Resolution Booklet

Kortrijk 2022 - 97th International Session
of the European Youth Parliament

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General Assembly Procedure

General Assembly Procedure

General rules

1. The General Assembly (GA) needs to be an open space that allows and encourages delegates to openly voice their ideas and opinions, in a respectful and constructive manner.

3. During the GA, participants discuss each motion for a resolution separately in strict accordance with this procedure.

6. All participants are required to observe appropriate and respectful manners. This does not include an obligation for participants to wear formal clothes.

7. The board of the International Session leads the Assembly and has the final authority on decisions within the boundaries of this GA procedure.

8. Any participant wishing to speak during the GA may only do so after having been recognised by the board.

9. The content of the points made by the participants must be related to the resolution under consideration.

10. Any points made by the participants are delivered from the floor, unless stated otherwise.

11. Each committee is provided with a set of placards (abbreviation of the committee name, direct response, personal privilege, order).

    a. The committee name placard is raised when a member of the committee would like to address the assembly.

    b. The direct response placard is raised together with the committee name placard when the committee would like to exercise their right to use the direct response.

    c. The personal privilege placard is raised to indicate that a member of the committee cannot hear or

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comprehend what is being said.

   d. The order placard is raised together with the committee name placard when the board violates this procedure. Only chairpersons can raise the placard.

Procedure

1. At the beginning of each debate, a member of the board announces the name of the proposing committee and the topic of the motion for the resolution.

Opening remarks

2. The board can choose to give the Assembly a few moments to refresh their memory as to the resolution about to be debated.

3. On behalf of the proposing committee, one or two speakers deliver the defence speech from the speaking platform. The speech may last no longer than three minutes.

4. The board has to grant the opportunity for the delivery of two position speeches. The board assigns two minutes to each speaker to deliver a speech from the speaking platform. Position speeches can either represent agreement or disagreement with the overall position/direction that the motion for the resolution proposes. The speakers should approach these speeches constructively, and, in the case of speeches in disagreement, explain their reasoning for the disagreement and suggest alternative options that would have been more suitable, and why. Ideally, there is one position speech in agreement and one in disagreement.

5. The proposing committee has the possibility to respond to these position speeches. One or two speakers may use 90 seconds to respond on behalf of the proposing committee.

Debate

6. The board opens up the discussion on the motion for the resolution to the entire Assembly. Any delegate can voice their opinion on the motion for the resolution.

   a. Adequate time should be provided to the proposing committee so that they can react to the ongoing discussion.

   b. Only one point at a time may be voiced.

   c. The board moderates the discussion.

   d. Delegates express their personal opinion on the motion under consideration.

e. Every committee has the right to appoint a direct response to a delegate once or twice per debate. The appointed delegate will be recognised by the board immediately as the next speaker. The speaker has to directly address the last point made by the preceding speaker.

f. The board can opt to use two direct responses per debate. This was shown to increase engagement in debates. In such case, it is up to the discretion of the board whether to recognise second direct responses or not, to ensure that it is not used in a manner that disadvantages balanced interventions from all committees.

7. The proposing committe has 90 seconds to determine whether, based on the debate, to implement an amendment to the policy proposals. A maximum of one such amendment can be submitted by the proposing committee and, once approved by the board, is communicated (and if possible) projected to the Assembly. These amendments should have the clear aim to improve and/or complete the resolution. Before delivering a sum-up speech, the proposing committee is given a bit of time to discuss whether they decide to accept any of the amendments based on the discussion during the debate, and the board will announce their decision to the Assembly. Voting will then take place on the updated resolution.

8. On behalf of the proposing committee, one or two speakers conclude the debate with a summation speech from the speaking platform. The speech may last a maximum of three minutes.

Votes

9. The motion for a resolution is submitted to a vote by the Assembly.

a. Each delegate has one vote and votes in line with their personal opinion. No proxy voting is allowed.

b. A delegate can decide to vote either in favour, against or abstain from voting for the motion for a resolution. The board may not encourage a specific vote.

c. A majority is required for a motion to pass. The motion for a resolution is adopted when there are more votes in favour than votes against. In the event of a tie, the motion fails.

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

Partners cross the pond: the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was established in 2021 as a diplomatic forum to coordinate technology and trade policy between the United States (US) and the European Union (EU). Considering the previous attempt at strengthening EU-US trade relations, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), was criticised for lacking labour, environmental, and data privacy standards, to what extent and how should the EU pursue a trade and technology partnership with the US?

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The European Youth Parliament aims to strengthen trade relations between the EU and the US by removing barriers and facilitating the trade of capital and services. It wishes to maintain EU sustainability and safety standards by enhancing bilateral EU-US trade standardisation. Finally, it aims to foster technological and competitive growth for both parties whilst working to ease trade and geopolitical tensions by maintaining relations with other key trading partners,

because

- The EU's trade sanctions against Russia following the latter's invasion of Ukraine have [severely limited](#) the EU's importing capabilities for fossil fuels and removed a large trade partner for exports,

- The conflictual relation between the US, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China (Taiwan)[1] [threatens](#) the EU's supply and production of industrially and technologically critical semiconductors[2],

- Protectionist[3] practices such as tariffs, quotas, and trade barriers [limit the ability](#) of European and American companies to competitively expand into both markets,

- The liberalisation of trade between the EU and the US is [projected](#) to support the growth of companies in both continents, promote the integration of the two industries and markets, and

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[1] **Taiwan** is a democratically self-ruled island 100 miles from the coast of Southeast China. Viewed as a breakaway territory by China, it is a key US ally of geopolitical and military importance for the Pacific region.
[2] **Semiconductors** are substances or chemical elements with special properties of electric conductivity. They are necessary for producing microchips, hence any technological device or equipment.
[3] **Protectionism** is the policy of favouring domestic industries against foreign competition, for instance through subsidies for the former or trade barriers against imports from the latter.

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help both parties achieve their technological and economic goals,

- The US has high long-term demand in key products and services exported by European countries, such as technologically advanced capital goods[4] and agricultural products,

- The different approaches to food labelling and regulations against additives in the EU and the US have often prevented structural agreements on secure supply chains and indirectly led to food and other consumer goods shortages,

- The US has taken significant steps in recent years to introduce federal and national data protection legislation in the spirit of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR);

by

Trade of capital and services

1. Authorising the EU Competition and Trade Commissioners to work within the Trade and Technology Council (TTC)[5] towards an EU-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA)[6] for goods and services on the areas of capital and consumer goods as well as fossil fuels, stipulating the gradual removal of tariffs and barriers until 2027;

2. Designating the EU Competition and Trade Commissioners to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Commerce within the TTC towards creating a transatlantic framework for the alignment of rules and regulations regarding the production and distribution in the EU and the US of the goods and services covered by the above-mentioned FTA;

3. Reminding the EU Competition and Trade Commissioners to ensure that the policy proposals of the TTC are beneficial to the European and the American private sectors and match their needs by expanding its consultation platform to involve institutions within both parties that represent the needs and interests of companies and producers, such as the European Economic and Social Committee;[7]

Technological development

4. Calling upon the Directorate-General of Communications Networks, Content and Technology to enhance the EU-US technological partnership for widely used semiconductors by:

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[4] **Capital goods** are human-made, durable items that businesses use to produce goods and services, for example tools, buildings, vehicles, machinery, and equipment.

[5] The EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) facilitates transatlantic cooperation on trade, economy, and technology through non-binding consultations. It is co-led by the relevant EU and US departments and agencies, comprising ten working groups on various areas of trade and technology. The TTC also provides a consultation platform for stakeholder involvement.

[6] A **free trade agreement (FTA)** is a pact between two or more nations to facilitate imports and exports among them, for example through the removal of trade restrictions and other barriers.

[7] The **European Economic and Social Committee** is an EU advisory body comprising representatives of workers' and employers' organisations and other interest groups.

    a.   investing in collaborative research and development projects for the mass production of 7-nanometer semiconductor chips,[8]

    b.   rendering existing European and American semiconductor labs functional through the transatlantic mobility of workers and infrastructure on semiconductor production, maintenance, and microscopic sanitation, facilitated by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and the U.S. Department of Labor,

    c.   proposing to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Commerce on a joint investment plan towards the development of an EU-US semiconductor industry;

5.   Asking the EU Competition and Trade Commissioners to work within the EU-US Joint Technology Competition Policy Dialogue[9] to promote EU-US collaboration on sustainability and technological development by identifying and sharing the resources and needs of each party towards:

    a.   the mutual lowering of trade barriers for the export of these materials and services,

    b.   the exchange of best practices and technological expertise on environmentally friendly practices;

Standardisation

6.   Encouraging the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and the European Data Protection Board[10] to collaborate with the US Government towards expanding the Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework[11] to address secure data exchange in the EU-US digital market, in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and the proposed EU-US Privacy Shield;[12]

7.   Directing the Directorate General for Environment to ensure that the above-mentioned FTA as well as any future EU-US trade agreements increasingly adhere to European environmental protection standards by:

    a.   collaborating with the TTC working group on climate and clean technology during their development,

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[8] **7-nanometer chips** are modern semiconductors used for the construction of especially strong and energy-efficient electronic processors thanks to their small size.

[9] The EU-US Joint Technology Competition Policy Dialogue was launched in 2021, in parallel to the TTC, with a focus on the development of common approaches and cooperation in the technology sector.

[10] The **European Data Protection Board** is an EU body that works to ensure consistent application of the GDPR and promotes cooperation among the EU's data protection authorities.

[11] The **Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework** is an in-principle agreement between the EU and the US, involving a commitment by the latter to increased privacy and civil liberties protections.

[12] The **EU-US Privacy Shield** was an agreement passed in 2016 that allowed the free transfer of data to companies certified in the US under the Privacy Shield, before being invalidated by the Court of Justice of the EU in 2020.

b. defining universal climate regulations in accordance with the goals set by the EU-US High-Level Climate Action Groups;

8. Recommending that the EU Competition and Trade Commissioners work within the TTC towards defining common EU-US agricultural standards through the establishment of a working group tasked with:

a. the collection and dissemination of the outputs, needs, and regional differences of local producers,

b. the compilation, comparison, and translation between existing European and American labels and their requirements,

c. the observation of the above-mentioned standards in areas covered by the above-mentioned FTA through collaboration with national and federal regulators,

d. an advisory role on the production of agricultural goods following common standards and including the labelling and units systems of both markets;

9. Requesting that the EU Competition and Trade Commissioners ensure the representation of European interests and sustainability standards by enhancing the role of the European Committee for Standardization[13] within the TTC.

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[13] The **European Committee for Standardization** is an EU-recognised association that brings together the standardisation agencies of 34 European countries to develop voluntary common standards for goods and services with the aim of enhancing competitiveness and facilitating sustainable global trade.

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

Let's cool it! With the Arctic region warming at rates faster than the rest of the planet, Arctic States are eager to capitalise on the changing landscape as new shipping routes and opportunities for territorial disputes emerge. With Finland and Sweden bound to join NATO, and tensions in the Nordic region increasing as a result, how should the EU mitigate escalating relations and ensure peace in the region?

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The European Youth Parliament aims to foster cooperation between Arctic States, improve relations, and promote European values to ensure the continuity of peace and sustainability in the region. Furthermore, we strive to sustainably protect and preserve the Arctic ecosystem and its resources while also ensuring the involvement of indigenous people in the fight against climate change,

because

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)[14] has proven inefficient in responding to claims for continental shelf expansion, leaving overlapping claims unresolved,

- The United States (US) has not ratified the UNCLOS, limiting the integrity of the laws,

- Military presence in the Arctic region has increased in the past few years, while the geopolitical and military landscape has become more polarised,

- The Arctic Council[15] has resumed working without the chairmanship and activity of the Russian Federation (as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine), resulting in worsened relations between Russia and the Western Arctic States and therefore setting back cooperation in the Arctic,

- China is willful in strengthening its influence in Europe and the Arctic region as a part of its alliance with Russia, by for instance increasing its presence in European and intercontinental trade through the planned 'Polar Silk Road'[16],

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[14] The United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes a global regime of laws and regulations of the oceans and seas, which establishes rules governing all uses of their resources. It also defines guidelines that regulate negotiations, the environment, and the management of the natural resources of the seas and oceans.
[15] The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation and sustainability in the Arctic region. The Council was founded in 1996.
[16] The Polar Silk Road refers to the trade route linking Asia and Europe traversing the Arctic region. The trade route is now only safe to operate for some months of the year, but as the Arctic ice melts year by year, the trade route becomes more and more feasible and profitable.

- The Arctic plays a key role in [regulating global temperatures](#) and has a particularly grave effect on global consequences of climate change, such as melting glaciers resulting in rising sea levels, and [thawing permafrost](#) potentially releasing harmful greenhouse gases and viruses,

- The Arctic ecosystems are disproportionately [fragile and vulnerable](#) to the effects of climate change, and the region has been predicted to become [ice-free during the summer by 2050](#),

- Indigenous people in the Arctic region [are underrepresented in political dialogue](#) regarding the affairs of their local environment,

- Many Arctic States are [reliant on non-renewable resources](#), which is in conflict with the [goals of sustainable development](#) the Arctic-Council has set,

- Arctic natural resources are becoming increasingly more available for excavation and economic exploitation as the landscape changes, with [13% of the world's undiscovered conventional oil and 30% of its undiscovered natural gas reserves](#) being located in the Arctic,

- There are great disparities in the priorities and actions between Arctic States in relation to economic growth potential versus climate action;

by

Arctic Political Sphere

1. Requesting the UN to make the evaluation process for the UNCLOS continental shelf expansion claims more efficient and willful in dealing with the outstanding claims, especially those that are overlapping;

2. Inviting the US to ratify the UNCLOS, in order for the US to be able to lay and contest claims over the continental shelf, thus creating equal conditions for all Arctic States;

3. Urging the Arctic Council to resume its work to its fullest potential even with the temporary inactivity of Russia, until conditions change in favour of further cooperation;

4. Congratulating Denmark and Canada on their peaceful and exemplary [resolution of the last Arctic territorial dispute](#) on Tartupaluk;

5. Directing the European Commission to create a fund to support active citizenship programs that promote inter-Arctic cooperation and exchange, namely amongst youth;

6. Asking the Arctic Council to expand their operations in amplifying indigenous voices by forwarding indigenous representation in governing bodies of Arctic States and trans-national corporations operating in the region;

Arctic Industry

7. Encouraging Arctic States to implement stricter regulations on the exploitation and exports of Arctic natural resources;

8. Calling upon Member States to prioritise the import of fossil fuels from sources outside the Arctic while developing sustainable alternatives, with the ultimate goal of quitting fossil fuel usage;

9. Recommending the transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP)[17] to create a strategy regarding increasing Arctic investments in infrastructure, such as sea ports for international trade;

10. Directing the European Fisheries Inventory in the Central Arctic Ocean (EFICA)[18] to conduct research regarding the protection of biodiversity in the region;

11. Recommending the Environmental Defense Fund Europe[19] to research and financially support the creation of safer drilling methods;

12. Calling upon the Arctic Council to develop and propose a cap on excavation of natural resources similar to the EU Emissions Trading System, but with natural resource excavation, thus creating a market for natural resources and imposing a limit on yearly excavations;

Arctic Environment

13. Instructing the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service[20] to supervise the implementation of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters;

14. Strongly affirming the existence of the LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation to support local and regional authorities in sustainable development and response to climate challenges;

15. Applauding the Sustainable Development Working Group's[21] efforts, and encouraging them to develop and expand their current sustainable development goals to include life on land and below water, while considering the Arctic's key role in global consequences of climate change;

16. Expressing its appreciation for Arctic States' efforts to promote the use of renewable resources domestically, such as the large-scale use of hydropower in Norway and geothermal energy in Iceland.

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[17] The transatlantic trade and investment partnership is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. The aim of the agreement is to reduce trade barriers.
[18] The European Fisheries Inventory in the Central Arctic Ocean is a project that conducts research and is a project of the European Commission to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.
[19] The Environmental Defense Fund Europe is a registered charity that works in targeted sectors and countries to help design policies that harness the engines of prosperity toward delivering a stable climate.
[20] The Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service is the European Union's Earth Observation Programme which provides free, open, regular and systematic reference information on the oceans' state.
[21] The Sustainable Development Working Group is a working group of the Arctic Council that advances sustainable development by proposing and adopting steps to be taken by the Arctic states.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
(AFCO)

Welcome to the EU! On 23 June 2022, the European Council granted Ukraine the status of a candidate for accession to the European Union. With this, there are seven official candidates, some of which have been on that list for 23 years. How should the EU contribute to the development of rule of law and good governance to aid them in their European membership project?

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The European Youth Parliament aims to aid the current official candidate countries, as well as all future applicants, in their goal to obtain membership in the European Union. We propose to facilitate the accession process whilst adhering to the requirements outlined in the Copenhagen agreement of 1993. Through this, we ensure assistance and guidance in the progress of the development of rule of law and good governance on the European continent, while guaranteeing the sustainable expansion of the European Union at the same time,

because

- The funds allocated by the European Union, by the means of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)[22], to candidate countries are handled inefficiently,

- The predominance of Euroscepticism in the population of both Member and non-Member States creates an obstacle to accession,

- The vast differences in geographic, political and economic conditions of the candidate countries make the application of rigid institutions, such as the Copenhagen Criteria, difficult to implement,

- The opinions of the population of certain candidate states do not reflect European values, such as but not limited to human rights and dignity,

- The stance of certain candidate states towards the accession process does not reflect the initial motivation to become a Member State to the detriment of a peaceful accession and of diplomatic relations,

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[22] The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) supports countries with candidacy status and offers financial and technical assistance throughout the process

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- The increased involvement of foreign non-EU entities in the economy and infrastructure of potential Member States creates a dependency on resources, deters Member States from ratifying membership and increasing diplomatic strains,

- Certain candidate countries are not in a position to meet the membership requirements in the near future due to instability of their democratic institutions, as well as the absence of a functioning market economy and the ability to take on the obligations of membership;

by

Promotion of EU Values

1. Calling upon the European Commission to create a media and information campaign, for both Member and non-Member States, highlighting the EU's values, the impact of accession of current candidate countries on Member States, and the effects of the EU's aid on candidate countries;]

2. Suggesting the European Commission to offer stable sponsoring of activities and programmes by non-governmental organisations actively promoting the values stated in Article 2 of the Treaty of the EU, such as the European Youth Parliament, both within and outside of the EU;

3. Designating the European Commission to expand the support of existing intercultural exchange programmes, such as Erasmus+, between educational institutions of Members States and non-Member States;

4. Encouraging Member States and non-Member States to invest in the creation of academic programmes discussing the fundamental values of the EU and their relevance whilst creating bridges for intercultural understanding;

Observation of the Accession Progress

1. Urging the European Commission to limit the funds of the IPA to candidate countries that do not progress evidently or sufficiently towards the requirements of the individual chapters of the Copenhagen Criteria;

2. Instructing the European Council to provide further supervision for the allocation of the IPA and any other forms of pre-accession funding towards development, to ensure

    a. the prevention of abuse of funds,

    b. the correct allocation of funds to all national, regional and local levels;

3. Designating the European Commission to increase the frequency of reports focusing on the progress of candidates towards membership in the EU;

Sustainable Growth and Development

4. Proposing the European Commission to purpose the formation of an advisory body, the Measurement of Accession Undergoings and Relations' Operation (MAURO), to monitor and research the individual accession processes in order to,

    a. assess the specific needs of the country within the accession process,

    b. establish a transparent and fair process for all parties involved,

    c. minimise the dependency on foreign entities,

    d. deepen economic ties with the EU while simultaneously easing economic and social integration to facilitate the Copenhagen Criteria;

New Course of Foreign Policy

5. Recommending the European Commission to deepen the economical and political ties coming with the [Berlin Process or Open Balkan](#) initiative to further facilitate EU-integration of the participating countries;

6. Approving the European Commission to increase the diplomatic interactions and political relations between Member and non-Member States by, for example, inviting non-EU participants to actively participate in EU summits.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (REGI)

We built this city: Historically many cities have been created to accommodate cars and traffic rather than the humans that inhabit them. Concepts like Mobility as a Service, the 15-minute-city or car-free inner cities are relatively new but show promising results for people and the environment. How can we rethink European urban planning to make cities more fit for the ever-changing needs of humans in the digital 21st century?

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The European Youth Parliament aims to create cities fit for modern life. This includes achieving economic, ecological and social sustainability, for which eliminating as much fossil-fueled car traffic from cities as possible is crucial. We aim to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for everybody, through cohesive action plans and community-driven initiatives based on the unique needs of every urban environment,

because

- Cities consume up to 78% of the world's energy and produce more than 60% of greenhouse gas emissions,

- Progress towards sustainable transport systems has been improving slowly yet passenger cars continue to dominate personal mobility,

- Cars are the preferred means of transport due to the ineffective placement of public transport infrastructure and essential services such as grocery stores, schools and medical facilities,

- In 2022, 96% of the European Urban population was exposed to fine particulate matter levels exceeding the health-based guidelines set by the WHO,

- An increasing amount of people make use of micro-mobility[23] without sufficient infrastructure to satisfy demand and uphold safety standards,

- Current air, noise, and light pollution in European cities have a severely negative impact on the mental and physical health of their citizens,

- As a result of poor city planning, higher temperatures due to urban heat islands, increase stress on

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[23] Micro-mobility is a collective term for a range of light-weight devices and vehicles including bicycles and scooters which typically do not exceed speeds of 45 km/h

the human body;

- People living in underprivileged neighbourhoods often experience difficulties accessing necessary services and facilities due to inadequate transportation alternatives,

- The majority of people with disabilities are more vulnerable to exclusion, specifically in schools, workplaces, public transportation, infrastructure, overall movement and other place-based services,

by

Spatial design

1. Recommending municipal governments to follow the concept of 15 minute cities to reduce the need to use cars to necessities for everyday life;

2. Calling upon municipal governments to encourage the implementation of car free inner cities, following the example of Pontevedra, Spain;

3. Encouraging municipal governments to support mixed-use and multi-family designs in newly built and repurposed old buildings, as they are more effective in the use of urban areas;

4. Further encouraging municipal governments to expand green spaces such as parks and reserves to be accessible and in close proximity to every inhabitant of a city, both for the benefit of humans and the environment;

5. Requesting the European Commission to allocate further financial resources to construct necessary infrastructure in the form of recreational facilities, pedestrian walkways and other relevant necessities for mobility;

6. Supporting the European Urban Initiative in implementing noise reducing pavements and asphalt while repairing infrastructure;

7. Calling upon the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN) to encourage active communication in the form of surveys or regular town hall meetings between underprivileged citizens and politicians on common goals regarding city planning;

8. Reaffirming former motions and laws by the EU and UN intended to increase accessibility for people with disabilities in future urban development projects;

Public Transportation

9. Encouraging all municipal governments to shift to cheaper or potentially free public transportation for citizens, taking after the example of cities and regions like Dunkirk;

10. Urging public transport service providers to introduce integrated tickets to simplify using public

transportation, following the example of [Rogaland](#);

11. Asking the European Urban Initiative to fund the further implementation of [AI sensors in public transport to detect vehicular failure](#) before malfunction;

Bicycles and other individual mobility

12. Calling upon municipal governments to encourage the usage of bicycles by:

    a. taking the example of Amsterdam, Paris and [Oulu](#) and developing the bike and scooter lanes network to separate pedestrians from vehicle users to ensure safety of both parties,

    b. establishing secure and convenient bike, e-scooter, and other micro-mobility parking spaces similar to [Copenhagen's Priority Plan for Bicycle Parking or Brighton's Cycle Hub](#),

    c. following the example of Antwerp in expanding cycling roads and minimising the width of car roads;

13. Suggesting to use European Structural Funds for the extension of safe and separated bike lanes;

14. Urging cities to establish dialogue with car- and bike-sharing companies, specifically for sustainable mobility subscription programmes;

15. Recommending municipal governments making the use of electric vehicles more attractive for citizens through:

    a. mandating charging ports at larger municipal owned parking lots,

    b. following the example of Krakow by creating dedicated lanes for electric cars and buses;

16. Suggesting to Member States to exempt electric vehicles from motor vehicle taxes;

17. Asking the European Investment Bank to help finance initial investments for companies providing eBikes, electric scooters and other forms of sustainable transportation for their workers to commute;

Technology and other

18. Recommending municipal governments to implement smart lighting using warm-colours, to prevent light pollution and increase efficiency;

19. Encouraging the European Research Executive Agency to invest and further research in the construction of [meta central heating systems](#).

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AGRI)

You Reap What you Sow: The food industry significantly contributes to harmful emissions, causing 34% of global greenhouse gas production. Considering that food poverty is a material issue within Europe, how can the EU work to ensure that the European food chain is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable?

Submitted by:

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The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure affordable, accessible, and nutritious food to all, produced through sustainable practices, while protecting the welfare of farmers and supporting them throughout the transition towards sustainability. We also strive to stimulate research and innovation, as well as raising awareness to improve food consumption habits,

because

- Food production contributes between 25% to 42% of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in European countries,

- Large companies dominate the food market, making it difficult for local producers to compete in the market,

- Monocultures[24], the predominant farming method in the EU, cause soil degradation and are dependant on the extensive use of fertilisers and pesticides,

- Current methods of raising livestock in the EU are unsustainable due to their contribution to GHG emissions including 53% of total methane emissions as well as excessive water use and biomass waste,

- The production of feed crops for animals is estimated to take up to 72% of the EU's agricultural load,

- The food production system is the main cause of biodiversity loss within the EU,

- Misleading advertisement, such as greenwashing, produced by companies inhibit progress in conscious food consumption habits,

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[24] Monoculture: the cultivation or growth of a single crop or organism especially on agricultural or forest land.

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- Low profits, high business risks, and [lack of social status](#) leads to declining numbers of farmers,

- Fishing and pollution are the largest contributors to the [decline in ocean health and water quality](#),

- Imports of crops and [livestock](#) contribute to GHG emissions in countries outside of the EU,

- Restricting climate policy in the EU [can result in carbon leakage](#)[25],

- Food security is prone to disruptions in the supply chains due to crises, such as [COVID-19](#) and [the war in Ukraine](#),

- Most consumers are [unaware of the environmental impact](#) of their consumption, as well as adequate nutrition requirements,

- [20%](#) of the EU's annual food production is wasted throughout the entire supply chain,

- [8.6%](#) of European citizens are unable to afford a meal every second day;

by

Food Production

1. Inviting Member States to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as [Copa-Cogeca](#) who provide for the education and welfare of farmers, prioritising financial security to allow sustainable practices;

2. Encouraging the Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH) to encourage the planting of leguminous plants as forecrops[26] so as to maintain soil nutrients, circulation and water retention, as well as acting as a plant-based protein source;

3. Calling upon the European Commission to increase research funding for the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture with a specific focus on genetically modified organisms (GMO), innovative sustainability practices, and training programmes enhancing farmers operational knowledge;

4. Urging the AGRIFISH Council to promote the adoption of more sustainable methods such as crop rotation[27], and polyculture[28];

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[25] [Carbon leakage](#): where businesses transfer production to other countries with more relaxed emission restrictions, potentially leading to an increase in total emissions.
[26] [Forecrops](#): crop grown during the season of the respectively present cropping.
[27] [Crop rotation](#): the successive cultivation of different crops in a specified order on the same fields, reducing the risk of soil depletion.
[28] [Polyculture](#): simultaneous cultivation or growth of two or more compatible plants or organisms and especially crops or fish in a single area.

5. Further urging the AGRIFISH Council to adopt a carbon farming system[29] to balance the carbon cycle, by using methods including but not limited to restoration of peatlands and wetlands, agroforestry[30] and other forms of mixed farming, afforestation[31] and reforestation;

6. Requesting Member States to promote pesticide-free farming, such as farms breeding insects to replace artificial pesticides;

7. Calling upon the Directorate-General of Agriculture and Rural Development to further restrict the application of nitrogen fertilisers[32];

8. Emphasising the importance of the Fit-For-55 package in terms of the carbon emissions in the agricultural sector;

9. Instructing the Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the Common Fisheries Policy;

Market Practices

10. Directing the European Commission to include the agriculture sector in the 5th phase of the EU Emission Trading System[33];

11. Inviting Member States to adopt a taxation policy on food products, with higher taxation for large water usage and carbon footprints;

12. Further directs the European Commission to expand the Misleading and Comparative Advertising Directive to implement a compulsory standardised product labelling system informing consumers on the environmental impact of products, especially regarding water usage and carbon footprint;

13. Calling upon the European Commission to promote a circular economy in agriculture by utilising food waste as natural soil fertilisers and livestock feed;

14. Strongly urging the European Commission to include the emissions caused by agricultural imports from outside of the EU in its climate neutrality goals of net zero emissions by 2050;

Food Consumption

15. Seeking the AGRIFISH Council to review school curriculum to include education programmes regarding sustainable food practices and food nutritional content;

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[29] Carbon farming system: Implementing and optimising farming practices that are known to improve the rate at which CO2 is absorbed from the atmosphere into the soil and plant matter.

[30] Agroforestry: A dynamic system combining trees, crops, and/or livestock on the same area of land in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence

[31] Afforestation: planting trees in areas that haven't recently had any tree cover, in order to create a forest

[32] Nitrogen Fertilisers: a chemical compound in which the percentage of nitrogen is greater than the percentage of any other nutrient in the compound, or when applied, results in an average application rate of more than twenty pounds of nitrogen per acre over the field to which it is being applied

[33] EU Emission Trading System: EU-wide system of tradable permits for CO_2 emissions that aims to increase costs for industries with high emission and incentivise them to switch to renewable sources. It is currently in its 4th Phase (2021-2030)

16. Reaffirming that the European Commission should promote the reduction of meat consumption by prioritising plant-based diets in food consumption advertisement spending;

17. Encouraging the AGRIFISH Council to promote cooperation between stores and the European Food Bank Federation by strengthening the links between markets and food banks to mitigate food poverty and food waste;

18. Requesting Member States to increase localised food consumption by promoting regional food products.

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM)

Out of sight, out of mind: Having in mind the disparities in the regulation of sex work in different European countries and its impact on the living and labour conditions of the workers, how can the EU protect sex workers' rights and increase their access to social and labour protections?

Submitted by:

Natalia Bargieł (PL), Briana Borcilă (RO), Timotei Fane (RO), Charlotte Sophia Günther (CH), Ondine Jacquelet (FR), Tone Haug Jøssang (NO), Jakub Kučera (CZ), Thomas Moore (SE), Beau Piepers (BE), Andreas Savva (CY), Marlen Seelos (AT), Olívia Segarra Arcega (ES), Sereen Agapy Sipan (AM), Kiara Vithkuqi (AL), Catarina Costa Cardoso (Chairperson, PT)

The European Youth Parliament aims to improve the social standing and labour conditions of sex workers. We hope to reduce the stigma surrounding sex work by acknowledging it as a legitimate form of labour. Furthermore, we strive to facilitate sex workers' access to mental and physical healthcare as well as legal resources,

because

- Sex workers are [deprived of bodily autonomy](#) by criminalisation[34] and regulation[35]-based legal frameworks,

- [Repressive legal frameworks](#)[36] [create unsafe circumstances](#) for all parties involved in sex work,

- The decriminalisation[37] model is proven to be the [most effective in protecting sex workers' rights and welfare](#),

- Under restrictive frameworks, sex workers are [deprived of protections](#) provided by labour law,

- There is a [lack of representation](#) of sex workers in the law-making process regarding sex work,

- Sex workers [lack access to sufficient healthcare resources](#),

- The existing stigma around sex work [increases the risk](#) of sex workers experiencing sexual, physical and mental abuse,

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[34] [Criminalisation](#): the legal framework under which the participants in sex work are criminalised. Full criminalisation includes all participants in the transaction whereas partial criminalisation recognises buying and selling sex as legal, but any other related activities as illegal.

[35] [Regulation](#): legal framework that applies heavy regulation of the sex industry with criminalisation for non-compliance. Requirement features might include registration as a sex worker, and mandatory health checks and testing.

[36] [Restrictive frameworks](#): legal frameworks that intend to eradicate sex work and protect sex trafficking victims.

[37] [Decriminalisation](#): legal framework where all parties are decriminalised and sex work is regulated by labour laws.

- [Sex workers face discrimination](#), especially when being part of marginalised groups such as the LGBTQ+ community, people of colour, people with disabilities, and migrants,

- Different forms of sex work, such as street-based sex work, are [more heavily stigmatised](#) than others,

- There are cases where resorting to sex work is the most accessible route to escaping poverty and achieving economic independence;

by

Legal Status and Framework

1. Urging Member States to adopt the decriminalisation model and regulate sex work under labour laws according to the [example of the state of Victoria, in Australia](#);

2. Encouraging Member States to involve sex workers in the law-making process of sex work by establishing partnerships with sex worker-led organisations;

Welfare

3. Calling upon Member States to establish free and anonymous testing facilities for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs);

4. Proposing Members States to subsidise accessible healthcare programmes which offer sex workers services such as emergency contraception, treatment of STIs as well as psychological support;

Social Standing

5. Inviting Member States to inform the general public about the sex work industry and the hardships faced by sex workers by creating and supporting relevant educational campaigns;

6. Appealing to the European Commission to allocate funds to projects that protect and promote sex workers' rights;

7. Praising Non-Governmental Organisations such as the [European Sex Workers Rights Alliance](#) for their work on supporting sex workers, especially marginalised communities within the sex work industry;

8. Encouraging non-profit organisations to allocate funds to and engage with sex-worker led projects, following the example of the [Red Umbrella Fund](#).

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS (ECON)

(Un)Stablecoins: With further digitalisation of the EU seemingly inevitable, the European Central Bank is in the preparatory stages of developing a digital euro as an alternative to the growing popularity of privately-backed crypto-assets. How should the EU ensure respect for privacy, safety and accessibility values in creating a digital euro while considering the fast-changing nature of the digital financial market?

Submitted by:

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The European Youth Parliament aims to implement the digital euro, a central bank digital currency (CBDC), in order to provide the users of the euro with a viable alternative to tangible money such as cash and credit. We hope to ensure that the digital euro, introduced by the European Central Bank (ECB), meets the criteria of sustainability, security and reliability to consumers,

because

- The possibility of implementing a form of money other than euro-denominated central bank money, commercial bank deposits, or digital currencies[38], could lead to the euro losing importance and sovereignty,

- The existing decline in use of cash, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic, could possibly lead to its obsoletion,

- The lack of policy and governmental regulation over the current cryptocurrency market results in the markets' instability,

- Cryptocurrencies are highly associated with black markets due to obscurity with regards to transactions,

- The mining process in cryptocurrencies is associated with a significantly negative environmental impact,

- European citizens lack sufficient information and awareness concerning the technological and functional aspects of digital currencies,

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[38] **Digital currency**, also called digital money, refers to any means of payment that exists in a purely electronic form. Digital currency is not tangible like coins or banknotes, but is transferred and handled through online systems.

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- The existing 1-5% transaction and commission fees in banks leads to consumer dissatisfaction, causing affliction to individuals as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

by

Implementation

1. Calling upon the ECB to establish a digital euro as a CBDC;

2. Directing the ECB to back the value of the digital euro with the fiat euro[39] to synchronise the euro and allow for stability on a larger scale;

3. Supporting the existence and development of European Payment Initiative (EPI)[40], which provides better alternatives for payments such as peer-to-peer (P2P)[41], e-commerce[42], and QR-code payments;

4. Suggesting the ECB to strive towards the introduction of the digital euro using distributed ledger technology[43] based upon the proof of stake[44], which results in increased centralisation and reduction of energy consumption by 99.99%;

5. Calling upon the Directorate General on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)[45] as well as the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs to assess cases of potential job losses caused by further digitalisation of the European single market and unforeseeability of the future market after the implementation of the digital euro;

6. Commending the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)[46] for ensuring examinations of data security and privacy after the implementation of the digital euro to monitor suspicious transactions;

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[39] **Fiat money** are currencies issued by national governments and are not backed by physical commodities such as gold or silver reserves. Rather, fiat currencies derive value from supply-demand relationships and the stability of the issuing government. They are most often represented in the form of paper notes and coins. Examples include the US dollar, the euro, and other major national currencies.

[40] The **European Payments Initiative** strives to create a new, pan-European payment solution that would become a new standard in payments for European consumers and merchants in both euro- and non-euro markets.

[41] **Peer-to-peer transactions** (also referred to as P2P transactions) are electronic money transfers made from one person to another through an intermediary, typically referred to as a P2P payment application.

[42] **E-commerce** refers to commercial transactions conducted electronically on the internet.

[43] **Distributed ledger technology** is the consensus of replicated, shared, and synchronised digital data that is geographically spread (distributed) across many sites, countries, or institutions.

[44] **Proof of stake** is a consensus mechanism used to verify new cryptocurrency transactions. Since blockchains lack any centralised governing authorities, proof of stake is a method to guarantee that data saved on the network is valid.

[45] The **Directorate General on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** is responsible for EU policy on employment, social affairs, skills, labour mobility and the related EU funding programmes.

[46] The **European Securities and Markets Authority** is an independent European Union Authority contributing to safeguarding the stability of the EU's financial system by enhancing the protection of investors and promoting stable and orderly financial markets.

Application

7. Urging the ECB and the European Commission to assist National Central Banks (NCBs), Payment Service Providers (PSPs)[47] and third parties that show interest in the implementation of the digital euro by supplying resources needed for projects that focus on enhancing the end-users' experience, such as mobile applications supplying consumers with the digital euro;

8. Suggesting the ECB and the European Commission make the digital wallet application attractive, convenient and accessible by adopting principles of gamification and offering video tutorials;

Public Private Partnerships

9. Encouraging the ECB to spread awareness and initiate programs such as but not limited to:
   a. civil society seminar series and educational seminars,
   b. promotions through media;

10. Inviting the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (DG FISMA)[48] to create a pool of European experts to conduct exploratory research on a European scale in order to:
    a. improve existing financial technology (FinTech) in the current European single market,
    b. assist with the implementation of future digital infrastructure in the market which will include the digital euro;

11. Emphasising the friendly relations and necessary support between the ECB and NCBs during the implementation process of the digital euro.

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[47] **Payment Service Providers** are third parties that help retailers accept payments from their customers.
[48] The **Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union** is the European Commission department responsible for EU policy on financial services.

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

Houston, we have a problem: The continuously increasing amount of space debris is threatening to damage communications, navigation and Earth observation technologies on which the European economy, society and citizens rely. How should the EU approach space traffic management to reduce the amount of debris orbiting our planet whilst at the same time continue to foster European competitiveness within the industry?

Submitted by:

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The European Youth Parliament aims for a more sustainable space environment by tracking and reducing the amount of space debris in Earth's orbit, whilst boosting Europe's impact and involvement within the space industry. It achieves this by fortifying international space legislation and by calling upon European and external funds to invest in the relevant research and technologies,

because

1. Due to the lack of international cooperation, an official definition for the pressing problem of space debris has not been created,

2. Humanity has already launched about 13.630 satellites since 1957, of which 8850 are currently in orbit and 6700 are operational, whilst the launch rates are continuously increasing,

3. The amount of orbital debris has increased exponentially over the past couple of decades to more than 230 million objects with sizes ranging from 1mm to 10 cm,

4. The exorbitant amount of space debris will continue to grow by 30% over the next two centuries due to the Kessler syndrome even if no additional satellites are launched,

5. Military testing of anti-satellite weapons is causing excessive additional debris, such as the Fengyun-1C in 2007,

6. Space debris poses a major threat to the viability and security of space infrastructure and operations which have become a necessary and integral means of communication and research for most societies,

7. Space debris travels at up to 10 km/s in low Earth orbit (LEO), with paint chip-sized pieces potentially causing irreversible damage to equipment,

8. The space industry is currently worth up to EUR 378.5 billion, with the European space industry currently valued at EUR 8.6 billion,

9. Poor space traffic management (STM) is one of the major contributors to the growing congestion of Earth's orbit,

10. Most spacecraft launched into orbit have disposable modules and a 25-year average lifespan, as such, contributing heavily to space orbit congestion,

11. The legal framework concerning space debris has not been updated since 1967 and is no longer compatible with the current situation,

12. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Catalogue of Earth Satellite Orbits is used by most space organisations including European Space Agency (ESA) and Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), yet it contains inaccurate and missing data about the location of small space debris, jeopardising satellites and space missions that are located in LEO,

13. Private companies focused on sending out satellites heavily contribute to the European economy while also majorly contributing to the growing congestion of LEO.

by

Financial incentives

1. Recommending the European Research Council to increase investments in research of sustainable spacecraft manufacturing with greater resilience against space debris;

2. Supporting ESA in promoting the discharge and removal of batteries of end-of-mission satellites to prevent explosions;

3. Encouraging the European Commission to increase investments in European companies to research new methods on how to manage and remove debris;

4. Advising the European Commission to increase investments in organisations dealing with space debris, such as Clean Space Initiative and RemoveDEBRIS, to reach the ESA's target of removing ten to fifteen large pieces of debris per year;

International standards and regulations

5. Suggesting the IADC establishes an international regulation for satellite launches, while keeping in mind the purpose and the necessity of the satellite's launch, as well as the number of satellites launched per year;

6. Inviting the Member States to follow ESA Mitigation Guidelines providing guidance on, amongst others, passivation, de-orbiting from LEO and re-orbiting from geosynchronous equatorial orbit (GEO);

7. Appealing to the European Commision to warn Member States of threats to their satellites and encouraging them to create backup systems for satellites responsible for critical infrastructure;

8. Inviting the European Council to expand the Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) Support Framework to encompass all Member States;

9. Encouraging the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) to update the space legislation to reflect modern technologies and circumstances;

Research & investigation

10. Inviting the Member States to encourage their tertiary education institutions to educate on and research sustainable solutions towards space debris;

11. Recommending the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to create a sub-committee for evaluating the necessity of releasing intentional space debris, such as lens covers and booster engines,from spacecrafts before sending it into space.

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

A house of cards: With housing prices rising by 41,6% from 2010 to 2022, it is becoming increasingly difficult to enter the housing market, leading to further increases in the wealth gap. How can the EU tackle house ownership becoming a growing indicator of its citizens socioeconomic status and provide its citizens with the opportunities owning a house brings?

Submitted by:

Tom Andrews (IE), Jan Bassi (IT), Oliver Beckett (DE), Lara Čulina (HR), Dimitrios-Michail Dafnos (GR), Emily Elkaneva (SE), Simon Gartner (AT), Andreja Janković (RS), Jamie Johnson (UK), Sara Mirzoyeva (AZ), Abbasova Narmin (FI), Francisco Noval (PT), Matěj Ševčík (CZ), Alf Marius Florvåg (Chairperson, NO)

The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure that the human right to housing is upheld and protected through promoting home ownership. We aim to address the lack of available and affordable housing for sale on the European housing market by increasing accessibility and removing construction barriers in housing. Furthermore, we strive to provide assistance to citizens seeking permanent residence,

because

- The housing market continues to be a [significant contributor to Member States' economies with the potential to induce financial crises](#).

- Home ownership plays a [significant role in citizens' well-being](#) and enables citizens to make long term decisions more comfortably and confidently, contrary to renting,

- A lower barrier of entry to the housing market reduces the wealth gap and increases social mobility,

- Regional governments lack the power to affect the housing market policies in their area despite being majorly affected by these policies,

- There is currently an insufficient amount of residential properties available on the market, resulting from the high price of and [difficulty in sourcing construction materials, a weakening labour force](#), and regulation and bureaucracy complicating housing construction,

- The inaccessibility of rural areas [reduces the available supply of purchasable housing for many EU citizens](#),

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- The large number of vacant housing due to property speculation[49] and second residences in some Member States further reduces access to residential property among citizens seeking permanent residence,

- Institutional investors[50] outbid many first-time purchasers, resulting in an increase in vacant or rental properties,

- The large increase in housing properties has contributed to the high inflation rate currently being experienced in the EU,

by

Increasing supply

1. Encouraging Member States to lower the production cost of houses by decreasing import tariffs on materials commonly used in construction;

2. Requesting Member States to increase the efficiency and quality of construction by:

   a. improving working conditions of construction workers,

   b. promoting vocational courses on construction-related activities and skills, such as plumbing or bricklaying;

3. Calling upon the European Commission to expand the InvestEU fund to subsidise investment in and construction of new housing projects;

4. Appealing to Member States to increase the number of construction workers in the EU by relaxing their immigration policy for migrants who have the necessary skills;

5. Suggesting Member States to invest in the research of more sustainable and affordable construction materials and techniques to reduce construction costs;

6. Directing the Directorate General on Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD)[51] to recommend optimal tax rates on vacant land, vacant residential properties, and inheritance tax;

7. Inviting Member States to implement the tax rates recommended by the DG TAXUD;

Enabling first-time purchasers

8. Requesting Member States to discourage excessive speculation in the housing market by increasing taxes such as the capital gains tax, second residence tax, and residential property tax;

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[49] Speculation: the practice of treating property as market investments to maximise profits.
[50] Institutional Investors: a legal entity that accumulates the fund of numerous investors.
[51] **DG TAXUD**: The European Commission department responsible for EU policies on taxation and customs.

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9. Encouraging Member States to develop infrastructure and transportation outside of the urban centres to encourage deurbanisation;

10. Calling upon the European Commission to further contribute to the regional development and transportation funds in regions with inflated housing markets to make housing in these regions more available;

Actions on different levels of government

11. Suggesting Member States implement a limit on the amount of properties available for purchase by institutional investors for each construction project;

12. Asking the European Commission to come up with a recommended limit to the number of residential houses that can be built in relation to the needs of the local population for Member States;

13. Requesting Member States to simplify housing regulations to allow for the more efficient construction of housing;

14. Recommending the European Parliament to establish a sub-committee on housing to the existing Committee on Employment and Social Affairs;

15. Encouraging the European Commission to investigate the effectiveness of different policies related to the sale and purchase of residential properties;

16. Asking the European Commission to investigate ways to increase efficiency in the housing market policy making process on a regional and national level.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS (JURI)

You're tripping: Following Portugal's complete decriminalisation of all drugs with its effects on reducing crime and overdoses, the (de)criminalisation of drugs has become an ongoing debate between oppositional forces. Considering this debate, what stance should the EU take on the legal status of drugs?

Submitted by:

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The European Youth Parliament aims to reduce the harm caused by illegal drug use, as well as the stigma and discrimination targeting people who use drugs (PWUD). Preliminarily, it strives for the legalisation of soft drugs and the decriminalisation of hard drugs. Eventually, it aims for the legalisation and regulation of hard drugs to ensure a safer and healthier environment for all people affected by the drug industry,

because

- In countries that have implemented decriminalisation, such as Portugal, drug death and drug crime rates have plummeted,

- The United Nations (UN) have mandated[52] that the production, sale, and transport of drugs are at least partly criminalised,

- The criminalisation of drugs leads to a general increase in organised crime and a decrease in the safety of drugs,

- In 2020, around 5,800 illicit drug-related deaths occurred in the EU, caused by overdoses or transmittable diseases,

- The costs for psychological and medical treatment for drug addiction present obstacles to the accessibility of recovery,

- Drug use in unsanitary and unsafe conditions harms the physical and mental health of PWUD,

- Some drugs, like cannabis and certain psychedelics, have been proven to have a positive medical effect on human health,

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[52] The European stance on drug use is informed by three UN conventions: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and the 1988 UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

- [Marginalised groups](#) are more likely to get addicted as well as arrested on drug charges due to socioeconomic circumstances and discrimination,

- The stigmatisation of drug use leads to PWUD not seeking help,

- Legal regulation on drugs has [positive effects](#) on the economy;

by

Legislation

1. Urging Member States to legalise soft drugs;

2. Further urging Member States to decriminalise hard drugs;

3. Directing the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)[53] to closely monitor and support Member States in implementing the decriminalisation and legalisation of drugs;

4. Calling upon the European Commission to subsidise Member States' infrastructure following the legalisation and decriminalisation of drugs;

5. Recommending Member States to consider unbinding from the UN drug conventions through respectful non-compliance, following the [example of Canada](#);

Health

6. Instructing the European Social Survey (ESS)[54] to research the extent and impact of the stigma surrounding drug use in the EU;

7. Asking all Member States to implement supervised injection sites and portable medical centres;

8. Encouraging the European Medicines Agency (EMA)[55] to approve the medical use of cannabis, LSD and MDMA;

Resocialisation

9. Requesting Member States to direct the economic gain obtained from drug liberalisation to the funding of at-risk schools in low-income areas and accessible rehabilitation programmes;

---

[53] The **European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction** (**EMCDDA**) is the European centre for monitoring drug use which provides independent scientific evidence.
[54] The **European Social Survey** (**ESS**) is a crossnational social scientific survey detailing the social attitudes and behavioural patterns of Europeans.
[55] The **European Medicines Agency** (**EMA**) is the body that regulates, assesses and approves medicine before it can be produced and distributed.

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10. Seeking Member States and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to collaboratively create support centres in low-income areas that provide services such as safe administration and drug checking[56];

11. Inviting Harm Reduction International (HRI)[57] to create accessible seminars, informing on support centres and safe drug use, and terminology surrounding addiction;

Production and distribution

12. Further calls upon the European Research Executive Agency (REA)[58] and EMCDDA to conduct primary and secondary market research on the economic effects of legalisation;

13. Further directs EMCDDA to develop and facilitate the implementation of a universal strategy on the economic effects of drug legalisation based on the aforementioned market research;

14. Suggesting Member States to mandate drug checking centres in places with prevalent drug use, such as festivals and clubs.

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[56] Drug checking is a service where drugs are examined to check the purity, safety and quality of the substance.
[57] **Harm Reduction International** (**HRI**) is an international NGO focused on a global approach to harm reduction.
[58] **European Research Executive Agency** (**REA**) is a funding body for European research.

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

Well Fair: The Covid-19 pandemic shed light on the increasing social inequalities in Europe, with vulnerable groups such as refugees being disproportionately affected by the pandemic's negative consequences. How should the EU ensure that all Member States support their citizens through modern and accessible welfare systems that protect vulnerable groups such as refugees?

Submitted by:

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The European Youth Parliament aims to advance the EU's welfare systems to promote citizens' economic freedom and uphold human dignity, whilst supporting ever-growing collaboration between Member States. It encourages every Member State to provide its inhabitants with accessible and efficient healthcare, fair and adequate working conditions, accessible and high-quality education, as well as universal housing. It especially strives for vulnerable groups, guaranteeing that both refugees and citizens are able to access benefits equitably,

because

- The present inflation crisis has drastically increased the price of basic necessities, disproportionately impacting those who rely on socio-economic benefits such as single-parent families,

- Member States' ageing populations are creating a high-dependency ratio, straining the budgets of welfare systems,

- 39% of non-EU migrants in Europe live in relative poverty[59] as a result of unequal opportunities and outcomes in education and social inclusion,

- Refugees are at a higher risk of developing mental health illnesses than the general population of Europe,

- Member States experience greatly varying rates of digitalisation, resulting in disparities in the digital accessibility of their respective healthcare systems,

- Although both skilled and unskilled migrants offer a net contribution to welfare states,

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[59] **Relative poverty** is a living condition where an individual or family is unable to reach the minimum average living standard in a specific society.

wide-spread misconceptions that they are an economic burden have led to restrictive policies and mass euroscepticism, as seen with [analysis](#) of the Brexit referendum,

- Personnel shortages in healthcare and educational systems weaken the efficiency and accessibility of Member States' services,

- More than [28 million](#) EU workers in the gig economy cannot access benefits due to employment status misclassification,

- Restrictive and inaccessible social protections in many Member States mean that many young people are [unable to access](#) unemployment benefits, disproportionately affecting those also part of another disadvantaged group,

- Member States' refugee processing systems often do not prioritise the individual refugee experience, with refugees often being [overqualified](#) in their resultant employment positions,

- Rising housing and rental prices are disproportionately affecting those living in or at risk of poverty, with [7.8%](#) of the EU population spending at least 40% of their income on housing;

by

Economic Trends

1. Recommending that Member States follow the European Trade Union Confederation's ([ETUC](#)) advice in light of rising costs of living to improve national childcare benefits by utilising the European Reform Support Programme[60];

2. Encouraging [EuroStat](#) to promote the creation of future insightful research by developing a logical index to directly compare the efficiency of Member State's welfare systems;

3. Requesting that the European Commission's [High-level group of experts on pensions](#) publish a report analysing empirical research on innovating pension schemes in light of an ageing European population;

4. Suggesting that the [EU Tax Observatory](#) creates a detailed publication based of empirical research into innovative and socially-inclusive taxation systems;

Healthcare and Education

5. Requiring that the European Commission facilitates the creation of more digitally accessible healthcare systems by moderating a series of multinational digitalisation conferences between more and less digitalised Member States;

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[60] **European Reform Support Programme** is an instrument designed to provide financial and technical support for the pursuit and implementation of reforms in all Member States and to improve Member States' administrative capacity.

6. Requesting that Member States provide adequate psychological support to necessary groups by:

    a. applying to use the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund to provide effective psychological support to refugees under International Organisation for Migration guidance,

    b. utilising the EU4Health budget to improve the accessibility and efficiency of national mental health services;

7. Recommending that Member States mitigate the public health challenges faced by migrants by implementing the policy recommendations of the WHO and EU publication, "Knowledge Hub on Health and Migration: Health of Refugee and Migrant Children";

8. Strongly encouraging Member States to educate their citizens on how migrants positively affect the economy by collaborating with relevant NGOs to create educational programmes for schools, workplaces, and community centres;

9. Inviting Member States to dispel misinformation surrounding migrants' impact on the welfare state to develop effective informational campaign strategies to be delivered in all national languages;

10. Calling upon Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) to allocate funding from the European Social Fund to facilitate the implementation of refugee integration workshops in schools by:

    a. collaborating with teachers and refugees alike to develop a targeted educational lecture programme,

    b. training and recruiting teachers with the language skills required for the relevant refugee group;

Employment and Housing

11. Calling upon the European Commission in collaboration with the ETUC to redraft the Directive on Improving Conditions in Platform Work to more effectively protect the flexible working conditions and classification of gig workers;

12. Inviting the European Commission to allocate funding from the European Social Fund to provide means-tested grants to recent graduates in search of stable employment in their relevant graduating field;

13. Calling upon the European Commission to allow refugees to more readily utilise non-European academic and professional qualifications by expanding the scope of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to accommodate international qualifications;

14. Firmly requesting that National Trade Unions, under the guidance of the ETUC increase pressure on national institutions and employers to facilitate integration by publicly supporting the relevant migrant and refugee professionals;

15. Strongly urging the European Commission to action the recommendations of the Action leaders of the EU Urban Agenda Housing Partnership by further expanding principles 19 and 20[61] of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan to better protect the right to Just and Sustainable Housing;

16. Requesting the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) to collaborate with the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) to produce a report evaluating innovations, including rent controls[62], that Member States may utilise to guarantee affordable renting prices.

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[61] The **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan** supports a right-based approach in housing policy, with principles **19** (housing and assistance for the homeless) and **20** (access to essential service) playing a central role in implementation.
[62] A rent control refers to a property in which a limit, set by a governmental body, is set on the amount that a landlord may charge.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (ENVI)

Doctor House: With the increase of self-diagnosis and self-medication rising in Member States, the issue of mis medication puts the health of people at risk. How can Member States balance the dangers and potential benefits of people's self-care while ensuring all citizens have access to an efficient and fair healthcare system?

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The European Youth Parliament aims to provide all EU citizens with standardised and accessible medical services to establish a fair European-wide healthcare system. We intend to raise awareness about the advantages and risks of self-diagnosis and self-medication. We hope to strengthen legislation on the control of distribution of Over the Counter (OTC) medicine in Member States. We aim at improving and promoting pre-existing online resources, further ensuring information integration within society,

because

- Media coverage on medication, either online or in physical form, can present inaccurate or non-transparent content, resulting in misinformation,

- There is a gap in the legislative system in regard to the distribution of OTC medication, leading to the misuse and overuse of medicine, negatively impacting the health of EU citizens,

- In 2017, over 7% of Europeans received antibiotics without a prescription or any past consultation with a medical professional,

- The lack of enforcement of Good distribution practice (GDP) regulation on pill distribution among Member States resulting in ever increasing amount of "leftover" medication,

- The prescribed antibiotics in many cases either exceed the necessary amount or are not required for treatment, and therefore exacerbate the problem of antimicrobial resistance,

- There is a lack of financial resources for the coverage of medical expenses of EU citizens,

- Misleading advertisements on medication targeting vulnerable consumers may lead to detrimental health consequences,

- There is a discrepancy between the quality of healthcare among Member States,

- The insufficient medical staff availability, as well as the social and economic status of patients, are factors that influence the accessibility of healthcare,

- The EU's population is undereducated with regard to the risks and benefits of self-medication, self-care, and self-diagnosis;

by

Media and Awareness

1. Urging the European Commission to ensure the reliability of medical sources on digital media by creating a medical verification system supported by the Digital Service Act (DSA) in order to provide a verification icon for credible sources;

2. Asking Member States to tackle the spread of misinformation by encouraging compliance with the Misinformation bill;

3. Drawing Attention to the framework in the European Commission's legal framework of Medicine and Food Advertisement in the EU and UK post-Brexit to increase the transparency of advertisements by implementing a European-wide disclaimer for paid medical advertisements;

4. Inviting the Association of the European Self-Care Industry (AESGP)[63] to increase the level of education regarding self-medication, self-diagnosis, and self-care among the general public by holding courses designed according to age and level of knowledge at schools and workplaces;

Access

5. Calling upon Member States to increase the availability of online medical consultations in order to reduce the waiting time for medical appointments;

6. Further inviting Member States to increase the accessibility of healthcare in rural areas by creating mobile medical clinics for regular checkups, following the success of COVID-19 vaccination trucks;

Control of usage and distribution

7. Encouraging the Directorate General of Health and Food Safety (DG Sante)[64] to clarify the set criteria for the distinction between OTC and prescribed medication, through the implementation of unified legislation;

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[63] Association of the European Self-Care Industry (AESGP) is a non-profit orgaisation which is the representative of the manufacturers of non-prescription medicines, self-care devices and food supplements in Europe.
[64] Directorate General of Health and Food Safety (Sante) - a DG of the European Commission responsible for the implementation of laws of the EU on health and food safety.

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8. Recommending DG Sante to establish a maximum quantity of OTC medication allowed to be purchased in a single transaction;

9. Suggesting Member States to encourage incentivised medication amnesty[65] in order to lessen the amount of "leftover" medications;

10. Requesting the European Medical Agency (EMA)[66] to limit excessive distribution of distributed pills in pharmacies through precise prescribed dosage;

11. Encouraging the European Commission to collaborate with Member States to locally produce medicine in order to increase its accessibility to citizens, following the example of the EU cohesion policy;

12. Inviting Member States to create a unified platform for exchange of effective aspects of well-established healthcare practices in order to reduce discrepancies.

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[65] Medication amnesty - A medication amnesty involves bringing unwanted/out of date medicines and disposing of them in a safe, non-judgmental environment.
[66] European Medicines Agency (EMA) - aims towards scientific excellence in the evaluation process and the supervision of medicines mainly in the benefit of EU public and animal health.

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