

EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT



**VILNIUS**  
**2018**

87th  
International  
Session  
of the  
European  
Youth  
Parliament



# Resolution Booklet

Vilnius 2018

87th International Session of the European Youth Parliament  
14th-22nd of July, 2018



The European Youth Parliament's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which only reflects the views of the individual participants of the 87th International Session in Vilnius 2018 mentioned in the Resolution Booklet. The European Youth Parliament, Vilnius 2018, or its partners cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

## Table of contents

### **Programme of the General Assembly**

#### **Debate Procedure**

#### **Voting results**

**AFET** - Committee on Foreign Affairs

**CULT** - Committee on Culture and Education

**DEVE** - Committee on Development

**DROI** - Committee on Human Rights

**ECON** - Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

**EMPL I** - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I

**EMPL II** - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II

**ENVI I** - Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I

**ENVI II** - Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II

**FEMM** - Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

**IMCO** - Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

**ITRE** - Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

**LIBE** - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

**SEDE** - Committee on Security and Defence

**TRAN** - Committee on Transport and Tourism

## Programme of the General Assembly

### *Day 1*

#### **Opening** of the General Assembly

**DEVE** - Committee on Development

**DROI** - Committee on Human Rights

**TRAN** - Committee on Transport and Tourism

**ECON** - Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

**AFET** - Committee on Foreign Affairs

**ITRE** - Committee on Foreign Affairs

**SEDE** - Committee on Security and Defence

### *Day 2*

**ENVI I** - Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

**LIBE** - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

**EMPL I** - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I

**CULT** - Committee on Culture and Education

**ENVI I** - Committee on Culture and Education

**EMPL II** - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II

**IMCO** - Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

**FEMM** - Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality



## Voting results

**AFET** - Committee on Foreign Affairs - **Passed**

**CULT** - Committee on Culture and Education - **Passed**

**DEVE** - Committee on Development - **Not passed**

**DROI** - Committee on Human Rights - **Passed**

**ECON** - Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs - **Passed**

**EMPL I** - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I - **Passed**

**EMPL II** - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II - **Passed**

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

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

**FEMM** - Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality - **Passed**

**IMCO** - Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection - **Passed**

**ITRE** - Committee on Industry, Research and Energy - **Not passed**

**LIBE** - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs - **Passed**

**SEDE** - Committee on Security and Defence - **Not passed**

**TRAN** - Committee on Transport and Tourism - **Passed**

## Debate procedure

– **Reading of the Proposing Committee's topic** (the Board)

– **Amendments** (if applicable)

If the Proposing Committee has any Friendly Amendments the Board will read out the Friendly Amendment and ask all delegates to mark the changes in their resolution booklets

If the Proposing Committee has received any Unfriendly Amendments, the Board will:

- Invite the Amendment Sponsor to defend the Unfriendly Amendment (1 minute)
- Invite the Proposing Committee to defend the resolution as it stands (1 minute)
- Open a brief debate on the Unfriendly Amendment (2 minutes)
- Hold a vote on the amendment (same as the general voting procedure below)

– **Preparation time** (max. 2 minutes)

This time can be used for final preparations for the upcoming debate individually or together with your fellow committee members.

– **Defence Speech** (1-2 delegates, max. 3 minutes)

This speech is the Proposing Committee's opportunity to defend their resolution to the entire GA. If the speech is delivered by two delegates, the microphone should only be passed once during this speech.

– **Position Speeches** (2 speeches, max. 2 minutes each)

This speech can be used to fundamentally disagree with, support or take a nuanced view of the proposed resolution. Whatever position you choose to express, please be constructive and respectful.



### **Open Debate:**

- **Response to Position Speeches** (max. 1 minute)
- **First round of debate** (4-6 points)
  - Response to the first round of debate
- **Second round of debate** (4-6 points)
  - Response to the second round of debate
- **Third round of debate** (4-6 points)
  - Response to the third round of debate
- **Final round of debate** (4-6 points)
- **Summation Speech** (1-2 delegates from the Proposing Committee, 3 min in total)

The Proposing Committee's final opportunity to summarise the debate and defend their resolution. If the speech is delivered by two delegates, the microphone should only be passed once during this speech.

- **Voting** (in favour - blue card; against - yellow card; abstaining - hand only)

If the vote is too close to call by show of cards, the votes will be collected by the chairs.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs

**With an election postponed, political and ethnic unrest breaking out across the country and more and more people affected by acute hunger, what further steps should the EU take to bring stability to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and promote lasting peace and prosperity in the region?**

**Submitted by:**

Bibiana Barčáková (SK), Ivan Batušić (HR), Noelia Beja (AL), Titas Byla (LT), Max Jakobsen (SE), Roosa Laasko (FI), Maria Lee (IE), Benedetta Marini (IT), Ingrid L. Morken (NO), Jacobus Petersen (NL), Oleksandra Puzanova (UA), Andrei Tociu (RO), Christos Zois, Chairperson (GR)

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Concerned by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) government's:
- resistance to holding elections despite the provisions of the Saint-Sylvestre agreement<sup>1</sup>, with the current date set to 23 December 2018,
  - constant enactment of politically motivated trials, suppression of opposition political figures' rights and excessive use of force against political activists, journalists and opposition members,
  - refusal to cooperate with the international community with the most recent example of the DRC boycott of the Humanitarian Conference organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (UNOCHA),
- B. Alarmed by the insufficient legal autonomy of ethnic groups, resulting in increased tensions and violent resistance movements,
- C. Noting with deep concern the extensive occupation of territories by non-state groups as a result of the ethnic and cultural diversity within the DRC,
- D. Further noting the expansion of armed conflicts among various militia groups of different ethnic backgrounds mainly in the regions of Grand Kasai, Ituri, North and South Kivu,
- E. Alarmed by the territorial control gained by armed groups as a result of the varying levels of control which the DRC government exercises over the country's territory, especially in the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu,

---

<sup>1</sup> The Saint-Sylvestre Agreement is the agreement signed by the DRC government about the terms of the elections



- F. Reaffirming the close connection between existing natural resources, such as kobalt, diamonds and oil, with the constant escalation and maintenance of armed unrest, especially in Eastern DRC,
- G. Deeply disturbed by the recurring human rights violations on all sides of the conflict in the DRC, including arbitrary executions, mass rape, and torture,
- H. Further alarmed by the extensive human rights violations which remain unprosecuted on both a national and international level, especially regarding allegations of war crimes and genocide,
- I. Taking into consideration the international community's reluctance towards recognising and resolving the current situation in the DRC,
- J. Welcoming the European Parliament's Resolution 2515 regarding the current situation and possible solutions to the crisis in DRC,
- K. Aware of the deterioration of the DRC economy as a result of:
  - i. the ongoing armed conflicts spreading throughout the country's territory,
  - ii. inadequate infrastructure, including agricultural and industrial facilities, means of production, roads and railways,
  - iii. widespread cronyism<sup>2</sup> in the public sector resulting in the inefficient exploitation of external funds and the country's own natural resources,
- L. Keeping in mind the country's overdependence on international aid which hinders its long-term development,
- M. Highly alarmed by the number of displaced Congolese people<sup>3</sup>, with 753,000 seeking refuge in neighbouring states and the consequent lower living conditions, including a lack of accommodation, malnourishment, and poor standards of healthcare,
- N. Deeply alarmed that 9.9 million citizens are affected by food insecurity as a result of the:
  - i. lack of access to agricultural land possessed by non-state militia,
  - ii. overall destruction of agricultural infrastructure in the areas affected by conflict,
  - iii. disparities in the circulation of goods and services in the country,

---

<sup>2</sup> Cronyism is showing partiality to one's friends or family members, usually by appointing them to a position despite them not being the most suitable person for that position.

<sup>3</sup> The total number of displaced Congolese population, including Internally Displaced People, is considered to be around 5,2 million.

- O. Expressing its concern about poor healthcare services in the areas affected by conflict, with:
  - i. more than 200 health centres being evaded, burnt or destroyed during the conflict by both sides,
  - ii. the recent outbreak of the Ebola virus, especially in the eastern provinces of DRC,
- P. Concerned by the disruption of the DRC educational system as a result of armed conflicts, with:
  - i. 440,000 children unable to finish their school year in 2017,
  - ii. 100 schools destroyed during attacks by local militia,
  - iii. more than 400 schools used as army bases or for other military purposes,
- Q. Deeply concerned by the increasing number of hostilities against humanitarian aid workers and peacekeeping forces impairing the stable delivery of aid<sup>4</sup>,
- R. Recognising with concern that in the Donors' Conference<sup>5</sup> on the DRC, USD 528 million was raised, representing only one third of the funds needed,
- S. Noting with regret the continuous appeals by several United Nations Member States to reduce on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO),
- T. Bearing in mind the lack of transparency regarding the proper use of funds allocated to NGOs operating in the DRC as well as the government,
- U. Aware that the available information on the current situation does not always derive from official or other reliable sources, thus undermining the effectiveness of international aid schemes,
- V. Gravely concerned by the alleged recruitment of juvenile soldiers by various DRC-backed militia groups,

## **Political unrest**

1. Strongly declares that free, fair and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections should be held on 23 December 2018<sup>6</sup> in accordance with the Saint-Sylvestre Agreement;

<sup>4</sup> At least 75 aid workers have been killed since the beginning of 2017.

<sup>5</sup> The Donors' Conference was organised by UNOCHA on April 2018, with the aim to collect enough money to solve the situation in DRC. It was organised alongside the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the EU.

<sup>6</sup> The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) has announced that the elections will be held on 23 December 2018.



2. Calls upon the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to urge the EU Delegation to the DRC to:
  - a. enhance their efforts to establish a fruitful collaboration between the EU and the DRC government,
  - b. request the permission of the DRC government to act as an observer in the upcoming elections,
  - c. invite European experts to assist the DRC Electoral Commission (CENI) organising the December 2018 elections;
3. Asks the European Council to prioritise conflict prevention and resolution in the DRC as a matter of utmost importance in the EU's foreign policy agenda;
4. Advises the European Council and the South African Development Community to implement measures against high-range officials should the elections not meet the standards set including:
  - a. restricting the entrance or movement within EU territory,
  - b. freezing assets in the Member States;
5. Appeals to the Congolese government to allow for free, fair and transparent elections by:
  - a. preventing the use of force against opposition members,
  - b. allowing all potential candidates to run in the elections, unless predetermined and legislatively justified obstacles exist;
6. Condemns the disproportionate use of force and restrictions on the freedom of speech and assembly by the Congolese armed forces against political activists, journalists and protesters;

### **Ethnic unrest**

7. Calls on the European Development Fund (EDF) to actively cooperate with the country's government to create a programme suitable for the cultivation of a common national identity while respecting the different ethnic groups;

8. Requests the DRC government to secure the transparent allocation of funds provided by the EU through the establishment of thorough monitoring systems based on a blockchain-based registration system<sup>7</sup>;
9. Urges the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) to refrain from further allocating funds towards the DRC in case the aforementioned system is not implemented or proves to be dysfunctional;
10. Calls for the active participation of the South African Development Community (SADC) in the crisis resolution procedures through:
  - a. the initiation of round-table discussions between the official government and local ethnic groups,
  - b. the establishment of the SADC as the official mediator in DRC crisis resolution processes,
  - c. further engagement and collaboration with the EU as a significant actor in the region through expertise exchange;

### **Human rights violations**

11. Invites the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)<sup>8</sup> to bring incidents of alleged war crimes or crimes against humanity in DRC to the attention and jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court;
12. Invites the DRC parliament that will be elected in the next elections to propose a law inspired by the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission”<sup>9</sup> model allowing victims of armed conflicts to seek justice more easily;
13. Further calls upon the UNSC and UN Member States to ensure that MONUSCO’s budget is sufficient to operate in the field according to its mandate, especially regarding the protection of facilities housing Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs);
14. Urges the Congolese judicial authorities to prosecute those involved in acts of human rights violations or abuses, regardless of their political affiliation;

---

<sup>7</sup> Blockchain-based system is a shared, immutable ledger for recording the history of transactions which prevents corruption

<sup>8</sup> The Security Council is the United Nations' body whose "primary responsibility" is the maintenance of international peace and security.

<sup>9</sup> The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was set up by the Government of National Unity to help deal with what happened under apartheid.

15. Further calls on the local and national authorities to cooperate with the UN team of experts on the situation in the Kasai region, as well as other conflicted regions;

### **Humanitarian assistance**

16. Urges the European Commission to materially support NGOs such as Amnesty International in the effort to raise awareness of the crisis in the DRC with the aim of:
  - a. encouraging further donations from European citizens,
  - b. incentivising Member States to continue funding humanitarian aid in the DRC;
17. Requests the European Commission to encourage a system of gradual transition from humanitarian assistance provided by ECHO to sustainable capacity building through investment by the EDF for agricultural and transportation infrastructure, healthcare and education systems;
18. Promotes the establishment of an extensive expertise-sharing system between the EU and the DRC with Member States providing experts in the fields of agriculture, healthcare, education and transportation;
19. Endorses the European Commission to gradually decrease funding provided to the DRC should the humanitarian and regional development situation permit, ensuring the establishment of a sustainable development system;
20. Suggests the European Commission to encourage quality education for Congolese students and establish higher academic standards among the DRC population by:
  - a. funding EU university scholarship programmes for students from the region,
  - b. stipulating that funding is only provided on the condition that the students return to the DRC after the end of their studies;
21. Strongly urges the UNOCHA to organise another Humanitarian Conference to raise additional funds to cover the targeted operational expenses of MONUSCO;
22. Requests the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and the European Delegation in the DRC to oversee and prioritise projects that focus on the:
  - a. protection of children in armed conflicts,
  - b. demobilisation of children soldiers in armed conflicts,
  - c. rehabilitation of juvenile soldiers.

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

**As the tourism industry continues to expand and place an unsustainable burden on Europe's heritage sites, how can European governments protect their cultural heritage while also enabling citizens to access historic sites and monuments?**

**Submitted by:**

Nida Abraitytė (LT), Ella Antonissen (BE), Saskia van Berloo (NL), Andrei Bunăziua (RO), Tim Barcikowski (DE), Tove Brandén (SE), Gea Çausholli (AL), Tristan Fauvre (FR), Korina Hrabíć (HR), Petra Ana Jakin (SI), Verity Limond (IE), Daniel Matějček (CZ), Aydan Rustamzadeh (AZ), Ida Sophie Tande (NO), Manon Schürch (Chairperson, CH)

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Recognising that the lack of cooperation between the stakeholders<sup>10</sup> responsible for the maintenance of sites causes mismanagement and neglect of cultural heritage sites,
- B. Emphasising that the desire for financial profit from local authorities causes an unbalanced distribution of visitors where funds are targeted at popular tourist attractions rather than lesser known areas,
- C. Emphasises that more renowned tourists attractions<sup>11</sup> experience an influx of tourist visits at their cultural heritage sites while less well known sites have lower visitor numbers,
- D. Aware of the rapidly growing numbers of tourists at heritage sites in Europe leading to an increase in illegal activities which threatens the economic sustainability of the sites and ease of access for visitors to these sites,
- E. Alarmed by the disrespectful behaviour of some tourists towards heritage sites resulting in a reduced quality of life for locals, including:
  - i. environmental pollution through littering, increased noise and water pollution,
  - ii. damage to private property caused by trespassing tourists,
- F. Observing that poor management and inadequate restoration causes an erosion of culture at heritage sites,

---

<sup>10</sup> Stakeholders include local governments and heritage site managers.

<sup>11</sup> Tourist attractions are places tourists are more drawn to than others.

- G. Bearing in mind that infrastructure in places affected by overtourism<sup>12</sup> is insufficient for the increased number of tourists on site,
- H. Profoundly concerned by the increasing levels of site degradation<sup>13</sup> caused by overtourism at popular heritage sites,
- I. Deeply concerned by the increased cost of goods and services near popular heritage sites which increases the cost of living for locals,
- J. Seriously concerned that the prevalence of global market chains in the vicinity of frequently visited tourist sites reduces the sustainability of small local businesses,
- K. Noting with regret that large numbers of tourists visit heritage sites for a short period of time meaning local enterprises do not capture the benefits of increased tourism;

### **Sustainability Through Local and National Governments**

- 1. Calls upon European local governments to invest in domestic tourist offices in order to provide a more informative heritage site experience;
- 2. Appeals to European local governments to strictly enforce fines for visitors who exhibit disruptive and destructive behaviour at cultural heritage sites;
- 3. Suggests that local governments establish and implement official visitors' code of conduct guidelines for those entering cultural heritage sites;
- 4. Urges local governments to further develop their sustainability accounting practises<sup>14</sup> in heritage site management;
- 5. Directs local governments to review their existing policies on semi-permanent and short term stays and revise them according to the site's visitor numbers;
- 6. Requests that local governments invest the revenue collected from the running of their heritage sites in the preservation and restoration of their cultural heritage;
- 7. Encourages local governments to increase their waste management budget tackling waste produced by an overflow of tourists near heritage sights;

---

<sup>12</sup> Overtourism occurs when there are too many visitors to a particular destination.

<sup>13</sup> Degradation refers to something becoming worn down in process.

<sup>14</sup> Sustainability accounting practises link sustainability initiatives to strategy, evaluate risks and opportunities, and provide measurement, accounting and performance management skills to ensure that sustainability is embedded into the day-to-day operations.



8. Designates local governments to make use of social media influencers to promote less visited cultural heritage sites and off-season travel;
9. Encourages European governments to fully exploit its existing promotional tools, such as membership cards in order to encourage visits to less popular sites;
10. Proposes that local governments create or make use of existing volunteering programmes which aim to protect European cultural heritage sites;
11. Seeks for local governments to participate in European Heritage Days<sup>15</sup> and other festivals in order to:
  - a. increase financial revenue,
  - b. promote local traditions,
  - c. inform visitors about the sites' history;
12. Instructs local governments to collect feedback<sup>16</sup> from locals living in and around frequently visited cultural heritage sites;
13. Emphasises that European states should focus the attention of their police forces on cases of illegal tourist rentals;

### **Tourism Sector**

14. Urges domestic tourism departments and NGOs working with tourists to foster dialogue and collaboration through fora or stakeholder meetings;
15. Requests that tourist information offices to put a strong emphasis on providing visitors with information leaflets informing them about appropriate behaviour at heritage sites;

### **Preserving Cultural Heritage**

16. Invites cultural heritage projects<sup>17</sup> supported by the European Commission to direct financial aid to tourist enterprises which place an emphasis on promoting less popular cultural heritage sites;

---

<sup>15</sup> European Heritage Days provide access to thousands of rarely opened sites and unique events every year.

<sup>16</sup> Feedback can for example be given through public fora held by the respective governmental departments or through online questionnaires.

<sup>17</sup> Such cultural heritage projects are the Europeana Regia and the Curious Travelers.

17. Instructs heritage site managers to set up educational visitor guides, introduce multilingual signs and brochures indicating acceptable behaviour on the site;
18. Strongly urges heritage sites to make use of their European Heritage Label<sup>18</sup> or apply for one;
19. Calls upon the Council of Europe to reallocate funding to projects digitally preserving cultural heritage sites<sup>19</sup>;

### **Other**

20. Invites the Committee on Environment, Health and Public Food Safety (ENVI) to draft improved environmental guidelines for frequently visited cultural heritage sites;
21. Hopes for cultural education in schools, such as collaborating with NGOs related to the tourism sector and undertaking excursions to cultural heritage sites reaffirming the importance of their preservation;
22. Expresses its appreciation for de-marketing<sup>20</sup> of overcrowded heritage sites in order to more equally distribute tourists.

---

<sup>18</sup> The European Heritage Labels promote the European dimension of the sites and provide access to them. This includes organising a wide range of educational activities, especially for young people.

<sup>19</sup> Projects dealing with the preservation of digital images of cultural heritage sites provide digital documentation of archaeological sites, monuments and heritage at risk.

<sup>20</sup> Demarketing refers to discouraging (not destroying) the demand for a product which one is unable to supply in large-enough quantities.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development

### **With ‘quality education’ identified as one of the UN’s Sustainable Development goals, what should European governments do to ensure that all children in the developing world have access to inclusive and quality education?**

#### **Submitted by:**

Maja Ahlberg (SE), Ana Bajt (SL), Yamina Ben Naoum (BE), Julius Bürk (DE), Alexandru Fodor (RO), Lea Kenny (NL), Vito Papić (HR), Gadir Suleymani (AZ), Elina Tanskanen (FI), Guga Tevzadze (GE), Maria Vorobiova (UA), Ejsi Vula (AL), Gabija Žukauskaitė (LT), Peter McManus (Chairperson, UK)

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

- A. Deeply concerned that over 260 million children and young adults around the world do not attend school,
- B. Recognising the immense impact education has on reducing poverty, boosting economic activity, achieving equality, providing nutrition, and improving hygiene,
- C. Appreciating that past agreements such as Education for All<sup>21</sup> were moderately successful in increasing school attendance in the developing world,
- D. Regretting that the lack of emphasis on continuity and quality in such agreements has contributed to substandard training for teachers as well as outdated learning methods and curricula,
- E. Expressing its regret that shadow education<sup>22</sup> can lead to student discouragement and discrimination,
- F. Deeply alarmed by high rates of teacher absenteeism<sup>23</sup> caused by poor working conditions, inadequate facilities, and a lack of respect for the teaching profession,
- G. Recognising the lack of opportunities for the exchange of experiences and ideas on a local and global level among educators and other school staff members,

---

<sup>21</sup> Education for All was a global movement led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization aiming to meet the learning needs of all children, youth, and adults by 2015.

<sup>22</sup> Shadow Education is private supplementary tutoring.

<sup>23</sup> Teacher absenteeism refers to when teachers are not present in class and can be as high as 30% in the developing world.



- H. Noting with deep concern that factors including poor sanitation, long journeys to school, and poor transport links discourage student school attendance,
- I. Emphasizing the importance of a supportive family environment including meeting basic needs such as sleep, nutrition, health, and wholesome social relationships with parents,
- J. Pointing out that many parents lack the resources to supply educational equipment such as modern textbooks, school uniforms, and stationary supplies that can be prerequisites for attending school,
- K. Fully believing in the need for more inclusion of local authority figures and parents in the educational process by institutions, governments, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs),
- L. Expressing its concern that only ten percent of disabled children are in school and only five percent have completed primary education,
- M. Fully aware that disabled people face particular barriers to education in the developing world including:
  - i. legislation that does not afford adequate protection to children with disabilities,
  - ii. lack of facilities and transportation to cater to the special needs of people with physical impairments,
  - iii. social stigma towards disabled people from teachers, parents, and peers,
  - iv. a lack of suitable teacher and staff training, and school resources to accommodate special needs,
  - v. standardised testing and inflexible grading systems which pose educational barriers for students with learning difficulties,
- N. Deeply disturbed that more than 75 million children are denied access to education as a result of violent conflicts,
- O. Noting with deep regret that peaceful school environments can be harmed by a lack of protection of students from violence in their surroundings, causing school attendance to decrease,

- P. Acknowledging that Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)<sup>24</sup>, and SDG 5<sup>25</sup> are crucial to prevent gender inequality in education,
- Q. Profoundly concerned that a lack of female teachers and cultural norms regarding the role of girls in society preclude 131 million girls globally from receiving the same education as their male counterparts,
- R. Profoundly concerned that many students dropout of school early due to:
- child labour<sup>26</sup>, which can affect one in four children in the poorest countries, and a need to support the family,
  - an average of 40% of women in developing countries being married by the age of 18,
  - unstable family situations which lead to institutionalisation<sup>27</sup>;

### **Pedagogy**

1. Calls upon developing country governments and schools to increase their investments in alternative education such as tutoring, workshops, and online materials and courses;
2. Appeals to European governments and NGOs to establish expert-facilitated surveys to assess demand for aid and the effectiveness of its implementation;
3. Urges local policy makers in developing countries to adjust their curriculum according to the skills and knowledge required by the local population and economy;
4. Requests local companies to establish scholarships for students in secondary and tertiary education;
5. Recommends that developing country governments introduce monitored after-school tutoring systems,

### **Teacher Motivation**

6. Encourages developing country governments to:

---

<sup>24</sup> SDG 4 refers to quality education.

<sup>25</sup> SDG 5 refers to gender equality.

<sup>26</sup> Child Labour is work that deprives a child of their childhood, potential, and is harmful to their mental and physical development.

<sup>27</sup> Institutionalisation is the process of placing children in institutions such as orphanages.



- a. help establish teachers' unions that could facilitate teacher training and experience sharing,
  - b. teacher conferences,
  - c. the creation of an online platform for knowledge sharing amongst teachers,
  - d. teacher exchange programmes within regions, countries and communities;
7. Suggests that local authorities monitor teacher absenteeism such as through mobile applications;
8. Requests the European Commission to allocate Official Development Assistance (ODA)<sup>28</sup> budget to public education for rewarding well-performing teachers;
9. Further encourages governments and NGOs to set up anonymous standardised testing<sup>29</sup> by independent assessment committees to monitor the effectiveness of implemented policies;

### **Infrastructure**

10. Supports initiatives that encourage the donation of transport vehicles, such as old buses, from developed countries to developing countries;
11. Further recommends developing country governments to make online education more accessible by encouraging projects to:
- a. implement mobile-supported online schooling platforms,
  - b. introduce online schooling hubs;

### **Family Environment**

12. Further requests the European Commission to allocate ODA funds to communities in need of school supplies by providing context specific conditional cash transfers<sup>30</sup> and vouchers;
13. Asks the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)<sup>31</sup> to train and assist local social workers who support families;

---

<sup>28</sup> ODA is government aid that aims to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

<sup>29</sup> Anonymous Standardized Tests provide data on the level of education

<sup>30</sup> Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) is a welfare program which regulates the receivers' action to decrease poverty.

<sup>31</sup> UNICEF is a United Nations programme that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.

## Disabilities

14. Appeals to governments of developed and developing countries to encourage investment in for disabled people education by giving companies financial incentives in the form of tax breaks;
15. Calls upon the European Commission to facilitate knowledge sharing between the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASNIE)<sup>32</sup> and the European Development Fund<sup>33</sup>;
16. Emphasises the importance of providing information and raising awareness about disabilities among citizens to governments of developing countries;

## Gender

17. Recommends that developing country governments set up initiatives in schools where:
  - a. students, especially girls in upper grades, are offered training to volunteer as assistants for teachers or tutors for lower grades,
  - b. local professionals or acknowledged individuals take part in a mentoring programme;
18. Invites the World Health Organisation<sup>34</sup> to provide basic sex education and birth control options to local communities;
19. Further emphasises the importance of co-education<sup>35</sup>;
20. Resolves that education can be gender segregated where cultural norms dictate it necessary;

---

<sup>32</sup> EASNIE is an agency that acts as a platform for collaboration between the ministries of education in its member countries.

<sup>33</sup> The European Development Fund is the EU's main instrument for providing aid abroad and funds cooperation activities in the fields of economic development, social and human development as well as regional cooperation and integration.

<sup>34</sup> The World Health Organisation consists of 194 member countries in all nations of the world, providing universal health care for those in need.

<sup>35</sup> Co-education is when both genders get taught at the same time at the same place.

21. Further recommends the International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)<sup>36</sup> to:
- a. inspect suspected child labour sites,
  - b. pressure governments to enforce international conventions on child labour;

### **Development**

22. Further emphasises the need to pursue other sustainable development interventions including but not limited to:
- a. providing regular health check ups in schools,
  - b. supporting the World Food Programme<sup>37</sup> in efforts to supply schools with locally produced food,
  - c. continuing efforts to resolve conflicts that prevent education,
  - d. improving sanitation facilities in schools.

---

<sup>36</sup> The IPEC is a programme run by the International Labour Organisation with the aim of the Progressive elimination of child labour.

<sup>37</sup> The World Food Programme is the food assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest organisation addressing hunger and food insecurity.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Human Rights

### **Given the challenges faced by thousands of stateless persons in Europe, how can European governments work together to improve identification and protection of stateless persons so as to ensure they can access and exercise their fundamental rights?**

#### **Submitted by:**

Emelle Bayrak (SE), Dhimosten Billa (AL), Alexandra Bjornstad (CY), Anna Břešťanová (CZ), Kateryna Bovsunovska (UA), Algirdas Griška (LT), Emily Grünendieck (DE), Christina Hönings (AT), Rima Mkhallati (LT), Anna Nadiradze (GE), Peter Podržaj (SI), Riccardo Rastello (IT), Matei Sava (RO), Lars Van Bourgognie (BE), Julia Wrońska (PL), Christine Hanna Meiser, Chairperson (DE)

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

- A. Noting with deep concern that there are an estimated 600.000 stateless persons living in Europe,
- B. Alarmed that one in three stateless persons is a child,
- C. Deeply regretting that nine out of 28 Member States did not or only partially participated in the United Nations (UN) Conventions on the subject of statelessness<sup>38</sup>,
- D. Conscious of the diverse backgrounds of stateless persons due to the varied causes of statelessness,
- E. Further concerned by the lack of effort of some European governments in tackling the issue of statelessness through introducing Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDPs)<sup>39</sup>,
- F. Fully aware of the difficulty in obtaining proof of statelessness resulting from:
  - i. the reluctance of states to share legal documents regarding the possible claim to nationality of SDP applicants,
  - ii. applicant's restricted access to legal documents,

<sup>38</sup> The 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are the key international agreements addressing the subject of statelessness. They are complemented by international human rights treaties and provisions relevant to the right to a nationality.

<sup>39</sup> National governments set up SDPs to facilitate the identification and recognition of stateless persons. At least 15 Member States have no SDP, which is highly criticised by the UNHCR. The UNHCR has published a guideline for the establishment of SDPs and gives national recommendations on how to improve SDPs and the handling of the subject of statelessness nationally.

- G. Noting with satisfaction the positive change in some European countries after the implementation of recommendations by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)<sup>40</sup>,
- H. Noting with regret the reluctance of some European governments to grant residence permits to stateless persons,
- I. Disturbed that stateless persons in Europe are restricted in exercising their fundamental rights,
- J. Firmly convinced of the insufficient legal protection and assistance of stateless persons during arbitrary detention,
- K. Aware that stateless persons are vulnerable to exploitation due to missing legal safeguards by employment protection legislation,
- L. Alarmed by the negative impact of statelessness on the mental health of stateless persons,
- M. Observing that stateless persons often face discrimination and social exclusion,
- N. Realising that stateless people are often unaware of their rights, SDPs, naturalisation procedures, and the necessity of birth registration,
- O. Observing the lack of awareness regarding the subject of statelessness in civil society,
- P. Pointing out the lack of reliable data on the subject of statelessness in Europe,

## **Prevention**

- 1. Requests European governments to accede to and adopt provisions in line with the UN Conventions on the subject of statelessness;
- 2. Emphasises the importance of Article 1 of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness<sup>41</sup>;

## **Identification**

- 3. Reminds European governments that an unknown nationality should be a transitional status;

<sup>40</sup> The UNHCR is dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for forcibly displaced communities and stateless persons.

<sup>41</sup> Article 1 of the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness states that "A Contracting State shall grant its nationality to a person born in its territory who would otherwise be stateless".



4. Invites European governments to facilitate late birth registration procedures following the example set by Moldova<sup>42</sup>;
5. Strongly encourages the adoption of recommendations provided by the UNHCR for European governments' SDPs;
6. Asks Member States to comply with Article 4.3 of the Treaty on European Union<sup>43</sup> in regard to the exchange of information on SDP applicants;
7. Stresses the importance of sharing the burden of proof during SDPs between the European government and the applicant;

## **Protection**

8. Proposes that European governments offer residence permits to people determined stateless if such a mechanism is not in place;
9. Appeals to European governments to establish a set of rights for SDP applicants following the example of Georgia<sup>44</sup>;
10. Urges European governments to grant additional procedural guarantees during SDPs including, but not limited to, accessible legal aid, free interpretation services, and administrative and psychological assistance;
11. Expresses its appreciation towards non-governmental organisations assisting stateless persons in Europe such as the European Network on Statelessness<sup>45</sup>;
12. Asks European governments to include stateless persons in their national integration programmes;

---

<sup>42</sup> The Republic of Moldova managed to significantly lower their number of stateless people by facilitating late registration in remote areas. The registration procedures were accompanied by experts on birth registration, minority groups and social services.

<sup>43</sup> Article 4.3 of the TEU states that "pursuant to the principle of sincere cooperation, the Union and the Member States shall, in full mutual respect, assist each other in carrying out tasks which flow from the Treaties."

<sup>44</sup> Georgia is one of the prime examples of a functioning system in tackling statelessness. Their laws on the Legal Status of Alien and Stateless Persons grant travel rights, residence permits, rights to work, accessing healthcare, and social security among others.

<sup>45</sup> The European Network on Statelessness consists of NGOs, individual experts and academic initiatives that are committed to address statelessness in Europe.

## Information

13. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate a platform for dialogue between stateless persons, NGOs, expert committees and political actors inspired by Voices of Young Refugees in Europe<sup>46</sup>;
14. Welcomes the UNHCR's efforts on the subject of statelessness that include:
  - a. the #iBelong<sup>47</sup> campaign to end statelessness,
  - b. training FRONTEX officials in handling stateless persons' status and documentation;
15. Calls upon the European Commission to expand the Eurostat<sup>48</sup> dataset to include stateless persons living in Europe.

---

<sup>46</sup> Founded by young refugees, Voices of Young Refugees wants to unify and strengthen the voices of young refugees and refugee organisations in Europe.

<sup>47</sup> The #iBelong campaign aims to end statelessness by 2024 with the cooperation of United Nations' Member States, civil society and other UN agencies. The UNHCR campaign's main goal is to resolve existing cases of statelessness, prevent new cases from emerging, and to better identify and protect stateless populations.

<sup>48</sup> Eurostat is the EU's statistical office and is situated in Luxembourg. Its aim is the provision of high quality statistics for Europe.

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

**As the gap between rich and poor continues to grow in many European countries, should European governments consider policy options to reduce economic inequality between citizens?**

**Submitted by:**

Annika Aichholzer (AT), Vlad Burian (FI), Sebastian Chereches (RO), Neil Faber (BE), Linnéa Falk (SE), Yaryna Finyak (UA), Andreas Brunebjerg Jørgensen (DK), Beka Kakabadze (GE), Aleksandra Kuśmierska (PL), Andrei Daniel Lacanu (IT), Maryanna Luizinho (CY), Marijus Plakys (LT), Jakob Planinšek (SI), Lena Trotereau (NL), Anait Tsaturyan (AM), Giorgos Zachariadis (GR), Tim Keegstra, Chairperson (NL)

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Recognising economic inequality as entailing economic immobility, wealth inequality, consumption inequality, inequality of opportunity, and income inequality,
- B. Acknowledging that the Europe 2020 strategy aims to fight economic inequality and stimulate economic growth through the EU headline targets for 2020<sup>49</sup>,
- C. Alarmed that EU Member States do not sufficiently use the European Structural and Investment Funds in order to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives to reduce economic inequality,
- D. Deeply alarmed that expenditure on research and development (R&D) as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) in the EU stagnated at around 2.03% between 2014 and 2016,
- E. Acknowledging the importance of target 10.1 of the sustainable development goals, which states that by 2030, the bottom 40% of the population should sustain economic growth at a rate higher than the national average,
- F. Observing that following the 2008 financial crisis and the consecutive European debt crisis, economic inequality has increased, especially in the EU15,

---

<sup>49</sup> The headline targets relevant to economic equality are: 75% of the population aged 20-64 should be employed, 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D, the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree, and 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty than in 2010.

- G. Further observing that the amount of households with a negative net worth and at risk of poverty have increased strongly following the aforementioned crises<sup>50</sup>,
- H. Concerned that the top 10% of households in Europe own 50% of total wealth, while the poorest 40% hold only little over 3% of the total wealth in Europe,
- I. Alarmed that the process of wealth accumulation through inheritance leads to increasing wealth inequality across generations,
- J. Fully aware that wealth accumulation is not only associated with wealth inequality, but also with economic growth,
- K. Conscious that the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) requirements<sup>51</sup> may significantly limit the ability of EU countries to independently shape their fiscal policy,
- L. Deeply concerned by research drawing relationships between income inequality and social and health problems, such as high crime rates, increased amounts of drug abuse, decreased children's educational performance, and increased homicide rates,
- M. Further acknowledging that extreme economic inequality may lead to civil unrest,
- N. Expressing its concerns about the negative effects of consistently low or high-interest rates on the economy<sup>52</sup>,
- O. Bearing in mind that the European Central Bank (ECB) aims to avoid persistently high or low inflation by maintaining inflation rates below, but close to, 2% over the medium term,
- P. Believing that the poor are disproportionately affected by persistently high inflation due to continuous price increases on consumer goods,
- Q. Noting with regret that the equality of opportunity is strongly influenced by factors such as gender, ethnicity, place of residence, socio-economic status and age,
- R. Deeply disturbed by the different tax deductions, exemptions and credits like reduced taxation of capital gains and tax relief on mortgage interest that mainly benefit wealthy social groups,

---

<sup>50</sup> The EU countries with more than 20% of the population at risk of poverty are: Romania, Serbia, Latvia, Lithuania, Spain, Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece and Croatia.

<sup>51</sup> Examples of Stability and Growth Pact requirements are that the budget deficit may not exceed 3% of GDP, the debt-to-GDP-ratio may not to exceed 60%, compliance with the set medium-term budgetary objectives, or compliance with excessive deficit procedures.

<sup>52</sup> Consistently high-interest rates may limit the ability of individuals to borrow for example a mortgage and may lead to under-investment amongst firms. Contrastingly, low inflation may lead to over-investment within the economy and may lead to excessive consumer debt.

- S. Observing that low income households spend a greater share of their income on core needs, such as housing, food and transport and thus have less or no disposable income for wealth accumulation,
- T. Deeply conscious that low-quality education and poverty may lead to a less qualified workforce and a high unemployment rate;

### **The Europe 2030 strategy**

- 1. Recommends the European Commission to succeed the Europe 2020 strategy with a strategy for the next decade named the Europe 2030 strategy<sup>53</sup>;
- 2. Calls upon the European Commission to emphasise a fair and stable economy characterised by sustainable and inclusive economic growth whilst decreasing economic inequalities across society in defining the objective for this Europe 2030 strategy;
- 3. Instructs the European Commission to define the aforementioned Europe 2030 strategy objective as:
  - a. creating a fair and stable economy through policies aimed at social inclusion and equal opportunities,
  - b. achieving inclusive and sustainable growth through policies aimed at income redistribution, increasing innovation and improving employment opportunities,
  - c. decreasing economic inequality across society through improving education, reducing poverty, and taking action in the area of wealth distribution;

### **Fair and stable economy**

- 4. Appreciates the non standard monetary policy decisions made by the ECB to avoid deflation and further improve the financing conditions in the euro area;
- 5. Reminds the ECB of the importance for these non-standard monetary policy decisions to be gradually phased out as inflation and investment returns to sustainable levels;

---

<sup>53</sup> The Europe 2030 strategy is a proposed strategy by the proposing committee as a follow up on the Europe 2020 strategy. However, this term should not be confused with existing and unrelated strategies, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the 2030 Energy Strategy.



6. Invites the European Commission to set discrimination reduction targets as a part of the Europe 2030 strategy in order to encourage merit-based selection during application processes for tertiary education and employment;
7. Recommends European governments to require employers to make salary information publicly available whilst ensuring the data is not personally identifiable;
8. Supports the use of progressive taxation by European governments as a means of income redistribution;

### **Inclusive and sustainable growth**

9. Further calls upon European governments to create and support training programmes for young people lacking relevant job experience in order to ensure employability;
10. Encourages the European Commission to include a target for national governments to spend 3% of GDP on R&D in the Europe 2030 strategy;
11. Emphasises the importance of European countries encouraging students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in tertiary education in order to gradually reach the R&D spending target;
12. Invites additional lenience in the requirement for Greece to achieve a primary surplus of 3.5% of GDP over the medium-term under the European Stability Mechanism to allow further investment in R&D and ensure better working and living conditions in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights;
13. Strongly confirms the importance of the SGP requirements in order to achieve sustainable economic growth;

### **Decreasing inequality**

14. Approves of the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights as it renews the process of convergence towards better working and living conditions in the EU in line with the aforementioned objectives for the Europe 2030 strategy;
15. Further encourages the implementation of the Social Fairness Package following the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights;

16. Invites the European Commission and European governments to improve education quality by setting targets for the accessibility of lower and secondary education, whilst simultaneously aiming to improve the overall quality of education;
17. Recommends European governments to take action in the area of wealth distribution through progressive inheritance taxation and wealth taxation followed by redistribution through welfare policies;
18. Approves of European governments using tax rebates as a means of ensuring full time jobs pay at least a wage above the national poverty line.

## Fact Sheet

**Economic inequality** is the difference found in various measures of economic well-being among individuals in a country.

**Economic mobility** is the ability of an individual, family or group to improve their economic status, usually measured in income.

**Wealth inequality** is the unequal distribution of assets in a group of people.

**Consumption inequality** is the difference in the amount of goods and services purchased by individuals.

**Inequality of opportunity** is when people living in the same society do not have access to the same opportunities. High levels of inequality of opportunity mean that people's circumstances at birth determine to a significant degree the educational qualifications they obtain, the type of job they get and, ultimately, their level of earnings.

**Income inequality** is the extent to which income is distributed unevenly in a group of people. More specifically, it is not just the money received through pay, but all the money received from employment, investments, savings, state benefits, pensions and rent.

**Wealth accumulation** the investment of money or any financial asset by an individual or household with the goal of increasing the initial monetary value of said asset as a financial return whether in the form of profit, rent, interest, royalties or capital gains

**An unemployed person** is defined as someone aged 15 to 74 (in Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway: 16 to 74 years); without work during the reference week; available to start work within the next two weeks (or has already found a job to start within the next three months); and actively having sought employment at some time during the last four weeks. The **unemployment rate** is the number of people unemployed as a percentage of the labour force.

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

### **Following on from trials in Finland and Italy, should European governments consider the Universal Basic Income approach in their efforts to reform the welfare state?**

#### **Submitted by:**

Tengizi Bakuridze (GE), Bui Thanh Binh (CZ), Inez Brogowska (PL), Diogo Gandara (LU), Define Güzey (TR), Theodoulos Hadjimatheou (CY), Vahagn Hakobyan (AM), Essi Helminen (FI), Eva Jannes (BE), Florian Katzmaier (AT), Nicole Leonetti (ES), Konstantinos Nikolaou (GR), Calum Silcock (UK), Nina Steffen (CH), Alyona Sychova (RU), Tanel Talumaa (EE), Aleksander Masternak, Chairperson (PL)

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

- A. Aware that 9.8% of EU's population currently live below the poverty line,
- B. Concerned that due to widespread zero-hours contracts<sup>54</sup>, Member States' published employment rates may not fully represent the number of citizens earning a living wage<sup>55</sup>,
- C. Noting that Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a type of social security taking the form of a periodic cash payment delivered unconditionally to all without means-testing<sup>56</sup> or work requirement,
- D. Realising that the current administration of European government welfare systems consume a large amount of the funding allocated to said welfare systems,
- E. Bearing in mind that UBI promotes individual equality in society and enhances social mobility through the redistribution of wealth,
- F. Taking into consideration that experts and stakeholders from businesses, trade unions, and interest groups are concerned about the design of welfare state benefits that can result in the creation of poverty traps<sup>57</sup> in the current welfare system,

<sup>54</sup> Zero-Hours Contract is a work contract where the worker is not guaranteed hours of work and only works when their employer requires them to do so. 900,000 workers in the UK rely on a job with a zero-hours contract so have varied and unpredictable incomes.

<sup>55</sup> Living Wage living wage is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs.

<sup>56</sup> Means Test is a condition for receiving a state benefit that checks the income level of the beneficiary.

<sup>57</sup> Poverty trap a situation in which an increase in someone's income is offset by a consequent loss of state benefits, leaving them no better off.

- G. Expressing concern that in a number of countries, such as the UK, citizens are only eligible for certain benefits when actively seeking employment,
- H. Alarmed by the high instance of non take-up<sup>58</sup> of benefits, such as the estimated 86% in Latvia due to poor health conditions, homelessness, stigma and bureaucracy,
- I. Recognising that countries with functioning and progressive transfer programmes<sup>59</sup> can benefit more from improving their existing welfare systems than implementing UBI, whereas countries affected by high relative poverty and less progressive programmes could profit from using UBI,
- J. Noting with regret that 77% of Europeans do not feel they fully understand what the UBI approach is,
- K. Deeply concerned by the Oxford study (2013) which predicts that by 2030, 47% of all jobs will be automated, resulting in high unemployment,
- L. Reminds states that corporations' increased productivity resulting from increases in automation produces greater taxable income,
- M. Pointing out the difficulty of determining the right UBI grant level in a given European country due to the variation in living costs within a country<sup>60</sup>,
- N. Fully aware that European citizens are concerned about the possible negative effects of the UBI model, such as increased levels of immigration,
- O. Encouraged by experiments from Canada, testing individuals' tendency to work after the introduction of UBI<sup>61</sup>,
- P. Keeping in mind the EU raises awareness about UBI by hosting and co-financing several conferences and workshops such as BIEN<sup>62</sup>, UBIE<sup>63</sup>, EMIN<sup>64</sup> and EAPN<sup>65</sup>,

---

<sup>58</sup> Non take-up refers to the instance where people who are eligible for welfare benefits fail to claim them.

<sup>59</sup> Progressive Systems in the context of redistributive programmes, means that those most in need benefit proportionally more.

<sup>60</sup> For example, in the UK the cost of living in London is 3 times higher than in the North East.

<sup>61</sup> The Manitoba experiments showed that only two groups worked less, adolescents and young mothers.

<sup>62</sup> Basic Income European Network is a network whose aim is to link individuals and groups interested in basic income.

<sup>63</sup> Unconditional Basic Income Europe - an international network connecting activists and initiatives from 25 countries who advocate for the implementation of Basic Income in Europe and its recognition as a Universal Human Right.

<sup>64</sup> European Minimum Income Network - an informal Network of organisations and individuals committed to achieve the progressive realisation of the right to adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes.

<sup>65</sup> European Anti-Poverty Network is the largest European network of national, regional and local networks

- Q. Acknowledging that former UBI experiments have weaknesses regarding their scale, experimental duration, and the Hawthorne effect<sup>66</sup>,
- R. Calls upon the European Commission to clarify the technicalities and legislation of UBI to avoid denying EU citizens access to UBI solely due to differences between Member States in legislation concerning residence and citizenship;

## Experiments

- 1. Endorses European governments that conduct country-specific research to determine whether implementing UBI would make the welfare system more progressive;
- 2. Seeks UBI research to be carried out over larger populations and geographical areas through Randomised Control Trials<sup>67</sup>;
- 3. Requests the European Commission to partially fund further UBI research projects in Member States;

## Features of UBI

- 4. Encourages European governments to consider a UBI approach to welfare state reform, if the large scale and country-specific experiments prove successful, that would:
  - a. replace some welfare state benefits,
  - b. reduce associated administrative costs and bureaucracy,
  - c. secure benefits for those who need and are eligible for them yet have failed to claim them,
  - d. ensure financial security and counter unemployment, especially in the case of large scale automation;
- 5. Notes that the introduction of UBI by European states could redistribute the benefits from automation and provide vulnerable workers with financial security;

---

aims to put the fight against poverty high on the agenda of the EU and to ensure cooperation at EU level aimed at the eradication of poverty and social exclusion.

<sup>66</sup> The Hawthorne effect is a term referring to the tendency of some people to work harder and perform better when they are participants in an experiment.

<sup>67</sup> A Randomised Control Trial is a type of experiment which reduces bias through comparing the group being tested with a control group.



6. Recognises that the additional taxable income stemming from companies that use automation technologies could be used to fund UBI programmes;
7. Suggests to European governments with welfare systems that provide high coverage<sup>68</sup> and low progressivity to consider conducting large-scale UBI experiments;

## **Initiatives**

8. Urges the Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBIE)<sup>69</sup> to further organise regular meetings in European cities to promote basic income awareness;
9. Invites the Directorate-General for Communication<sup>70</sup> to cooperate with the European Parliament Liaison Offices<sup>71</sup> and hold debates between EU citizens and experts on UBI and welfare state issues.

---

<sup>68</sup> Coverage refers to the percentage of a population covered by welfare benefits.

<sup>69</sup> Unconditional Basic Income Europe is an example of an interest group that raises awareness about UBI in the EU by producing feasibility reports and assessing the credibility of the policy.

<sup>70</sup> The Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) is an administration branch of the European Commission that communicates the political nature of the institution and the work carried out by its members.

<sup>71</sup> European Parliament Liaison Offices in Member States are responsible for raising awareness on the European Parliament and the EU, and to encourage people to vote in European parliamentary elections.

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

**With challenges such as underpopulation and ‘brain drain’ in donor countries, and ghettoisation and social discord in host countries, how should governments manage the difficulties associated with European migration, while also allowing the benefits of free movement to continue to be realised?**

### **Submitted by:**

Charles Ballion (FR), Beatrice Beretta (IT), Hannah Duthie (UK), Constantina Evangelou (CY), Filip Frey (PL), Pauline Gils (BE), Anders Holst Jakobsen (DK), Mehmet Semi Kethuda (TR), Kristiina Kisler (EE), Daniela Matias (CH), Mohammad Ziyad Mkhallati (LT), Anna Maria Sayós Artísó (ES), Maud Wangsmo (LU), Maria Eleni Zigka (GR), Razvan Lacatusu, Chairperson (RO);

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

- A. Observing that 20.4 million individuals reside in a different Member State from the one where they were born,
- B. Reaffirming intra-european migration as the action of either EU-nationals or legally resident European Economic Area (EEA)<sup>72</sup> citizens making use of their right to free movement by moving from one Member State to another,
- C. Referring to brain drain as highly trained or qualified citizens migrating to and working in another Member State,
- D. Acknowledging that migrants are often temporarily employed or hired for jobs they are overqualified for due to unrecognised qualifications,
- E. Conscious of the pressure put on social welfare systems in host countries caused by benefit tourism<sup>73</sup>,
- F. Alarmed by labour trafficking within European countries resulting in migrants being forced into insecure and unsafe working conditions,

<sup>72</sup> The European Economic Area is constituted by all EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway and it allows them to be part of the EU's single market.

<sup>73</sup> Benefit tourism refers to the the right to free movement of persons within the EU being used by individuals, “benefit tourists”, to take advantage of more generous welfare systems.

- G. Noting with regret migrants' struggles in employment and social integration are amplified by the language barriers and substandard language classes,
- H. Gravely concerned by the rise of euroscepticism intensified by far right parties capitalising on the increase in xenophobia towards, discrimination, and social isolation of migrants,
- I. Aware that the demographic disadvantages faced by donor countries leads to an overreliance on older workers and less reduces the sustainability of state pension systems,
- J. Bearing in mind the losses of economic and social resources invested into migrants by donor countries, in the absence of remittances<sup>74</sup> or citizens' return,
- K. Noting with concern that donor countries' financial landscapes are limited and do not foster entrepreneurship, hence enhancing the brain drain phenomenon,
- L. Recognising the ineffective government measures aimed at improving living standards and creating successful programmes on return,
- M. Deploing the lack of cooperation between Member States concerning intra-european migration,
- N. Stressing the differences in minimum wages representing an opportunity for social dumping<sup>75</sup>, through which companies are able to avoid legal constraints,
- O. Realising the lack of data and information regarding citizens' migration motives and circumstances;

### **Welfare and Employment in Host Countries**

- 1. Recommends the use of Europass<sup>76</sup> by migrants as a complement to national certifications for increasing the transparency of their qualifications;
- 2. Directs Member States to impose time limits on unemployment benefits, taking into consideration each migrant's qualifications and field of work;
- 3. Asks the European Commission to monitor the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on criminalising labour trafficking;

---

<sup>74</sup> Remittances represents the household income generated by economic activity in another than the home economy, which subsequently is transferred to the account of the household in the home economy.

<sup>75</sup> Social dumping is a term used as a way of condemning companies that seek to maximise profit through lower labour costs in another Member State, or within the same country or company.

<sup>76</sup> Europass contains five documents to make skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe.

## Social Integration in Host Countries

4. Invites the Council of Europe<sup>77</sup> to further develop the European Qualifications Framework<sup>78</sup> by developing a concrete study guide for achieving an internationally recognised language qualification;
5. Encourages Member States to increase the quality of trainings and qualifications provided by adopting and implementing the European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training<sup>79</sup>;
6. Calls upon non-governmental organisations such as the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises to:
  - a. recruit volunteers responsible for conversation classes with migrants,
  - b. organise multicultural events between locals and migrants;

## Donor countries

7. Supports Member States to implement government initiatives facilitating migrants' return, following the example of Estonia's "Work in Estonia" and "Study in Estonia";
8. Suggests Member States' governments to enhance the relationships between educational institutions and local enterprises, developing vocational schemes and providing job opportunities;
9. Endorses public lectures and conferences with experts on the field of brain drain and its effects;
10. Resolves to foster entrepreneurship in donor countries by:
  - a. small and medium enterprises seeking funds through the existing European Investment Project Portal,
  - b. start-up entrepreneurs taking advantage of Startup Europe Club,
  - c. encouraging all Member States to meet the EU targets for launching a startup<sup>80</sup>;

---

<sup>77</sup> The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the EU.

<sup>78</sup> The European Qualifications Framework is a common European reference framework whose purpose is to make qualifications more readable and understandable across different countries and systems.

<sup>79</sup> The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training is a European instrument designed to support lifelong learning, the mobility of learners and the flexibility of learning pathways to achieve qualifications.

<sup>80</sup> The EU targets for launching a startup aim for set up time to be no more than 3 working days, costing less than EUR 100, completion of all procedures through a single administrative body and all registration formalities online.

## Pan-European Measures

11. Appeals to the European Fund for Strategic Investment<sup>81</sup> to focus the Juncker Plan<sup>82</sup> towards donor countries;
12. Trusts all Member States to establish a minimum wage of 60% of the national median income;
13. Instructs the European Commission to expand the European Employment Services<sup>83</sup> platform and network by:
  - a. including language requirements in each job offer posted,
  - b. facilitating access to the platform's advisers;
14. Requests that public employment services across Member States cooperate with the aim of sharing data and translating qualifications.

---

<sup>81</sup> The European Fund for Strategic Investment represents a EUR 21 billion guarantee programme launched to support EU investments by July 2018.

<sup>82</sup> The Juncker Plan focuses on three objectives: to remove obstacles to investment; to provide visibility and technical assistance to investment projects; and to make smarter use of financial resources.

<sup>83</sup> European Employment Services is a cooperation network whose objective is to facilitate the free movement of workers within the EEA.

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

**As awareness of mental health issues such as depression and anxiety grows but the prevalence of mental disorders remains high, what steps can be taken to promote good mental health among young people in Europe?**

### Submitted by:

Lana Bilanishvili (GE), Efe Tan Çıbıkçı (TR), Elsa Donnat (CH), Julia Galera (PL), Chiara Greco (IT), Raphael Marangos (CY), Emma Mirzoyan (AM), Andrea Orza (RO), Ursula Rinta-Jouppi (FI), Zala Stošicki (SI), Vasiliki Triantafyllou (GR), Emma Van Laethem (BE), Gabija Veličkaitė (LT), Jonathan Wurdak (AT), Kira Zhukova (UA), Sabrina Mellerowic, Chairperson (DE)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with deep concern that the lifetime prevalence<sup>84</sup> of mental disorders<sup>85</sup> in Europe is estimated at one fourth of the general population,
- B. Gravely concerned by the high financial costs people affected by mental disorders cause for European governments<sup>86</sup> and European workplaces<sup>87</sup>,
- C. Recognising that young people are at risk of developing a mental disorder in different environments such as school, family, social peer groups, and the workplace,
- D. Pointing out the diverse mental health policies in European countries,
- E. Observing insufficient sharing of best practices between different European countries,
- F. Aware that the social stigma towards mental disorders and discrimination faced by those who suffer from them leads to unemployment, avoidance of professional help, self-stigma<sup>88</sup>, and loss of self-esteem<sup>89</sup>,

<sup>84</sup> Lifetime prevalence is the proportion of a population who, at some point in life has ever suffered from a mental disorder.

<sup>85</sup> Mental disorders are generally characterised by some combination of abnormal thoughts, emotions, behaviour and relationships with others.

<sup>86</sup> In 2010 the direct and indirect costs of mental disorders in the EU were estimated at EUR 798 billion. Both the direct and indirect costs of mental disorders are expected to double by 2030.

<sup>87</sup> Mental disorders cost European workplaces in average EUR 92 billion.

<sup>88</sup> Self stigma is an internalised stigma that diminishes self esteem and self efficacy.

<sup>89</sup> Unemployment, self-stigmatisation and loss of self-esteem are risk factors for numerous mental disorders including major depression.



- G. Regretting that the lack of adequate education about mental health in the general school curricula reduces awareness of mental health issues and prevents people from accessing the necessary treatment,
- H. Seriously concerned that certain media content can generate misconceptions of mental disorders which increases the stigma around such illnesses,
- I. Realising that young people's self esteem is negatively influenced by social media platforms displaying unrealistic ideals in different aspects of life,
- J. Noting with regret the widespread lack of attention given to the prevention of mental disorders,
- K. Concerned by the fact that 57% of people with mental health disorders are treated by only using psychopharmacological treatment<sup>90</sup> without any alternative forms of treatment such as psychotherapy<sup>91</sup>,
- L. Alarmed by the delay in psychological treatment caused by the lack of an algorithm<sup>92</sup> for primary care specialists:
  - i. recognising mental health issues
  - ii. referring to mental health professionals
- M. Seriously concerned by the treatment gap<sup>93</sup> in addressing mental health issues due to:
  - i. a lack of professionals,
  - ii. the long waiting time for therapy,
- N. Alarmed that the lack of confidentiality for patients of mental disorders in many European states causes problems when applying for a work permit after receiving mental health care,
- O. Fully aware that community based services<sup>94</sup> providing care for people suffering from mental disorders receive insufficient support by national governments,

<sup>90</sup> Psychopharmacological Treatment is associated with numerous side-effects such as insomnia or weight gain.

<sup>91</sup> Psychotherapy is the treatment of a behavior disorders, mental illness, or any other condition by psychological means. Patients may see themselves and their problems more realistically and learn to cope effectively with them. Some advantages of psychotherapy compared to psychopharmacological treatment are efficiency on the long-term as well as less side effects.

<sup>92</sup> An algorithm is a guideline that provides clear and targeted indices for diagnosing and treating different mental disorders.

<sup>93</sup> The treatment gap for mental disorders refers to the difference that exists between the number of people who need care and those who receive care.

<sup>94</sup> Community-based mental health care encompasses a wide variety of programmes and services designed to meet local needs. These programmes are delivered primarily by community agencies and sometimes through hospitals

- P. Contemplating the deficient research on alternative treatment strategies including psychotherapy and psychosocial rehabilitation.
1. Encourages European states to support local authorities and communities in creating and promoting safe environments for young people such as social events and community clubs;
  2. Calls upon Mental Health Europe (MHE)<sup>95</sup> to initiate conventions gathering European mental health professionals:
    - a. emphasising the advantages of alternative treatments such as psychotherapy,
    - b. encouraging cooperation and sharing of effective practices;

### **Stigmatisation and Awareness**

3. Suggests support for projects such as “7 cups of tea”<sup>96</sup> through the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF);<sup>97</sup>
4. Invites European states to further include mental health education in their school curricula;
5. Further encourages MHE to:
  - a. increase their social media presence through advertising strategies such as partnerships with influential social media personalities, providing reliable sources of information on mental health issues,
  - b. include artistic projects, such as films, displaying a realistic picture of mental health issues in their campaigns such as “Each of Us”<sup>98</sup>;
6. Asks the World Health Organisation (WHO) to expand their social media channels such as YouTube to include content on mental health issues;

---

or health clinics. The majority of programmes provided by community-based agencies are designed to serve the most vulnerable and most severely mentally ill.

<sup>95</sup> Mental Health Europe is a European non-governmental network organisation committed to the promotion of positive mental health, the prevention of mental distress, the improvement of care, advocacy for social inclusion and the protection of the rights of (ex)users of mental health services, persons with psychosocial disabilities, their families and carers.

<sup>96</sup> 7 Cups of Tea is an on-demand emotional health and well-being service. They anonymously and securely connect real people to real listeners in one-on-one chat.

<sup>97</sup> The European Structural and Investment Funds are funds that work together to support economic, social and territorial cohesion and deliver the objectives of the EU's Europe 2020 strategy to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

<sup>98</sup> “Each of us” is Mental Health Europe’s anti-stigma and discrimination campaign. The main objective of the campaign is to raise awareness of mental health issues.

## Healthcare Systems

7. Supports the recommendations of the WHO's European Mental Health Action plan<sup>99</sup> 2013 - 2020 on the prevention of mental disorders to:
  - a. create incentives for employers to reduce psychosocial and job related stress, enhance stress management and introduce simple programmes to promote well-being in the workplace,
  - b. encourage optimal organisation of work and working hours to achieve work-life balance,
  - c. promote healthy nutrition and physical activity through sport and other activities,
  - d. offer universal and targeted mental health promotion programmes in schools including early identification of emotional problems in children and action on bullying;
8. Requests the employment of more mental health care professionals at educational institutions and workplaces;
9. Proposes that European states ensure that young people in particular receive regular mental health check-ups;
10. Urges medical schools in European states to provide adequate mental health training to primary caregivers to be able to identify the symptoms of mental disorders and refer patients to specialists;
11. Recommends that European states allocate a higher percentage of their public health budget to their the employment of a greater number of mental health professionals;
12. Recommends the EU to draw attention to easily accessible mental health solutions such as mobile phone applications by:
  - a. cooperating with technology application companies which focus on mental health such as Calm and Headspace to ensure deals for cheaper prices and subscription fees for patients,
  - b. raising awareness of their existence by updating and informing doctors about them so they can recommend them to patients;

---

<sup>99</sup> The WHO's European Mental Health Action Plan proposes effective action to strengthen mental health and well-being.

13. Urges all European countries to adjust and enforce national legislation to ensure that medical records relating to mental health are exclusively accessible to professional physical and psychological health staff;
14. Endorses the European Commission's joint action plan on mental health<sup>100</sup> and wellbeing recommendations to maximise the use of relevant EU financial programmes to support the deinstitutionalisation<sup>101</sup> and social inclusion of people with mental disorders.

---

<sup>100</sup> The Joint Action for Mental Health and Well-being aims to build a framework for action in mental health policy at the European level.

<sup>101</sup> Deinstitutionalisation is the process of transferring patients with mental disorders or developmental disabilities from long-term institutions, which isolate the patient, to more integrated community-based mental health services.

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

**As the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme comes to a conclusion in 2020, how should the EU continue to support the development of the region while also protecting the sea's ecosystem?**

**Submitted by:**

Daniele Amici (IT), Nuriniso Asoeva (LT), Sofia Clare Daley Sevilla (ES), Lisa Fuchsberger (AT), Elene Kalandadze (GE), Vira Kondratyuk (UA), Alicja Matusiak (PL), Emanuel Miller (CH), Georgios Mourgos (GR), Cristian Peca (BE), Aarni Rantanen (FI), Anne Seeneha Henriksen (DK), Adil Arda Yılmaz (TR), Elina Mäkelä, (Chairperson, FI).

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Acknowledging that the ending of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme<sup>102</sup> in 2020 raises questions about the future of Interreg and the direction of EU strategy in the Baltic Sea Region,
- B. Noting with regret the difficulties posed in tracking Baltic policy changes by the absence of a coordinated monitoring body for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)<sup>103</sup>,
- C. Recognises that a lack of detail and clarity in the descriptions of projects funded or supported by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region severely restricts project evaluations,
- D. Noting with regret the prevalence of short-term projects restricted to a certain area and a need for long-term pan-European projects within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme,
- E. Aware that differing political attitudes and social contexts contribute to varying environmental policies amongst Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries and partner countries,

---

<sup>102</sup> The Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 is an agreement between the Member States Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and the northern parts of Germany as well as partner countries Norway, Belarus and the northwest regions of the Russian Federation. It supports integrated territorial development and cooperation for a more innovative, better accessible, and sustainable Baltic Sea region.

<sup>103</sup> The EUSBSR is an agreement between the Member States and the European Commission to strengthen cooperation between the countries bordering the Baltic Sea in order to meet the common challenges and to benefit from common opportunities facing the region.

- F. Observes that current political relations and a complex history between the Russian Federation and the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries could result in issues with cooperation and the joint implementation of policies,
- G. Acknowledges that different states of economic development in the Baltic Sea Region countries can challenge regional cooperation and programmes aimed at the region as a whole,
- H. Concerned by the hindrance to economic growth caused by having 27-30% youth unemployment and a high dependency ratio on the older generations in the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Countries,
- I. Alarmed by the lack of investment in infrastructure and capital equipment in Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries such as Lithuania,
- J. Further alarmed by high rates of emigration and the resulting brain drain from the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries<sup>104</sup>,
- K. Noting with concern that convenient and inexpensive industrial practices are often more harmful to the environment than their sustainable counterparts,
- L. Acknowledging that enforcing environmental sustainability on industries raises manufacturing and operation costs and can result in companies migrating to geographical areas without such regulations,
- M. Fully alarmed by the fact that the Baltic Sea ecosystem is endangered by unsustainable shipping and fishing practices causing negative side effects such as: air and water pollution, marine litter, waste water, oil spills, high SO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>105</sup>, and loss of biodiversity,
- N. Deeply concerned by the acceleration of eutrophication<sup>106</sup> in the Baltic Sea, caused by excessive use of fertilisers and the growth of algae,
- O. Taking into account the impairment of Baltic inflow<sup>107</sup> caused by:

---

<sup>104</sup> Brain drain is the departure of educated or professional people from one country, economic sector, or field for another usually for better pay or living conditions.

<sup>105</sup> Sulfur dioxide is a gas which reacts easily with other substances to form harmful compounds, such as sulfuric acid, sulfurous acid and sulfate particles. About 99% of the sulfur dioxide in air comes from human sources.

<sup>106</sup> Eutrophication is a process driven by the enrichment of water by nutrients, especially compounds of nitrogen and/or phosphorus, leading to increased growth, primary production and biomass of algae, changes in the balance of organisms, and water quality degradation. The consequences of eutrophication are undesirable if they degrade ecosystem health and biodiversity and/or the sustainable provision of goods and services.

- i. careless positioning of wind turbines,
  - ii. the warming of sea waters,
- P. Conscious that a reduction of trading ship emissions is limited by a lack of sufficient environmentally friendly fuel alternatives,
- Q. Bearing in mind that the Baltic Sea holds an estimated 40,000 tonnes of chemical ammunition dumped after World War II and the expansion of construction projects from Baltic States increases the risk of releasing harmful chemicals into the water,
- R. Noting with regret a lack of knowledge on different forms of pollution, environmental damage, and the Baltic ecosystem in non-Baltic Member States;

### **Interreg and regional cooperation**

1. Instructs the European Commission to extend the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme for the period 2021-2027, under the provisions set forth in this resolution;
2. Encourages Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries to agree on a joint directive for a basic framework on the execution of environmental policies for the period 2021-2027;
3. Requests the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme enhance project progress transparency through:
  - a. issuing annual reports on project progress,
  - b. releasing relevant project data in a timely manner;
4. Instructs the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme to form separate application processes for local and pan-Baltic projects, with quotas for each;
5. Directs the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme to expand successfully selected region-level projects to long-term pan-Baltic projects;
6. Encourages Member States involved with the EUSBSR<sup>108</sup> to commission an independent audit to publish biennial progress reports tracing intervention logic<sup>109</sup> progress between the EUSBSR strategic objectives, flagship objectives, and developmental progress in the region;

---

<sup>107</sup> Baltic inflow is a pulse of oxygen-rich saltwater in the Baltic Sea that flows through the Danish Strait. It is vital for the biological life of the sea, as it alleviates oxygen deficiency and eutrophication by mixing the water in the otherwise stationary basins.

<sup>108</sup> The Member States involved in the EUSBSR are Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

<sup>109</sup> Project intervention logic defines the project objectives, project contributions, and expected project results.



7. Invites the European Commission to establish educational programmes covering successful and sustainable implementations of industrial policy for environmental and agricultural sector stakeholders,
8. Further encourages the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries and the Russian Federation to participate in historical retrospection programmes with the purpose of alleviating tensions between the stakeholders by bringing forth different views and experiences on sensitive events and disputes;

### **Development of the Baltic Sea Region**

9. Recommends Interreg not decrease its 2021-2027 Baltic Sea Region Programme funding from the 2014-2020 budget of EUR 264 million;
10. Further recommends that the European Commission increases investment through the Connecting Europe Facility<sup>110</sup> for the development of infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region;
11. Seeks for cooperation between the Horizon 2020 Programme<sup>111</sup> and the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries to supply funding and incentives for startups in the Baltic Sea Region,
12. Calls for the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries to form a comprehensive trade agreement for the exchange of raw materials and capital equipment<sup>112</sup> within the region;
13. Reaffirms the importance of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Strategic Priority three, 'sustainable transport', and the EUSBSR's core objective, 'connect the region', for establishing more effective infrastructure and transportation links;
14. Suggests the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries follow the example of Finland in combating brain drain of scientific researchers by:
  - a. boosting the level of education and research,
  - b. promoting internationalisation,
  - c. providing an open working environment,
  - d. moving to the forefront of developing skills ecosystems;

<sup>110</sup> The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is a key EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level.

<sup>111</sup> Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding, promising more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

<sup>112</sup> Capital equipment is items of considerable value and durability, other than real estate or software, that are used to provide a service or to make, market, keep or transport products.

15. Requests that the Baltic Development Forum<sup>113</sup> make use of its platform to:
  - a. facilitate peaceful and cooperative dialogue between the Baltic Sea Region countries and Interreg Baltic Sea Region partner countries, the Russian Federation, Belarus, and Norway,
  - b. foster the creation of a common approach to environmental problems within the region between its participants,
  - c. advance regional economic growth through public-private partnerships between business, government and academia,
  - d. encourage inter-sectoral dialogue, promotion of innovative ideas and best-practice sharing for companies and investors;
16. Affirms the importance of alternative tourism<sup>114</sup> for the creation of jobs, attraction of multinational corporations and startups, and economic development of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries;

### **Environment and ecosystem**

17. Urges the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme priority on 'Management of Natural Resources' be expanded to:
  - a. include additional emphasis on the side effects of unsustainable shipping,
  - b. set limitations on regions to be used for fishing,
  - c. incorporate projects for investment in sustainable fishing methods;
18. Further urges the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries to launch a project to prevent the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea, which:
  - a. enforces the limitations and strict observation of the current usage of non-organic pesticides and fertilisers in coastal areas,
  - b. promotes the use of eco-friendly means of agriculture,
  - c. provides funding for research of eco-friendly and biodegradable pesticide and fertiliser alternatives;

---

<sup>113</sup> The Baltic Development Forum is a think-tank and high-level network for business, politics and academia in the Baltic Sea Region. We provide platforms for collaboration, publish the latest thinking, and facilitate public-private dialogue, to advance the potential for innovation, sustainable growth and competitiveness.

<sup>114</sup> Alternative forms of tourism include ecological/environmental tourism and cultural tourism, that often cause less environmental impact.

19. Supports the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries in continuing to implement less environmentally damaging fuels in shipping and encourages further research into eco-friendly fuel alternatives and shipping equipment;
20. Condemns the decision of Denmark to construct wind turbines in the Danish Strait and discourages Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries and partners from undertaking construction projects in areas restricting the Baltic inflow;
21. Approves the Interreg Baltic Sea Region countries continue their research on screening locations of construction projects or cleaning programmes for World War II chemical ammunition remains;
22. Strongly urges for the creation of an Interreg Baltic Sea Region project which hosts educational workshops for fishermen on the sensitivity of the Baltic Sea ecosystem and sustainable fishing practices;
23. Directs all Member States and Interreg Baltic Sea Region partners to collaborate with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea on the sharing of Baltic ecosystem research and formation of educational programmes focusing on the environmental issues of the Baltic Sea.

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

### **With women still in a minority in European parliaments, should European governments take measures to encourage higher levels of female participation in parliamentary elections?**

#### **Submitted by:**

Violeta García Domingo (ES), Leïla Gfeller (CH), Nikoloz Jolokhava (GE), Inna Kocharyan (AM), Caroline Love (UK), Tamara Mladenović (RS), Ajdin Polić (BA), Fiona Rechberg (AT), Célia Vadot (FR), Nuno Vilaça (PT), Ayşenur Yalçın (TR), Mariann Jürjorg, Chairperson (EE)

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

- A. Realising that in 2017 the world average for women in national parliaments was only 23,9%,
- B. Welcoming the idea of temporary quotas as a measure for improving the number of women in European parliaments,
- C. Approving a proportional representation system<sup>115</sup> for parliamentary elections,
- D. Concerned by the lack of inclusive education in some European countries, which reinforces gender stereotypes,
- E. Fully alarmed by the fact that 80% of women in politics declared access to financing as one of the biggest obstacles when entering politics,
- F. Taking into consideration that political parties play a crucial role when selecting candidates for election party lists,
- G. Bearing in mind that only 55% of female politicians are mothers,
- H. Alarmed by the prejudice towards women partly caused by the influence of media,
- I. Profoundly concerned by the fact that many women are uncomfortable expressing their personal political opinion on social media,
- J. Deeply concerned by the lack of exposure given to prominent political female figures from the past and present,

---

<sup>115</sup> Proportional representation is an electoral system that seeks to create a representative body that reflects the overall distribution of public support for each political party.

- K. Having reviewed the alarmingly negative impact of cyberbullying and harassment targeted against women, withholding them from pursuing their political career;

### **Gender equality in European governments**

1. Calls upon European governments to adopt the French government's measures regarding the law on political parity<sup>116</sup>:
  - a. strictly regulating paid commercial advertisements,
  - b. requiring candidates to appoint an independent financial representative,
  - c. providing reimbursements up to 50 percent if their campaign meets certain requirements;
2. Urges European governments to implement temporary party list quotas:
  - a. requiring that no more than 60% of candidates are of the same gender and no less than 40% of candidates are of the same gender,
  - b. ensuring that the first 20% of the candidates also meet the previously stated requirements;
3. Invites European governments to implement proportional representation in their electoral systems;
4. Instructs European governments to implement Sweden's example of shared parental leave requiring the father to take a minimum amount of time off work;
5. Seeks European governments to follow the example of the Swedish Education Act which promotes gender equality, including measures such as:
  - a. introducing impartial study materials,
  - b. organising trainings for teachers in order to equip them with the knowledge necessary to discuss gender equality with their students,
  - c. creating workshops for students to instil a focus on gender equality;

---

<sup>116</sup> Political parity is a law adopted in France that ensures equal access to political representation for both men and women.

## Awareness

6. Hopes European governments cooperate with media outlets to establish sections for sharing stories of success gathered from various societal sectors;
7. Encourages European governments to organise street exhibitions showcasing important female political figures from the past and present;
8. Suggests that the European Parliament expand the scope of the “Cyberbullying among young people”<sup>117</sup> research study to all Member States and older age groups;

## Incentives

9. Directs European governments to set up further childcare facilities;
10. Recommends that European governments work with media outlets to create opportunities for young people to express their political opinions, anonymously if desired;
11. Asks European governments to provide platforms for victims of cyberbullying and harassment to share their experiences and receive professional advice.

---

<sup>117</sup> “Cyberbullying among young people” is a study for the LIBE committee providing an overview of the extent, scope and forms of cyberbullying in the EU taking into account the age and gender of victims and perpetrators as well as the medium used.

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

**As tech giants such as Amazon, Facebook and Google increase their market share, giving them access to a wealth of user data and making it more difficult for start-ups to innovate and enter the market, should European regulators act to restrain their monopoly power and allow for greater competition?**

### Submitted by:

Artur Chichorro (PT), Jonathan Douglas (UK), Marta Estallo (ES), Diana Hakobyan (AM), Marts Ivaskis (LV), Asad Khan (IE), Michael Kozák (CZ), Thibaud Mabut (CH), Romane Petitjean (FR), Sophie Plassen (DE), Stiina Salumets (EE), Theodora Steiner (AT), Tuncer Yalcin (TR), Ask Espensønn Øren (NO), Kevin Boland (IE)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the low success rate of start-up companies across the EU in comparison to the USA,
- B. Noting with regret the dependency of consumers on the services of tech giants,
- C. Keeping in mind that competition is a basis for innovation,
- D. Acknowledging that certain tech giants<sup>118</sup> benefit from network effects<sup>119</sup> driven by personal data collection<sup>120</sup>,
- E. Disturbed that the lack of available personal data needed for the improvement of algorithms<sup>121</sup> is creating a barrier of entry for start-ups,
- F. Profoundly concerned that third party corporations, such as in the case of Cambridge Analytica, are exploiting social media platforms<sup>122</sup> at the expense of citizen's personal autonomy,

<sup>118</sup> Tech Giants are companies such as Apple, Facebook and Google that are the world leading providers of nearly all digital platforms and, as a consequence, hold a large influence over the content that users view across digital platforms.

<sup>119</sup> Network effect is the impact that the number of users of a platform has on the value created for each user.

<sup>120</sup> Personal data is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable living individual.

<sup>121</sup> Algorithms are a process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations, especially by a computer.

<sup>122</sup> Social Media Platforms are websites and applications for communicating informally with friends and finding other people that share similar interests.



- G. Deeply concerned by the lack of competition due to the monopolistic behaviour<sup>123</sup> of tech giants such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon in their respective industries,
- H. Realising that the tech giants often disregard existing regulation due to weak punishments as seen with repeated violations of legislation,
- I. Stressing the need for a policy of harmonisation<sup>124</sup> between the EU and other international stakeholders regarding digital market<sup>125</sup> cooperation policies;

### **Encouraging start-ups**

- 1. Urges the European Commission prioritises the allocation of existing funds towards tech start-ups for purchasing data in already existing data marketplaces<sup>126</sup> similar to lota;
- 2. Asks the European Commission to create an online platform that facilitates joint ventures between startups and established companies;
- 3. Invites bodies such as Startup Europe<sup>127</sup> and EU Start-Up Services<sup>128</sup> to focus efforts towards tech start-ups to encourage sustainable growth in the digital sector;
- 4. Calls upon Member States to educate and support potential entrepreneurs on topics such as innovation culture, market research, finance and litigation;

### **Access to data and privacy**

- 5. Requests tech firms to regularly notify users about their right to access and download the entirety of their personal data;
- 6. Appeals to the Data Transparency Lab<sup>129</sup> to collaborate with the EU to further research personal data transparency;

---

<sup>123</sup> Monopolistic Behaviours are actions taken by a company to restrict output and increase prices through restricting and reducing competition and making it harder for new businesses to enter the market.

<sup>124</sup> Harmonisation Policies are legislations or regulations put into place to create common standards across similar international markets.

<sup>125</sup> Digital Market, sometimes called an electronic marketplace, is an e-commerce site where third-party companies can sell their products or services to consumers. All of the transactions are processed through the website owner.

<sup>126</sup> Data Marketplaces are trusted intermediaries that bring data suppliers and data users together to exchange data in a secure online platform. These businesses make revenue from the data transactions occurring in the platform.

<sup>127</sup> Startup Europe is an initiative of the European Commission, which falls under its priority of the 'Digital Single Market'.

<sup>128</sup> EU Startup Services is the leading Europe-wide consultancy exclusively supporting start-ups in their path to secure funding, at all stages of development and across any area of technology or business sector.

7. Endorses the transparency measures under the General Data Protection Regulation<sup>130</sup>;

### **Restricting monopoly power**

8. Endorses the European Commission approach to progressively increase punishments for repeat offenders of breaches of competition policy;
9. Directs the European Commission to introduce periodic audits for recently fined companies that aim to prevent further breaking of competition policy;
10. Encourages Member States to raise awareness of all existing alternatives to tech giants' services through services such as comparison websites;
11. Requests the European Commission to remove default factory setting preferences for search engines;
12. Seeks that the EU opens dialogue with non-EU countries regarding the harmonisation of digital market policies.

---

<sup>129</sup> Data Transparency Lab is an inter-institutional collaboration, seeking to create a global community of technologists, researchers, policymakers and industry representatives working to advance online personal data transparency through scientific research, innovation and design.

<sup>130</sup> General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 is a regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA). It also addresses the export of personal data outside the EU and EEA areas.

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

### **Considering the concerns of the Baltic states, Poland and Ukraine about Nord Stream II, and in light of the EU's existing energy policy goals, should European governments pursue alternative sources of energy to building the new pipeline?**

#### **Submitted by:**

Ana Abou-Arraj (ES), Lianne Blok (NL), Andria Chrysostomou (CY), Tomás Coimbra (PT), Esther Fletcher (UK), Mārtiņš-Marks Gataviņš (LV), Heather Gowman (AT), Mats Jensen (NO), Iga Karasińska (PL), Hannah Kerrigan (IR), Joel Laanemäe (EE), Emeline Lainé (FR), Nevena Ribić (RS), Fynn Schymek (DE), Laura Teixeira, Chairperson (PT)

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

- A. Concerned by the upturn in demand for natural gas<sup>131</sup> while its production is decreasing in Europe,
- B. Considering that 43% of the total natural gas needs of the EU were imported from Russia in 2017,
- C. Bearing in mind that Russia only exports gas to Europe and Turkey,
- D. Recognising the importance of natural gas during the transition period to sustainable energy<sup>132</sup>, as burning it emits 50% less CO<sub>2</sub> compared to burning coal,
- E. Noting that Denmark can veto building Nord Stream II, therefore delaying its construction, as a new route would have to be found,
- F. Deploing that the Council of the EU<sup>133</sup>, the European Commission and the Member States are divided on the matter of Nord Stream II, hardening coherent actions and the creation of a legal framework for the pipeline construction,
- G. Acknowledging the inability of emergency measures and infrastructure to respond to energy flow disruptions,

<sup>131</sup> Natural gas is a fossil fuel used as a source of energy for heating, cooking, and electricity generation.

<sup>132</sup> Sustainable energy meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own energetic needs.

<sup>133</sup> The Council of the EU is an EU institution within which government ministers of the Member States adopt laws and coordinate policies.

- H. Recalling that Nord Stream II is estimated to cause losses of up to EUR 2 billion in transit fees to Ukraine,
- I. Further recalling past conflicts between Russia and Ukraine regarding the maintenance and security of the transit routes,
- J. Concerned that the Baltic States are connected to the Russian power grid<sup>134</sup>, exacerbating their dependence on Russian energy,
- K. Keeping in mind that the Third Energy Package<sup>135</sup> does not apply to Nord Stream II since it is built offshore, thereby reducing price competition in the energy market,
- L. Observing the difficulty of transporting energy from renewable energy sources throughout Europe,
- M. Conscious that many sources of renewable energy are season-dependent, resulting in inconsistent supply;

### **Ensuring Energy Security**

1. Expresses its appreciation of the Energy Union Strategy<sup>136</sup> focusing on the diversification of energy suppliers and sources, and increasing competitiveness during the transition to renewables;
2. Recommends the European Commission to endorse the construction of Nord Stream II as a supplier of natural gas in the process of transitioning to sustainable EU produced energy;
3. Encourages the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea<sup>137</sup> and the General Court<sup>138</sup> to assess the applicability of the Third Energy Package to the Nord Stream II pipeline;

---

<sup>134</sup> Power grid is a network of electrical transmission lines connecting a multiplicity of generating stations to loads over a wide area.

<sup>135</sup> Third Energy Package is a legislative package aimed at making the energy market fully effective and to create a single EU gas and electricity market. It states that the majority owner of the infrastructure cannot be the same as the producer of the energy going through it.

<sup>136</sup> The Energy Union strategy is focused on energy security, creating a fully integrated internal energy market, improving energy efficiency, decarbonising the economy, and supporting research, innovation and competitiveness.

<sup>137</sup> International Tribunal of Law of the Sea is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to arbitrate conflicts arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention.

<sup>138</sup> The General Court is a court of the Court of Justice of the European Union that hears cases against the institutions of the EU by its Member States and citizens.

4. Instructs the European Commission to further support Ukraine through increasing the funding for the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Flagship Initiative<sup>139</sup>;
5. Requests the European Commission to develop and implement a directive to ensure resource storage capacity of 30 days for emergency energy supply in each Member State;

### **Power Grid Integration**

6. Commends the Connecting Europe Facility for Europe<sup>140</sup> in their contribution to further develop a European interconnected energy grid;
7. Welcomes the signing of the deal to connect the power grids of the Baltic States and Poland to the EU by 2025, decoupling their power grids from Russia;

### **Transitioning to Renewable Energy**

8. Calls upon the European Environmental Agency<sup>141</sup> to provide Member States with support and information concerning suitable locations and implementation of projects for alternative energy production;
9. Calls upon Member States to introduce tax benefits for companies working on developing battery charging capabilities;
10. Suggests that the European Commission invests in research and innovation of renewable energy, emphasising seasonally independent sources such as geothermal energy<sup>142</sup>;
11. Invites the Horizon 2020 Programme to expand the PROSEU project<sup>143</sup> to involve more Member States and extend it beyond the three year timeframe;
12. Further invites the Horizon 2020 programme to support private enterprises, such as ABB<sup>144</sup>, in the research and development of energy transport and management technologies.

---

<sup>139</sup> Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Flagship Initiative is a far-reaching initiative of the EU, with objectives such as providing support to Small and Medium Enterprises in the Eastern Partnership.

<sup>140</sup> Connecting Europe Facility for Europe is an EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through infrastructure investment at the European level.

<sup>141</sup> The European Environment Agency is an EU agency that provides clear, unbiased and independent information regarding the environment.

<sup>142</sup> Geothermal energy is energy in the form of heat from the Earth and it's a clean and sustainable form of energy.

<sup>143</sup> The PROSEU Project is a three year project involving eight countries which promotes the development of prosumerism through research and cooperation with key stakeholders.

<sup>144</sup> ABB is a Swedish-Swiss international corporation operating mainly in robotics, power, heavy electrical equipment and automation technology areas.

## Motion for resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties Justice and Home Affairs

**In light of the European Commission's decision to launch Article 7 disciplinary procedures against Poland, continuing concerns about civil rights in Hungary and the rise of far right parties in many national parliaments, should the EU take further action to protect the rule of law, liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Member States?**

**Submitted by:**

Hannah Allsopp (IE), Anna Beg (HR), Filip Choděra (CZ), Joao Costa (PT), Mara Marsman (NL), Andrea Perez Navaro (ES), Eva Maria Ōunapuu (EE), Özlem Ōzkan (TR), Dušan Popov (RS), Arun Smith (UK), Selina Paula Sproge (LV), Synne Syslak (NO), Leila Zakari (DE), Nikola Vraneš, Chairperson (RS)

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Convinced that the existing mechanisms for the enforcement of the rule of law in the Member States are limited and inefficient,
- B. Aware of the fact that the utilisation of Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) against a Member State is unprecedented in the EU's history,
- C. Bearing in mind the necessary unanimity among Member States to amend the treaties of the EU imposes barriers for making Article 7 TEU more effective and practicable,
- D. Expressing its concern for the existing and potential political alliances that could hinder the implementation of Article 7 TEU,
- E. Regretting the lack of frequent and thorough monitoring of the adherence to the rule of law and the respect of fundamental rights in Member States by the EU,
- F. Taking notice of the fact that previous proposals for the creation of monitoring bodies, such as the Copenhagen Commission, were dismissed,
- G. Concerned by the lack of a comprehensive mandate for the Fundamental Rights Agency,
- H. Emphasising that EU citizens are entitled, without exception, to the fundamental freedoms and rights outlined in Article 2 TEU and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights,
- I. Noting with deep concern that the emergence of participatory in certain Member States has jeopardised the democratic principle of the separation of powers,

- J. Deeply concerned by the misconception that Article 7 proceedings are motivated by political agendas,
- K. Profoundly concerned about the inconsistency of the EU's previous attempts in combating suspected violations of Article 2 TEU,
- L. Deeply conscious of the potential detrimental ramifications caused by the EU's inaction in eliminating internal threats to its fundamental values which might result in the diminishment of the EU's international authority,
- M. Deploing the recent rise in rule of law violations amongst Member States,
- N. Realising that the existence of illiberal democracies in specific Member States affects all EU citizens through said country's participation in the EU's decision making process,
- O. Alarmed by EU citizens' susceptibility to populism and the potential for the use of Article 7 TEU to instigate further populist and eurosceptic sentiment;

### **Legal and Treaty based**

- 1. Draws attention to the potential of Articles 258, 259, and 260 from the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) to be employed in instances of infringements of Article 2 TEU;
- 2. Recommends the amendment of the Rule of Law Framework by undergoing an ordinary legislative procedure so as to:
  - a. oblige the European Commission to initiate the Article 7 process in an expedited manner,
  - b. enable Member State's funding to be temporarily halted in specific areas as the framework's final instance;
- 3. Condemns the current Rule of Law Framework enforcement practice allowing for Member States to manipulate deadlines without the fear of repercussions;
- 4. Requests that amendments of Article 228 TFEU undergo a special legislative procedure so as to augment the capacity of the European Ombudsman to conduct investigations into the compliance of national and local authorities with EU core values;



## **Institutional**

5. Calls upon the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) to establish an independent and unbiased working group consisting of experts in specific fields such as law, politics and sociology
6. Further calls for the aforementioned working group to issue an official opinion which will state its stance on the most appropriate and sensible sanctions;
7. Calls upon the European Commission to expand the responsibilities of the European Fundamental Rights Agency to:
  - a. monitor the state of the rule of law in Member States,
  - b. submit an official report every three months,
  - c. notify the European Commission when it detects a breach of the core values outlined in Article 2 TEU and the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights;

## **Civil**

8. Urges the European Commission to publish accessible reports regarding the rule of law framework proceedings;
9. Seeks to reaffirm that citizens of Member States subject to Article 7 proceedings retain the rights granted to them by EU law through a formal publication of public letters.

## FACT SHEET

**Treaty on European Union** (TEU) represents one of the founding treaties of the EU laying out the fundamental principles of the EU's current functioning.

**Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** also presents one of the two main treaties, alongside the Treaty on European Union and form a constitutional basis for the EU.

**Article 7 TEU** aims to safekeep the EU's common values from possible infringements. It encompasses a preventive mechanism and a sanction mechanism.

**Article 2 TEU** outlines the fundamental values the EU is built on and that are common to all Member States, such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

**Article 258 TFEU** allows the European Commission to bring a Member State before the CJEU, should said Member State fail to comply with the obligations set under the Treaties.

**Article 259 TFEU** gives Member States the power to bring another before the CJEU if it is considered to have failed to follow the obligations under EU treaties.

**Article 260 TFEU** states that if a Member State fails to comply with the court's judgment, the Commission may, after sending a further letter of formal notice and reasoned opinion, bring the matter before the CJEU a second time, seeking the imposition of a penalty payment.

**The Rule of Law framework** has the objective to prevent emerging threats to the rule of law to escalate to the point of triggering Article 7 TEU through dialogue between the EU and the country in question.

**The European Charter of Fundamental Rights** enshrines certain political, social, and economic rights for EU citizens into EU law.

The **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights** is the EU's centre of fundamental rights expertise and helps to ensure that the fundamental rights of people living in the EU are protected.

**The European Ombudsman** conducts inquiries into cases of maladministration by EU institutions acting on the basis of citizens' complaints. The Ombudsman is appointed by the European Parliament for the duration of the parliamentary term.

**Separation of powers** is the constitutional allocation of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers among the three branches of government.

**Particracy** is a form of government where one or more political parties dominate the political process, rather than citizens and/or individual politicians.

**Illiberal democracies** are systems of governance in which, although elections take place, there is an evident suppression of civil liberties with one party monopolising government power.

The aim of the **Copenhagen Commission** was to serve as a consultative expert body to assist in monitoring Member States respect for Article 2 TEU.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Security and Defence

**In light of the growing tensions between Russia and other European governments, what steps should NATO take to reassure its Eastern members of their security, while also rebuilding relations with Russia?**

**Submitted by:**

Luke De Lacey (IE), Ilia Dotsenko (BY) Anna von Groß (SE), Reičēla Heinrihsone (LV), Kateřina Hrabánková (CZ), Christophe Joly (FR), Yuliya Kravetska (UA), Anastasija Lončarević (RS), Lucija Lovrić (HR), Isla Martin (UK), Mats Meeus (NL), Tamerlan Orujov (AZ), Loreen Pulk (EE), Eva Thorshaug (NO), Emma Lee Petersen (DE), Adriaan van Streun, Chairperson (NL)

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Aware of the trade relations and consequent interdependence between European governments and the Russian Federation, with the EU importing 37,4 percent of its energy from the latter,
- B. Saddened by the fact that the NATO-Russia Council has met only four times in the previous three years despite being intended as the main platform for consultation between the Russian Federation and NATO,
- C. Bearing in mind that while at the time of the signing of the Two plus Four Agreement<sup>145</sup> NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe appeared unlikely, no formal promises were given by NATO that the alliance would not expand,
- D. Acknowledging that NATO's expansion into Eastern Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union has been a cause for serious concern for the Russian Federation,
- E. Bearing in mind that the Russian Federation's involvement in both open and frozen conflicts<sup>146</sup> in Europe, such as in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, has led to a deterioration of relations between NATO member countries and Russia,

---

<sup>145</sup> The Two plus Four Agreement is the commonly used name for the Treaty on the Final Settlement with respect to Germany, which outlined the conditions for German reunification. The Russian Federation has at times claimed it received assurances NATO would not expand further east, while NATO has strongly denied making such commitments.

- F. Deeply concerned by the negative impact the breaches of international law committed by the Russian Federation have on its relationship with NATO in the ongoing conflicts,
- G. Strongly condemning the Russian Federation's interference in the internal affairs of NATO member countries, among others through:
  - i. interference in the 2016 USA presidential election,
  - ii. repeated cyber attacks originating from the Russian Federation against NATO member countries and EU Member States,
- H. Aware that NATO and the Russian Federation support opposing sides in a number of conflicts around the world, such as the Syrian civil war, straining relations between the two,
- I. Bearing in mind that censorship, propaganda, and biased information can lead to citizens of the Russian Federation and NATO member countries having skewed perceptions of each other,
- J. Believing that Russian ethnic minorities in the Baltic states often face discrimination or have limited citizenship rights, which further strains relations between NATO member countries and the Russian Federation;
- K. Saddened that the unpredictability of the current USA administration's foreign policy has led to a deterioration in trust and strained relations between NATO member countries,

### **Relations between NATO and the Russian Federation**

1. Calls upon NATO to increase cooperation with the Russian Federation and its allies in the areas where political and economic interests overlap, such as the fight against terrorism;
2. Further calls upon NATO to lift its current economic and diplomatic sanctions on the Russian Federation and replace them with targeted economic sanctions aimed at the Russian government officials and private parties involved in the conflicts in Ukraine and Georgia;
3. Urges NATO member countries and the Russian Federation to definitively clarify the existence or non-existence of promises about NATO expansion made during the Two plus Four Agreement negotiations;

---

<sup>146</sup> An open conflict is a conflict where the sides are actively fighting each other, whereas a frozen conflict occurs when the actual fighting has stopped, but no peace agreement or other resolution to the conflict has been put into place yet.

4. Further urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to:
  - a. oversee the interpretation and implementation of agreements between NATO and the Russian Federation,
  - b. act as a mediator in possible future disputes about any such agreements;
5. Asks the Russian Federation and NATO member countries to formalise the structure of the NATO-Russia Council, making a convention of the Council mandatory every four months and if any of the participating countries expresses an urgent need for consultation;
6. Requests that NATO member countries and the Russian Federation facilitate discussions between European and Russian youth aimed specifically at facilitating better understanding between them.
7. Calls upon the Baltic states to review their legislation regarding their Russian ethnic minorities to combat the discrimination against them;

### **Defensive capacities of NATO**

8. Strongly urges NATO member countries to increase their spending on defence against cyber threats;
9. Calls upon NATO member countries to *ex ante* collectively agree on how to respond to possible future breaches of international law by the Russian Federation and enforce such agreements;
10. Recommends that NATO member countries establish a new NATO agency to combat the spread of misinformation and propaganda within NATO countries;
11. Encourages the European Commission to allocate more funding and human resources to strengthening cyber security capacities both in the public and private sector, especially in Eastern European Member States;
12. Urges NATO to make use of the Centers of Excellence Programme<sup>147</sup> to organise summits for their NATO cybersecurity experts to exchange best practices on how to combat cyberattacks and the spread of misinformation;

---

<sup>147</sup> The NATO Centres of Excellence are national and multinational education centres providing education to specialists in NATO and NATO partner countries, with the goal to increase the specialist capacities of NATO in different fields.

13. Calls upon the Russian Federation and NATO to relaunch the Ukrainian peace-making process and to provide the OSCE with the necessary resources to oversee the implementation of the Minsk Accords<sup>148</sup> and any future agreements.

---

<sup>148</sup> The Minsk Accords are sets of measures agreed upon by Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany aimed at resolving the war in Ukraine. These measures, however, have not been enforced and have since been violated by the parties involved in the conflict.



## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Transport and Tourism

**With electric and autonomous cars set to bring both challenges, such as unemployment, and opportunities, including technological innovation, how should European governments prepare for the next transport revolution?**

**Submitted by:**

Kristin Alme (NO), Anna Archakova (UA), Paul Berthaud (FR), Lucas Frisell (SE), Karlo Gudelj (HR), Thomas Harten (DE), Anca Herascu (RO), Jennifer Kilcoyne (IR), Samir Mammadova (AZ), Matthew McIlree (UK), Roope Ståhle (FI), Jānis Vēveris (LV), Stijn Vleugels (NL), Rebeca Leal (Chairperson, PT)

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Fully aware that the European auto industry intends to soon begin transitioning to autonomous cars,
- B. Noting that the usage of semi to fully electric vehicles is on the rise in European countries,
- C. Pointing out that the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic effectively bans the use of autonomous vehicles on public roads,
- D. Aware that public mistrust of autonomous vehicles is a barrier to their adoption,
- E. Recognising the problem of establishing connectivity in rural and signal sheltered areas with regard to autonomous vehicles (AVs)<sup>149</sup>,
- F. Conscious that current mapping systems do not provide sufficient coverage for the implementation of AVs,
- G. Acknowledging that software malfunctions in AVs will occasionally occur,
- H. Concerned by the lack of established road infrastructure for AVs,
- I. Further noting the reservations towards the use of Electric Vehicles (EVs)<sup>150</sup> due to their limited range,
- J. Noting with regret that the low density of charging points creates an obstacle for driving EVs, especially in rural areas,

---

<sup>149</sup> Autonomous vehicles are vehicles capable of sensing their surroundings and navigate without human input.

<sup>150</sup> Electric vehicles are use one or more electric or traction motors, hence being fueled by electricity rather than gas.



- K. Alarmed that the wide variety of charging ports for different kinds of EVs causes difficulties for their users,
  - L. Deeply concerned that the kinds of data that should be collected and stored by the manufacturers of AVs is not currently clearly regulated,
  - M. Troubled by unclarified data ownership and the ambiguity surrounding the question of who can access data collected by AVs,
  - N. Expressing its concern that consumers may face a trade-off between their privacy and the efficiency of their AVs,
  - O. Further alarmed by the existing uncertainty over accountability for road accidents where an AV is involved,
  - P. Taking into account that there will be a shift in the design of insurance policies once vehicles with higher levels of autonomy are widely adopted,
  - Q. Noting with regret that the moral responsibility following accidents involving AVs remains controversial among both citizens and governments,
  - R. Stressing that potential job losses act as a barrier to the transition to AVs in fields such as public transportation drivers;
1. Calls upon the United Nations (UN) to include the circulation of AVs in the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic;
  2. Encourages private transportation companies to further collaborate with public institutions in providing electric vehicles for communal use;
  3. Instructs the European Commission to make driving licenses for AVs compulsory for all vehicles below level five autonomy<sup>151</sup>;

---

<sup>151</sup> The levels of autonomy of a vehicle rate vehicles from semi to fully autonomous. The level five, of levels of autonomy, is considered the maximum level of autonomy of a vehicle.

## Technical Challenges

4. Emphasises the importance of including network connectivity required for autonomous vehicles, particularly in rural areas, in the “Digital Agenda for Europe”<sup>152</sup>;
5. Requests that the UN encourages dialogue between organisations and companies that share the intention of producing detailed 3D maps required for the navigation of autonomous vehicles;
6. Calls upon the UN to promote the improvement of vehicles that are both electric and autonomous;

## Infrastructure

7. Invites the UN to encourage a discussion among the major AV manufacturers to agree upon a common set of goals on infrastructural requirements of autonomous vehicles;
8. Suggests that Member States invest in further research on the charging capabilities of batteries powering electric vehicles;
9. Calls upon Member State governments to fund the creation of electric vehicle charging stations in rural areas;
10. Urges the European Commission to standardise a single universal charging port for electric vehicles across the EU;

## Data Protection

11. Requests the European Commission to clarify the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations application to AVs;

## Accountability

12. Calls for the creation of a European-wide working group to evaluate past accidents involving AVs and their users, clarifying the penalised party and establishing judicial precedents;
13. Calls upon the Committee on Constitutional Affairs to re-evaluate the Motor Insurance directive<sup>153</sup> with respect to the new challenges posed by AVs;

---

<sup>152</sup> The Digital Agenda for Europe was launched in 2010 with the aim of boosting Europe’s economy by delivering sustainable economic and social benefits through digital technologies.

14. Urges the UN to ensure that public views are taken into account regarding ethical issues by replicating the study “Moral Machine”;

### **Unemployment**

15. Invites European governments to provide requalification options for the citizens who lose their jobs due to the the implementation of AVs.

---

<sup>153</sup> The Motor Insurance directive regulates the application of insurance in road accidents within the EU.



VILNIUS  
2018

87th  
International  
Session  
of the  
European  
Youth  
Parliament

**Supported by:**



Vilnius  
University



**In cooperation with:**



Go Vilnius



**Initiated by:**



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT  
LIETUVA LITHUANIA

The Schwarzkopf Foundation is the international umbrella organisation of the European Youth Parliament (EYP). EYP Lithuania is a National Committee in the EYP network.