



# RESOLUTION BOOKLET

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the European Youth Parliament

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



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## **PROGRAMME**

### **Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of October**

<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>	Opening of the General Assembly
<b>10:00 – 10:45</b>	Debate 1: Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	Coffee Break
<b>11:15 – 12:00</b>	Debate 2: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II (ENVI II)
<b>12:00 – 12:45</b>	Debate 3: Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)
<b>12:45 – 13:30</b>	Debate 4: Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs I (ECON I)
<b>13:30 – 14:30</b>	Lunch
<b>14:30 – 15:15</b>	Debate 5: Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)
<b>15:15 – 16:00</b>	Debate 6: Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	Coffee Break
<b>16:30 – 17:15</b>	Debate 7: Committee on Human Rights (DROI)
<b>17:15 – 18:00</b>	Debate 8: Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

### **Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of October**

<b>09:00 – 09:45</b>	Debate 9: Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)
<b>09:45 – 10:30</b>	Debate 10: Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	Coffee Break
<b>11:00 – 11:45</b>	Debate 11: Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs II (ECON II)
<b>11:45 – 12:30</b>	Debate 12: Committee on International Trade (INTA)
<b>12:30 – 13:15</b>	Debate 13: Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
<b>13:15 – 14:15</b>	Lunch
<b>14:15 – 15:00</b>	Debate 14: Committee on Regional Affairs (REGI)
<b>15:00 – 15:45</b>	Debate 15: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I (ENVI I)
<b>15:45 – 16:15</b>	Coffee Break
<b>16:15 – 17:30</b>	Closing Ceremony





## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (AFCO)

*“The majority of European Constitutions enshrine the principle of separation between Church and State” says a 2013 report from the Directorate-General for Internal Policies, but the degree to which this is implemented differs enormously. With some European nations committing deeply to separation of powers, others enshrining their commitment to the separation of church and state implicitly, and others having only a notional commitment and a de facto partnership between church and state, how should European governments act in a world where religious diversity (including atheism) are at an all-time high?*

Submitted by: Anette Andresoo (EE), Giulia Galimberti (IT), Lilit Goyunyan (AM), Tamar Gurgenidze (GE), Thomas Heeren (BE), Cathy Hynes (IE), Jannat Kahkay (AZ), Zuzanna Łężna (PL), Simoni Mouzoura (CY), Katie Nuttall (UK), Selma Piukovici-Karadag (RO), Busher Saleh (DE), Bilge Temel (TR), Gabija Veličkaitė (LT), Ksenija Vuletić (RS), Rose Cantillon (Chairperson, IE).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with concern that in some Member States such as Germany<sup>1</sup> the relationship between Church and State is inconsistent with the constitutional definition,
- B. Alarmed by the increased likelihood for legislative bias, or for national values that do not adequately represent all citizens, in Member States with dominant majority religions,
- C. Gravely disturbed by present-day situations in which freedom of belief and religious expression, as outlined in Article 9 of the European Convention of Human Rights, is limited with regard to clothing, the wearing or display of religious symbols, and personal appearance in public,
- D. Further concerned that these and other measures taken by Member States in the pursuit of **secularisation** may negatively impact levels of integration, tolerance and freedom of religious expression,
- E. Also noting that Member States with a State Church may marginalise individuals through their legislative actions, for example changes to migrant integration policy in Denmark<sup>2</sup>,
- F. Condemning the presence of appointed religious figures in Member States' legislative bodies such as in the **House of Lords<sup>3</sup> in the United Kingdom**,
- G. Concerned that the implementation of **Laïcité** in France restricts religious expression and contradicts the first article of the French constitution<sup>4</sup>,
- H. Regretting that citizens of some Member States, such as Finland<sup>5</sup>, are not able to freely decide to allocate their tax contributions for religious purposes,
- I. Further supports the **opt-in religious membership system** currently in place in Sweden,
- J. Acknowledging the lack of transparency<sup>6</sup> surrounding religious organisations financially endorsing political figures and parties,

1 Despite being considered a 'secular' state, the preamble of the Constitution of Germany states that citizens should be "conscious of their responsibility before God and man"

2 Bendixen, Michala, The Guardian, "Denmark's 'anti-ghetto' laws are a betrayal of our tolerant values", 2018 <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/10/denmark-ghetto-laws-niqab-circumcision-islamophobic>

3 Hughes, Lara, The Financial Times, 2018 <https://www.ft.com/content/69e8a3b8-2ea2-11e8-9b4b-bc4b9f08f381>

4 Hunter-Henin, Myriam, The International and Comparative Law Quarterly, "Why the French Don't like the Burqa: Laïcité, National Identity and Religious Freedom", 2012,

5 The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, <https://evl.fi/our-work/our-finances/church-tax>

6 McGarry Patsy, Irish Times, 2018 <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/two-thirds-of-catholic-dioceses-do-not-publish-accounts-online-1.3354931>



- K. Aware that due to the recent refugee crisis religious diversity within the European Union has increased significantly<sup>7</sup>, and moreover that the breakdown of religions represented has changed,
- L. Recognising that increased availability of information through the internet has fostered individualism contributing to the growth of **agnosticism**, **atheism** and varied belief systems;

### Legislative Discrepancies

- 1. Encourages Member States to adopt the approach of complete separation of Church and State whilst acknowledging Member States' national jurisdiction;
- 2. Directs the Justice and Home Affairs configuration of Council of the European Union to clearly define the terms '**Hybrid Model**', '**Secular Model**' and '**State Church Model**'<sup>8</sup> where these are used as aims in the secularisation process;
- 3. Strongly encourages Member States that are striving to achieve secularisation to accept advisory support from **European Consortium for Church and State Research**;
- 4. Encourages the European Parliament's Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance to expand its current monitoring process from third countries only to include Member States;

### Religious Influence on Governmental Affairs

- 5. Recommends that Member States abolish the present non-democratically elected religious figures as members of a state's legislature such as in the House of Lords of the United Kingdom;
- 6. Calls upon the **European Transparency Register** to ensure the full disclosure of funding and endorsement provided by religious institutions of political figures, parties and campaigns;

### Governmental Influence on Religious Affairs

- 7. Suggests that any nation wishing to engage in complete secularisation must refrain from implementing actions which go as far as to actively discriminate and otherise people based on their religious beliefs;
- 8. Invites Member States to adopt the Swedish religious membership system to ensure no government interference;

### Religious Minorities

- 9. Requests the Eurobarometer to conduct a pan-European longitudinal survey to measure the levels of satisfaction of citizens in regards to their national church-state relationship;
- 10. Hopes that national Education Ministries will monitor the curricula of religious education to ensure so as to ensure a more all encompassing and inclusive outlook on religion.

<sup>7</sup> European Commission, 2016 [https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/visualisation/europe%E2%80%99s-muslim-population-growth-function-future-migration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/visualisation/europe%E2%80%99s-muslim-population-growth-function-future-migration_en)

<sup>8</sup> Ferrari, Silvio, Journal of Church and State "Church and State in Europe", 1988



## **FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (AFCO)**

- A. **Secularisation:** This refers to any movement in society which asserts the right to be free from any religious rule or teaching. This can be seen from an individual and group perspective.<sup>9</sup>
- B. **House of Lords of the United Kingdom:** The House of Lords is the upper house of the British legislative system. The membership of the House of Lords is made up of Lords Spiritual and Lords Temporal. The Lords Spiritual are 26 bishops in the established Church of England.
- C. **Laïcité:** Is the French system of securitisation which goes beyond secularism. It is believed that this is fundamental to other freedoms such as freedom of expression and thought.<sup>10</sup>
- D. **Swedish Religious Membership System:** The Swedish Religious Membership system uses an optional checkoff box on the tax return. The government then allocates the money collected to Catholic, Muslim, Jewish and other faiths as well as the Lutherans, with each taxpayer directing where his or her taxes should go.<sup>11</sup>
- E. **Models for Church State Relationship:** A 2013 report from the Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the European Parliament on Religious Practice and Observance in Member States outlines that a secular approach can be seen at varying degrees at a national level. It is argued by many academics that there is a three-fold structure to the relationship between the state and church: state church systems, separation (secular) systems, and cooperationist (hybrid) systems.
- F. **European Consortium for Church and State Research:** The European Consortium for Church and State Research was founded in 1989. Its members share a common interest in the relations between states and religious denominations in Europe from a historical, political and, particularly, juridical point of view.
- G. **Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights:** There is an international treaty aiming to protect human rights and political freedoms in Europe. Article 9 strives to protect freedom of thought, conscience and religion.<sup>12</sup>
- H. **Eurobarometer:** Eurobarometer surveys monitor the evolution of public opinion in the EU28. Tracing public opinion trends helps the preparation of policy, decision-making, and the evaluation of the EU's work.
- I. **European Transparency Register:** The transparency register was set up to answer core questions such as what interests are being pursued, by whom and with what budgets. The system is operated jointly by the European Parliament and the European Commission.
- J. **Agnosticism and Atheism:** Agnosticism refers to the view that the existence of God, of the divine or the supernatural, is unknown or unknowable whereas atheism refers to the disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God or gods.<sup>13</sup>
- K. **European Parliament's intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance:** The Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance aims to ensure that the EU, in its external actions, promotes and protects the right of individuals to freely manifest their beliefs (theistic, non-theistic and atheistic).

<sup>9</sup> Martin, D. "On Secularization - Towards a General Revised Theory" 2005

<sup>10</sup> French Government Website, <https://www.gouvernement.fr/qu-est-ce-que-la-laicite>

<sup>11</sup> Church of Sweden, <https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/english>

<sup>12</sup> Article 9, European Convention on Human Rights, [https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Oppy, G, Atheism and Agnosticism (Elements in the Philosophy of Religion), 2018



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY II (ENVI II)

*Cross-border travel for medical treatment has become an attractive option for European citizens to access better quality or lower cost healthcare under the current EU framework for health tourism, but medical tourism in general poses many unanswered ethical and societal questions: some medical tourists travel abroad for treatment that contravene regulation in their countries of origin, such as abortion; others travel for procedures, such as organ transplants, that can exploit the poor and vulnerable of the destination countries. Given the diverse needs and socioeconomic effects involved, how should the EU regulate medical tourism from, to, and between its Member States?*

Submitted by: Jakub Boruv (SK), Muireann Carton (IE), Brendan Delany (NL), Ellie Harrison (UK), Ruslana Hnatchenko(UA), Ina Ioan (RO), Michael Klein (CH), Martina Mancini (IT), Luka Mgaloblishvili (GE), Nata Mitras (PL), Emilija Paulauskaitė (LT), Maxim Rabau (BE), Pavli Rafaelutbpavraf (SE), David Westlake (CZ), Ludovica Formicola (IT, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognises that the current cross-border medical treatment **reimbursement system** under **Directive 2011/24/EU** does not compensate for disparities of access and affordability between citizens of Member States of varying wealth,
- B. Noting with concern the current lack of provision for reimbursements for specialised treatments unavailable in the patient's country of origin,
- C. Deeply concerned that five of 14 Member States have yet to specify which treatments require **prior authorisation** for reimbursement,<sup>14</sup>
- D. Concerned that Directive 2011/24/EU fails to address the needs of patients unable to afford treatment that require payment upfront,
- E. Observing that only 20% of EU citizens feel informed about their cross-border healthcare rights both within and outside EU borders, and only 10% of EU citizens are aware of the existence of **National Contact Points (NCPs)** and their rights regarding reimbursements for medical treatment received abroad<sup>15</sup>,
- F. Conscious that the information provided by Member States' NCPs on the safety and quality of healthcare systems across the EU may be inconsistent or insufficient,<sup>16</sup>
- G. Recognising that currently there are no EU-wide criteria to assess the quality of treatment in medical facilities,
- H. Bearing in mind that medical tourism can reduce Member States' waiting lists for medical treatments,
- I. Alarmed that **organ transplantations** involving payment for the organ, which are illegal in most countries worldwide,<sup>17</sup> account for 10% of all transplantations worldwide,<sup>18</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Commission, Member State data on cross-border patient healthcare following Directive 2011/24/E, 2016.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross\\_border\\_care/docs/2016\\_msdata\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross_border_care/docs/2016_msdata_en.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Commission, Special Eurobarometer 425, "Patient's rights in cross-border healthcare in the European Union", 2015.

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_425\\_sum\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_425_sum_en.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> European Commission. Report on the Operation of Directive 2011/24/EU, 2015.

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross\\_border\\_care/docs/2015\\_operation\\_report\\_dir201124eu\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/cross_border_care/docs/2015_operation_report_dir201124eu_en.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> World Health Organisation Organ trafficking and transplantation pose new challenges, 2004

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/82/9/feature0904/en/>

<sup>18</sup> Jacob A Akoh, "Key Issues in Transplant Tourism", 2012.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258205303\\_Key\\_Issues\\_in\\_Transplant\\_Tourism](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258205303_Key_Issues_in_Transplant_Tourism)



- J. Concerned that illegal transplantation may encourage exploitation and serious risks for the health of both medical tourists and of the organ vendors or donors,
- K. Commending the Netherlands for their commitment to registering all citizens, unless they opt out explicitly, as organ donors by 2020,
- L. Regretting that women who decide to undergo abortions in a foreign country to circumvent national regulation lack sufficient emotional support throughout the process,
- M. Stressing the difficulty in accessing patients' medical information across the EU's internal borders due to the dearth of digitised patient records,
- N. Appreciating that **Electronic Health Record (EHR)** systems have been implemented with widespread adoption in European countries such as Norway and the Netherlands<sup>19</sup>;

### Improving the reimbursement system for medical treatment

- 1. Expecting Member States that send patients abroad to decide a list of legal medical treatments, unavailable on national territory, and to decide the corresponding amounts for which outgoing medical tourists would be reimbursed;
- 2. Calls upon Member States to provide a list clearly specifying which treatments, particularly those requiring an overnight stay or highly-specialised/highly cost-intensive healthcare, need prior authorisation;
- 3. Calls on Member States to allow outgoing patients to collect financial assistance prior to receiving medical treatment by providing proof (in the form of a quote) prior to departure and an invoice after treatment;
- 4. Encourages Member States to pursue fraud charges if patients who collected financial assistance prior to treatment under the aforementioned process are unable to provide sufficient proof after treatment;

### Facilitating patients' choice

- 5. Asks the European Commission to highlight the role and functions of NCPs through workshops aimed at medical professionals, academics, trade unions and businesses that are involved in the medical tourism industry;
- 6. Instructs Member States to distribute NCP offices among major hospitals to increase the availability and accessibility of information on patient rights and cross-border medical care;
- 7. Calls on the European Commission to create a standardised quality check and certification process which medical institutions and clinics could optionally undergo annually;
- 8. Invites European Eastern Partnership countries to undergo the aforementioned certification process to reflect compliance with European standards;
- 9. Strongly encourages Member States to adopt an opt-out EHR system to facilitate the exchange of patients' information between EU countries;

### Preventing illegal practices

- 10. Recommends Member States to increase the availability of legal organ transplants by registering citizens as organ donors by default, with the option to opt out on request;

<sup>19</sup> National Center for Biotechnology information, U.S. National Library of Medicine, "Diffusion of Electronic Health Records and electronic communication in Norway", 2011. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3631929/>





11. Appoints the European Commission to establish expert-led training programmes to provide information and support to existing hotlines, and to create further hotlines, to assist patients who have had medical procedures abroad, including, but not limited to, abortion.



## **FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY II (ENVI II)**

- A. **Reimbursement system:** Patients will be reimbursed the same amount as they would receive in their own country for the same type of healthcare. Member States where care is free at the point of delivery will need to inform patients about their reimbursement tariffs. If the treatment abroad is cheaper than in the home country, the reimbursement will reflect the real price of the treatment. Patients cannot be reimbursed for treatments that are not provided by the national healthcare system of their home country.<sup>20</sup>
- B. **Directive 2011/24/EU:** sets out the conditions under which a patient may travel to another EU country to receive medical care and reimbursement. It covers healthcare costs, as well as the prescription and delivery of medications and medical devices.<sup>21</sup>
- C. **The network of National Contact Points (NCPs):** NCPs provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020. NCPs are also established in many third countries. NCPs are established and financed by governments of the 28 EU member states and the states associated with the framework programme.<sup>22</sup>
- D. **Prior authorisation:** National authorities can introduce a system of prior authorisation for going to another Member State for treatment in cases of healthcare which involves overnight hospital stay of at least one night, highly specialised and cost-intensive healthcare, and in serious and specific cases relating to the quality or safety of the care provided by the particular provider in question. Patients may need to ask for permission in advance from their national health authority in charge of reimbursement.<sup>23</sup>
- E. **Organ trafficking:** Organ trafficking is the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of living or deceased persons or their organs by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, fraud and abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, for the purpose of exploitation by the removal of organs for transplantation.<sup>24</sup>
- F. **Electronic Health Record (EHR):** An EHR is compatible with all current health systems in the EU right now and allows access to medical health records anywhere in the EU. This can only be done with the patient's consent, except in the case of a medical emergency. One can also opt out of having an EHR. The privacy of EHR is guaranteed under the Digital Single Market Strategy.
- G. **European Eastern Partnership:** The Eastern Partnership is a joint initiative involving the EU, its Member States and six Eastern European Partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; it aims to build a common area of shared democracy, prosperity, stability and increased cooperation.<sup>25</sup>

20 European Commission, Q&A: Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare, 2013. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-918\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-918_en.htm)

21 European Commission Overview on Cross-border medical care, last update 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/health/cross\\_border\\_care/overview\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/cross_border_care/overview_en)

22 European commission Participant Portal, National Contact Points, latest update 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_contact\\_points.html](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html)

23 European Commission, Q&A: Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare, 2013. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-13-918\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-918_en.htm)

24 Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs, 2015

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806dca3a>

25 European External Action definition of Eastern European Partnership, latest update 2018. [https://eeas.europa.eu/diplomatic-network/eastern-partnership\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/diplomatic-network/eastern-partnership_en)



## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AFET)**

*The launch of the Sahel Alliance in 2017 marked renewed investment in the relationship between the EU with its partners and the governments of the Sahel, reinforcing existing work towards the stability of the region. With humanitarian crisis and irregular migration often cited as the greatest of the region's problems, what steps should the EU prioritise in order to address the root causes of destabilisation and provide sustainable support to the region?*

Submitted by: Zain Aljuboori (IQ/NL), Laura Barry (FI), Lina Eberwein (DE), Sebastian Hjelström (SE), Madelen Howard (NO), Ljubica Jurlina (HR), Andriy Kashyrsky (UA), Markuss Kozlinskis (LV), Madalena Lima (PT), Hovhannes Nersisyan (AM), Nik Smerkolj (SI), Evgenia Trapeznicova (BY), Alžběta Vítková (CZ), Livia Zimmermann (CH), Nataliia Senatorova (UA, Chairperson).

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

- A. Concerned by the immediate consequences terrorism has on:
  - i. the safety and well-being of the citizens of **the Sahel countries**,
  - ii. unequal migration flows inside the Sahel region and,
  - iii. their impact on migration to and security of European Union Member States,
- B. Emphasising that 23.4 % of the EU's ores and other minerals come from Mauritania<sup>26</sup> and Niger's uranium provides 20 percent of the fuel for France's 58 nuclear reactors<sup>27</sup> making the Sahel countries significant trading partners of the EU,
- C. Alarmed by the presence of cross-border crime, such as drug and human trafficking, within the Sahel region,
- D. Noting with concern that multiple overlapping projects such as the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (the EUTF for Africa), the Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (ASPP) lead to a lack of coordination, waste of resources and an inability to attribute success or failure to the appropriate project,
- E. Acknowledging that a lack of good governance and a high level of corruption within the Sahel countries leads to misuse of foreign aid,
- F. Realising that the insufficient involvement of young people in education in the Sahel countries contributes to them being easier targets for manipulation and radicalisation,
- G. Alarmed by the high levels of food insecurity due to increasing desertification and civil insecurity, leading to large amounts of imported foods and famines,
- H. Deeply alarmed by the effects of increasingly severe natural disasters, most notably droughts, on the displacement of local populations especially small locally owned subsistence farms,
- I. Further alarmed by the lack of technical infrastructure and methods necessary to mitigate the aforementioned disasters before they happen, having a direct negative impact on the farming activities in the region,
- J. Deeply concerned that the Sahel countries' do not have the qualified staff and infrastructural capacity to offer basic healthcare coverage for rural areas in the Sahel region,

<sup>26</sup> European Commission, Trade in Goods with Mauritania, 2018.

<sup>27</sup> Carnegie Middle East Center, Europe's African Border, 2017.



- K. Recognising the insufficient use of the natural resources available in the Sahel region to provide a sustainable energy supply within the region,
- L. Bearing in mind that about 40% of born children are not registered in the Sahel countries<sup>28</sup>;
- M. Deeply disturbed by the low number of women capable of work entering the labour market in Sahel countries;

### Facilitating migration within the region

- 1. Encourages the Sahel countries to increase channels for legal migration within the Sahel region, including further development of safe access routes for migration and simplifying the residence application processes;

### Providing border security

- 2. Recognises the efforts made by the **G5 Sahel** in combating terrorism and radicalisation, including the training missions and the border operations;
- 3. Urges the Sahel countries to use the resources available in the **2017-2018 Action Programme of the African Peace Facility** in enhancing the border security by:
  - a. Increasing the number of border guards,
  - b. Encouraging cooperation between the border patrols of the G5 Sahel countries;

### Supporting local actors

- 4. Invites the **Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)** to prioritise funding and support aid programmes developed regionally by local non-governmental organisations and civil society groups;
- 5. Requests the European Commission prioritise financial support to organisations tackling poverty, education, and healthcare<sup>29</sup> by providing expert training and medical supplies to local medical workers;

### Promoting regional independence

- 6. Encourages the European Commission to provide organisational, mediating or advisory assistance for the Sahel countries to start accession process to **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**;
- 7. Suggests the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) to prioritise the financial support to the existing local programmes which focus on encouraging women to join the labour market in the Sahel countries, such as **The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividends (SWEDD)** project;
- 8. Supports the Red Cross, SOS Sahel, and other local organisations working in the sphere of education, financially and educationally, in intensifying their work in the aspects such as nutrition, family planning, sexual education, business planning, and political education;

### Combating the effects of climate change

- 9. Encourages the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) to allocate funding through the Sahel Alliance and **CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)** to the educational projects for farmers regarding the adoption of the sustainable agricultural practices such as crop rotation and climate change mitigation;

<sup>28</sup> UNICEF, Birth Registration, 2017.

<sup>29</sup> For example, the SOS Sahel.



10. Encourages the **Sustainable Energy Fund of Africa (SEFA)** to increase funding for the adaptation of solar panels and alternative green energy sources to ensure long-term region's sustainability in the area of energy;

#### **Reducing demographic pressure**

11. Urges the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** to focus their local initiatives on family planning in the Sahel region to help combat overpopulation, decrease maternal death rates, and unsafe abortions;
12. Encourages the Sahel countries to create a unified demographic database system capturing births and birth registration.





## **FACT SHEET FOR THE MOTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AFET)**

- A. **The Sahel countries:** in the context of foreign affairs refers to the members of the G5 Sahel, namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.
- B. **European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (the EUTF for Africa):** a trust fund established in 2015 by 25 EU Member States, Norway, and Switzerland which has as its main target to address the root causes of destabilisation and irregular migration in the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and North Africa.
- C. **Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (ASPP):** the programme launched in March 2014 to support the design and implementation of adaptive social protection programs and systems in six Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal), funded by a multi donor trust fund managed by the World Bank's Social Protection and Labor team.
- D. **Food insecurity:** the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.
- E. **Desertification:** the process of becoming desert (as from land mismanagement or climate change).
- F. **G5 Sahel:** is an institutional framework, which includes such Sahel countries as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, formed in 2014 to foster the closer cooperation and coordinate efforts in the region regarding the development and security issues.
- G. **2017-2018 Action Programme of the African Peace Facility:** the action programme contributes to the Peace and Security component of the Africa-EU Partnership via the implementation of actions for the period 2017-2018 funded by the African Peace Facility (APF) under the European Development Fund (EDF).
- H. **Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO):** The European Commission's Directorate-General, responsible for designing European international cooperation and development policy and delivering aid throughout the world.
- I. **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA):** a trade agreement between 44 African Union member states, with the goal of creating a single market followed by free movement and a single currency union.
- J. **The Sahel Alliance:** initiative formed by France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK, the European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, and UNDP, and it is open to being joined. This joint cooperation mechanism has mobilised the 6 billion Euro to be invested in such development areas as youth employment, rural development, and food security, energy and climate, governance, decentralization, and access to basic services, and security in G5 Sahel member countries. The aim of the Alliance is to pool and coordinate the efforts of the EU and its partners in order to ensure tangible and sustainable impacts within the priority development areas.
- K. **The Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividends (SWEDD):** the regional initiative by the United Nations and the World Bank Group, with an aim to accelerate the demographic transition, to spur the demographic dividend, and to reduce gender inequality in the Sahel region.
- L. **The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS):** a collaboration among all 15 CGIAR Research Centers, which seeks to address the increasing challenge of global warming and declining food security on agricultural practices, policies and measures through strategic, broad-based global partnerships.
- M. **Sustainable Energy Fund of Africa (SEFA):** a multi-donor trust fund administered by the African Development Bank, anchored in a commitment of USD 60 million by the Governments of Denmark and the United States to support small- and medium-scale Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in Africa.



- N. **The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):** a global humanitarian organization, which coordinates and directs international assistance following natural and man-made disasters in non-conflict situations.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS AND MONETARY AFFAIRS I (ECON I)

*Debt relief negotiations for Greece concluded in June of this year, following months of deliberation. Given the responsibility to balance the stability of the Euro, obligations to creditors and the welfare of European citizens, how should future debt relief be implemented to both provide confidence to the market without creating perverse incentives for governments?*

Submitted by: Emily Astbury (UK), Sophia Yazdani Biuki (AT), Olga Bondarenko (UA), Embla Sofie Brødbæk (DK), Andreas Cameron (NO), Catarina Cardoso (PT), Beatrice Codd (CH), Carmela H. Jabaloyes (ES), Andrew Kelleher (IE), Danica Manojlović (RS), Bleron Nelaj (AL), Alexandra Palaologou (GR), Cleopatra Pierides (CY), Richard Serenkov (DE), Kevin Van Hevel (BE), Anna Zapļetina (LV), Ignasi Cortés Arbués (ES, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with regret that Greece's government debt is equivalent to around 180% of its GDP,<sup>30</sup> significantly diminishing consumer and investor confidence,
- B. Believing that lack of transparency during debt negotiations in Greece and other indebted countries in the **Euro area** contributed to the general population developing a distrust of creditor institutions,
- C. Aware that 98% of lobbying to the European Central Bank<sup>31</sup> comes from companies within the banking industry, which may have further contributed to the common belief that creditor institutions' disregard citizens' welfare,
- D. Taking into account creditors' interests in preventing potential moral hazard due to overly favourable debt relief by enforcing restrictive conditions on the spending of loans,
- E. Recognising that the 19 Member States comprising the Economic and Monetary Union lack autonomy in deciding and implementing monetary policies such as devaluing currency and manipulating interest rates,
- F. Concerned by the different degrees of development of higher value-adding industries among Member States within the **Euro area**, which is driving inequalities in average income between economies,
- G. Acknowledging the negative impact of austerity on citizens' quality of life and access to public services due to insufficient public spending in infrastructure, education and healthcare,
- H. Fully aware that the departure of 180,000 graduates from Greece in the past 8 years<sup>32</sup> has led to a decrease in the supply of high-skilled labour and exacerbated income inequalities between Member States,
- I. Alarmed by prominent **shadow economies**<sup>33</sup> and attendant losses in tax revenue within Member States most heavily affected by recessions,
- J. Noting with deep concern that low market confidence in highly indebted economies, as reflected in **credit ratings**, discourages foreign investments necessary to stimulate growth,
- K. Deeply concerned by the negative effect of austerity measures on consumer confidence and the lack of cash circulation;

<sup>30</sup> Trading Economics, 2018. <https://tradingeconomics.com/greece/government-debt-to-gdp>

<sup>31</sup> Haar, Kenneth. Corporate Europe Observatory, 2017. <https://corporateeurope.org/pressreleases/2017/10/corporate-capture-its-most-extreme-98-ecb-advisors-represent-industry>

<sup>32</sup> Ioannou, Lori. CNBC, 2015. <https://www.cnbc.com/2015/02/25/the-real-greek-tragedy-the-worlds-biggest-brain-drain.html>

<sup>33</sup> McCarthy, Niall. Statista, 2017. <https://www.statista.com/chart/8015/where-shadow-economies-are-well-established/>



### Improving transparency and fairness of debt negotiations

1. Strongly urges Member States to negotiate **debt restructuring** as their main form of debt relief given its potential to balance the health of debtor's economy with the obligations to its creditors;
2. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) to consider the creation of a coordinated framework based on common values which all bailout negotiations and conditions should uphold;
3. Supports non-governmental organisations acting as neutral moderators in bailout negotiations in order to promote transparency towards both government and their people;
4. Suggests the ECB provide bailouts over a longer period of time, where there are pre-agreed conditions on the increments that are released;

### Supporting debtor nations' governments and citizens within the currency union

5. Calls upon the DG ECFIN to invest in research programmes in institutes of higher education to strengthen higher value-adding industries in lower average income economies;
6. Recommends future **European Semesters** for struggling economies to include increases in spending on:
  - a. healthcare, supported by the **Third EU Health Plan**,
  - b. education, supervised by **Erasmus+**;
7. Hopes Member States provide grants to students accepted into selective universities conditional on their commitment to return to work in their home country for a set number of years;

### Improving market confidence and stimulating post-recessionary growth

8. Encourages Member States to decrease tax evasion by:
  - a. simplifying tax filing processes,
  - b. promoting and expanding government audits investigating tax evasion practices;
9. Urges Member States to improve business conditions across all sectors, particularly for small and medium enterprises, by:
  - a. creating **Special Economic Zones** with lower corporate taxes in underdeveloped areas,
  - b. facilitating infrastructural development such as electricity, Internet connectivity, and roads,
  - c. ensuring legal consistency in property registration and construction permits,
  - d. establishing local banks to provide improved credit supply;
10. Strongly recommends the governments of heavily indebted Member States favour expansive fiscal policies over enforcing austerity measures, including measures such as lowering **value added tax** and income tax.



## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS AND MONETARY AFFAIRS I (ECON I)***

- A. **Euro area:** commonly called the eurozone, an economic and geographical region consisting of all the countries that have fully adopted the Euro as their national currency. As of 2018, the eurozone had 19 countries in the EU.
- B. **Shadow economy:** illicit economic activity within the boundaries of a country's economy that includes both black market transactions and undeclared work.
- C. **Credit ratings:** an assessment of the market's confidence in a borrower's ability to fulfill a particular debt or financial obligation. A credit rating can be assigned to any entity that seeks to borrow money, such as a sovereign government.
- D. **Debt restructuring:** a debt relief method used by sovereign governments with outstanding debt obligations, by altering the terms of the debt agreement. The method is generally based on lowering the interest rates pending on a loan to avoid bankruptcy.
- E. **European Semester:** provides a framework for the coordination of economic policies across the European Union. It allows EU countries to discuss their economic and budget plans and monitor progress at specific times throughout the year.
- F. **Third EU Health Plan:** a funding instrument with a budget of 449.9 million EUR to support cooperation among EU countries and underpin and develop EU health activities, running from 2014 to 2020.
- G. **Erasmus+:** the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of 14.7 billion EUR will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, gain experience.
- H. **Special Economic Zones:** an area in which business and trade laws within a country or economic zone are different from the rest of the region. They are designed to attract foreign investment.
- I. **Value added tax (VAT):** this is a common type of consumption tax based on the amount by which the value of a product has risen at each stage of production and distribution.





## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EMPL)**

*With around 40% of EU citizens part of the irregular labour market, including the self-employed and those on part-time contracts, the impact of the “gig economy” in Europe has increased. With employees often subject to a weaker protection, and employers facing less certainty about their workforce, how can European countries ensure a balanced level of rights for both sides?*

Submitted by: Krista Čistjakova (LV), Ilya Bardukhayeu (BR), Jovan Dončevski (RS), David English (IE), Simon Kuhn (BE), Antinéa Lakomy (FR), Nicolas Martinez (ES), Diogo Matos (PT), Sindi Pepa (AL), Sára Petursdóttir Johannesen (DK), Khrystyna Radysh (UA), Hannah Ryan (FI), Bernd Stelzl (AT), Sebastian Sutter (CH), Emilia Vrahimi (CY), William Eddershaw (IE, Chairperson).

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

- A. Recognising that the **gig economy** is beneficial for workers outside the **regular labour market** providing flexible hours, work-life balance and supplementary income,
- B. Acknowledging that excessive regulations on the gig economy could damage the future growth and profitability of new companies and startups, creating job losses and reduced investment in many sectors of the economy at the cost of EU citizens,
- C. Noting that replacing the conventional labour market with the gig economy is not sustainable with current regulations,
- D. Alarmed by the lack of current EU legislation and protection for gig workers,
- E. Understanding that the lack of clarity in legal definitions of employees across Member States allow gig economy employers to deny their workers **employee** status,
- F. Aware that gig workers often lack **social protections** such as sick leave, pensions and medical insurance,
- G. Concerned that **full-time gig workers** often face uncertainty of their daily income and the negative consequences of this situation,
- H. Observing that that multinational corporations (MNCs) avoid **social programme taxes** by exploiting the lack of laws and regulations regarding gig economy workers,
- I. Regretting that once MNCs operating in the gig economy establish themselves as dominant market participants, wages and working conditions can worsen,
- J. Deeply concerned by the lack of data collection on new trends within the irregular labour market by Member States' National Statistics offices and well as EU institutions,
- K. Conscious that traditional institutions that defend employee rights such as **trade unions** do not represent workers in the gig economy,
- L. Disappointed with the lack of communication and cooperation between government officials, gig economy entrepreneurs and trade unions;

### **Legal clarifications**

1. Requests Member States to clarify their legal definitions of employees and self-employed with respect to the gig economy;



2. Calls for the **Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)** to propose an EU-wide definition of an employee for **gig economy platforms** where a worker logging over 500 hours in a calendar year qualifies as an employee and receives social protections;
3. Instructs the **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)** to:
  - a. discuss methods of implementation and information relating to proposed definition in clause 3 in their semi-annual meetings,
  - b. consider the gig economy as a core topic of their meetings;

### **Sustainable regulation and planning**

4. Requests Member States to enact legislation replacing fixed payments per task with a base of **minimum hourly wages** for gig workers, equivalent to their current employee-minimum wages;
5. Directs the European Centre of Expertise for Labour Law (ECE) to:
  - a. assist the Commission in closing loopholes for employee misclassification,
  - b. recommend harsher punishments for companies who misclassify their employees;
6. Calls upon **Eurofound** and other academic institutions to focus on conducting research and compiling data on the gig economy for relevant public officials;

### **Provision of Social Security**

7. Invites gig economy platforms to provide optional **private pensions** to its workers through third party firms;
8. Appeals to MNCs to offer full-time employment for workers that operate within the platform for over one year;

### **Reimagining Trade Unions**

9. Proposes trade unions create digital applications offering legal advice and direct contact between gig workers to promote communication and workers' rights;
10. Asks the **European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)** to assist small gig economy trade unions in establishing Gig Economy National Trade Union Federations across Member States for better representation at the national level;
11. Encourages the increase of communication and cooperation between government officials, gig economy entrepreneurs and trade unions through:
  - a. an online forum where workers can discuss and share their concerns with governments and the gig companies;
  - b. the **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSi)** to hold quarterly dialogues between gig economy workers and employers.



## **FACT SHEET FOR THE MOTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EMPL)**

- A. **Gig economy:** non-conventional employment market derived from the collaborative economy, where companies source their labour through self-contracted workers, often through for-profit online platforms. These companies usually offer single-use, short-term contracts ranging from one hour to one week to complete a specific task.
- B. **Regular labour market:** A labour market is the place where workers and employees interact with each other. In the labour market, employers compete to hire the best, and the workers compete for the best satisfying job.
- C. **Employee:** An individual working for an employer bound by an indefinite contract, subject to notice, additionally, a person may legally be considered an employee if either they're subordinate to their employer, cannot refuse work given to them, wear a uniform, have mandatory hours or may not work for other companies. Unlike an employee, someone is **self-employed** when they enter into a contract with another party without the principle of subordination, choosing their own client, hours, specific jobs and the payment they receive for them.
- D. **Social protections:** consists of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, such as unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age.
- E. **Full-time gig worker:** A worker in the gig-economy relying on this form of employment as their main source of income, similar to that of a full time employee.
- F. **Social programme taxes:** taxes levied on both employers and employees to fund social securities programmes. Social programme taxes are usually collected in the form of payroll tax or self-employment tax.
- G. **Trade unions:** an organised association of workers in a trade, group of trades, or a profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests'. Trade unions heavily rely on a substantial and permanent membership, which is an inherent challenge as to why gig-workers often cannot unionise against MNCs.
- H. **Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL):** Responsible for labour law as well as supporting fairer working conditions under the European Pillar of Social Rights
- I. **Gig Economy Platform:** Digital Website/application connecting individual workers with customers to provide services. Unlike online shopping websites these platforms manage worker efforts and distribute working opportunities to the benefit of both parties resembling the functions of a company and employer.
- J. **Employment, Social policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO):** consists of all Member States' ministers, who are responsible for social and employment policies across Europe.
- K. **Minimum hourly wage:** The lowest hourly wage that a person can be paid, according to individual state laws. It is illegal to offer pay to employees below the minimum hourly wage.
- L. **European Centre of Excellence for Labour Law (ECE):** A body created by the EU Commission to assist applying EU law, analysing ECJ rulings and potential disputes as well as promoting debates on these issues
- M. **Eurofound:** EU agency responsible for the researching and analysing the development of working and living conditions, labour markets and employment.



- N. **Private Pensions:** A private pension is a plan into which individuals contribute from their earnings, which then will pay them a private pension after retirement. It is an alternative to the state pension. Usually individuals invest funds into saving schemes or mutual funds, run by insurance companies.
- O. **European Trade Union Confederation (EUTC):** Representative body for 90 European Trade Unions and 45 million members. Its main aim is to lobby the EU and pursue policy changes for workers' rights and living standards Across Europe.
- P. **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI):** The EaSi aims to improve unemployment and working conditions across Europe as well as convening sectoral social dialogue committees between employee and employer representatives.



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

*EUROSTAT, the Directorate-General of the EU created to provide statistical information, regularly publishes statistics on sexual violence. As a footnote to these statistics, they include the disclaimer "It should be borne in mind that the figures do not necessarily reflect the actual number of violent sexual crimes. Rather they show to what extent such crimes are reported to and recorded by police. Therefore, the variation between countries is also influenced by general awareness and attitudes to sexual violence offences". With reporting, recording and prosecution rates of sexual offences substantially below the real rates of occurrence, what can governments and civil society do to close that gap?*

Submitted by: Murad Aliyev (AZ), Beril Başer (TR), Ekaterine Begashvili (GE), María Blázquez (ES), Molly Boulton (UK), Marta Fossati (IT), Natalia Klecha (PL), Joona Mäkinen (FI), Anja Schiefer (CH), Sona Sharoyan (AM), Mary Skopeliti (GR), Alexandra Sabina Strat (RO), Emilė Vitkauskytė (LT), Joana Cavaco (PT, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting that underreporting is influenced by specific societal contexts such as gender stereotypes and sexist practices embedded in traditional culture, which leads to a high number of survivors fearing victim blaming and shaming<sup>34</sup>,
- B. Further noting that whilst 1 in 3<sup>35</sup> women in the EU experience physical and/or sexual violence, an estimate of only 14%<sup>36</sup> of women reported the incident,
- C. Taking into account that 6 to 10%<sup>37</sup> of sexual violence survivors did not know where to report the crime, due to a lack of information and access to resources,
- D. Disturbed by the existing stigma around male victims, who are over twice as likely than women to not tell anyone about the intimate partner abuse they are suffering from<sup>38</sup>,
- E. Taking into consideration that in 8 out of 10<sup>39</sup> cases of rape, the victim knows the perpetrator personally, which discourages them from reporting the incident due to for example, financial dependence on their partner,
- F. Emphasising that **prosecutorial impunity** is widespread in sexual violence due to the lack of capacity within the state's justice system,
- G. Recognising that different European countries define both consent and sexual offence in distinct ways, which results in unequal procedural treatment in Member States' legal systems,
- H. Pointing out that the majority of women working in top management positions decide not to report cases of sexual harassment and violence, fearing potential repercussions at their workplace,
- I. Noting with satisfaction that reducing intimate partner violence would decrease the female suicide rate by 28%<sup>40</sup> relative to 7%<sup>41</sup> in men,
- J. Bearing in mind that 26%<sup>42</sup> of all sexual offenses reported to the police by female victims were not recorded as crimes,

<sup>34</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, "Violence against women: an EU wide survey", 2014;

<sup>35</sup> Ibid;

<sup>36</sup> Ibid;

<sup>37</sup> Ibid;

<sup>38</sup> Ibid;

<sup>39</sup> Ibid;

<sup>40</sup> Bertolote JM, Fleischmann A. A global perspective on the magnitude of suicide mortality. In: Wasserman D, Wasserman C, editors. Oxford Text Book of Suicidology and Suicide Prevention. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press; 2009;

<sup>41</sup> Ibid;

<sup>42</sup> European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, "Violence against women: an EU wide survey", 2014;





- K. Taking into account the availability of first instance support shelters for victims of sexual assault is extremely limited compared to the number of victims<sup>43</sup>,
- L. Concerned by the discrimination<sup>44</sup> faced by the members of the LGBTQI+ community from authorities, when trying to report cases of sexual violence;

### **Changing the stigma surrounding reporting acts of sexual violence**

- 1. Invites the European Commission to promote the importance of trainings, with an emphasis in understanding how to best support victims of sexual violence amongst Member States, targeting representatives of the justice system and law enforcement with particular reference to national police forces, social, medical and legal services and employers;
- 2. Suggests non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as Festival Safe to create safe spaces for victims of sexual offenses in large-scale events in order to provide psychological help and security, following the example of Spain's so-called "violent points";
- 3. Encourages local NGOs to follow the example of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) by organising information sessions regarding sexual harassment, offenses, and their implications, and promote cooperation with respective educational institutions;

### **Harmonising practices aimed at combating sexual violence at a societal and institutional level**

- 4. Requests the Council of the EU to initiate discussions about the possibility of implementing harmonised policy guidelines for reporting sexual offenses;
- 5. Urges Member States to make their respective law enforcement authorities more visible through advertisements and social media campaigns, in order to raise awareness among the victims of sexual harassment on where to report incidents of sexual violence;
- 6. Strongly recommends Member States to employ their offices for national statistics, to collect information on gender-based violence and sexual harassment;
- 7. Expresses its appreciation to NGOs such as the Inspiring Male Action on Gender Equality in Europe (IMAGINE) to extend their two-year plan in more Member States (other than United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Sweden) for their work in schools with young boys, discussing openly about consent and sexual violence;
- 8. Calls upon the European Commission to propose a common and coherent definition of consent, as well as defining what qualifies as a sexual offense;

### **Capacity building and combating discrimination**

- 9. Asks Member States to create more shelters, in order to give survivors of sexual violence a safe place where they can find support and access resources in order to overcome their traumatic experiences;
- 10. Calls upon the European Institution of Gender Equality (EIGE) to monitor and audit the management of shelters across the EU in order to control discrimination against race, sexuality, and gender;
- 11. Invites the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work to stimulate the exchange of good practices amongst Member States to improve both training for law enforcement authorities and the availability of guidelines on how to tackle sexual violence cases in regards to the importance of conducting victim related empathy exercises, regulating discrimination against minorities.

<sup>43</sup> For example in the U.K there are only 18 shelters that serve men despite a nearly 80% increase in reports from male victims between 2012 and 2016;

<sup>44</sup> The Independent, Attacks on LGBT people surge almost 80% in UK over last four years, 2017;



## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM)***

- A. **Prosecutorial impunity:** This refers to prosecutorial misconduct and lack of meaningful legal resources for victims of sexual violence which results on the fact that perpetrators are not prosecuted to the full extent of the law (or not at all) by the Member State's justice systems.
- B. **Inspiring Male Action on Gender Equality in Europe (IMAGINE):** IMAGINE is a joint effort to develop and implement a gender-transformative violence prevention toolkits in Europe. The NGO has trained volunteers in gender equality work, violence prevention and facilitation skills that work with young men to explore and challenge dominant forms of masculinity which value aggression and dominance and treat violence as inevitable at best, necessary at worst.
- C. **Festival safe:** Festival Safe is a cross-industry initiative designed by festival organisers and industry professionals. It is a central resource to share useful information and advice in order to prevent sexual violence acts in big scale events.
- D. **International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF):** The International Planned Parenthood Federation is a global non-governmental organisation with the broad aims of promoting sexual and reproductive health, and advocating the right of individuals to make their own choices in family planning.
- E. **European Institution of Gender Equality (EIGE):** The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is an autonomous body of the European Union, established to contribute to and strengthen the promotion of gender equality, including gender mainstreaming in all EU policies and the resulting national policies, and the fight against discrimination based on sex, as well as to raise EU citizens' awareness of gender equality.
- F. **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work:** EU-OSHA is the European Union information agency for occupational safety and health. Our work contributes to the European Commission's Strategic Framework for Safety and Health at work 2014-2020 and other relevant EU strategies and programmes, such as Europe 2020.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (DROI)

*Concerns over Member States' sovereignty and populist backlash have set back attempts to reform the Dublin Regulation, the EU's framework for handling and distributing asylum applications. With many refugees stuck in legal limbo, and currently responsible agencies and Member States overwhelmed by the demands of the current system, how should the EU's policy be reformed and enforced to ensure a functional and fair distribution of responsibilities in this space?*

Submitted by: Aliaa Adi (SY), Arina Chernysova (RU), Laura Cuberga (LV), Leonor Costa (PT), Johann Davies (DE), Dorotea Igric (HR), Gergely Kozar (FI), Fiona Lutaj (AL), Nico Neukunft (ES), Nil Obdan (TR), Katarina Normark (SE), Fadilah Salawu (IE), Thanos Siokos (GR), Helene Stormorken (NO), Sarah van Bavel (NL), Weronika Betta (PL, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Emphasising that the right to seek asylum is a fundamental human right, as guaranteed by Article 14 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- B. Fulfilling the commitment to the core EU values of human rights, human dignity, and freedom, as laid out in Article 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- C. Alarmed by human rights violations that **asylum seekers** are exposed to en route to entering the EU, as well as during the processing period, including but not limited to: unjustified detention, obstacles to claiming asylum, inadequate living conditions, separation of families, sexual harassment and violence,
- D. Noting with regret the ineffectiveness of the existing **Dublin III Regulation**, manifested through matters such as:
  - i. placing disproportionate strain on countries on the EU's external border such as Greece and Italy,
  - ii. the resulting length and inefficiency of the asylum procedure,
  - iii. not taking into consideration personal preferences of asylum seekers which could improve local integration,
  - iv. incentives for both asylum seekers and authorities, not to engage in identification and registration procedures,
- E. Recognising that the inadequacies of the **Dublin III Regulation** and its enforcement during the recent refugee crisis fueled political backlash and a growing mistrust between Member States,
- F. Deeply concerned that the inefficiency of the asylum system currently in place:
  - i. leaves asylum seekers in a prolonged state of legal uncertainty,
  - ii. increases their vulnerability to abuse,
  - iii. negatively affects their wellbeing and prospects for integration,
- G. Alarmed by the fact that the **Reception Conditions Directive** is not being fully implemented in Member States experiencing an increased influx of asylum-seekers,
- H. Reaffirming that family reunification should be a priority, due to its value for the integration process and the mental health of refugees,
- I. Noting with regret that the quality of health services for asylum seekers varies between Member States,



- J. Bearing in mind that 85% of refugees worldwide are currently hosted in developing countries<sup>45</sup> despite the relative lack of resources of these host countries,
- K. Referring to the commitment of Member States to the principle of **non-refoulement** under the **1951 Refugee Convention** and other international human rights instruments,
- L. Having examined the controversies concerning the 2016 **EU-Turkey agreement**, namely the alleged violations of the human rights of asylum seekers<sup>46</sup>;

### Reform of the Dublin System

- 1. Urges the European Commission to amend the Dublin IV proposal to replace the country-of-arrival criterion with the following: family members present in Member States, language proficiency, and potential for labour market integration in a Member State;
- 2. Asks the European Commission to broaden the definition of 'family members' in the Dublin IV proposal to include second-degree relatives in considerations of family unity;
- 3. Suggests the European Commission to amend the Dublin IV proposal to determine each Member State's target intake of asylum-seekers based on: GDP per capita, number of inhabitants and demographic composition, and structure of the local labour market;
- 4. Requests the European Commission to increase financial and administrative support to Member States that are typically countries of first arrival, in order to improve living conditions and ensure the due registration procedure is carried out;

### Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of refugees on EU soil

- 5. Urges Member States to abide by their commitments under international human rights agreements, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights;
- 6. Calls on Member States to implement monitoring for human rights violations in all police stations and asylum centers;
- 7. Further calls on Member States to make the aforementioned monitoring footage available to investigative teams from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Human Rights Watch;
- 8. Recommends that Member States increase cooperation with NGOs working in the fields of counter-trafficking, movement management, refugee integration, and anti-discrimination;
- 9. Calls upon Member States to guarantee adequate free-of-charge mental health services to refugees and asylum seekers, especially for unaccompanied minors;

### Countering political backlash

- 10. Encourages Member States to prevent ghettoisation, which is a significant obstacle to refugee integration in European cities, by investing in integrated housing projects;
- 11. Suggests Member States guarantee mandatory integration courses for newly accepted refugees;
- 12. Recommends that the European Commission proceeds with the **Article 7 mechanism** in the case that a Member State persistently breaches core EU values by refusing to abide by the responsibility-sharing measures;

### Regional and global cooperation

45 UNHCR, 2017, Global Trends: Forced Displacement <http://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf>

46 Oxfam, 2017, The reality of the EU-Turkey Statement <https://d1tn3vj7xz9fdh.cloudfront.net/s3fs-public/bn-eu-turkey-statement-migration-170317-en.pdf>



13. Reaffirms that global cooperation on responsibility-sharing is crucial in ensuring fair and functional distribution of refugees;
14. Recommends **the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)** establishes EU asylum processing centers in third countries commonly found on refugee itineraries, in order to facilitate a safer path toward asylum in the EU;
15. Invites the European Commission to cooperate with the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** to reevaluate the human rights and asylum processing conditions in third countries and create a common EU Safe Country List;
16. Condemns the conclusion of bilateral agreements on responsibility-sharing between Member States and third countries not on the aforementioned EU Safe Country List.



## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS (DROI)***

- A. **Refugee**, as defined by the Refugee Convention, is a person fleeing persecution in their home country on the grounds of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group. After they have applied for asylum in another country, if their claim is evaluated positively, they are granted legal **refugee status**.
- B. **Asylum seeker** is a person seeking international protection i.e. applied for asylum, but whose claim has not yet been evaluated. They must remain in the country in which they applied until a decision is reached, without rights to work or residency.
- C. **Non-refoulement** is a principle in international law that forbids a country receiving asylum seekers to return (refoul) them to another country where they would likely be in danger of persecution.  
**1951 Refugee Convention** is a multilateral treaty signed by 145 countries which forms the basis of refugee law. It defines who is a refugee and what responsibilities states have towards refugees.
- D. **Dublin III Regulation** is an EU-wide mechanism currently in place for determining which Member State is responsible for examining asylum applications. This is usually the first country in the EU which the refugee entered.
- E. **Dublin IV** is a **proposal** for a reform of the Dublin system currently being discussed within the EU.
- F. **The European Asylum Support Office (EASO)** is an EU agency created to strengthen the cooperation of EU Member States on asylum and enhance the implementation of the Common European Asylum System.
- G. **UNHCR** is a United Nations agency with mandate to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees, including granting legal refugee status, providing humanitarian assistance, engaging with governments, and leading advocacy efforts.
- H. The **EU-Turkey agreement** was concluded in 2016 and stipulated that all Syrian asylum-seekers who enter Greece illegally should be returned to Turkey for processing. For every refugee Turkey accepts under the agreement, Greece agreed to accept one refugee from Turkey. The EU is also supposed to provide a minimum of 3 billion EUR in aid to support Turkish authorities, and grant visa-free travel for Turkish citizens.
- I. **Reception Conditions Directive** seeks to ensure that asylum seekers waiting for a decision on their application must be provided with certain necessities that guarantee them an adequate basic standard of living, such as access to housing, food, clothing, healthcare. It also states that a decision on one's asylum application has to be given within 9 months.
- J. **Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union** provides a mechanism to suspend Member States' rights within the EU, including voting rights, in the case that a Member State refuses to respect the core EU values.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)

*Recent work by the OECD investigating socio-economic divides in Europe recognised that “Education systems can be a force for social mobility. However, they can also reproduce and reinforce existing social divides”. Given this place of schools and universities in maintaining, reinforcing and in some cases increasing social stratification in European nations, what should governments do to ensure that quality of education is as great as possible, while ensuring that educational institutions do not create or perpetuate the concept of “class” as a social divider?*

Submitted by: Maxine Buchert (FI), Massimiliano Cifarelli (ES), Dara Cindrea (RO), Nadia Evelyn Faher (CY), Mher Harutyunyan (AM), Gabija Jucytė (LT), Alicia Kunz (FR), Daryna Lebid (UA), Adam Palivec (CZ), Luca Peinsold (AT), Umut Sidar Polat (TR), Sveva Scherpereel (BE), Clara Schreiner (DE), Martina Sclaverano (IT), Gete Suurraid (EE), Marta Sowa (PL) Waltter Roslin (FI, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Observing that ages between zero and six are considered formative years in a person's life<sup>47</sup> making early life education a vital part of the cognitive development of a child,
- B. Concerned by the lack of accessible and high quality public preschools within Member States,
- C. Aware that within the European Union (EU) 81,3% of lower secondary school students and 71,9% of upper secondary school students attend public school<sup>48</sup>,
- D. Bearing in mind that private school students enjoy both access to additional resources granted through independent funding and a lower student-to-teacher ratio compared to public schools<sup>49</sup>,
- E. Recognising that there are financial barriers within private school education, potentially creating a gap between **socio-economic “classes”**,
- F. Considering that students living in geographically remote areas can have limited access to high quality education,
- G. Noting with regret that socio-economic stigmas surrounding schools in disadvantaged areas can adversely affect the quality of the education provided,
- H. Acknowledges that the **socio-economic status** of a child's parents influences the child's educational attainment<sup>50</sup>,
- I. Deeply concerned by the fact that only an average of 10.9% of adults aged 25-64 across the EU participate in tertiary education<sup>51</sup>,
- J. Regretting that there is often a negative stigma surrounding vocational education, both at secondary and tertiary level,
- K. Realising that a high amount of students from lower socio-economic backgrounds attend vocational education,

<sup>47</sup> Mollborn Stefanie, Lawrence Elizabeth, James-Hawkins Laurie, and Fomby Paula, When Do Socioeconomic Resources Matter Most in Early Childhood? 2014, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4242154/>

<sup>48</sup> Eurostat, Number of Secondary Education Students 2015.

<sup>49</sup> OECD, Student to Teacher Ratio, 2016, [https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=EAG\\_PERS\\_RATIO](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=EAG_PERS_RATIO)

<sup>50</sup> OECD, Educational Opportunity for All - Overcoming Inequality Throughout the Life Course, 2017, [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/educational-opportunity-for-all\\_9789264287457-en#page4](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/educational-opportunity-for-all_9789264287457-en#page4)

<sup>51</sup> European Commission, Education and Training Monitor 2018 – Country analysis, 2018, <http://ec.europa.eu/education/sites/education/files/document-library-docs/volume-2-2018-education-and-training-monitor-country-analysis.pdf>



- L. Stressing that there are disparities between Member States regarding the percentage of GDP invested in their respective educational systems<sup>52</sup>,
- M. Concerned by the low salaries received by teachers, as:
  - i. the workload of teachers is not properly reflected in the salary,
  - ii. it impacts the educational quality in public schools;
- 1. Resolves to break the cycle of inherited stratification of socio-economic class through **equality of opportunity** in primary and secondary education, thus enabling greater social mobility;

#### Early life education & Adult Education

- 2. Endorses and supports the European Commission's thematic working group on early childhood education and care, as well as the **European Council's Proposal** for a recommendation on the quality framework for early childhood education & care;
- 3. Requests the European Commission to give financial support for Member States in order to reach the **Europe 2020 Strategy** goal for universal preschool education;
- 4. Calls upon Member States' employment agencies to advocate for the importance of adult education and provide accessibility to opportunities in adult education;
- 5. Urges Member States to implement the guidelines proposed by the **The "Education and Training 2020" work programme (ET2020)** on adult education;

#### Vocational Education

- 6. Calls for the European Commission to amend the ET2020 to include the improvement of facilities used for vocational education;
- 7. Encourages Member States to set up a platform to facilitate communication between vocational education and training providers and employers to allow for more internship opportunities;

#### Fighting inequalities

- 8. Encourages the **Directorate-General on Mobility and Transport** to invest in the improvement of infrastructure to remote, impoverished regions to grant easier access to education for students in those areas;
- 9. Requests Member States to offer additional financial incentives to teachers operating in schools populated by socio-economically **disadvantaged students**;
- 10. Invites the **Directorate-General on Education, Youth, Sport and Culture** to create a working group to research and advice on the implementation of after-school clubs for primary schools in Members States;
- 11. Suggests to the Directorate-General on Education, Youth, Sport and Culture to create a platform for the exchange of information between Ministries of Education of each Member State, concerning socioeconomic stratification and its impact on education;
- 12. Calls upon the European Commission's **"Lifelong Learning Programme"** to increase scholarship opportunities for university students from lower socioeconomic status;

#### Member State Educational Policy

<sup>52</sup> Eurostat, Total General Expenditure on Education 2016. [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/6/64/Total\\_general\\_government\\_expenditure\\_on\\_education%2C\\_2016\\_%28%25\\_of\\_GDP\\_%25\\_of\\_total\\_expenditure%29.png](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/images/6/64/Total_general_government_expenditure_on_education%2C_2016_%28%25_of_GDP_%25_of_total_expenditure%29.png)





13. Encourages Member States to invest at least 5% of their respective GDP into their educational system, specifically targeting the public sector;
14. Calls for the Directorate-General on Education, Youth, Sport and Culture to request Member States for an annual report on the allocation of GDP, to develop guidelines for best practises on successful investment and fund allocation;
15. Invites Member States to consider raising wages for teachers working in their respective educational systems;
16. Urges Member States to educate teachers with mandatory teaching knowledge:
  - a. as part of the requirement for attaining an educational degree,
  - b. during their careers through workshops in cooperation with **The Association for Teachers Education in Europe (ATEE)**.



## **FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)**

- A. **Socio-Economic Class:** A social class is a set of subjectively defined concepts in the social sciences and political theory centered on models of social stratification in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories, the most common being the upper, middle, working and lower classes.
- B. **Socio-Economic Status:** Socioeconomic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation.
- C. **Equality of Opportunity:** A political theory calling for measures to ensure that people have an equal opportunity to attempt their goals, it does not mean complete equality, but rather progressively give everyone a similar starting point
- D. **Council Proposal for a Recommendation on High Quality Early Childhood Education and Care Systems:** The aim of this proposal for a Council Recommendation is to support Member States in their efforts to improve access to and quality of their early childhood education and care systems, whilst recognising that Member States are primarily responsible in this area.
- E. **Europe 2020:** The Europe 2020 strategy is the EU's agenda for growth and jobs for the current decade. It emphasises smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as a way to overcome the structural weaknesses in Europe's economy, improve its competitiveness and productivity and underpin a sustainable social market economy.
- F. **The “Education and Training 2020” work programme:** (ET2020) was adopted in May 2009. In line with the Europe 2020 growth strategy and building on the previous work programme ET2010, ET2020 defines the long-term strategic objectives of EU education and training policies: making lifelong learning and mobility a reality; improving the quality and efficiency of education and training; promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training
- G. **Directorate-General on Mobility and Transport:** The Commission department responsible for EU policy for Transport, Road Infrastructures and mobility
- H. **Disadvantaged Student:** Disadvantaged students are those whose family, social, or economic circumstances hinder their ability to learn at school.
- I. **Directorate-General on Education, Youth, Sport and Culture:** The Commission department responsible for EU policy on education, culture, youth, languages and sport.
- J. **European Commission’s “Lifelong Learning Programme”:** The Lifelong Learning Programme 2007–2013 was established by *Decision No.1720/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006*. It is the single financial instrument available to the Commission for its directly managed education and training policies during the period covered by the [European Union's current financial perspective](#).
- K. **The Association for Teachers Education in Europe (ATEE):** The Association for Teacher Education in Europe is a non-profit European organisation, whose aim is enhancing the quality of Teacher Education in Europe and supporting the professional development of teachers and teacher educators at all levels.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS (JURI)

*In 2017, the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia ended their term after 24 years assisting involved parties in the Western Balkans struggling to find a common understanding of the events of the war. With the Tribunal president arguing they had offered truth and not reconciliation, and more war crime cases for the region to come under the new Kosovo Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, what steps should be taken in the aftermath of these trials in order to achieve both accountability for international crimes and stability in the region?*

Submitted by: Utsav Bahl (CH), Maria Moro Bermudo (ES), Alysia Cloake (IE), Melisa Çavus (TR), Henry Fahrenkamp (DE), Maelle Franquin (IE), Emma Harris (UK), Lasse Holmelund Jarboel (DK), Luka Jurković (BH), Cameron Howie (RS), Leonie Kaliis (CY), Pia Langaas Holt (NO), Eda Muça (AL), Amer Nakić (HR), Maciej Kryński (PL, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with concern the negative impact of the Yugoslav wars (1991 - 2001), and the transition periods thereafter, on trust in political leaders and the rise of ethnic tensions in the Western Balkan countries, specifically in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and the disputed region of Kosovo,
- B. Acknowledging that while the **International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY)** fulfilled their mandate to bring to justice to the individuals responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law, it did not succeed in decreasing significant ethnic tensions in the Western Balkans, maintaining peace in the region, or informing the public about the outcomes of its work in a comprehensive or understandable manner<sup>53</sup>,
- C. Emphasising the need for accessible factual records of the ICTY to ensure a common understanding of the events,
- D. Lamenting the fact that the limited participation of Western Balkan youth in the judicial branch of their governments reduces the likelihood of much-needed judicial reform,
- E. Concerned by the destabilising effect of
  - i. widespread corruption and nepotism in the civil service in the Western Balkan states, which citizens rank as the most important problem facing their areas after unemployment and poverty<sup>54</sup>,
  - ii. a lack of credibility in and security of election and electoral processes in the Balkan region<sup>55</sup>.
- F. Aware of the widespread political apathy in Balkan countries, as demonstrated by low voter turnout figures, e.g. 53.98% in 2017 Serbian presidential elections and 53.59% in Croatian general elections<sup>56</sup>,
- G. Observing both widespread misinformation of the Balkan region population and a lack of information regarding the events of the Yugoslav wars, due to systemic shortcomings in media freedoms<sup>57</sup>,
- H. Alarmed that the **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)** ruling "**Sejdić-Finchi vs Bosnia and Herzegovina**", regarding fair treatment of ethnic minorities in the Western Balkans, has not been respected, as seen in the continued existence of ethnic quotas for parliamentary representatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>58</sup>,

<sup>53</sup> Koninklijke Brill NV. the ICTY – Controversies, Successes, Failures, Lessons. Sabrina P. Remet. 2012

<sup>54</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Corruption in the western Balkans: Bribery as Experienced by the Population. 2011

<sup>55</sup> Transparency International. Buying Influence: Money and Elections in the Balkans. 2013

<sup>56</sup> International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

<sup>57</sup> European Parliamentary Research Service. Media freedom trends 2017: Western balkans, May 2017.

<sup>58</sup> University of Zurich. Ethnic Quotas and Representation of Minorities in Local Politics in Bosnia, 2013.



- I. Deploing the dangerous rhetoric used by some political figures<sup>59</sup> to incite violence, spur hatred and widen ethnic divisions between Serbs, Croats, Bosnians and Albanians;

### Improving sociopolitical stability and working towards common understanding

1. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate projects to create ethnically neutral spaces on the borders between former Yugoslav countries, modelled on the **Cypriot Homes of Cooperation** project;
2. Encourages the United Nations to endorse dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, with a neutral third party as a mediator, with the objective to work towards stability and combatting tensions in the region;
3. Urges the United Nations to improve public awareness and access to information on the ICTY by:
  - a. providing simplified summaries of the ICTY rulings to make them easily comprehensible to the general public,
  - b. ensuring all transcripts are translated in all Balkan languages,
  - c. establishing more information centres following the model of the **Sarajevo Information Centre on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia**, either independently or as part of existing museums, displaying the work of the ICTY in all western Balkan countries;
4. Urges Balkan states to implement Slovenia's model of public information access, where the government is obliged to provide citizens with the desired information about deceased and missing relatives upon request;

### Combating apathy and empowering youth

5. Calls upon the European Commission to combat political apathy among younger generations by:
  - a. supporting the Balkan Youth Festival in its efforts to unite the Balkan youth,
  - b. expanding and further supporting platforms for peaceful dialogue amongst the youth, such as, but not limited to, EYP Yugosphere Forum;
6. Calls upon the European Commission to expand EU mentorship programmes vertically within the judicial system, to help aspiring lawyers throughout the Balkan region;

### Addressing the violation of international standards

7. Appreciates and further supports the work and expansion of Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and domestic NGOs to monitor and carry the burden of reporting irregularities in election procedures;
8. Commends measures such as the 2018 European Commission Report on Serbia for making merit-based appointment procedures in the judicial system a requirement for Balkan states' accession to the EU, thereby facilitating vertical movement in employment in this sector;
9. Invites the European Commission to cooperate with willing Balkan states to establish an independent, impartial body, following the model of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), tasked with:
  - a. investigating and preventing fraud by people in public office in the Balkan states,
  - b. promoting the transparency of political party finances, including full publication of parties' incomes and expenditures,
  - c. denouncing and reporting on cases such as tax fraud and thefts of public money;
10. Suggests the Balkan states strengthen the credibility of voting mechanisms in the western Balkan states, by, for example:

<sup>59</sup> Balkan Insight. Croatia-Serbia Tensions. Sven Milekic. 2016



- a. the formation of an online database where election data gathered from different political parties will be compared and analysed,
  - b. use of opaque ballot boxes,
  - c. prohibition of taking electronic devices into voting boxes to limit the threat of vote buying;
11. Supports the efforts of the European Commission, Amnesty international and Transparency International in strengthening and fostering the freedom of independent media sources;
  12. Reaffirms the importance of requiring candidate countries for accession to the EU to respect rulings of the ECHR, and condemns the refusal of Balkan states to do so;
  13. Calls upon the Balkan countries to introduce stricter laws regarding inciting violence based on racial or ethnic hatred, as specified in the 2018 European Commission Report on Serbia.



## **FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS (JURI)**

- A. **The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)<sup>60</sup>:** was a United Nations court of law dealing with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s. Between its establishment in 1993 and its dissolution in 2017, it irreversibly changed the landscape of international humanitarian law and provided victims an opportunity to voice the horrors they witnessed and experienced.
- B. **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR):** is a international court established by the European Convention on Human Rights. The court hears applications alleging that a contracting state has breached one or more of the human rights provisions concerning civil and political rights set out in the Convention and its protocols.
- C. **Case of Sejdić-Finchi v Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>61</sup>:** enforce Protocol 12 article 1B of the convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in regards to the right of minorities to run for public office.
- D. **The Home for Cooperation<sup>62</sup>:** a Cypriot non-governmental platform that aims to act as a bridge-builder between separated communities, memories and visions. It provides working spaces and opportunities for Non-Governmental Organisations and individuals to design and implement innovative projects.
- E. **Sarajevo Information Centre on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia<sup>63</sup>:** was the first information centre opened in the region of the former Yugoslavia. The Centre provide direct and guided access to the public judicial records of the ICTY as well as promote the ICTY's legacy. The Centre's activities are envisioned to include the organisation of a variety of public events, as well as assistance to external projects utilising and reflecting on the legacy of the ICTY.
- F. **Balkan Youth Festival (BYF):** is a non-government organisation founded in 2005. The main goal of BYF is to offer young people from Bulgaria, the Balkans and Europe opportunities to get to know each other, exchange information, and broaden their contacts.
- G. **Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE):** is the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization. Its mandate includes issues such as arms control, promotion of human rights, freedom of the press, and fair elections.
- H. **2018 European Commission Report on Serbia<sup>64</sup>:** a report on the accession criteria for Serbia to the European Union, reporting recommendations to improve the social, political and judicial situation.
- I. **European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF):** investigates fraud against the EU budget, corruption and serious misconduct within the European institutions, and develops anti-fraud policy. OLAF is part of the European Commission, but has operational independence.
- J. **Amnesty International:** an international NGO campaigning to end abuses of human rights.
- K. **Transparency International:** an international NGO taking action to combat global corruption and criminal activities arising from corruption through civil societal anti-corruption measures.

<sup>60</sup> United Nations. Updated Statute of the ICTY based on respective resolutions. 2009

<sup>61</sup> European Court of Human Rights. Case of Sejdić and Finchi v. Bosnia and Herzegovina (27996/06 and 34836/06). 2009

<sup>62</sup> Home4Cooperation official website

<sup>63</sup> United Nations. International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. Press Release. 2015

<sup>64</sup> European Commission. 2018 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy



## **RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH & ENERGY (ITRE)**

*The first subsidy-free wind farms have now been announced in three European countries - Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - reflecting the increasing profitability of certain renewable energy sources. Given the possibility that some future renewables schemes will be able to self-fund, how should European countries and the EU structure future project finance to continue to provide funding to schemes that require it, without discouraging private funding or state capitalisation for those schemes that will not?*

Submitted by: David Adams-Guppy (UK), Iva Andjelković (SI), Artemis Batikioti (GR), David Capek (CZ), Sabine Deletombe (LU), Joris Klei (NL), Admir Krilašević (BA), Elena Lomidze (GE), Martin Hentschel Lund (SE), Iulia Cristina Munteanu (RO), Elodie Nassoy (FR), Carlotta Puyol (IT), Stanisław Świtata (PL), Salim Youssef (DE), Ali Amjad (Chairperson, UK).

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

- A. Recognising that auction **models** are used across European countries to allocate projects and funding for renewable energy infrastructure,
- B. Concerned that unrealistically low bids submitted in renewable energy project auctions can result in insufficient funding and companies failing to complete projects they bid for,
- C. Bearing in mind that the renewable energy sector is a high-risk investment to private investors, for reasons such as the unpredictability of **power market** prices,
- D. Desiring an EU wide framework for effectively assessing the risks of the projects applying for auction entry,
- E. Noting that energy companies are not able to reliably deliver consistent power output from renewable energy sources, partly due to the dependence of these sources on weather conditions,
- F. Realising that the lack of power **grids** customised to store renewable energy leads to insufficient **transfer capacity**,
- G. Observing that renewable energy power plants are not currently profitable for companies in low-income European countries and Member States due to high installation costs,
- H. Taking into account that current **feed-in tariffs** systems have a fixed price and do not respond to variations in the market value of renewable energy,
- I. Keeping in mind that currently active projects related to renewable energy would be disrupted by new EU rules that remove feed-in tariffs<sup>65</sup>,
- J. Aware that according to **Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**<sup>66</sup>, Member States retain the right to control their energy supply,
- K. Emphasising that the European countries and Member States differ in the support they require to develop their renewable energy sector, due to varying levels of economic development, national-level renewable energy policies, differences in power distribution and storage infrastructure, natural resources available, and political attitudes towards renewables,
- L. Conscious that the centralisation of renewable energy sources can lead to **oligopolistic** or monopolistic markets, resulting in unfair competition;

<sup>65</sup> European Commission Energy Support Schemes, <https://bit.ly/2PAOHwY>

<sup>66</sup> Article 194 of the TFEU, <https://bit.ly/2CqfyYU>



### Extending investment in renewable energy through the European Investment Bank

1. Asks the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** to offer **deferred payment loans** for renewable energy projects until infrastructure construction is completed, after which a low-interest rate takes over until full repayment of the loan;
2. Encourages the EIB to further invest in research of technologies and methods for the storage of renewable energy in order to strive towards reliable use of clean energy sources;

### Improving power systems to better support renewable energy

3. Requests Member States reduce energy congestion by upgrading power grids through:
  - a. innovation of power transmission, distribution and storage,
  - b. further integration of the network;
4. Calls upon Member States to develop infrastructure projects in cooperation with Horizon 2020 to support low-income European countries in implementing renewable energy projects;
5. Reminds the European Commission to be flexible when regulating the energy market to allow individual Member States to adopt legislation in accordance with their needs and capabilities to develop renewable energy;

### Auction Models for renewable energy projects

6. Instructs Auctions for Renewable Energy Support (AURES) to aid auctioneers in verifying the feasibility of the bidder's proposed budget through their risk assessment framework so as to tackle the low completion rate;
7. Recommends the European Commission to fund the decentralisation of the renewable energy market by encouraging the Member States to hold multiple-item auctions aimed at smaller or medium scale companies;
8. Emphasises that energy companies with ongoing projects that currently depend on subsidies should receive subsidies until the completion of their contract, while new projects should follow the auction system;
9. Urges the European Commission to create an EU-level framework based on the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Auctions Design to assess the risk of project failure or non-completion, considering factors such as:
  - a. commitment to the contract,
  - b. the contract schedule,
  - c. assessment of financial risks,
  - d. underperformance and underbuilding penalties;
10. Urges that applicants provide more proof of financial stability and capability to fulfil a project in line with AURES guidelines before becoming a part of an auction in order to reduce the risk of project failure;

### Reducing risks for potential investors with Contracts for Difference

11. Recommends the application of **Contracts for Difference** along with inflation-adjusted feed-in tariffs to reduce the discrepancy between **contractual strike price** and market price;
12. Urges the European Commission to fund development, in the longer term, of a revised version of auction models to execute sealed auctions and Contracts for Difference, to ensure fair competition and completion of projects.





## **FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH & ENERGY (ITRE)**

- A. **Auction Models:** A mechanism becoming more popular across European countries, in which organisations bid the lowest price they can offer energy at in order to obtain the project or funding.
- B. **Power Market:** A system enabling purchases, through bids to buy; sales, through offers to sell; and short-term trades, generally in the form of financial or obligation swaps.
- C. **Power Grid:** An interconnected network used to deliver energy from suppliers to consumers.
- D. **Transfer capacity:** the amount of electric power that can be moved or transferred reliably from one area to another area of an interconnected transmission system (i.e. a power grid).
- E. **Feed-in tariff:** When a consumer generates their own energy through renewable means, they can sell excess power to energy providers and receive a payment which is called a feed-in tariff.
- F. **Subsidies:** Financial aid granted in order for organisation to gain a foothold in a market (often seen where production costs are high).
- G. **Article 194 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU):** Aims to preserve the sovereignty of Member States; allowing them to exploit their own natural resources, and choose the structure of their energy market.
- H. **Oligopoly:** a state of limited competition, in which a market is shared by a small number of producers or sellers.
- I. **European Investment Bank (EIB):** The EIB is an EU institution that seeks to support financially projects that look to meet EU goals, for both Member States and non-Member States. If renewable projects are to take off in lesser developed countries they may require financial support from the EIB.
- J. **Horizon 2020:** Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market<sup>67</sup>.
- K. **Energy Congestion:** results in, situations where the electricity supply exceeds the grid capacity
- L. **Auctions for Renewable Energy Support (AURES):** AURES is a European research project on auctions for renewable energy support (RES) in the EU. The general objective of the project is to promote an effective use and efficient implementation of auctions to improve the performance of electricity from renewable energy sources in Europe.
- M. **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA):** IRENA is an intergovernmental agency helping to support countries transition to a fully sustainable future. IRENA supports long term renewable energy strategies in lesser developed countries.
- N. **Contracts for Difference (CFD):** a contract between two parties, typically described as "buyer" and "seller", stipulating that the seller will pay to the buyer the difference between the current value of an asset and its value at contract time.
- O. **Contractual Strike Price:** A strike price is defined as the price at which the holder of an option can buy or sell the underlying security when the option is exercised.

<sup>67</sup> Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. <https://bit.ly/2tmOrL7>



- P. **Article 194 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU):** Aims to preserve the sovereignty of Member States; allowing them to exploit their own natural resources, and choose the structure of their energy market.
- Q. **Deferred payment loan:** A loan with an arrangement allowing for a delayed start to repayments of a loan to a specified date in the future.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS II (ECON II)

*Following revelations of large-scale tax abuse in the Panama Papers, the European Union released a blacklist of tax haven jurisdictions it will impose dissuasive sanctions on. However, critics point out that Member States such as Malta and Luxembourg benefit from policies that would be grounds for blacklisting in third countries. Considering this criticism and the ethical ramifications of large-scale tax avoidance, how should the EU mitigate the economic cost of tax havens both within and outside of the union?*

Submitted by: Marius Bommier (CH), Matheo Buzzi (AT), Martha Clarke (UK), Kleopatra Efstathiou (CY), Tan Elçin (TR), Elyn Flores Maldonado (BE), Akvilė Julija Gerikaitė (LT), Serin Jacob (FR), Volodymyr Marushevskiy (UA), Milica Mijailović (RS), Lira Mikayelyan (AM), Nataliya Romanova (RU), Ben Stemper (LU), Maria Szuster (PL), Maximilian Turcu (RO), Dimitris Davris (GR, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting that Member States lose an estimated 160-190 billion EUR<sup>68</sup> annually in tax revenue to tax avoidance, which can lead to increased taxes to compensate for these losses,
- B. Observing that tax avoidance affects not only the countries of the EU, but also the global economy, with annual losses reaching 500 billion USD<sup>69</sup> globally,
- C. Conscious of the distinction between the illegal practice of tax evasion and the legal exploitation of differing tax systems,
- D. Reaffirming the EU lists<sup>70</sup> of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, some of which are of great diplomatic and strategic importance to the EU, comprising a **blacklist** of 6 jurisdictions and a **greylist** of 64 jurisdictions,
- E. Cognisant that an **Oxfam** report<sup>71</sup> identified Luxembourg, Ireland, the Netherlands and Malta as being among the world's biggest tax havens according to their metrics, finding which differs from the EU list,
- F. Aware that the EU imposes sanctions on third-party non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, but elects not to do so on its Member States,
- G. Mindful that any EU-wide measure, such as the **Code of Conduct for business taxation** or the **Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB)**, would require a unanimous vote in the Council of the European Union,
- H. Deeply concerned by the reluctance of Member States to adopt the regularly updated country-by-country recommendations on fiscal and tax related-policies produced by the **European Semester**,
- I. Regretting that the complex international taxation system, as well as legislative differences in Member States' tax regimes create legal loopholes,
- J. Further noting that Multinational Corporations (MNCs) can legally avoid paying taxes through **aggressive tax planning, transfer pricing and profit shifting**,
- K. Further concerned that the exploitation of differing tax systems can benefit MNC's more than smaller enterprises,
- L. Alarmed by the influence of MNCs on national governments as a result of widespread lobbying activity,

<sup>68</sup> European Parliamentary Research Service, 2015

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/558773/EPRS\\_STU\(2015\)558773\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/558773/EPRS_STU(2015)558773_EN.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> International Monetary Fund Working Paper, 2018. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2018/07/23/International-Corporate-Tax-Avoidance-A-Review-of-the-Channels-Effect-Size-and-Blind-Spots-45999>

<sup>70</sup> European Commission, 2018 [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu\\_list\\_update\\_02\\_10\\_2018\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/eu_list_update_02_10_2018_en.pdf)

<sup>71</sup> Oxfam, 2018 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/shining-light-tax-havens-eu-cant-ignore>



- M. Alarmed that only 10 countries in the EU have comprehensive legislation to address the protection of **whistleblowers**, despite the significant impact of the Panama Papers revelations on attitudes towards tax legislation,
- N. Noting with concern that tax avoidance affects developing countries more, since taxes constitute a larger part of their **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**;

### Judicial measures

- 1. Recommends the European Council to make the Code of Conduct for business taxation mandatory in order to further tackle harmful tax competition in the EU;
- 2. Strongly encourages Member States to follow the recommendations of the European Semester on fiscal and tax-related policies, particularly to increase the speed at which loopholes in national tax legislations are closed;
- 3. Urges the European Commission and Council to approve the current proposal for a Directive on the protection of people reporting on breaches of Union law to ensure whistleblower protection;
- 4. Invites the Directorate-General for Competition (DG-COMP) of the European Commission to continue investigating and imposing fines on Member States found to be conferring selective tax advantages, which contribute to race to the bottom practices and are a breach of EU State aid rules;

### Transnational cooperation

- 5. Invites the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to create an international database providing up-to-date tax data of MNCs, in order to ensure efficient exchange of information between countries;
- 6. Further invites the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG-REGIO) of the European Commission to provide financial and technical support to Member States classified as tax haven to decrease dependency on MNCs,
- 7. Advises the Directorate-General for Trade (DG-TRADE) and the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG-ECFIN) of the European Commission to ensure that policies towards countries on the tax haven blacklist are effective on a long-term basis, particularly by re-evaluating the social, economic and political impact of economic sanctions;
- 8. Calls upon the DG-TRADE and the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG-GROW) of the European Commission to incentivise Member States and third country jurisdictions, which are currently considered as having a very low effective tax rate, to reduce their economic dependence on MNCs by initiating investments, credit aid opportunities and trade relations.

### Measures to increase transparency

- 9. Requests the OECD to cooperate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to develop a system for global taxation of MNCs on the basis of where taxable value is created, in order to aid the effective implementation of tax policies;
- 10. Recommends the European Commission to require MNCs operating in the EU to regularly submit reports on all of their activities in order to tax them according to the aforementioned system.



## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS II (ECON II)***

- A. **Tax haven:** A jurisdiction that offers foreign individuals and businesses little or no tax liability in a politically and economically stable environment. A tax haven is often defined by:
  - i. no or only nominal taxation on the relevant income;
  - ii. lack of effective exchange of information;
  - iii. lack of transparency in the operation of the legislative, legal or administrative provisions;
  - iv. no requirement for investors to demonstrate substantial activity in the jurisdiction.
- B. **The EU blacklist:** A list of non-cooperative jurisdictions that face potential sanction from the EU.
- C. **The EU greylist:** A list of closely monitored tax jurisdictions on the verge of moving to the blacklist, should they not implement the reforms they have committed to.
- D. **Oxfam:** An international confederation of 19 organisations working together with partners and local communities in more than 90 countries.
- E. **Code of Conduct for business taxation:** A non-binding political commitment by Member States introduced in a resolution adopted on 1 December 1997 by the Council of the EU, with the objective of curbing harmful tax competition.
- F. **Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB):** A proposal of the European Commission intended to provide cross-border companies one single EU system for computing corporate taxable income, rather than many different national regulations.
- G. **The European Semester:** A cycle of economic and fiscal policy coordination within the EU. It is part of the European Union's economic governance framework.
- H. **Aggressive Tax Planning:** The act of taking advantage of the technicalities of a tax system or of mismatches between two or more tax systems for the purpose of reducing tax liability.
- I. **Transfer pricing:** The rules and methods for pricing transactions within and between enterprises under common ownership or control.
- J. **Profit Shifting:** Corporate tax planning strategies used by multinationals to shift profits from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax jurisdictions.
- K. **Whistleblowers:** Individuals that can play an important role in uncovering unlawful activities that damage the public interest and the welfare of citizens and society.
- L. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** A monetary measure of the market value of all the final goods and services produced in a period of time, often annually or quarterly.
- M. **Race to the bottom:** A socio-economic phrase which is used to describe government deregulation of the business environment, or reduction in tax rates, in order to attract or retain economic activity in their jurisdictions.
- N. **State aid:** An advantage in any form, including tax advantages, conferred to businesses by national authorities. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) prohibits State aid unless justified by reasons of general economic development. Aid measures must be approved by the Commission, which also has the power to recover incompatible State aid (i.e. impose fines).
- O. **The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** is an essential intergovernmental organisation for dealing with this issue globally as the Convention on the OECD was



ratified by 35 countries that hold 42.8% of global gross domestic product. The OECD promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

- P. **Directive on Mandatory Disclosure of Transparency:** A Council Directive amending Directive 2011/16/EU to mandate automatic exchange of taxation information between Member States and certain third parties.: Description.



## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE (INTA)**

*With the growing tensions between the EU and the US caused by failure of TTIP negotiations and introduction of trade tariffs, the EU seems to be planning to open free trade talks with Australia and New Zealand due to higher level of political understanding at the moment. To what extent should values, principles and political understanding play a role in making decisions on trade policies?*

Submitted by: Shridar Amogh Patil (NO), Vazha Baratashvili (GE), Jan Boček (CZ), Chloe Delaitre (ES), Aletta Kemppainen (FI), Kateryna Maikovska (UE), Murad Malik-Aslanov (AZ), Nora Markanović (BA), Rok Milavec (SI), Dana Mousa (SE), Razvan Popescu (RO), Menno Uphoff (NL), Matteo Valetto (IT), Abbey Vernon (UK), Kalina Wiśniewska (PO), Laura Joël (NL, Chairperson).

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

- A. Recalling that the preambles of the Treaty on European Union declare the core values of the EU to be human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law,<sup>72</sup> which serve as guidelines for EU policy-making,
- B. Reaffirming the importance of promoting EU core values through trade policy,
- C. Noting with regret that potential and actual trade partners of the EU do not always comply with the Union's core values,
- D. Contemplating the historical inefficacy of using economic sanctions to steer the political behaviour of states, while remaining conscious of their symbolic nature,
- E. Cognisant of the negative impact trade barriers can have on the economic prosperity of a state as it restricts international trade excessively,
- F. Fully aware that **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** increase market competition, which can impact EU Member States' domestic markets negatively by causing a drop in wages and a rise in unemployment,
- G. Acknowledging that trade agreements fall into three categories:
- H. Market-opening: trade agreements that support the opening of the EU's single market to its partners,
- I. Political: trade agreements that aim to strengthen political relations,
- J. Development: trade agreements that are designed to help trading partners, especially developing ones, to grow economically and socially,
- K. Fully aware that bilateral trade agreements enable the party with the better bargaining position to enforce its values upon the other party,
- L. Believing that the interests of small firms are better safeguarded under bilateral trade agreements than they are under multilateral trade agreements,
- M. Profoundly concerned by the United States' violations of **World Trade Organisation's (WTO)** rules, which led to mistrust and uncertainty in inter-state trade relations,
- N. Conscious of the slow and inefficient WTO trade agreement negotiation process,
- O. Acknowledging with deep gratitude the EU's position as the largest trading bloc<sup>73</sup> in the world and noting with appreciation that more than 80 countries regard the EU as their top trading partner,<sup>74</sup>

<sup>72</sup> European Union. Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union. 2011.

<sup>73</sup> McCormick, John. European Politics. 2011.

<sup>74</sup> Damen, Mario and Przetacznik, Jakub. The European Union and its Trade Partners. 2018.



- P. Reaffirming its support for the negotiations conducted under the auspices of the **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**,
- Q. Keeping in mind the EU's ambition to promote transparency and democracy throughout trade negotiation processes;

### **Conclusion of future FTAs**

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to negotiate and conclude more free trade agreements, including lowered trade barriers, with countries that possess similar values to the EU;
- 2. Further calls upon the European Commission to refrain from negotiating and concluding trade agreements that do not fall under the political category with countries that do not uphold values close to those of the EU;
- 3. Recommends that the Commission conduct trade negotiations in a transparent and democratic manner by
  - a. Audio and web-streaming crucial parts of the trade negotiation process to the public,
  - b. Inviting representatives of civil society organisations as accredited observers to the negotiation process;

### **Frameworks for FTA negotiations**

- 4. Strongly advises EU Member States apply for the membership of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, to ensure continuous representation of the EU Member States;
- 5. Instructs WTO Member States to continue advocating for the reform of WTO to give it a central role in developing and enforcing new trade agreements;

### **Tackling potential negative consequences of FTAs**

- 6. Urges Member States to minimise the potential drop in wages and rise in unemployment resulting from increased market competition through, for example, education in new fields of those affected, and fostering entrepreneurship;

### **Ongoing negotiations**

- 7. Encourages the continuation of the renegotiation of the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** founded on mutually beneficial trade terms for both parties;
- 8. Requests the European Commission and its trading partners to continue negotiations regarding the **Trade In Services Agreement (TiSA)**.





## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE MOTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE (INTA)***

- A. **Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** A treaty that sets up a free trade agreement between two or more countries, usually involving agreements on economic cooperation and the removal of some tariffs between the parties to the agreement. The parties involved can still maintain different external tariffs.
- B. **World Trade Organisation (WTO):** an international organisation acting as a forum for countries to negotiate their trade agreements, providing a set of rules and a dispute resolution mechanism. The aim is fair and open trade for small and large powers, transparency, environmental protection, and healthy competition. The WTO is a fierce advocate of FTAs and multilateralism.
- C. **General Council:** Body in the WTO that serves as the Dispute Settlement Body to deal with disputes between WTO members. Such disputes may arise with respect to any agreement concluded in the WTO framework between parties.
- D. **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL):** the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law. It aims to progressively harmonise and modernise the law of international trade by preparing and promoting the use and adoption of legislative and non-legislative instruments in a number of key areas of commercial law, like dispute resolution, international contract practices and transport. These instruments are negotiated through an international process involving e.g. UNCITRAL members, non-member States, and invited intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.
- E. **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP):** A Free Trade Agreement and Investment Partnership that has been and currently is being negotiated between the EU and the US. It has been met with a lot of resistance from e.g. EU citizens the past few years, mostly due to concerns over US product standards (e.g. health and hygiene).
- F. **Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA):** The objective of this agreement is to facilitate the opening up of service markets of the involved parties to one another on the basis of the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Spheres that this agreement touches upon are e.g. telecommunications, transport, electronic trade, and governmental provision of information for foreign entrepreneurs. Negotiations between the 23 WTO members involved have been frozen since November 2016.



## RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (IMCO)

*European policies on the digital economy, including the recently-introduced General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the recent proposal for “fair taxation of the digital economy”, offer users control over their personal data and European nations compensation for the use of their citizens’ data. At the same time, this poses a high cost to companies in the space and risks the competitiveness and growth of Europe’s tech sector, especially with legislation so open to interpretation. How should countries continue to safeguard citizens’ rights to privacy, security, and consumer choice while remaining committed to the growth of its digital economy?*

Submitted by: Maryia Fokina (BY), Jon Frede Middelthon Frihagen (NO), Dara Golden (IE), Carolina Sampaio Gomes (PT), Garen Gregorian (DE), Sanna Grootenboer (NL), Artem Kalyta (UA), Marco Kern (AT), Niks Laufmanis (LV), Ana Marija Lesica (HR), Mina Magnusson (SE), Katja Štrakl (SI), Mariia Tupikina (RU), Marie Valdes (EE), Gregor Wettach (CH), Rita Jevdokimova (LV, Chairperson).

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Concerned that European policies do not mandate companies to provide specific details to consumers about the third parties that may have access to their data, and the interests of those third parties in using their personal data,
- B. Alarmed by the potential for ambiguous legal interpretations of the terms used in the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** by companies, especially when defining **sensitive data**,
- C. Observing consumers’ lack of awareness in exercising their rights to privacy and personal data protection,<sup>75</sup>
- D. Deeply disturbed by businesses that continue to use blanket, **binary consent systems** that result in non-negotiable Terms of Service,
- E. Noting with concern the risk and harmful consequences associated with breaches of personal data processed by various entities, whether companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or governments,
- F. Pointing out that companies, especially **small and medium enterprises (SMEs)**, experience difficulties to innovate in the **digital economy** and face high barriers to entry due to a lack of accessible data, and financial and bureaucratic burdens caused by the costs of GDPR compliance,
- G. Further acknowledging that the barriers to entry imposed by the GDPR on SMEs potentially foster the formation of monopolies in the digital economy,
- H. Noting with regret all businesses, even those not participating in the digital economy, are obliged to invest substantial funds to be compliant with the GDPR,
- I. Bearing in mind that only one out of the world’s 30 largest digital companies is based in the EU<sup>76</sup>, indicating a less competitive digital sector,
- J. Further realising that European policies on the digital economy directly affect competition and innovation in the EU, leading to a decrease in global competitiveness of European digital companies,
- K. Aware of the lack of precedent and established case law for the enforcement of the GDPR, resulting in uncertainty in the implementation of data protection legislation,

<sup>75</sup> Marco 4, Survey, 2017 <https://www.realwire.com/writeitfiles/The-GDPR-what-consumers-think.pdf>

<sup>76</sup> Forbes, Top 100 digital companies rank, 2018 <https://www.forbes.com/top-digital-companies/list/#tab:rank>



- L. Recognising the need for more flexibility and adaptability in the current legislation to both keep up with the rapid development of technology and allow enterprises to innovate in a stable regulatory environment;

### Increasing consumer protection and awareness

1. Urges the European Commission to amend the GDPR by mandating companies to inform consumers through Terms of Service and upon request regarding:
  - a. what the company defines as sensitive data,
  - b. the name of each company that might process their data, and the subsector of the digital economy in which that company operates;
2. Encourages Member States' governments to incorporate data protection rights into school curricula, subject to approval by the national **Data Protection Authorities (DPA)**;
3. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG- JUST) of the European Commission to create and advertise accessible informational documents for consumers on exercising data protection rights, specifically when using the services provided by **Big Tech**;
4. Requests the European Commission to propose an amendment to **Recital 43 of Article 7.4** in the GDPR specifying that companies are mandated to offer **non-binary consent**;

### Growing the digital economy market

5. Endorses DPAs to provide companies with financial aid to comply with the GDPR, specifically through the provision of interest-free loans;
6. Further endorses DG-JUST to provide financial support to the DPAs whilst taking into account the economic climate in the respective Member State;
7. Invites the Directorate-General for Competition (DG-COMP) of the European Commission to enforce the **EU Competition law** in the digital economy;
8. Invites the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROWTH) to investigate the potential development of hubs that would provide data to digital economy SMEs in order to increase their competitiveness;

### Fostering technological innovation in the digital economy

9. Encourages technological innovation that considers high standards of consumer protection, particularly through established programmes such as **Horizon 2020** and similar;
10. Authorises the **European Committee for Standardisation** to investigate the creation of benchmarks that would:
  - a. monitor innovation by various measures, such as labour productivity growth,
  - b. measure the propriety of current data protection legislation;
11. Suggests Member States issue specific legislative acts extending the common foundation of the GDPR in order to reduce uncertainty in the interpretation of EU-level legislation and facilitate the growth of their national digital economy.



## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (IMCO)***

- A. **The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):** is a legislative act that was introduced with an aim to protect EU citizens from the threats of the digital economy, like financial fraud, identity thefts, criminal impersonation and other crimes.
- B. **Sensitive data:** personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.
- C. **Binary vs. non-binary consent:** under the current legislation companies are allowed to ask for consumers' consent once for multiple data processing purposes. Non-binary consent would make it mandatory to ask for consent separately for each purpose.
- D. **Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME):** businesses whose personnel numbers fall below certain limits. SMEs represent 99% of all businesses in the EU and are often at a disadvantage due to having limited human and financial resources.
- E. **Digital economy:** broad range of economic activities that use new digital technologies to collect, store, analyse, and share information digitally, often to facilitate social interactions.
- F. **Data protection authority (DPA):** independent public authorities that monitor and supervise the application of the data protection law. They provide expert advice on data protection issues and handle complaints that may have breached the law.
- G. **Big Tech:** tech companies driving a large amount of growth in technology, namely, Alphabet Inc., Apple Inc., Facebook, Microsoft and Amazon.
- H. **Horizon 2020:** is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.
- I. **Recital 43 of Article 7.4 of the GDPR:** a clause of the GDPR that ensures that consent must be freely given.
- J. **EU Competition law:** is a law that promotes maintenance of fair competition in the EU. This encourages enterprise and efficiency, creates a wider choice for consumers and helps reduce prices and improve quality.
- K. **European Committee for Standardisation:** public standards organisation who aims to foster the economy of the EU by providing an efficient infrastructure to interested parties for the development, maintenance and distribution of coherent sets of standards and specifications.



## **RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (REGI)**

*Attitudes toward private housing are diverse across all of Europe, with home ownership rates, average age of first time buyers, average house size and a variety of other metrics showing large disparities. With these differences come contrasts in landlord and tenants' rights, state provided incentives to downsize, and market interventions of various shapes. With home ownership therefore having environmental, economic and social impacts, what should governments do to balance fair treatment of the individual with fair treatment of society as a collective?*

Submitted by: Vasiliki Areniki (GR), Umberto Castello (IT), Jovan Đorđić (RS), Nare Hovhannisyan (AM), Emilia Karawajczyk (PL), Jorden Kent (LU), Ana Kokiashvili (GE) Veronika Levak (SI), Sevda Mansurova (AZ), Ngoc Anh Nguyen (CZ), Claudia Quinn (UK), Rifka Roos (NL), Julia Rönnbäck (SE), Liudmyla Serohina (UA), Radu Tîrhoacă (RO), Igor Žilák (SK), Mariam Kunchuliya (Chairperson, UA).

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

- A. Guided by the fact that the right to housing is an economic, social and cultural right as outlined in Article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- B. Aware of the fact that almost three quarters (72.5 %) of EU-28 inhabitants are residing in urban areas,<sup>77</sup>
- C. Convinced of the presence of a direct link between the increase in demand and price for housing and the rising inequality on a global scale,
- D. Deeply concerned that housing is the single highest expenditure item for Europeans, requiring about a quarter (25%) of an EU household's budget in 2015, up from 21.7%<sup>78</sup> in 2000 and 22.5% in 2005,
- E. Having examined that house prices are growing faster than income in most Member States, and that inequality and housing exclusion are mutually reinforcing,
- F. Disturbed that finding adequate and affordable housing in urban areas where there are job opportunities is increasingly hard,
- G. Noting with regret that there has been little change in social housing policies in the recent past,
- H. Deploring the scarce public funding available to social housing providers, forcing them to rely more on private finances, which leads to an increase in the demand of social housing,
- I. Noting that almost 1 in 10 (9.4%)<sup>79</sup> households in the European Union are unable to keep their homes adequately warm,
- J. Aware of the fact that students experience significant problems with finding affordable housing during their studies, therefore being forced to live with their parents or to pay disproportionately high prices,
- K. Expecting that the increasing popularity of short term rental services such as Airbnb will continue to deplete the supply on the housing market,
- L. Noting with regret that the current definition of the target group given by the European Commission as outlined in State aid case E2/2005 (recital 11) states that only socially disadvantaged individuals should have a right to social housing,
- M. Fully aware of the lack of financial support for elderly people wishing to downsize their home,
- N. Observing the major disparities in the housing systems of Member States, such as social housing policies being negligible or non-existent in Member States such as Greece and Romania,

<sup>77</sup> JRC, Eurostat, GEOSTAT Population Grid 2018

<sup>78</sup> Eurostat, A quarter of household expenditure allocated to housing, 2017

<sup>79</sup> Eurostat, Downward trend in the share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, 2016



- O. Alarmed by the fact that housing, along with transportation, generates about 70% of the negative environmental burden on the EU;

### Socio-economic measures

1. Encourages Member States to support social housing projects through incentives such as accelerated planning processes for third-party developers that propose to build an adequate percentage, to be determined by local authorities, of social houses;
2. Recommends Member States to support the creation of “**downsizer loans**” to provide elderly people with financial support to facilitate the downsizing process;
3. Urges the European Commission and European Investment Bank to further extend the programming period of **The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)** until 2027;
4. Requests Member States’ local authorities adopt the **Community Land Trust Model**;
5. Further recommends Member States’ local authorities incentivise the restoration of buildings which are unable to meet the Eurocode standards, where this extra capacity would then provide the housing conditions for disabled citizens and housing in non-urban areas to ease housing demand in cities;
6. Asks all Member States to implement the **Housing First** scheme, following the example of France, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom;
7. Calls upon Member States’ local authorities to provide a sufficient amount of student housing by:
  - a. financially supporting public universities in the provision of student housing;
  - b. ensuring policy is adjusted sufficiently according to data-backed forecasts based on demand;

### Policy development

8. Strongly urges the **Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)** to redefine the housing overburden rate from the current 40% to 25%<sup>80</sup> of disposable income;
9. Asks the DG REGIO to:
  - a. remove the current definition of social housing target groups as socially disadvantaged people;
  - b. collect data on affordable housing with the aim of establishing a coherent definition
10. Hopes for all Member States to establish social housing schemes in the regions where they have not yet been implemented;
11. Calls upon Member States’ local authorities to implement policies limiting the number of residences used for short-term rental purposes in areas pressurised by tourism, following the **Paris model**;
12. Reminds local authorities to track and analyse data related to urban development and create an action plan of proactive rejuvenation policy in cooperation with **Eurocities**;

### Sustainable Land Use

13. Urges Member States to focus on sustainable development of housing by:
  - a. designing energy-efficient houses in line with **Horizon 2020** goals;
  - b. incentivising energy saving measures in households such as insulation and renewable energy based heating systems;
14. Encourages the DG REGIO to update the **the EU Urban Agenda** so that it foresees:

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<sup>80</sup> Eurostat, Housing cost overburden rate, 2018



- a. local housing action plans to meet the specific demands of different European regions and include the action plans in the European Semester;
  - b. flexible housing schemes in partnership with Eurocities available for all Member States to implement;
  - c. national housing action plans in all Country-Specific Recommendations;
15. Further recommends local government initiate partnership with **Energy Savings/Service Company** in accordance with Article 4 of the **Energy Efficiency Directive of the EU** to promote energy efficiency in renovations of existing housing and new housing developments.



## ***FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (REGI)***

- A. **Social Housing:** is a form of housing tenure in which the property is owned by a government and distributed according to the local council's allocation scheme.
- B. **Downsizer loans:** loans for those who have found new, smaller homes, but are unable to sell their existing property.
- C. **The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI):** is a joint initiative created by the European Investment Bank, European Investment Fund and the European Commission to help overcome the current investment gap in the EU.
- D. **Community Land Trusts (CLTs):** Community land trusts are owner-occupied housing models which foster affordable housing. In a Community Land Trust model, the community owns the land and the homeowner owns the building. Homeowners only purchase the needed structural improvements, while paying a monthly fee that is kept affordable to lease the underlying land from the CLT. Homeowners therefore pay a significantly smaller mortgage, which ensures homes bought under a CLT model are more affordable. At the time of purchase, the homeowner agrees to resale restrictions in the lease to limit the future resale price of their home. This ensures that housing is affordable for future homeowners also.
- E. **Housing first:** Human service programs and social policy regarding the treatment of people who are homeless. It is an alternative to a system of emergency shelter or transitional housing. Rather than moving homeless individuals through different "levels" of housing, Housing First moves the homeless immediately from the streets or homeless shelters into their own accommodation.
- F. **Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO):** European Commission department responsible for EU policy on regions and cities.
- G. **Eurocode:** Standards set by the European Committee for Standardisation to control the implementation of structural design in the EU. Eurocodes represent criteria for engineering and construction in compliance with legislation.
- H. **The Paris model:** The Paris Local Government developed the Paris Model, which implies the following features:
  - i. Applicants for renting apartments in Paris on the short-time rental site Airbnb have to register with local authorities to do so;
  - ii. Only primary residences are authorized to do short term rentals, and up to a maximum of 120 days per year;
  - iii. Other properties may be rented, but only for periods of a year or more (9 months for students), unless the owner purchases a commercial license for their property.
- I. **Eurocities:** is a network of major European cities, bringing together the local governments of 139 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities that govern over a total of 130 million citizens across 39 countries. They engage in dialogue with European institutions across a wide range of policy areas affecting cities, including economic development, the environment, transport and mobility, social affairs, culture, the knowledge society, and public services. They provide a platform for their members to share knowledge and ideas, exchange experiences, analyse common problems and develop innovative solutions.
- J. **Disposable income:** Income remaining after deduction of taxes and social security charges, available to be spent or saved as one wishes.
- K. **Energy Savings/Service Company (ESCo):** An umbrella term for non-profit or private businesses that guarantee energy savings and/or provisions at a lower cost.





- L. **Energy Efficiency Directive of the EU (EED):** This legislative instrument sets legally binding measures to improve energy efficiency in the EU. Its goal is to reach a 20% efficiency target by 2020.
- M. **Urban Innovative Actions:** a fund dealing with the topic of “Sustainable use of land”, which allows cities to submit and receive support for innovative projects on the “remediation, restoration and prevention of formation of brownfields.
- N. **European Semester:** provides a framework for the coordination of economic policies across the European Union. It allows EU countries to discuss their economic and budget plans and monitor progress at specific times throughout the year.
- O. **Country-Specific Recommendations (CSR):** The Commission presents each country with a set of country-specific recommendations (CSRs), along with an overarching Communication. The recommendations focus on what can realistically be achieved over the following 12-18 months.
- P. **Housing Cost Overburden Rate:** When the net housing costs represent more than 40% of the net housing income.
- Q. **Horizon 2020:** a set of binding legislation to ensure the EU meets its climate and energy targets for the year 2020, which cover the sectors accounting for some 55% of total EU emissions – such as: housing, agriculture, waste and transport (excluding aviation).
- R. **The EU Urban Agenda:** aims to create a more integrated approach to policy-making and legislation that affects towns, cities and various urban areas. It intends to eliminate overlaps and inconsistencies and to involve towns, cities, local and regional authorities more closely in the decision-making process.
- S. **The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI):** is a joint initiative created by the European Investment Bank, European Investment Fund and the European Commission to help overcome the current investment gap in the EU.



## **RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY I (ENVI I)**

*Fiscal policy and regulation have traditionally been the primary instruments governments can use to motivate environmentally responsible behaviour. In regard to personal transportation and individual mobility, how should governments balance different policy instruments to stimulate an environmentally conscious society?*

Submitted by: Erika Dalsgaard Brunner (NO), Magdalena Gautsch (AT), Elsie Gisslegård (SE), Edma Gjata (AL), Ekaterina Kaptenok (RU), Tobias Lewerissa (NL), João Magueija (PT), Oisín McGinley (IE), Victoria Saad (DE), Klemen Semelbauer (SI), Sofiya Serebryanaya (CZ), Medeea-Theodora Soroceanu (RO), Gundars Šlitke (LV), Aapo Tanskanen (FI), Aliaksandr Yarashau (BY), Samuel Hönle (AT, Chairperson).

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

- A. Deeply concerned that transport is the only sector in which **greenhouse gas (GHG)** emissions have not declined since 1990 and have risen by 25% by 2016<sup>81</sup>,
- B. Noting with deep concern that urban mobility accounts for 40% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of road transport<sup>82</sup>,
- C. Noting with concern that there is no clear, readily available, information on GHG emissions from transport for consumers,
- D. Alarmed by the fact that the majority of European citizens are not aware of the magnitude of the environmental impact arising from their personal choice of transportation,
- E. Concerned that the flexibility of personal vehicles are a factor contributing to an individual's decision to choose transportation by car over public transport,
- F. Recognising that very few Member States apply tax incentives and provide additional grants for pure electric or hybrid car users,
- G. Noting with deep concern that the the total consumer costs of cars decreased by 14.2% between 2006 and 2016<sup>83</sup> while it increased for all other means of transportation, leading to the misconception that public transport is more expensive than car usage,
- H. Observing the mobility of EU citizens is hindered by limited connectivity and the lack of diverse transport options between rural and urban areas,
- I. Noting with regret that there is a lack of proper infrastructure for means of transportation that meet more sustainable standards, such as, but not limited to, bike lanes, train tracks and charging stations for electric vehicles,
- J. Bearing in mind that while aviation is the fastest, cheapest and most comfortable option in the context of long distance travel, it emits 285 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per **passenger kilometer** while rail transport emits 14 grams of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger kilometer<sup>84</sup>,
- K. Noting that the international travels using the rail system across the EU is uncompetitive due to high costs, low connection intervals, and poor infrastructure,
- L. Expressing its concern about the lack of cooperation between Member States in regards to sustainable intra-EU transportation,

<sup>81</sup> Eurostat. Climate change - driving forces. 2017.

<sup>82</sup> European Commission. Clean Transport, Urban Transport: Urban Mobility. 2018.

<sup>83</sup> European Environment Agency: Real change in transport prices by mode. 2017.

<sup>84</sup> European Environment Agency. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger transport. 2016.



- M. Gravely concerned by the absence of **Value Added Tax (VAT)** on international flights despite their heavy environmental impact in comparison to trains,
- N. Recognising that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based taxes vary between Member States with some having no CO<sub>2</sub> based taxes at all, such as Italy, Poland or Lithuania<sup>85</sup>;

### **Making emissions count**

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to propose a directive obliging transportation companies to inform customers about the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted during their journey and provide an easily understandable classification of that amount, both before the purchase and on the travel ticket;
- 2. Advises the European Commission to propose a directive introducing a minimum tax on vehicle ownership based on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, taking into account the already existing EU energy labels for cars;
- 3. Urges the European Commission to implement the results of the public consultation of the Council Directive 2003/96/EC as soon as the analysis is available;
- 4. Calls upon Member States to further stimulate usage and ownership of electric or hybrid vehicles by providing incentive schemes such as tax exemptions or priority lanes and offering free charging for a certain period of time;

### **Making everyday journeys greener**

- 5. Calls upon Member States to introduce a scheme in which companies and employees in the public and private sector would receive tax credits for travelling to work in an environmentally friendly way;
- 6. Calls upon local governments to further invest in transport infrastructure to expand railway systems, build new and increase the quality of existing bike lanes and secure bicycle parking spaces and equip parking lots with special spots and charging facilities for electric vehicles;
- 7. Requests transportation companies to provide designated space for bicycles inside buses, trains, subway cars and trams without any extra charge for customers;
- 8. Encourages the implementation of innovative and more sustainable transport solutions which have been proven to work in pilot-studies, such as demand responsive transport;
- 9. Calls upon Member States to subsidise public transport companies to contribute to the shift towards environmentally friendly modes of transport in rural areas;

### **Making rail travel more competitive**

- 10. Encourages the European Commission to expand the **Railway Packages** in order to increase cooperation between national railway companies by:
  - a. creating a shared and comprehensible platform for all customers to find and purchase tickets for international rail journeys,
  - b. improving connectivity between Member States in order to make journeys more practical and comfortable;
- 11. Encourages the European Commission to propose changes to the **Council Directive 2006/112/EC** to abolish VAT on international train travel and to establish mandatory VAT on international flights split between the country of departure and country of arrival based on their VAT on domestic aviation, except when no sustainable transport alternatives exist;
- 12. Encourages the **European Regional Development Fund** to financially assist countries in the creation of a high speed railway system that connects Member States in a sustainable and convenient way.

<sup>85</sup> European Automobile Manufacturers Association. CO<sub>2</sub> based motor vehicle taxes in the EU. 2017.



## **FACT SHEET FOR THE RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY I (ENVI I)**

- A. **Fiscal policy:** The means by which a government adjusts its spending levels and tax rates.
- B. **Greenhouse Gases (GHG):** Gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation, such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) or nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O).
- C. **Passenger Kilometre** is a measure of movement of passengers by a mean of transportation, like roads, railways, airways or waterways. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per passenger kilometre indicates how much CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted for a single passenger per kilometre travelled in a mean of transportation.
- D. **Value Added Tax (VAT):** Tax placed on a product whenever value is added to it at each stage of the supply chain, from production to the point of sale.
- E. **EU energy labels** are an energy consumption labelling scheme. For cars, the scheme is based on CO<sub>2</sub> emission in grams per kilometre.
- F. **Council Directive 2003/96/EC:** European Union rules on taxes in regard to electricity, all motor fuel and heating fuel with the purpose of harmonising the structure of purchase taxes. Purchase taxes are an indirect tax, usually paid by the manufacturer at the moment of manufacture rather than sale of a product, then passed along in the price of the product to the customer.
- G. **Demand Responsive Transport:** An advanced, user-oriented form of public transport characterised by flexible routing and scheduling of small / medium vehicles operating in shared-ride mode between pick-up and drop-off locations according to passengers' needs.
- H. **Railway Packages** are the European Commission's effort to open up the market and move to a competitive market on the rail as well as to improve interoperability between countries.
- I. **Council Directive 2006/112/EC:** Directive harmonising value added tax in EU Member States. Member States can choose to exempt intra-EU and international flight tickets from VAT, which all Member States have done.
- J. The **European Regional Development Fund** aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions.



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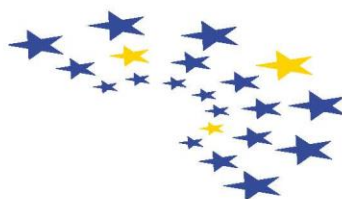
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