



**WARSAW 2021**

**93<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL SESSION**

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT



**RESOLUTION  
BOOKLET**



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## Order of the General Assembly

### **DAY 1: Saturday, 10 July 2021**

10:00 - 11:00 | Opening of GA  
11:00 - 11:10 | GA preparation  
11:10 - 12:00 | LIBE  
12:00 - 12:50 | FISC  
13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch  
14:00 - 14:50 | AGRI  
14:50 - 15:10 | Coffee break  
15:10 - 16:00 | ENVI  
16:00 - 16:50 | ITRE II  
16:50 - 17:10 | Coffee break  
17:10 - 18:00 | EMPL

### **DAY 2: Sunday, 11 July 2021**

09:45 - 10:00 - Kick-off  
10:00 - 10:50 | AFCE  
10:50 - 11:40 | ITRE I  
11:40-12:10 | Coffee break  
12:10 - 13:00 | CULT  
13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch  
14:00 - 14:50 | ECON  
14:50 - 15:40 | SEDE  
15:40 - 16:00 | Coffee break  
16:00 - 17:00 | Closing ceremony  
17:00 - 18:00 | Committees' closure



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY GUIDE

### General Rules

- The wish to speak is indicated by raising the committee placard.
- The authority of the board is absolute.
- Points made in open rounds of debate must be constructive and add to the progress of the debate being held.

### Zoom-specific adjustments:

- Committees are recognised by the raising of the committee placard by the committee chair either in the room by the relevant committee placard(s) or on Zoom by raising their hand & the relevant placard(s)
- For speeches:
  - » when a committee is recognised, the relevant member (or 2 if the speech is delivered by 2 members) 'raises their hand' on zoom to be put in 'spotlight' on the main screen by the secretariat and asked to unmute themselves, and then delivers their part of the GA (when a speech is delivered by 2 members, both raise hands and are in 'spotlight' and unmuted at the same time)
  - » Before the recognised committee's time is up, the board will provide a signal (e.g. tapping the microphone or vocalising the remaining time)
  - » As soon as the speech has been delivered, the relevant member(s) should immediately lower their hand(s) and unmute themselves
- For points from the floor:
  - » When (and only when) the committee has been recognised by the board, the relevant committee member (strictly 1) should raise their hand (all chairs with virtual hands or physical placards raised should keep their hands/placards up if they have more points to be recognised) to be unmuted and deliver their point
  - » As soon as the point has been delivered, the relevant member should immediately lower their hand and unmute themselves
  - » Should a committee member go over the allocated time or deliver more than one point from the floor, the board reserves the right to ask the secretariat to mute the speaker and remove them from 'spotlight'

### GA procedure:

- **Reading out the topic** of the resolution
- Reading out **internal amendments** (submitted to the board by 9pm the night before the relevant committee through the relevant committee's chairperson)
  - » Internal amendments can substantially change the direction that the motion for a resolution proposes (we will not have any external amendments procedure, since other committees can submit their proposed amendments to the proposing committee, which if accepted thus become internal amendments)
  - » The board can still decide whether it approves the amendments or not
- **Reading through the resolution** (1 minute in silence)
- **Defence speech** (3 minutes by 1 proposing committee member, 'passing the mic' only once)
- **Position speeches** (1-2 depending on the interest, 2 minutes each), followed by a response to position speeches as the first point of the general debate
- **General debate** from the floor (repeated for 3-4 rounds)
  - » **Response to position speeches** will be the first point of the general debate (90 seconds max. by 1 member of the proposing committee, reduced to 60 seconds by default if only 1 position speech was delivered prior)



- » For each motion for a resolution, the board will announce the order of rounds (i.e. rounds on OC sub-topics, a general round at the discretion of the board)
  - » Points will be taken in line with the Zoom adjustments described above
  - » After each round, the floor will be given to the proposing committee for a response (the board reserves the right to cut off the proposing committee if they are over time)
  - » 2 direct responses by each committee are allowed throughout the debate (raised by the relevant placards in the same procedure as the general recognition of a committee), the second of which can be ignored by the board in the interest of even distribution of points of debate or other reasons (the first DR can also be ignored if there is a 'DR cascade' on a point that the board deems to be exhausted)
  - » Instead of a response from 'the floor', the last round of debate will be responded to by a summation speech
- **Summation speech** (3 minutes by 1-2 proposing committee members, 'passing the mic' only once)
  - **Voting** (votes collected by chairs in committees, announced/submitted to GA stats by each chair)

## Speeches

### Defence Speech

Delivered by the **proposing committee**, to explain the committee's stance on the topic and the approach they have taken in their resolution. Outlines what they have aimed to achieve and how their resolution tackles their given topic. Justifies their solutions and defends the aims of the committee. Delegates are encouraged to prepare this speech before coming to the GA.

### Position Speech

Delivered by **other committees**, to show a **fundamental agreement/disagreement** with the approach and aims of the resolution/committee. This must be a comprehensive speech that tackles the entire resolution **fundamentally** - and does not go **point by point**.

### Response to Position Speech

The proposing committee responds to the position speech and addresses any comments/concerns which were raised before moving onto the rounds of debate.

### GA Points

A point in GA is **constructive** and does not only critically assess a clause, but also provides examples or potential strategies in order to improve upon it. One point can only refer to one OC. A point may only refer to an OC within the **subtopic/theme** of the round of debate.

### Summation Speech

The summation speech sums up the resolution, the topic and highlights what the committee has strived to achieve with their work. They try to convince the General Assembly why their resolution should pass. **Delegates are encouraged to prepare this speech before coming to the GA.**



## Placards

### Committee Placard

Used to either indicate that the committee would like to be recognised or whilst their resolution is being discussed. This placard must be combined with one of the placards below when requesting a Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Order or Direct Response.

### Point of Personal Privilege

Requests for a delegate to repeat a point that was inaudible. Not a tool for repetition if not listening.

### Point of Order

A delegate feels that the board has not properly followed parliamentary procedure.

The placard is used by chairpersons after a request from the delegate.

### Direct Response

Twice per resolution (per committee), each committee may use the Direct Response placard. Should a delegate raise the Direct Response placard in combination with the committee placard, the board will recognise them immediately. The direct response sign is used to contribute to the point made directly beforehand.



## EU KNOWLEDGE REFRESHMENT

Europe – at least when it comes to area, is not exactly big although when it comes to population, it is ranked third behind Asia and Africa. With 10.180.000 square kilometres Europe is indeed the second smallest continent. Yet, Europe is unique in having developed a sophisticated system of international cooperation after World War II. Ever since, European states have been at the forefront of developing a new mode of inter-state relations. This process of European integration culminated in the creation of the **European Union (EU)**.

At this stage most of the European countries are part of the EU. In 2002 many Member States of the EU even introduced a common currency, the Euro, which subsequently replaced most of the national currencies. At the moment, there are 27 Member States. The United Kingdom has left the EU, while there are seven countries currently enjoying candidate status (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey)

### European Union

The 3 main institutions of the European Union are:

- The European Commission,
- The European Parliament,
- The Council (Council of Ministers).

These three institutions are involved in processing, drafting, debating, amending and passing regulations, directives, decisions, recommendations and opinions in relation to a variety of sectors. Over the course of this brief overview we'll explain these institutions, how they work together to pass EU legislation (the ordinary legislative procedure), the types of laws they can pass, and the balance of power between the EU and Member States for each sector (competences).

### EU Institutions

#### The European Commission

As the main **executive** body of the EU, situated in Brussels, Belgium, the European Commission consists of:

- **27 Commissioners**; one nominated by each Member State, who oversee a variety of portfolios ranging from energy to budget to education, culture, youth and sport. One Commissioner is elected President of the European Commission; the current European Commission President is Ursula von der Leyen. The Commission can be viewed as similar to a national government with the President being similar to the Prime Minister, and Commissioners similar to Ministers responsible for their own specific policy area.



- **Directorates-General;** if we view the European Commission as similar to national government's cabinets, the Directorates-General can be considered as national governmental departments, which oversee the implementation and development of the decisions made by the EU.
- **Committees;** there are a number of different types of committees, all of which are responsible for providing the commission with feedback on decisions. Their power ranges from purely advisory to complete blocking of decisions, depending on the committee. These groups all work together in the Commission, and have the responsibility for drafting and proposing laws, oversee the implementation of EU policies in Member States, manage the EU budget and represent the EU internationally. The Commission has the right of initiative, which means that they are the only EU institution that can formally propose legislation.

## The European Parliament

The European Parliament is the only directly elected EU institution and consists of 705 MEPs, allocated roughly on the portion of EU population in each country. Elections for the European Parliament occur every 5 years.

The main responsibilities of the European Parliament are **legislative**. It co-decides on adopting or rejecting EU legislation with the Council of Ministers.

The European Parliament's role in policy-making has been elevated with the Treaty of Lisbon allocating more powers to it. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), gather in committees to discuss issues facing Europe today, their conclusions are forwarded to the Commission, and in this way the European Parliament can influence the legislation that is initiated.

## The Council

The Council (Council of Ministers) is composed of the Ministers from each Member State, responsible for the topic being discussed.

The Council holds co-decision-making power with the European Parliament, is also responsible for drafting the EU budget with the European Parliament, coordinating national policies, and also dictating the EU's foreign policy.

## EU Legal Acts

In general, EU law trumps national law. That means that in cases where a piece of European legislation is in conflict with a national piece of legislation, the European legislation should be implemented. Both national and European courts monitor the application of European laws. As an EU national you will first call upon your national court system if you feel your rights have been violated. In assessing whether you have a valid claim, national courts will also consult European laws. The **Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)** ensures that EU law is interpreted harmoniously across all Member States. It also rules in disputes between EU institutions or EU institutions and a Member State, where its ruling on the interpretation of the European treaties are final.

This judicial system monitors the implementation of European laws, of which there are 5 types:

- **Regulations:** A regulation is a binding, directly applicable and directly effective legislative act. It must be entirely enshrined in the law of EU Member States, meaning that they have to adapt national laws in order to implement the European legislation on a national level.





- **Directives:** A directive is a binding legislative act, aiming to harmonise national laws. It sets goals; each Member State can achieve these goals through whatever mechanism they see fit.
- **Decisions:** Decisions are made in specific cases and only apply to the Member State or organisation to which they are made for.
- **Recommendations:** These refer to legislation that is non-binding.
- **Opinions:** Opinions are non-binding and issued by EU institutions or other bodies setting a formal opinion on matters, usually legislation currently under debate.

## EU Competences

There are three levels of power sharing between the EU and Member States. Each policy area falls into one of these levels: Exclusive Competence, Shared Competence, Supportive Competence. The division of these competences between the EU and its Member States follows these three principles:

- The **principle of conferral** requires the Union to act only in the policy areas where its Member States transferred their powers to the EU and only to the extent specified in the European treaties.
- The **principle of proportionality** ensures that the content of any Union action does not exceed what is necessary to achieve the objectives set by the Treaties.
- The **principle of subsidiarity** determines that the Union shall only act in areas where Member States cannot achieve desired outcomes more effectively by national actions.

### The three competences flesh out in practice as follows:

**Exclusive** competence: Only the EU can pass legislation on these matters, Member States have to simply implement European laws. The EU holds exclusive competences in the following areas:

- Establishing competition rules necessary to complete the internal market
- Monetary policy for Member States that have adopted the Euro
- Conservation of marine biological resources under the common fishery policy
- Common commercial policy
- Conclusion of international agreements.



**Shared** competences: Both the EU and Member States may issue binding legislation. However, Member States should only legislate to the extent that the EU has not passed its own legislation as European law trumps national law. For following areas competences are shared:

- Internal market
- Social policy, yet only to the extent specified in the Treaties
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion (regional policy)
- Agriculture and fishery (except for marine conservation)
- Environment
- Consumer protection
- Transport
- Energy
- Freedom, security and justice
- Shared concerns in public health matters
- Research, technological development and space
- International cooperation and humanitarian assistance

**Supportive** competence: The EU can only intervene to support, coordinate or complement the action of Member States, i.e. it has no legislative power. The EU is confined to this role in these areas:

- Industry
- Culture
- Tourism
- Education, vocational training, youth and sport
- Civil protection
- Administrative cooperation



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

**'Til national constitutions do us part: While Member States are obliged to recognise the right of free movement of same-sex marriages within the scope of EU law, progress is met with backlash from recent political movements attacking LGBTIQ rights. In light of the European Commission's first ever strategy on LGBTIQ rights, how should the EU and its citizens support the right to private and family life under the differing constitutional identities and divergent national legislation of each Member State?**

### **Submitted by:**

Alexandra Ålund (SE), Gayane Amirjanyan (AM), Elisha Hilbig (DE), Ayan Ismayilzada (AZ), Mariia Lyshen (UA), Arís Martínez Ventura (ES), Molly O'Shea (IE), Jarne van der Poel (Chairperson, NL)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure that everyone's fundamental human rights to free movement and private and family life are equally respected and protected by their government, without discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. LGBTIQ people must be able to travel freely and safely within the EU together with their families. Therefore, Member States must comply with European values and European law, and ensure equal treatment and safety from violence and discrimination for all. Civil society organisations and advocacy groups must be given the space and tools to make a change in their community, encouraging people to actively take part in the fight for equality.

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

- A. Regretting that LGBTIQ people do not have equal access to the family reunification rights outlined in the Free Movement Directive or the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights,
- B. Deeply disturbed that a same-sex marriage legally conducted in one Member State is not recognised in all Member States,
- C. Noting with deep concern the failure of some Member States to comply with the Court of Justice of the EU's (CJEU) judgements guaranteeing rights for same-sex couples under EU free movement law,
- D. Concerned that transgender people in some Member States are unable to go through legal gender recognition or face hardships when doing so,
- E. Further concerned that transgender people face difficulties whilst travelling if their gender identity cannot be legally confirmed,
- F. Alarmed by the anti-LGBTIQ rhetoric espoused by European politicians weaponising religious and cultural values, such as the declaration of "LGBTIQ-free zones" in Poland,
- G. Disturbed by the lack of awareness that results from a restriction of books, films, and education programmes featuring LGBTIQ topics in some Member States,
- H. Noting that LGBTIQ people disproportionately suffer from hate crime, hate speech, and violence, with 1.272 instances reported in 2019, while under-reporting remains an issue,
- I. Noting with regret that LGBTIQ awareness campaigns by the EU are ineffective as they do not meet local needs and contexts,



- J. Underlining the importance of educating people who are not affected by anti-LGBTIQ sentiments or violence,
- K. Pointing out that LGBTIQ people who seek legal action after being discriminated against face a lengthy legal process that may have no results or lead to a worse legal situation,
- L. Observing with concern the shrinking space for LGBTIQ advocacy groups, due to:
  - i) absence of sufficient funding,
  - ii) inaccessibility of existing funding to grassroots groups due to the complexity of the funding application process,
  - iii) personal danger faced by community organisers through threats and violence,
- M. Bearing in mind that measures to curb the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing issues by:
  - i) limiting LGBTIQ advocacy groups in their work through restricting protests against new laws limiting LGBTIQ rights,
  - ii) the closing of borders which keeps LGBTIQ families apart;

### **Freedom of movement for LGBTIQ people**

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to initiate an amendment of Article 2(2)(a) of the Free Movement Directive to clarify the definition of spouse as explicitly encompassing same-sex spouses;
- 2. Strongly urges Member States to fully recognise the parental and marital rights that have been legally awarded to LGBTIQ people in another Member State;
- 3. Recommends Member States to not include sex or gender markers on identity documents, or provide a neutral option;
- 4. Asks the European Commission to immediately begin infringement proceedings against Member States which fail to comply with CJEU judgements guaranteeing rights for same-sex couples under EU free movement law;

### **Ensuring safety and equal treatment**

- 5. Encourages a swift implementation of the current LGBTIQ Equality Strategy by the European Commission;
- 6. Asks the Council to expedite the approval of the Equal Treatment Directive;
- 7. Further asks the European Commission to activate the conditionality mechanism without delay to cut or freeze payments from the EU budget to Member States that breach EU laws regarding the non-discrimination of LGBTIQ people;
- 8. Calls upon the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to provide LGBTIQ people with free legal advice and information about their legal options in cases of discrimination;
- 9. Requests Member States to ensure appropriate training for police forces across Member States on countering anti-LGBTIQ hate crime and hate speech;
- 10. Instructs the FRA to use the expertise of local NGOs in monitoring hate crimes across the EU;
- 11. Invites the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to add LGBTIQ issues to their priority application list to ensure swift access to justice for LGBTIQ people;

### **Raising awareness and improving attitudes**

- 12. Encourages Member States to raise awareness about LGBTIQ people and their rights by supporting the launch of:
  - a. local campaigns targeting specific societal groups,
  - b. educational programmes in schools,
  - c. online education programmes that are easily accessible for individuals wishing to learn more about LGBTIQ issues;
- 13. Asks the European Commission to provide the European audiovisual industry with financial support for feature films, series, animations, and documentaries that positively represent the LGBTIQ community;

### **Creating space for civil society organisations**

14. Calls upon the European Commission to simplify complicated funding application processes in order for grassroots LGBTIQ rights organisations to access funding;
15. Hopes that Member States will use their foreign policy instruments to provide support to LGBTIQ advocacy groups outside their borders;
16. Requests the European Commission to create a platform where LGBTIQ rights groups from various Member States can meet, exchange knowledge and support each other.



## LIBE - Fact Sheet

**LGBTIQ people:** lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer people.

**LGBTIQ-free zones:** more than 80 Polish municipal or local governments have proclaimed themselves to be “free from LGBT ideology”, falsely claiming that LGBTIQ-identities are an ideology.

**The Free Movement Directive:** a Directive that guarantees that all Union citizens can freely move to or reside in another Member State than their own, accompanied by their spouses and their family, as defined in Article 2(2).

**The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights:** a Charter that guarantees to EU citizens and residents a number of fundamental rights, such as the right to respect for private and family life. Same-sex couples and their children have equal rights to enjoy family life without interference.

**The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights:** the independent centre for promoting and protecting human rights in the EU. It helps defend the fundamental rights of all people living in the EU.

**The Equal Treatment Directive:** this Directive was proposed by the European Commission in 2008. It would expand protection throughout the EU against discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, religion and sexual orientation. It has yet to be adopted by the Council - which consists of national governments’ ministers.

**The LGBTIQ Equality Strategy:** the first-ever EU strategy for LGBTIQ equality. It was adopted by the European Commission on 11 November 2020. It strives to build a Union where diversity is celebrated and where all people can be themselves without risk of discrimination, exclusion or violence.

**The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR):** an international court of the Council of Europe. It interprets the European Convention on Human Rights. When a state allegedly breaches the rights laid down in that convention, an application can be lodged by an individual, a group of individuals, or a state, once they have exhausted the available national remedies.

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TAX MATTERS**

**What doesn't tax you makes you stronger: While digital businesses have experienced a rapid growth during the COVID-19 pandemic, they still face significantly lower effective tax rates than traditional businesses which have become the forgotten casualties of lockdowns. How should the EU ensure fair taxation of the digital economy and establish a level playing field?**

### **Submitted by:**

Daniel Kelly (IE), Iga Łobińska (PL), Anar Mammadov (AZ), Constance Matteï (FR), Thomas Musie (SE), Tetiana Skab (UA), Lukas Speckbacher (DE), Harry-Philip Telemachou (CY), Sergi Valentín (ES), Erdem Topçu (Chairperson, TR)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure fair taxation and adherence to tax regulations by digital businesses. In addition, it intends to facilitate a seamless transition of the European tax system into the new reality of the digital age. Furthermore, it strives to minimise the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to establish a level playing field between traditional and digital businesses. Our vision is to accomplish this through comprehensive harmonisation and clear definitions of digital taxation laws.

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

- A. Regretting that existing national taxation systems lack coherence resulting in base erosion and profit shifting due to their inability to address current tax issues such as challenges posed by the digital economy, taxation of intangible assets, and taxation of digital businesses through outdated definitions of physical presence,
- B. Understanding that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the growth of digital businesses whilst leaving Member States dependent on tax revenue for post-pandemic recovery,
- C. Recognising that the imbalance between effective tax rates applicable to traditional and digital businesses is unfair and undermines fair burden-sharing among taxpayers as well as an equitable national contribution to the EU budget,
- D. Concerned by some countries having significantly lower corporate tax rates than others, resulting in tax havens and exacerbating the imbalance of effective tax rates,
- E. Recognising the importance of the principle of tax neutrality in keeping businesses competitive,
- F. Noting the importance of digital businesses as major non-state actors on the global economic scene,
- G. Keeping in mind the essential role of existing international and bilateral trade agreements and the nature of the entrepreneurship landscape when regulating tax-related matters,
- H. Deeply concerned about the unequal playing field between traditional and digital businesses jeopardising the existence of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs),
- I. Acknowledging that any measures taken by the European Commission or Member States should not cause adverse effects on SMEs,
- J. Taking into account the incompatibility between definitions and terms used in Member States' tax laws concerning digital businesses,



- K. Concerned about the inaction of the EU and Member States on tax issues which weaken states' budgets resulting in a lack of financing for public services and negatively influencing the entrepreneurship landscape,
- L. Pointing out the substantial discrepancies between tax compliance costs for large businesses (2%) and small businesses (30%),
- M. Praising international tax systems designed to prevent double taxation and the latest steps taken by 130 countries with the signing of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/G20 framework to set a minimum global corporate tax rate of 15%,
- N. Recognising that little interest in EU-wide tax regulation, unilateral actions by Member States, and commitment to the unanimity rule stagnate tax harmonisation attempts;

### **EU-Wide Approach for European Citizens and Businesses**

- 1. Recommends the European Commission to initiate a debate between Member States and EU institutions on the transition from unanimity to qualified majority voting when regulating taxation-related matters;
- 2. Urges Member States and the European Commission to further develop and harmonise relevant tax laws related to the digital economy by:
  - a. redefining the physical presence of a business in a Member State regardless of its form of incorporation,
  - b. allowing the taxation of intangible assets,
  - c. considering taxation of businesses based on their income derived from that country instead of a physical presence to avoid tax havens,
  - d. building upon the recent OECD/G20 framework to set a global minimum tax rate of 15%,
  - e. eliminating loopholes in national tax laws,
  - f. keeping in mind the principle of tax neutrality;
- 3. Encourages the European Commission and Member States to help traditional businesses in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic through a targeted EU-wide short-term stimulus package and a long-term COVID-19 pandemic recovery plan;
- 4. Suggests that local administrations of Member States support young and innovative businesses by implementing targeted tax compliance cost reductions;
- 5. Invites the European Commission to establish an expert committee which monitors and counters tax evasion strategies employed in some Member States;

### **Global Mindset Towards Global Solutions**

- 6. Calls upon Member States to ensure all future tax measures comply with existing international trade frameworks such as international and bilateral trade agreements;
- 7. Further encourages Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, and Ireland to join the OECD/G20 framework on a global minimum corporate tax rate;
- 8. Calls upon Member States to support international cooperation on fair taxation of the digital economy and apply diplomatic pressure through good-faith negotiations with tax haven countries to not offer tax advantages for large businesses;
- 9. Urges Member States to conform to international tax systems which are designed to prevent double taxation;
- 10. Calls on the OECD to invite the representatives of digital businesses to OECD/G20 framework meetings to submit their recommendations on relevant tax policies.





## FISC - Fact Sheet

**Effective tax rate:** the percentage of income that a corporation pays in taxes, specifically the average rate at which its pre-tax profits are taxed.

**Base erosion and profit shifting:** strategies used by businesses in order to shift profit from higher-tax jurisdictions to lower-tax ones resulting in erosion of the tax base of the higher-tax jurisdictions.

**Principle of tax neutrality:** establishes that tax rules should aim to be neutral between forms of business activities and do not affect the strategic decisions of businesses.

**Tax compliance costs:** the extra costs that taxpayers incur in addition to their actual tax liability during the process to become tax compliant.

**Double taxation:** occurs when income taxes are paid twice on the same source of income, for example when the same income is taxed in two different countries.

**OECD/G20 framework:** the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) brings together 139 countries to collaborate on the implementation of the BEPS Package which consists of 15 actions aiming to tackle tax avoidance.

**Unanimity rule:** the Council has to decide unanimously on taxation matters.

**Qualified majority voting:** the Council can take a decision only if 55% of EU Member States vote in favour and the proposal is supported by countries representing at least 65% of the total EU population.



## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Farming needs a revamp: The current European agriculture sector puts immense pressure on biodiversity and soil, and contributes around 10% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions. As CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are not projected to decline within the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), how should the EU reform this to reach the ambitions of the Green Deal and manage a socially just transition in the agriculture sector?**

### **Submitted by:**

Rebekah Ding Jin (SE), Nazarii Halaichuk (UA), Almira Halkina (BY), Fiona Haunold (AT), Albi Hoxha (AL), Liliana Smaza (PL), Maxim Unruh (DE), Katharina Franke (Chairperson, DE)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to transform the agricultural sector to be more sustainable by improving upon the Common Agricultural Policy. It aims to comply with the Farm2Fork Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals by increasing sustainable and organic farming, ensuring fair support and safe working conditions for farmers, while meeting the needs of farmers and consumers.

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

- A. Deeply concerned about the immense pressure that conventional agriculture puts on the environment through:
  - i) the ever-growing amount of livestock farming which causes immense greenhouse gas emissions (GHG),
  - ii) the conversion of natural habitats to farming areas which profoundly contributes to the decline of biodiversity,
  - iii) excessive nitrogen and ammonia emissions,
  - iv) amounting to 70% of global freshwater use,
- B. Noting with deep concern that the excessive use of pesticides and nitrogen in agriculture centrally contributes to the pollution of drinking water resources in Europe,
- C. Seriously concerned that the coupled support payments, which constitute 10% of direct payments, are environmentally harmful as they incentivise overproduction,
- D. Realising that there is a lack of effective and coherent monitoring of cross-compliance,
- E. Concerned that the current proposal for National Strategic Plans, whereby alignment with the Farm2Fork Strategy is not legally binding, might lead to:
  - i) difficulties with reaching the aims of the European Green Deal,
  - ii) unfair competition between farmers of different Member States,
- F. Deeply concerned that EU farmers' income constitutes only half of the average EU wage, contributing to an annual 2% decrease in the number of farmers,
- G. Alarmed by the social injustice brought about by direct payments, whereby funding based on the farmland area owned puts smaller farms out of business,
- H. Noting with regret the ageing of the farmer population and the lack of young farmers, with only 11% of farm managers under 40 years of age in 2016,
- I. Pointing out that the current Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) is insufficient to



ensure effective communication between stakeholders;

### **Transition to sustainable agriculture**

1. Requests the European Commission to propose stricter environmental regulations for basic direct payments, including but not limited to using diverse cover crops, in-farm fertility, multiple crop rotation, as well as amended rules for how nitrogen is applied to farm fields;
2. Requests the European Commission to push forward the abolishment of all coupled support payments in order to avoid an unsustainable overproduction of food;
3. Urges the European Commission to prioritise and increase funding for eco-schemes aimed at reducing greenhouse gas, nitrogen, and ammonia emissions through methods such as changing the livestock's diet and adopting manure management technologies;
4. Urges the European Commission to propose the movement of eco-schemes from the CAP's Pillar I to Pillar II under the Agri-Environment & Climate Measures (AECM) in order to ensure a more long-term approach for environmental preservation;
5. Calls upon the European Commission to propose a new payment scheme within the CAP's Pillar II to fund farmers' transition to sustainable practices such as precision farming, as well as drip and sprinkler irrigation;
6. Strongly recommends the European Commission to make it mandatory for the Member States' National Strategic Plans to align with the goals of the Farm2Fork Strategy by:
  - a. making frequent assessments of the plans' efficiency and influence on current agricultural conditions,
  - b. requiring Member States to amend their Strategic Plans in cases when they do not align with the Farm2Fork Strategy;
7. Requests the European Environment Agency to set up a centralised database for the farm emissions of ammonia;

### **Fairness and young farmers**

8. Asks the European Commission to establish a mandatory maximum amount which farms can receive through direct payments;
9. Further asks the European Commission to consider lowering the maximum amount for direct payments per farm with the upcoming 2027 CAP reform;
10. Calls upon Member States to increase the young farmer payments for farmers under the age of 35 by 44€ per hectare in order to compensate for their high initial investments;
11. Calls upon the European Commission to introduce conferences on the popularisation of environmental farming, aimed at attracting and encouraging young citizens to enter the agriculture sector;

### **Communication and stakeholder cooperation**

12. Urges the European Commission to increase the transparency of the effective realisation of CAP goals by publishing updates on their implementation on a Member State level;
13. Urges the European Commission to reform AKIS in order to provide a more effective platform for the communication of new sustainable technologies and environmentally friendly agricultural methods amongst stakeholders;
14. Further urges the European Commission to organise annual conferences where diverse stakeholders can share new developments and progress updates related to the achievement of the European Green Deal and the Farm2Fork Strategy.



## AGRI - Fact Sheet

**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):** the EU's central policy tool for managing and directing the agricultural industry. It is the EU's largest policy, making up around 38% of its entire budget. The CAP consists of two pillars: (I) income support and (II) rural development measures.

**Direct payments:** located in the first pillar of the CAP, direct payments are the main instrument of support to farmers under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The majority of direct payments are granted to farmers in the form of basic payments, calculated based on the hectares of farmland managed by a farmer. Additional direct payment schemes include the young farmer payments, green payments and coupled support.

**Cross compliance:** the link between CAP income support and respect of other EU rules concerning food safety, animal health, plant health, the climate, the environment, the protection of water resources, animal welfare and the condition in which farmland is maintained.

**Coupled support:** with these payments, farmers may receive additional direct payments that are linked directly to the production of certain agricultural products such as beef, milk and sheepmeat. Under the current CAP, it is voluntary for Member States to apply this payment scheme.

**Agri-Environment & Climate Measures (AECM):** located in Pillar II of the CAP, AECMs are a funding mechanism aiming to provide financial support to farmers to contribute to the protection or enhancement of biodiversity, soil, water, landscape, or air quality, or climate change mitigation or adaptation. A bundle of measures or options usually makes up a scheme.

**European Green Deal:** presented by the European Commission on 11 December 2019, the European Green Deal ambitiously aims at making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, and reducing GHG emissions by at least 55% until 2030. The Green Deal aims at transforming the entire European economy, including agriculture, into a circular economy, restoring biodiversity and cutting pollution.

**Farm2Fork Strategy:** presented on 20 May 2020 as part of the Green Deal, the Farm2Fork strategy aims, until 2030, for a 50% reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, 50% reduction in the nutrient losses, 20% reduction in fertilizer use, as well as 25% of farmland being used for organic farming.

**National Strategic Plans:** in the latest trilogue on the CAP 2023-2027 reform from June 25th 2021, the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament the adoption of National Strategic Plans. Member States will have to set out their priorities in implementing the CAP on a national level, including country-specific priorities based on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis. The Farm2Fork strategy would not have a legal standing, however there would be a structured dialogue with the European Commission for the adoption of the strategic plans.

**Precision farming:** a management approach that focuses on (near real-time) observation, measurement, and responses to variability in crops, fields and animals. It can help increase crop yields and animal performance, reduce costs, including labour costs, and optimise process inputs.

**Drip irrigation:** a method of crop irrigation that involves a controlled delivery of water to plants through a system of pipes, valves, tubing and emitters. The water is delivered from a source directly to the root zone of individual plants or to the surface of the soil. Sprinkler irrigation is a method of applying irrigation water in a similar way to natural rainfall.

**Agriculture Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS):** used to describe how people and organisations join together to promote mutual learning, to generate, share, and use agriculture-related knowledge and information.



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

**In sickness and in health: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted an increased need for coordination among Member States to protect the health of all Europeans. How should the EU proceed with building a strong European Health Union, whilst keeping the resilience of national health systems and prevention of future health crises in mind?**

### **Submitted by:**

Anna Cieciorowska (PL), Dachi Darchidze (GE), Ekaterina Ignashova (CY), Pranav Kannan (SE), Oana Manițiu (RO), Vishva Nagappan (IE), Matej Raab (SK), Alara Saygi (TR), Mansi Vyas (FI), Amela Zogu (AL), Sara Gulbjørnrud Huseby (Chairperson, NO/DK)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to strengthen the European Health Union through cooperation and coordination between the Member States, whilst respecting the differences between national health systems and their needs. Measures promoted should facilitate information exchange and distribution of resources, as a “one size fits all” approach is not sufficient for such a diverse group of countries. The measures are meant to assure high quality and accessible health care for every EU citizen and decrease both national and EU wide differences, as well as further preventing health crises and efficiently dealing with them as a community. There is a need to consider health in all policies, facilitating for individuals to make informed decisions, and easily be able to act on and access the health tools and institutions available.

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

- A. Bearing in mind the lack of consistent media information presenting the advantages of a healthy lifestyle,
- B. Deeply concerned by the increasing rate of mortality from preventable diseases,
- C. Concerned by the differences in health care systems' standards between Member States,
- D. Alarmed by how citizens' socioeconomic background impacts their access to quality health care,
- E. Noting the lack of accessibility to medical records delaying treatment processes,
- F. Understanding that compulsory education can determine key principles towards a healthier lifestyle,
- G. Pointing out the complex accessibility and user experience of existing online European health platforms,
- H. Regretting the vast discrepancy in the use of online documentation both within and between Member States,
- I. Concerned by misinformation on health-related issues diminishing the effects and credibility of health and safety guidance by authorities,
- J. Notes with concern the minimal cooperation between Member States on health-related matters,
- K. Concerned with the lack of amenities and resources required for building a healthy routine, such as affordable nutritional food options and spaces for physical activity;



## **Disease prevention and health promotion**

1. Calls upon the European Commission's Health Security Committee (HSC) and the EU Rapid Alert System to cooperate with Member States in monitoring multimedia sources on misinformation and their advocacy towards a healthy lifestyle and disease prevention;
2. Invites the HSC to further encourage regular doctor visits and national health tracking through their available resources;

## **Societal changes and health systems' resilience**

3. Requests the Council in collaboration with the European Commission to recommend a baseline budget quota allocated to the health system in each Member State;
4. Urges the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and Member States to ensure efficient reallocation of medical equipment;
5. Asks EU Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA) and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) to ensure increased accessibility, updating, and security of platforms providing guidance on health issues;
6. Designates existing initiatives, such as the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, to cooperate with educational institutions in establishing projects aimed at encouraging children towards a healthy lifestyle;

## **eHealth**

7. Reminds the European Commission to restructure existing health data platforms to be user-friendly whilst ensuring GDPR compliance;
8. Calls on the EU Health programme to allocate resources for the standardisation of technology utilisation in health across Member States;
9. Calls upon EpiPulse to enhance data security of citizens' medical files;
10. Directs EU4Health and the Health Security Committee to include in their informative campaigns reminders to acquire health recommendations only from reliable sources, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO);

## **Health in all policies**

11. Appeals to Member States to reduce VAT on healthy food products;
12. Emphasises the importance of cooperation between Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and Member States in the implementation of the Farm2Fork Strategy;
13. Asks the Council to initiate annual health summits of Member States' ministers of health to enhance their cooperation and exchanges of best practices;
14. Encourages DG SANTE to institute the creation of an annual development plan to accelerate the modernisation of health care facilities;
15. Strongly supports the European Commission in continuing its work on improving the infrastructure in rural areas through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the EU Cohesion Policy.



## ENVI - Fact Sheet

**European Health Union:** EU framework established to enable Member States to respond to different medical crises, issues, and develop health-related projects.

**World Health Organisation (WHO):** specialised agency of the United Nations that focuses on internationally maintaining public health.

**Health Security Committee (HSC):** formal EU advisory group that aims to facilitate the sharing of best practices and coordination of national health preparedness activities.

**EU4HEALTH:** the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other medicine-related goals. It mainly features funding opportunities for Member States to tackle these issues.

**European Medicines Agency (EMA):** EU organisation founded to evaluate and supervise medicinal products that are used in the EU.

**EU Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA):** aims to help the EU respond to serious cross-border health threats, by enabling rapid availability, access, and distribution of needed countermeasures.

**European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA):** EU organisation that manages and implements a series of European Commission programmes on the recovery required after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**EpiPulse:** integrates several surveillance systems that were previously independent (The European Surveillance System (TESSy), the five Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS) platforms and the Threat Tracking Tool (TTT)), and provides new functionalities and seamless access to data in a single platform. Through this platform, ECDC aims to strengthen the prevention and control of infectious diseases by enhancing early threat detection and assessment, through real-time monitoring of outbreak signals and events.

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):** EU regulation that aims to increase data privacy by imposing rules on the processing and storage of personal information of individual people.

**Rapid Alert System:** introduced to facilitate exchange of information in the wake of fake news campaigns.

**Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE):** this European Commission department is responsible for EU policy on food safety and health and for monitoring the implementation of related laws.

**Farm2Fork Strategy:** strategy initiated by the European Green Deal, that aims to make food systems more environmentally friendly and healthy, with a focus on providing more nutritional food products to citizens.

**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):** the EU's central policy tool for managing and directing the agricultural industry. It is the EU's largest policy, making up around 38% of its entire budget. The CAP consists of two pillars: (I) income support and (II) rural development measures.

**EU Cohesion Policy:** EU strategy to promote and support the harmonious development of its Member States in many areas, such as health, by reducing economic and social disparities.





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

**Europe's digital decade: Despite the increased use of technology in people's daily lives, many governments struggle to maximise the development of their digital democracies. With the new DIGITAL Europe Programme focusing on the recovery and driving digital transformation in Europe, how should the EU and European countries facilitate the future of democratic processes?**

### **Submitted by:**

Katharina Brun (AT), Lorea del Río Kutz (ES), Joshua Kamer (NL), Evgen Kostogryzov (UA), Musa Küçüköncü (SE), Simona Lupşa (RO), Gracie Faith O'Sullivan (IE), Sara Rapi (AL), Akanksha Sur (FI), Edvin Ceman (Chairperson, LU)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to strengthen democracy by digitalising democratic processes to give civil society a safe and efficient way of proposing legislation, voting in elections and public engagement via digital technology. We aim for a secure, trusted, and reliable system that will lead to trust among citizens and increased voter participation.

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

- A. Having examined the challenges that digital illiteracy poses to the implementation of eDemocracy,
- B. Affirming that digital voting and the use of electronic systems lessens the risks of miscounts and avoids recounts,
- C. Acknowledging the risks related to eDemocracy, such as cyber attacks, hacking, data theft, and vote manipulation,
- D. Keeping in mind that only 36% of EU citizens trust internet operations, resulting in mistrust of eDemocracy processes,
- E. Noting with regret that the administration of eDemocracy is perceived as difficult and inefficient due to outdated governance approaches and scarcely digitalised state institutions,
- F. Alarmed by a general lack of progress by Member States towards eDemocracy, with Estonia being the only Member State that has implemented full-scale eVoting,
- G. Concerned that participation in eDemocracy is inaccessible for citizens who lack internet access in rural areas,
- H. Realising that adopting eVoting requires time and financial investment for digitalisation specialists and training,
- I. Keeping in mind that physical elections are expensive to maintain, time-consuming and environmentally unsustainable,

### **Security & Privacy**

- 1. Asks the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) to conduct research and develop suitable eVoting systems for elections, drawing on the example set by the Estonian eDemocracy infrastructure;
- 2. Encourages Member States to form a research committee on the Keyless Signatures' Infrastructure (KSI) technology used by Estonia to:





- a. objectively assess existing eVoting processes,
  - b. produce a report on ideal and suited safety measures;
3. Invites the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence to provide research, expertise, and statistics in the area of eDemocracy;
4. Requests Member States to punish cyber attacks, unethical hacking, and data theft with the same severity to their non-digital equivalent;
5. Calls upon the European Commission to consider trialling eVoting for European Parliament elections in 2023;
6. Appeals to international donor organisations, such as the Visegrad Fund, to hold European fairs of technology to improve eDemocracy infrastructure in all Member States;

### **Access & Digital Divide**

7. Implores Member States to replace analogue polling stations with digital alternatives and volunteers for citizens who require digital assistance;
8. Calls upon Member States' governments to create governmental platforms for democratic processes following the example of the Ukrainian app 'DIIA';
9. Recommends Member States to hire Digital Service Teams specialising in governmental infrastructure to build and sustain eDemocracy platforms;
10. Asks the European Commission to provide subsidies that promote the development and implementation of eDemocracy across Member States;
11. Seeks for dLearn to offer training sessions on the usage of eDemocracy tools in digitally developing areas;
12. Encourages the European Commission to expand projects like Wifi4EU to provide remote areas with free wifi and access to eDemocracy platforms;

### **Responsiveness & Administrative Efficiency**

13. Urges Member States to establish Ministries of Digitalisation or a similar bodies with respective functions to tackle problems of establishing eDemocracy at a national level, following the example of Estonia and Ukraine;
14. Calls upon the European Commission to fund and encourage budgeting for the digitalisation of minor administrative processes and other eParticipation projects;
15. Appeals to the Council of to hold consultations between Ministers of Digitalisation or other respective officials to:
  - a. exchange experiences on eDemocracy systems,
  - b. provide support to less digitised countries from their counterparts;
16. Requests DG CONNECT to fund professional training for government officials to ease the transition from traditional to eDemocracy.



## ITRE II - Fact Sheet

**eDemocracy:** electronic democracy is the use of information and communication technologies to enhance and in some accounts replace representative democracy.

**Cyber attack:** an assault launched by cybercriminals using one or more computers against a single or multiple computers or networks. A cyber attack can maliciously disable computers, steal data, or use a breached computer as a launch point for other attacks.

**eVoting:** electronic voting is a form of computer-mediated voting in which voters make their selections with the aid of a computer. The voter usually chooses with the aid of a touch-screen display, although audio interfaces can be made available for voters with visual disabilities.

**Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT):** the Commission department responsible for developing a digital single market to generate smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe.

**DIIA:** an app used as the digital portal to eParticipation and electronic administration in Ukraine. Through DIIA, one can access all personal documents, such as Passport, Drivers' Licence and additionally participate in political discourse.

**Digital Service Teams (DST):** national governments are setting up digital service teams (DST) – IT units outside the centralized CIO's office – to respond to complex governmental and societal challenges in a responsive and agile manner.

**dLearn (European Digital Learning Network):** a non-profit association that aims to embrace the challenges brought by the digital transformation in terms of digital skills mismatch and digital learning opportunities.

**Wi-Fi4EU:** a project through which the European Commission wishes to promote free Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens and visitors in public spaces such as parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres, and museums everywhere in Europe.

**eParticipation:** electronic participation is the term referring to ICT-supported participation in processes involving government and citizens. Processes may concern administration, service delivery, decision making and policy making.

**Visegrad Fund:** an international donor organization, established in 2000 by the governments of the Visegrad Group countries—Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia to promote regional cooperation in the Visegrad region (V4) as well as between the V4 region and other countries, especially in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions.

**Keyless Signatures' Infrastructure (KSI) technology:** blockchain technology designed in Estonia and used globally to make sure networks, systems and data are free of compromise, all while retaining 100% data privacy.

**NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence:** multinational and interdisciplinary cyber defence hub providing research, training, and exercises in four core areas: technology, strategy, operations and law.



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

**No back to normal: While disabled people constitute one of the largest marginalised groups in the European Union, the barriers to full participation in society, including access to employment, are still numerous. How should the EU ensure that, moving forward, the labour market becomes a more accessible and inclusive space?**

### Submitted by:

Gemma Arcidiacono (IT), Ada Beşir Bayraktar (TR), Sophie Hodler (GE), Martin Lilienberg (EE), Jim Nylund (SE), Monica Richards (UK), Carlos Saraiva (PT), Greis Selimaj (AL), Szymon Steglański (PL), Anastasiya Tsarik (BY), Leonor Albuquerque Amaral (Chairperson, NL).

### Aims Statement

The European Youth Parliament aims to increase the accessibility of the labour market to disabled EU citizens by working towards the decrease of marginalisation and discrimination of disabled people in the field of employment. In order to achieve this, it sets out to improve the implementation of pre-existing policies and to strengthen enforcement mechanisms in order to ensure that employers adopt these policies.

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Seriously concerned that the inconsistency and indecisiveness between the social and medical models of disability lead to an ill-defined notion of disability,
- B. Understanding that a lack of consensus over the definition of disability results in prejudice and a negative perception of disabled workers,
- C. Alarmed by the lack of appropriate mechanisms and policies with regard to accessibility and inclusivity of disabled citizens, particularly in the workplace,
- D. Noting that the legal protection of disabled workers provided by the EU fails to be enforced,
- E. Regretfully acknowledging that the scope and extent of data collection on the employment of disabled people is insufficient for the drafting of purposeful and effective policy,
- F. Recognising the prevailing disability employment gap across the EU, with only 50,6% of disabled people currently in employment, in contrast to 74.8% of non-disabled people,
- G. Keeping in mind the lack of knowledge, assistive tools, and technologies essential for disabled people to carry out tasks in their employment,
- H. Deeply concerned by the discrimination faced by disabled people throughout the process of both gaining and maintaining employment;

### Defining disability

- 1. Invites the European Commission to agree on and implement a definition of disability across Member States based on the social model;
- 2. Requests the European Commission to launch awareness initiatives on the discrimination and prejudice against disabled people in collaboration with the European Disability Forum aiming to:
  - a. sensitise school children to adopt the correct terminology and normalise disability,



- b. inform workers and employers about respectful behaviour and the rights of disabled people in concordance with national and EU law,
- c. reach the general population on the efforts made by the EU to ease the barriers imposed on disabled people via multimedia platforms;

### **Accommodation in the workplace**

- 3. Urges Member States to mandate training in public and private institutions on bias, discrimination and disability-conscious hiring;
- 4. Encourages the European Commission to enforce legislation ensuring the protection of disabled workers;
- 5. Supports the increase of penalties for employers that continuously disregard the laws imposed;
- 6. Asks the European Commission to ensure that employers subsidise adjustments for appropriate accommodation for disabled people;
- 7. Calls upon the European Commission to set minimum requirements on the availability of assistive technologies in work environments;
- 8. Further calls upon the European Commission to rectify the functions and aims of the European Accessibility Act;

### **Lack of available data**

- 9. Encourages Member States to base their policies on and sustain the work of the European Disability Expertise (EDE);
- 10. Instructs EUROSTAT to create a Task Force responsible for fact-checking and analysing Member States' annual reports on the wages of the disabled workforce;
- 11. Urges the European Commission to initiate the amendment of Article 9 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to allow for the collection of data regarding race and disability, in compliance with Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).



## EMPL - Fact Sheet

**Court of Justice of the EU definition of disability:** a limitation which results in particular from physical, mental or psychological impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the full and effective participation of the person concerned in professional life on an equal basis with other workers.

**United Nations definition of disability:** persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

**Article 9 of the GDPR:** prohibits the processing of 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.

**Article 31 of the UNCPRD:** Signing parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention.

**European Accessibility Act:** a directive that aims to improve the functioning of the internal market for accessible products and services, by removing barriers created by divergent rules in Member States.

**European Disability Expertise:** a project created to collect, analyse and provide independent and scientific data and information relating to national disability policies and legislation and their relationship to policy and legislation at EU level, as well as on the situation of persons with disabilities.

**Assistive technology:** an umbrella term covering the systems and services related to the delivery of assistive products and services.

**Medical model of disability:** the idea that one becomes disabled by their impairments or differences. Under the medical model, these impairments or differences should be 'fixed' or changed by medical and other treatments.

**Social model of disability:** the model describing disability as caused by the way society is organised, rather than by a person's impairment or difference. It looks at ways of removing barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people.



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

**Democracy in retreat: In light of recent constitutional reforms in some Member States, independence of the judiciary and freedom of the press are in jeopardy. What further steps should the EU take in confronting as well as preventing rule of law crises in Member States to ensure the protection of core democratic values and institutions?**

### **Submitted by:**

Matilde Bertagnini (IT), Ashleigh Chinery (UK), Maja Hnatów (PL), Maxima Krage (AT), Molly Melin (SE), Raquel Olivera Lage (ES), Miloslava Patzelová (CZ), Meida Rrokaj (AL), Judith Wolff (DE), Fabian Alexander Eiden (Chairperson, DE)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to promote and enforce the democratic values of civil liberty, equality, and freedom as laid out and agreed upon by all Member States in the Treaty on the European Union (TEU). Noting furthermore with regret the lack of effectiveness of the existing measures, such as the Rule of Law Framework, it aims to enhance its support for a pluralist, open society, while reaffirming the sovereignty of each of the Member States. In doing so, it resolves to engage democratic backsliding not only on an institutional and legal, but also a social and educational level, focusing on active citizenship and civic engagement.

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

- A. Highlighting the importance of an independent judiciary for democracy, threatened by practices such as politically motivated appointment of judges,
- B. Noting with deep appreciation the importance of Articles 2 and 3 TEU laying down the values of democracy, equality and the rule of law in the EU,
- C. Reaffirming the importance of the Rule of Law Framework, including the invocation of Article 7 TEU in cases of democratic backsliding,
- D. Aware of the difficulties in applying Article 7 TEU due to the potential of coordination between governments, rendering its triggering impractical,
- E. Cognisant of Articles 258 and 259 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), constituting the legal bases for initiating infringement proceedings against Member States in violation of Articles 2 and 3 TEU before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU),
- F. Strongly affirming the legitimacy of any Member State's democratically elected government,
- G. Noting that the EU has so far chosen not to apply the rule of law conditionality mechanism, tying the access to EU funds to compliance with democratic principles,
- H. Stressing the importance of public criticism of anti-democratic developments in Member States as well as public opinion as a valuable policy tool,
- I. Concerned by issues regarding the access to EU funding for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to the effect of:
  - i) national governments allocating EU funds primary to CSOs with close government ties,



- ii) significant administrative hurdles for small CSOs in accessing EU funds such as the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Program (REC),
  - iii) a lack of EU funding allocated to CSOs operating only on the local and regional level,
  - iv) an underrepresentation of CSOs dedicated to the promotion of democratic values and rule of law,
- J. Disturbed by partisan narratives framing EU support for the democratic values codified in the TEU as violations of national sovereignty,
- K. Emphasising that CSOs lack the means to give feedback to their funding partners,
- L. Disturbed by instances of decreased time for public consultation of legislative proposals in Poland, contributing to the lack of transparency of the democratic law-making process;

### **Rule of Law Mechanism**

1. Calls upon the CJEU to continue monitoring the appointment procedure of judges in cases of alleged political motivation behind the appointments;
2. Encourages the European Commission and national governments to resort to soft policy measures such as public condemnation in cases of rule of law violations;
3. Urges the European Commission to apply the Rule of Law conditionality mechanism in cases of severe violations of democratic principles,
4. Calls upon the European Commission to monitor national governments encroaching upon the independence of the judiciary;
5. Urges the Council to pass the Equal Treatment Directive to enforce the rights laid out in Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;

### **Civil Society**

6. Calls upon Member States to support media pluralism by:
  - a. encouraging equal treatment of all media sources, regardless of public or private ownership,
  - b. creating a network for young European journalists for exchange and joint projects;
7. Invites Member States to implement educational programmes in their school curricula, working towards increasing the sensitivity of:
  - a. cultural differences of each Member State,
  - b. values of democracy and pluralism,
  - c. media literacy;
8. Instructs the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to offer courses on European culture and the functioning of the EU to students pursuing pedagogy degrees as part of the Erasmus+ programme;
9. Calls upon the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to set a minimum percentage of funds to be allocated to non-government projects that raise awareness of democratic rights, and educate on the rule of law;
10. Calls upon the European Commission to develop a guideline for applications to EU funds by CSOs, increasing the availability of such funds to small organisations;
11. Instructs the European Commission to develop a guideline for public consultations during national legislative proceedings, including provisions for sufficient time and public discussion events, and making full use of the tools offered by digitisation;
12. Directs the European Commission to facilitate communication between EU funds and CSOs dedicated to pro-democracy activism and active citizenship, creating sensitivity for the needs of local organisations.



## AFCO - Fact Sheet

**Article 2 TEU:** declares the centrality of “human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights” to the values of the EU.

**Article 3 TEU:** declares that the EU shall “promote its values” among its Member States.

**Rule of Law Framework and Article 7 TEU:** if a Member State is suspected to be in violation of the democratic principles upon which the EU is founded, the Rule of Law Framework lays down a monitoring and mediation process between EU and the Member State. Should the mediation fail, the most drastic option at the disposal of the EU is the suspension of voting rights of the Member State in the Council.

**Articles 258 and 259 TFEU:** if a Member State is found to have failed to fulfill an obligation under the Treaties of the EU, a case can be brought before the CJEU by either the European Commission or another Member State respectively.

**Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights:** comprehensively prohibits discrimination on any grounds, namely “sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation”.

**European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR):** a fund set up by the EU aiming to support organisations that promote human rights and an active civil society through financial grants.





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

**Power to the people: A shared aim of Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the European Green Deal is ensuring secure and affordable energy for all. How should the EU and European countries further develop their energy infrastructure, while ensuring accessibility?**

### **Submitted by:**

Alina Akural (FI), Rana Arman (TR), Ernesto Baçi (AL), Teodor Borcan (RO), Mara Dirlea (AT), Mikkel Nielsen (SE), Ytse Roorda (NL), Aarni Rantanen (Chairperson, FI)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to firstly, increase the production of renewable energy as the main power source within the Member States. Secondly, it seeks to establish efficient cooperation concerning energy production projects between Member States. Thirdly, it desires to shed light on the energy sector and educate the general public about energy projects. Ultimately, the goal is to make affordable energy accessible to every EU citizen, meeting everyone's right to adequate living conditions.

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

- A. Noting with regret that 34 million citizens within the EU, often unknowingly, live in energy poverty,
- B. Observing that there is no common definition of energy poverty on a national or EU level,
- C. Conscious of the lack of attention in research and development of renewable energy alternatives and energy-efficient technologies,
- D. Acknowledging the need for cross-border interconnections as a means of ensuring energy security,
- E. Bearing in mind the differing transmission capacities of Member States' energy infrastructures,
- F. Emphasising the lack of robust legislation at the EU level to promote innovative solutions for energy efficiency,
- G. Fully alarmed that 61% of the EU's energy in 2019 was imported from outside the Union, leading to significant import dependency,
- H. Acknowledging EU citizens' public opposition towards the planning and implementation of European electricity interconnection projects,
- I. Realising the many attempts of cross-border cooperation obstructed by inadequate inter-state negotiations on time, budget and policy,
- J. Alarmed by the energy import-dependency in Eastern European Member States and those surrounded by water due to their energy isolation,
- K. Noting with satisfaction the constructive impact of cooperation through Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) in the energy sector;

### **Energy poverty**

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to further develop Union-wide policies on transmission capacities within the EU;
- 2. Instructs Member States to screen for households that report spending more than a predefined threshold share of their overall expenditure on energy products;



3. Appeals to the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) to update the EU's legal framework for energy efficiency with a directive pursuing the overall objective of the energy efficiency target set within the European Green Deal;
4. Urges Member States to create competitions that encourage scientists and students to research and develop energy-efficient products and sustainable energy production alternatives;
5. Strongly urges the European Commission to legally define the concept of energy poverty across the EU;
6. Invites Member States to implement energy bill aid schemes for households that qualify as energy impoverished;

#### **Issues of interconnectedness**

7. Encourages Member States located near large bodies of water to develop the green energy industry by utilising their potential for the use of renewable resources;
8. Suggests that Member States invest in increasing the number and quality of infrastructures that support energy production;
9. Requests Member States to establish citizen consultations about upcoming energy projects and the measures taken through meetings with representatives from national ministries of energy;
10. Requests Member States to launch television and social media campaigns on the significance of energy infrastructure and its effects on climate goals of the European Green Deal;
11. Asks Member States to create educational courses for students and the general public on electricity, green energy, and environmental policy knowledge;

#### **Lack of cooperation**

12. Invites DG ENER to establish an EU-wide opportunity conference informing energy companies of funding opportunities regarding green energy investment;
13. Recommends that Member States take part in PCIs by allocating further funds for joint projects;
14. Encourages Member States to follow a cooperation-friendly policy in the energy industry by creating a generalised set of guidelines that negotiations must abide by.



## ITRE I - Fact Sheet

**Energy poverty:** Energy poverty occurs when a household suffers from a lack of adequate energy services in the home.

**Import dependency:** A state is energy import-dependent when it fails to meet the public energy demand by using its own resources and has to resort to importing most of its energy.

**Interconnections:** Interconnections refer to energy grids that are connected across Member State borders.

**Transmission capacities:** Transmission capacity means the amount of power (in multiples of watts [W]) that can be sent over a transmission line within the acceptable line losses limit.

**Projects of Common Interest:** Projects of Common Interests, also known as PCI's, are energy projects aimed at linking the energy systems of EU countries and creating joint, more secure grids.

**Directive:** Directives are EU legislative acts that require Member States to reach a result but in a way they see fit.



## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

**Zooming in on education: The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the widening inequalities amongst European education systems, severely affecting children's access to schooling, and consequently compromising their physical and mental health. How should European countries reevaluate their existing education priorities, in order to provide equal opportunities to students from all socio-economic backgrounds?**

### Submitted by:

Nathalie Albania (IT), Dominika Bałazińska (PL), Seojung Choi (CZ), Hanna Herasimchyk (BY), Mariam Jakhua (GE), Boiden Laço (AL), Aslımay Nil Öztürk (TR), Lekhya Polagani (SE), Leah Priestley-Black (UK), Ioanna Efthymia Syrta (GR), Ioana Diac (Chairperson, UK)

### Aims Statement

The European Youth Parliament aims to reduce the widening educational inequalities between and within Member States. It wants to provide all the funding, equipment, and facilities necessary for students and teachers to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution ultimately aims to achieve equity in education standards for all.

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognising that Member States are solely responsible for their own national education policies,
- B. Aware that not all Member States spend the same amount of their GDP on education, leading to disparities in education standards,
- C. Concerned that 9% of households in the EU did not have internet access in 2020,
- D. Regretting that only 20% of Member States had digital resources for online teaching,
- E. Anxious that school closures and the suspension of face-to-face instruction led to a learning loss equivalent to one-fifth of a school year,
- F. Disturbed that online learning increases school dropout risk for vulnerable learners such as those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, migrants, ethnic minorities, and learners with disabilities and special education needs,
- G. Conscious that physical school closures meant the loss of a provided meal for children, essential for the daily nutrition of students from disadvantaged backgrounds,
- H. Cognisant that more than 50% of students say their mental health has declined since the COVID-19 pandemic began, with students reporting increased stress, loneliness, anxiety, depression, and a lack of motivation to study,
- I. Alarmed that online classes have led to rising physical health issues such as eyesight problems, frequent headaches, and sleep disorders;

### Educational inequalities between European countries

- 1. Appeals to Member States to cooperate through the Education and Training 2020 strategic framework and the European Education Summit in order to reduce the educational inequality gap;
- 2. Asks Member States who spend less than 4.6% of their GDP on education to use the European Social Fund for improving their education systems;



### **Online distance learning**

3. Invites the European Commission to conduct a survey as part of its annual Education and Training Monitor Report to evaluate students and teachers' internet access in Member States,
4. Further invites the European Commission to provide subsidies towards assuring digital infrastructure in the geographical areas identified as needing internet access;
5. Encourages Member States to implement the European Commission's Digital Education Action Plan to better equip their online learning systems;
6. Recommends Member States to provide schools with educational software such as Microsoft Office, Quizlet, Notion, and Coursera by using the European Social Fund;
7. Urges Member States' educational institutions to assign specific teachers that help vulnerable students to catch up with missed curriculum during physical school closures;

### **Physical and mental wellbeing of students**

8. Requests Member States to conduct surveys on the rates of child malnourishment during the COVID-19 pandemic;
9. Further requests Member States to use the survey findings to direct educational institutions' daily distribution of meals;
10. Suggests that the European Institution for Education and Social Policy (EIESP) creates resources about how students can look after their physical and mental health during periods of online learning.



## CULT - Fact Sheet

**The Digital Education Action Plan:** a renewed EU policy initiative to support the sustainable and effective adaptation of the education and training systems of Member States to the digital age.

**The European Institution for Education and Social Policy (EIESP):** a non-profit organisation that develops evidence-based strategies to support effective learning in Europe and the partner countries of the EU.



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

**In for a Euro, in for a Union: The slow economic recoveries following the Eurozone crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the challenges of sustaining a common monetary policy without a common fiscal policy. With new economic instruments such as the NextGenerationEU, how should European institutions work towards fiscal convergence without disregarding the economic sovereignty of national governments?**

**Submitted by:** Mikheil Arakelyan (GE), Maxim Arkhipov (CZ), Vasilis Chatzigeorgiou (GR), Sara Jaho (AL), Liza Lazarevich (BY), Francisco Moura (PT), Berkay Polat (TR), Bahar Safari (SE), Pietro Villa (IT), Henri Haapanala (Chairperson, FI)

### Aims Statement

The European Youth Parliament aims to further develop the fiscal and monetary policies of the EU by utilising the existing economic decision-making institutions to their fullest extent. We acknowledge that the EU should pursue a more united manner of dealing with financial crises and by doing so, balance the economic influence of Member States and the EU. At the same time, we emphasise that economic reform needs to take place within the context of TEU and TFEU. Overall, we give our support to ambitious economic projects such as NextGenerationEU, paying particular attention to the ability of economic policy to help Europe achieve the green and digital transitions.

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting how the lack of common fiscal policies among the Member States can lead to instability of the euro,
- B. Recognising that the absence of European-level taxation restricts the amount of own resources making up the common EU budget,
- C. Expressing its appreciation for the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) due to its contributions to the EU budget,
- D. Acknowledging the limited capability of the EU to monitor and coordinate the national budgets of Member States,
- E. Observing that, even though most Member States agree on the NextGenerationEU (NGEU) in principle, some still express dissatisfaction regarding:
  - i) the level of Member State contributions into and receipts out of NGEU,
  - ii) the significance of NGEU funding for the overall economic recovery of Member States,
- F. Regretting the current widespread sentiment of Euroscepticism among European voters, causing distrust in EU institutions and economic instruments,
- G. Bearing in mind that the Member States are hit differently by crises, resulting in different economic needs,
- H. Concerned by the risk of high inflation caused by:
  - i) unconventional monetary policies such as quantitative easing,
  - ii) excessive public spending and government debt,
- I. Disturbed by the divergent fiscal policies of Member States, particularly with reference to taxation, while the same monetary policy applies to all Member States in the Eurozone,



- J. Concerned by the slower decision-making process impacting economic growth of the EU compared with other leading economies such as China and the US,
- K. Convinced that the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) are in need of significant reform,
- L. Concerned by the unclear regulatory framework for economic decision-making between Member States and the EU, resulting in:
  - i) political and economic disagreements between Member States,
  - ii) uncertainty regarding the boundaries of economic sovereignty,
- M. Aware of the political challenges associated with:
  - i) obtaining consent from European citizens for major economic reforms,
  - ii) balancing public representation in economic decision-making with the need to make rapid decisions based on expert advice,
  - iii) altering the foundational documents such as the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU),
- N. Welcoming the European Semester as an advantageous tool in the coordination of public spending despite its complexity and inflexibility;

### **Political and social issues**

1. Recommends the European Commission to initiate a proposal to introduce taxes on tech giants and other major companies that are not based in the EU;
2. Calls upon the European Commission to support Member States in paying back their commitments to the NGEU by preparing alternative budgets for each Member State;
3. Encourages the European Commission to keep the share of expenditure devoted to the green and digital transitions in NGEU and equivalent packages flexible in the region of 20-30%;
4. Reminds the Directorate-General for Budget (DG BUDG) to follow through on the country-specific grants and loans allocated to the Member States according to the level at which they were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;
5. Strongly encourages the European Commission to provide information about the benefits of NGEU and EU institutions to European citizens by:
  - a. promoting European identity with a focus on shared political rights, economic benefits of EU membership, and equality of all EU citizens,
  - b. appealing to the Member States to use a proportion of NGEU funds for spreading information at schools about the working methods and policies of the EU;

### **Economic issues**

6. Supports the efforts of the European Central Bank (ECB), in coordination with the European Semester, to conduct fiscal and monetary policies that keep inflation at a low and sustainable level;
7. Shows its appreciation for the Member States already coordinating their fiscal policies in the European Semester, particularly regarding economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
8. Urges the Member States to remain as close as feasible to the limitations on government debt and budget deficits outlined in the SGP;
9. Strongly encourages Member States to exercise sound economic policies during crisis recovery by:
  - a. avoiding further government debt if in breach of the SGP,
  - b. following through with Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) on economic policies;
10. Proposes to the European Parliament to include a discussion of economic reform protocols and bureaucratic obstacles in the agenda of the Conference on the Future of Europe;
11. Urges the European Fiscal Board (EFB) to improve the implementation of CSRs agreed in the European Semester;





## Legal and regulatory issues

12. Instructs the EFB to reform the European Semester, paying particular attention to ways of speeding up economic decision-making during times of crisis;
13. Recommends the European Commission and the EFB to make the debt-to-GDP ratio and budget deficit rules of the SGP more responsive to the prevailing economic situation by means of review every two years;
14. Calls upon the European Commission to extend the suspension of the SGP for a period of time agreed with the Member States;
15. Encourages the European Commission and Member States to design a plan for the gradual reduction of government debt in heavily indebted countries.



## ECON - Fact Sheet

**Fiscal policy:** economic policies that involve government spending and taxation. Fiscal policies are conducted by Member State governments and the EU. EU fiscal policies are defined in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), colloquially known as the EU budget.

**Monetary policy:** economic policies that involve the circulation of money in the economy and the interest rate. Monetary policy for the Eurozone is conducted by the European Central Bank (ECB). For the Member States that do not use the euro, this is conducted by their domestic central banks.

**NextGenerationEU (NGEU):** a fiscal stimulus package agreed by the European Council to help Member States recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. It makes available EUR 750 billion to the Member States in order to support their economies, with a focus on the green and digital transitions.

**Stability and Growth Pact (SGP):** the primary set of rules and guidelines for the economies of Member States. It requires the Member States to stay within a 60% debt-to-GDP ratio and a 3% annual budget deficit. However, as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic has involved an unprecedented level of government spending and borrowing, these rules are currently suspended.

**European Semester:** the main mechanism for coordinating the economic policies of Member States. Member States share their annual economic reform plans with the European Commission, which in turn issues Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) on developing economic and social policies.

**European Fiscal Board (EFB):** an independent advisory body of the European Commission responsible for monitoring the compliance of Member States with the SGP, developing fiscal policy coordination at the EU level, and supporting the fiscal policies of Member States.

**Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):** a legislative proposal to tax goods such as iron, steel, cement and fertilisers imported to the EU based on their level of carbon emissions. The EU intends to use the revenue raised by CBAM to pay back the money borrowed for the NGEU.



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

**European security at crossroads: Given the increasing geopolitical competition across the globe, the NATO 2030 Young Leaders Group's report has called for a more effective NATO-EU partnership. How should the EU and European countries shape their future relationship with NATO to promote shared values and a rules-based order in a multipolar world whilst balancing Europe's reliance on the Transatlantic alliance with the pursuit of European strategic autonomy?**

### **Submitted by:**

Anna Hübner (DE), Yury Koloskov (IT), Jakub Kozłowski (PL), Dhruv Maggon (SE), Vsevolod Martseniuk (UA), Lucía Sancho (ES), Johannes Thuswaldner (AT), Batuhan Duru Yeltekin (AZ), Sára Zelenko (CZ), Laura Zovko (HR), Noel Lessinger (Chairperson, LU)

### **Aims Statement**

The European Youth Parliament aims to secure the EU's position as a global political actor and find a balance between strengthening the EU-NATO partnership and developing European strategic autonomy. It wishes to further improve the cooperation between EU Member States and to create a single European foreign policy, whilst taking the ever changing geopolitical climate into consideration.

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

- A. Noting with regret that the unanimity in foreign policy decisions is preventing the development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP),
- B. Aware that some Member States refuse to transition from unanimity to qualified majority voting (QMV) due to concerns over national sovereignty,
- C. Bearing in mind that Member States have different objectives in their foreign policies,
- D. Observing that the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) tackles exclusive aspects of the CFSP,
- E. Deeply concerned that most NATO member states fail to meet the 2% target,
- F. Noting with approval that the long history of dependence on the US has prompted many Member States to aim for increased European autonomy,
- G. Aware of the different stances of Western and Eastern Member States towards NATO,
- H. Regretting the EU's limited capabilities as a soft power in international conflicts,
- I. Profoundly concerned that the EU lacks a coherent plan regarding the development of European strategic autonomy,
- J. Noting with deep concern the hybrid warfare tactics being increasingly used against NATO and EU Member States,
- K. Fully alarmed by the lack of defence mechanisms against hybrid threats,
- L. Recognising China as a hybrid threat to the transatlantic alliance as proclaimed at the Brussels summit in June 2021,
- M. Noting with concern the presence of Russian state-backed disinformation campaigns targeting EU citizens, which has regrettably increased during the COVID-19 pandemic,
- N. Aware of the Cyprus dispute that prevents the EU-NATO relationship from taking effective action;



## **Unanimity in Foreign Policy**

1. Urges the Council to introduce a Super QMV system in matters of CFSP decisions;
2. Encourages Member States to effectively communicate through meetings and platforms such as the EU-Foreign Policy Defence Forum with the aim of replacing individual foreign policies by a common EU foreign policy;
3. Suggests centralising foreign policies of Member States as means of establishing a common European foreign policy;
4. Trusts all Member States that are part of NATO to commit to the 2% target to ensure the continuation of the Alliance's military readiness;

## **European Strategic Autonomy**

5. Welcomes the definition of European strategic autonomy, proposed by the European Council, as the capacity to act autonomously when and where necessary and with partners wherever possible;
6. Calls upon the executive board of the Conference on the Future of Europe to promote dialogue on the notion of European strategic autonomy in line with the European Council's interpretation in order to establish a common definition;
7. Requests the European Council to focus on the development of European strategic autonomy, promoting multilateral cooperation between Member States;
8. Directs Member States to invest more in military, diplomatic and peacekeeping missions to move towards European strategic autonomy;
9. Calls upon the EU and NATO to negotiate a new joint declaration on EU-NATO cooperation committing to the NATO 2030 agenda,

## **Global Threats**

10. Calls upon the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) to conduct research on hybrid warfare and new defence technologies through increased cooperation and coordination with NATO;
11. Urges Member States to reduce economic dependence on goods and resources imported from China;
12. Advises Member States to trace Chinese expenditure through the EU framework for screening of foreign direct investment;
13. Urges the European Commission to increase funding for the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom to improve the promotion of media literacy and trustworthy, objective journalism;
14. Further invites Turkey and Greece to discuss proposals such as the Annan plan with the objective of finding a common ground regarding the Cyprus dispute.



## SEDE - Fact Sheet

**Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP):** the organised, unanimously agreed foreign policy of the European Union (EU) for mainly security and defence diplomacy and actions.

**Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP):** enables the EU to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention and in the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

**Qualified majority voting (QMV):** a mechanism used within the European Council and Council to take decisions without the need for unanimity but which go beyond a simple majority of members.

**2% Target:** NATO states have agreed to spend 2% of their gross domestic product on defence.

**(European) Strategic autonomy:** a policy objective of the EU. Strategic autonomy is the potential capacity of the EU to defend Europe and act militarily in its neighbourhood without dependency on the United States.

**Hybrid Warfare:** a military strategy which employs political warfare and blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare and cyberwarfare with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy, lawfare and foreign electoral intervention.

**Cyprus dispute:** also known as the Cyprus conflict, Cyprus issue, or Cyprus problem, is an ongoing dispute between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Initially, with the occupation of the island by the British Empire from the Ottoman Empire in 1878 and subsequent annexation in 1914, the "Cyprus dispute" was a conflict between the Turkish and Greek islanders.

**European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS):** the EU's Agency analysing foreign, security and defence policy issues. Its core mission is to assist the EU and its Member States in the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as well as other external actions of the Union.

**Super QMV:** the super qualified majority (Super QMV) is used when the Council or the European Council is taking a decision not proposed by the European Commission or the High Representative. It also includes that a Super QMV is composed of 72% of the Member States also comprising 65% of the EU-population.

**EU-Foreign Policy Defence Forum:** security and defence experts from the EU, the US, and NATO convene to discuss the pressing issues facing the transatlantic security partnership.

**EU framework for screening of foreign direct investment:** an EU-wide framework in which the European Commission and Member States can coordinate their actions on foreign investments.

**Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom:** a research and training centre which aims to develop innovative and relevant lines of research on media freedom and pluralism in Europe and beyond, as well as to provide knowledge support to the international, European and national policy and rulemaking processes.

**Annan Plan:** also known as the Cyprus reunification plan, was a United Nations proposal to resolve the Cyprus dispute. The different parts of the proposal were based on the argumentation put forward by each party in meetings held under the auspices of the UN.

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