
 - ii) the lack of common data protection when signing initiatives online,
 - iii) the short amount of time¹¹ between the launch of the ECI and the closing of the signatures,
 - iv) the framework of competences that an application has to fulfil,
 - R. Taking into consideration that the ECI section of the European Commission website lacks information and is difficult to understand;
1. Congratulates the work of the Ombudsman and the European Economic and Social Committee;
 2. Calls for an increase in the number of members who are represented in the Committee of Regions so that local representatives are more influential in EU policy making;

⁵ "It's Your Choice" is the name of the European Parliament election campaign carried out in 2004 and re-ordered in 2009. The campaign included three viral spots on Facebook and YouTube, TV spots and posters, spending in 2009 18 million euros, namely 0.05 Euro per each EU citizen.

⁶ The European Economic and Social Committee is a consultative body gathering civil society and various interests at the European level.

⁷ The European Ombudsman is appointed by the European Parliament and serves as an intermediary between the EU and the citizens. Any European citizen can address a complaint to the European Ombudsman.

⁸ Article 15 of the TFEU reads as: "In order to promote good governance and ensure the participation of civil society, the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies shall conduct their work as openly as possible."

⁹ The European Commission initiated the European Citizens' Dialogue for the 2013 Year of Citizens. It aimed to bring together Commissioners and citizens during public gatherings in different European cities.

¹⁰ European Barometer 77.4 (2012)

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/eurobarometre/2012/election_2012/eb77_4_ee2014_synthese_analytique_en.pdf

¹¹ Upon registration, the organisers of an ECI have one year to collect the 1 million signatures needed for a proposal to be considered by the European Commission.

3. Expresses its hope that the European Commission will more regularly carry out pan-European polls on formal proposals and current Europeans issues;
4. Proposes it be mandatory for organisations that wish to participate in the stakeholders consultation¹² of the European Commission to be registered on the Transparency Register¹³;
5. Has resolved to increase knowledge on the EU and making its politicians and personalities better known through:
 - a) the institutionalisation of the European Citizens' Dialogue,
 - b) strengthening the interaction of Europe Direct¹⁴ and the Europe Direct Information Centres¹⁵,
 - c) encouraging the media to focus more on EU issues and offering funding for projects such as Presseurop¹⁶,
 - d) encouraging all Member States to implement civic and school educational programmes related to EU politics including information packages before elections;
6. Has resolved to request the European Parliament hold more public hearings under Rule 193 of the Rule of Procedure of the European Parliament¹⁷;
7. Encourages European Parties to directly appoint their candidates for European elections in each Member State;
8. Requests the European Council to take into account the candidates who are put forward by the European parties for the presidency of the European Commission;
9. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate the process of a Treaty amendment of the TFEU in order to give the European Parliament the right of initiative;
10. Calls for the European Commission to take over the collection of signatures from the organisers of an ECI and to adopt an identity verification system with name, surname and ID number;
11. Invites the European Commission to update the website section on the ECI in terms of signature verification as well as all relevant information in every official EU language;
12. Further recommends the ECI Support Centre¹⁸ provide personal assistance and guidance to the organisers of every new ECI being introduced;
13. Calls upon the European Commission to provide minimum financial support which would allow the ECI organising committees to take their first administrative steps and successfully launch their ECI;
14. Further requests the ECI organisers disclose all information about the collected funds including the amount and the finance received in order to increase the transparency of the process;

¹² The consultation process initiated by the European Commission aims to get interested parties (such as Member States, Non-Governmental Organisations, professional associations, trade unions etc.) to discuss about a potential EU law.

¹³ The Transparency Register provides citizens with a direct and single access to information about who is engaged in activities aiming at influencing the EU decision-making process. So far, the potential partners are only invited to sign up to the Transparency Register and thus accepting a certain Code of Conduct. The Transparency register has been set up and is operated by the European Parliament and the European Commission.

¹⁴ Europe Direct is the European Commission Information Centre. Europe Direct provides a central information service reachable by phone or internet and local information services in every EU country.

¹⁵ The Europe Direct Information Centres act as an interface between citizens and the EU at a local level.

¹⁶ Presseurop was a multilingual European news-based website that was launched in 2009. The European Commission funding ended in 2013 and the website thus closed.

¹⁷ The Rule of Procedure of the European Parliament is the body's internal organisational and operational rules.

¹⁸ The ECI Support Centre is a private website which provides information before and during the process of launching and implementing an ECI.

15. Urges the European Commission to hand over the ECIs that have met the technical requirement of 1 million signatures to the European Parliament for an evaluation of the proposal;
16. Proposes that the maximum period of time for the collection of ECI signatures be extended from 12 to 24 months and that the evaluation process should start as soon as the 1 million signatures are collected;
17. Encourages the European Court of Justice to continue their attempt to reform the ECI specifically by including treaty amendments as an option in an ECI¹⁹.

¹⁹ A case was brought to the European Court of Justice on the 11th of October 2012 that opposed the ECI "One Million Signatures for a Europe a Solidarity" and the European Commission. The applicant claimed that the Court should annul the decision of the European Commission by which it rejected the ECI because such initiatives can not include treaty changes, based on article 48 of the TEU.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

In light of recent developments close to the EU's borders, Member States are rethinking cuts to military spending and the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). How far should the EU go in becoming a 'hard power' actor, and develop capabilities akin to those deployed by NATO, whilst considering the necessity of duplicating these structures?

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The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Aware that the EU's lack of hard power and economic dependency on other countries foster the perception that the EU lacks political clout,
- B. Recalling the role European integration has played in ensuring peace,
- C. Deeply conscious that the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) lacks sufficient legislative weight resulting in an unwillingness to implement certain measures, such as the Headline Goals of 2003 and 2010¹,
- D. Alarmed by the complexity and lack of transparency of foreign affairs and defence structures within the EU,
- E. Noting with regret that the historical differences, current military alliances, and varying future visions for the EU, result in structural impracticalities and divided opinion of Member States,
- F. Recognising that recent developments at the EU's borders have led to increased tensions between Russia and the EU,
- G. Noting with dissatisfaction that tensions between North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and EU Member States limit the Berlin Plus Agreement² by impeding formal meetings of the organisations,
- H. Fully aware of the strong position of the United States of America in NATO and the potentially divisive result in Europe thereof,
- I. Acknowledging that few Member States have the resources to effectively sustain adaptable military toolkits on their own,

¹ The Military Headline Goals are designed to ensure that the EU possesses the military capabilities required to conduct the full range of missions encompassed by the Petersberg tasks.

² The Berlin Plus Agreement refers to a comprehensive package of arrangements between the EU and the NATO. It allows the EU to make use of NATO assets and capabilities for EU-led crisis management operations.

- J. Emphasising that despite its potential, few Member States participate in the Pooling & Sharing Initiative³,
 - K. Taking into account the contrasting trends in military spending⁴ of Member States as well as neighbouring countries,
 - L. Taking note of uncoordinated cuts in military spending in several Member States during the financial crisis have led to capability gaps within the EU⁵,
 - M. Observing the apathy towards maintaining military capabilities in certain Member States,
 - N. Bearing in mind the lack of clear and unbiased reporting from conflict areas;
1. Proclaims that the role of the EU should be that of an international moderator and facilitator of open discourse, actively engaged in peacekeeping and humanitarian aid around the world, in adherence with its core values as stated in Article of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU)⁶;
 2. Authorises the establishment of a European Defence Community (EDC) consisting of both Member States and non-Member States to coordinate military and defence cooperation;
 3. Encourages that European foreign policy should the utilise smart power⁷ means through:
 - a) assertive economic sanctions in keeping with the EU's core values,
 - b) strong diplomatic sanctions,
 - c) enhanced cooperation between Member States in military interventions;
 4. Approves of the establishment of a supporting fund to mitigate possible consequences of the aforementioned sanctions;
 5. Calls for the EU to reduce its economic dependence on other countries in order to pursue an independent diplomatic policy based upon the core values of aforementioned TEU article;
 6. Draws attention to the need for proactive development of voluntary battlegroups and along with guidelines to ensure their maximum efficiency;
 7. Calls upon the European External Action Service (EEAS)⁸ to investigate and report on the potential merging of several defence structures;
 8. Recommends that the informal meetings between EU and NATO under the stewardship of the High Representative and the General Secretary of NATO are held more regularly;
 9. Requests the adoption of adaptable military toolkits to create flexible and cost-effective military forces;
 10. Endorses the use of the Pooling & Sharing Initiative to enhance participation in CSDP missions;

³ The Pooling & Sharing Initiative allows for the development of projects to pool and share more military capabilities among Member States on a voluntary national basis, in line with defence policies of Member States .

⁴ The Economist. Defenceless? December 21 2013.

⁵ The Economist. Defenceless? December 21 2013.

⁶ The values are defined in the Lisbon treaty as follows: "The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail."

⁷ Smart power is an approach which combines and balances the use of hard and soft power in order to achieve effective military and diplomatic operations.

⁸ The EEAS is the European Union's diplomatic service. It helps the EU's foreign affairs chief – the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – carry out the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy.

11. Calls upon the European Commission to investigate and report on how the Pooling & Sharing Initiative can more effectively be used to overcome capability goals;
12. Supports the work of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)⁹ in ascertaining neutral, factual reports from conflict zones.

⁹ The OSCE is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organisation. Its mandate includes issues such as arms control and the promotion of human rights, freedom of the press and fair elections.

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