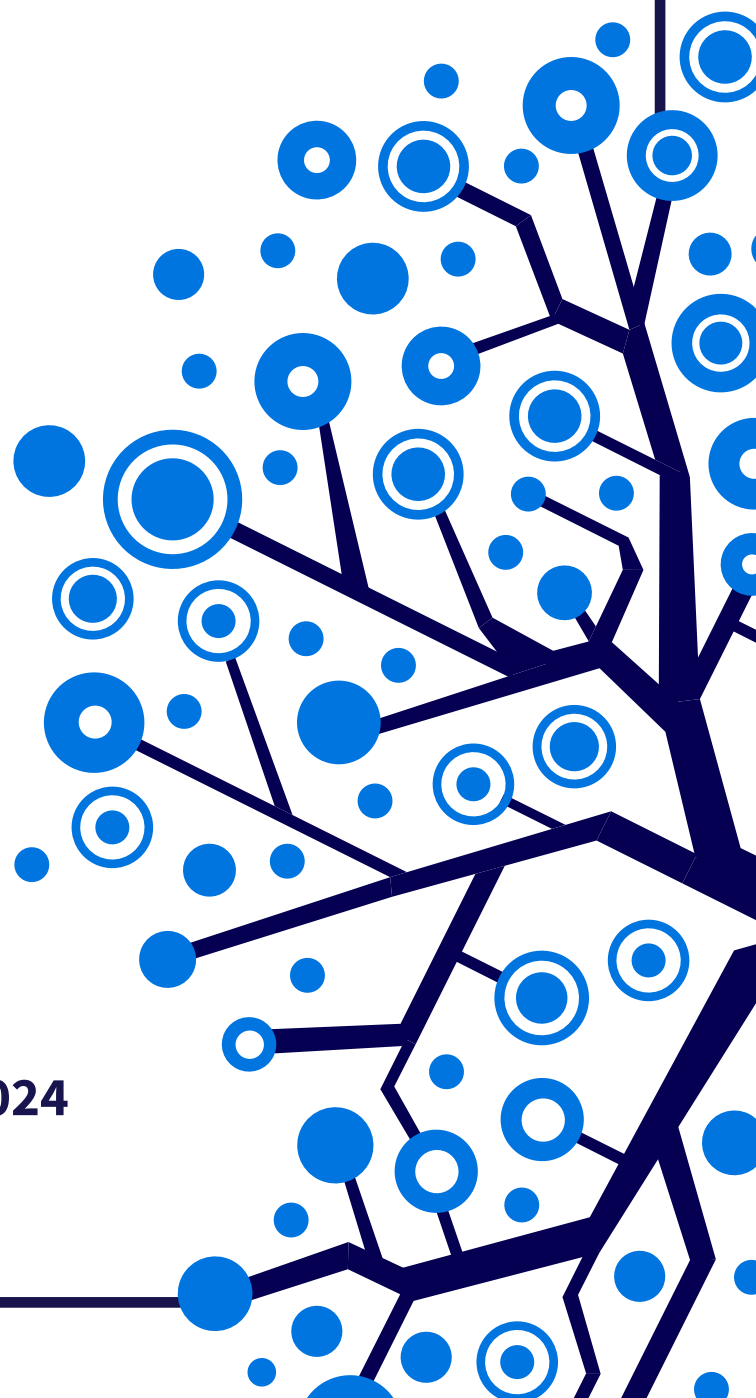


RESOLUTION BOOKLET

*Harbour of Innovation:
from Social Reconstruction
to Technological Advances*



THESSALONIKI 2024
100th INTERNATIONAL SESSION

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT





Table of contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AGRI) | 03 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS I (EMPL I) | 08 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY (ITRE) | 12 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (ENVI) | 15 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS II (EMPL II) | 20 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM (TRAN) | 23 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, HOME AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE (LIBE) | 27 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS II (JURI II) | 31 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM) | 34 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE (SEDE) | 37 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS (BUDG) | 41 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT) | 44 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS (ECON) | 49 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS I (JURI I) | 53 |
| THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (REGI) | 57 |



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

Topic title: *With a series of farmers' protests occurring across many countries this year, largely due to biodiversity legislation, how can Europe adopt a symbiotic approach to support agriculture and prevent biodiversity loss?*

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The European Youth Parliament aims to resume Europe's progress in advancing climate legislation and reconciling the conflict between farmers and biodiversity legislation. We seek to maintain the ability of the EU to produce food by introducing innovative measures that provide a balance of support to farmers and biodiversity protection. By emphasising the value of smaller farms, we believe that a European agriculture and a diverse flora and fauna are not mutually exclusive, and that both can flourish if we foster a symbiotic relationship between the two,

because

- Biodiversity in the EU is rapidly decreasing, in large part due to agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, the use of pesticides, and an increasing presence of large scale monocultures¹,
- Agricultural runoff deposits nitrogen in ecosystems, promoting nitrogen-favouring plants which outcompete other plants²,
- In recent years, climate induced extreme events have increasingly damaged agricultural yields and led to increased economic losses in the agricultural sector³,
- Farmers are particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in energy prices, impacting their operational costs, as seen during the energy crisis in 2022⁴,
- The landmass used for agricultural production takes up to 38% of the total land area of the EU, reducing this landmass' potential for natural biodiversity⁵,

¹ [DG RTD, Horizon \(2024\) "Climate change and biodiversity loss should be tackled together"](#)

² [Nzengung and Gugolz, Sustainable Biochar for Water and Wastewater Treatment \(2022\) "14 - Biochar-based constructed wetland for contaminants removal from manure wastewater"](#)

³ [European Environment Agency \(2023, 10.6\) "Economic losses from weather- and climate-related extremes in Europe"](#)

⁴ [Mollie Pinnington, Resolve Energy \(2023, 8, 3\) "The Farming industry struggling with energy prices"](#)

⁵ [Eurostat \(2023, 10, 23\) "Farms and farmland in the European Union - statistics"](#)



- In 2022, 23.5% of the EU budget was earmarked towards the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)^{6, 7},
- Newly implemented CAP regulations and environmental policies challenge farms' traditional practices within the agricultural sector across Member States, leading to farmers engaging in civil unrest and participating in violent riots which cause damage to public and private property⁸,
- As of now, the CAP does not protect the economic sustainability of small farms, due to:
 - systemic issues in CAP subsidies that disproportionately favour larger, more industrialised farms with 80% of CAP subsidies going to 20% of farms between 2014 and 2020, further widening their economic gap⁹,
 - a heavy dependence on CAP subsidies by small, often family run farms, where subsidies make on average 28% of farms' total incomes¹⁰,
- The majority of small farm managers in the EU are 65 or older, demonstrating the current disproportional age distribution within the agricultural workforce¹¹,
- Due to a combination of lack of resources, manpower, and limited knowledge, smaller farms cannot adopt the same technological advancements as their larger competitors¹²,
- The farming protests occurring in 2024 resulted in the biodiversity requirements of CAP being weakened before alternative legislation could be proposed¹³,
- Current trade deals, such as the Mercosur trade deal, undermine European farmers by creating unfair foreign competition with other countries who produce and sell agri-products cheaper with less environmental regulations¹⁴,
- Starting and managing smaller farms is too expensive, due to limited access to subsidies as well as high costs for farmers looking to diversify their incomes or switch to more sustainable farming practices to comply with legislation requirements¹⁵,
- Food corporations such as supermarkets offer farmers unsustainable prices for their produce, reducing farmers' incomes and driving other farmers out of the market¹⁶;

⁶ **Common Agriculture Policy:** The common Agriculture Policy was launched in 1962 and is a programme which supports and assists agriculture and rural areas, and is managed and funded by the EU

⁷ [DG AGRI \(2024\) "CAP expenditure"](#)

⁸ [Jan Dutkiewicz, Vox \(2024, May, 2\) "How rioting farmers unraveled Europe's ambitious climate plan"](#)

⁹ [DG AGRI, Agriculture And Rural Development \(2022, February, 24\) "CAP performance: 2014-20"](#)

¹⁰ [Matthews, CAP Reform \(2016, 4, 20\) "The dependence of EU farm income on public support"](#)

¹¹ [Eurostat \(2024, 2, 6\) "Farmers and the agricultural labour force - statistics"](#)

¹² [Slow Food \(2024, 5, 24\) "Unfair Share: How Europe's Farm Subsidies Favor Big Money Over Small Farmers"](#)

¹³ [European Parliament \(2024, 4, 24\) "Parliament approves a revision of the EU's common agricultural policy"](#)

¹⁴ [Lauri Tähtinen, CSIS \(2024, 3, 26\) "EU-Mercosur: So Much More Than a Dead Deal"](#)

¹⁵ [Slow Food \(2024, 5, 24\) "Unfair Share: How Europe's Farm Subsidies Favor Big Money Over Small Farmers"](#)

¹⁶ [Uppington, Euronews \(2024, 2, 7\) "Supermarkets are the gatekeepers stacked against people who grow what we eat"](#)



The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Common Agricultural Policy

1. Calls upon the Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) to propose legislation which redistributes the current CAP subsidies to promote sustainable agricultural practices while also safeguarding small farms by:
 - i. increasing the percentage of CAP funding allocated to Coupled Income Support¹⁷,
 - ii. decreasing the percentage of CAP fundings to Basic Income Support for Sustainability¹⁸,
 - iii. increasing the percentage of CAP funding to Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability¹⁹,
 - iv. increasing the percentage of CAP funding to eco-schemes²⁰;

Biodiversity

2. Calls upon Directorate General for Trade (**DG TRADE**) to propose stricter standards, specifically environmental, on imports from outside of the EU, so that they align with the European Union's standard;
3. Directs DG AGRI to create a fund for Non-Governmental Organisations which supports efforts for planting native trees on unused land with farmers' permission, and to compensate farmers with a small monetary sum which will be returned if the farmer wishes to repurpose the land;
4. Calls upon Directorate General of Research and Innovation (**DG RTD**) to direct Horizon Europe to fund research on the implementation of vertical farming as an environmentally sustainable agricultural technique, in order to create more land space for rewilding;
5. Urges DG AGRI to propose an act, which will prevent the unnecessary trimming and removal of hedgerows, in order to protect local biodiversity;
6. Instructs the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research²¹ to further research the effects of Genetically Modified Organisms, that decrease the need for pesticides, and possibly implement them;

¹⁷ **Coupled Income Support:** Coupled Income Support is a category of direct payments under the CAP which target specific produce for socio-economic or environmental reasons.

¹⁸ **Basic Income Support For Sustainability:** Basic Income Support for Sustainability is a category of direct payments under the CAP which provide funding based on the farm's size.

¹⁹ **Complementary Income Support for Sustainability:** Complementary Income Support for Sustainability is a category of direct payments under the CAP which provide funding only for the first few hectares of farmland.

²⁰ **Eco-Schemes:** Eco-schemes are a category of direct payments under the CAP which provide funding to farms who volunteer to adopt practices which minimise the environmental harm caused by agricultural activity.

²¹ **The Standing Committee on Agricultural research:** The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research is responsible for establishing a

European Research Area with a common agricultural and biodiversity research agenda. SCAR provides strategic policy advice related to research and innovation



Increasing financial stability for farmers

7. Calls upon the DG AGRI for a legally mandated minimum percentage of the price of agricultural products to be paid to farmers;
8. Asks the European Commission to direct the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to offer grants to farms to invest in agritourism²² to facilitate the development of an additional income stream and improve local biodiversity;
9. Invites Member States to remove costs associated with acquiring building permits for farms under 2 hectares in size and to fast track building permit requests from small farms;
10. Urges DG AGRI to protect agricultural yields from natural disasters through funding immediate and long term protective measures in Member States;
11. Encourages Member States to introduce tax incentives for the use of environmentally friendly farming equipment such as solar panels and electric vehicles to make them more affordable for small farmers;
12. Urges DG TRADE to renegotiate current trade deals with third-party countries by further imposing tariffs on agriculture imports to increase EU farmers' competitiveness;
13. Urges the DG RTD to evaluate the potential benefits of investing in the construction of biomass power plants, which would use renewable fuel supplied by farmers;

Knowledge and Expertise

14. Calls upon ModernAKIS²³ to create a forum for farmers aiming to:
 - i. create a unified farmers' voice with direct communication with the EU, ensuring their voices are properly represented on an EU level,
 - ii. encourage volunteer work on European farms,
 - iii. organise a week dedicated to raising awareness and starting dialogue surrounding agriculture including, debates, screenings, markets, etc.
 - iv. create an EU-wide accessible map of all European farmers' markets,
 - v. include a youth sector to the forum with the goal of introducing interested youth to the trade, providing them with courses and dialogues with local farmers and experts, as well as volunteering opportunities;

²² **Agritourism:** Agritourism is the act of visiting farms or participating in agricultural activities for leisure

²³ **ModernAkis:** ModernAKIS is a Horizon Europe-funded project which aims to support and develop Member States' Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems by creating a network of key AKIS actors which will help coordinate the modernisation of the European AGRI-food sector.



15. Calls upon ModernAKIS to develop sustainable agriculture techniques and technology to be taught and implemented in the EU Agricultural Forum, such as agroforestry, bee vectoring technology, and precision farming;
16. Implores Member States to offer more third level technical courses and apprenticeships to properly educate and train those interested in entering the farming trade.



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

Reeling in the years: *European pension systems are under considerable and growing pressure, with the old-age dependency ratio in the EU projected to double between 2023 and 2080. In addition to state programmes, the private sector also plays a significant role in providing old-age pensions across Europe, with 60% of individuals in 2023 saving for retirement with a supplementary pension. What can be done, through government and private sector action, to ensure pension systems across Europe are both sustainable and deliver high living standards for future generations?*

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The European Youth Parliament aims to deliver financially sustainable pension systems in Europe through both risk diversification of pension funding and a guarantee of pension adequacy to all retirees. The resolution intends to promote a more inclusive job market, embracing technological advances and entrepreneurship while encouraging more people to have productive, contributive working years, according to their abilities. Finally, by providing clear and accessible information on different pension schemes, it aims to educate and empower citizens to make informed decisions regarding their future financial security,

because

- Member States have recorded stagnating productivity rates since 2009, with only a 0.3% increase since 2009, and a 0.8% drop in 2023²⁴, depressing economic growth and pension systems' funding,
- The recent economic slowdown in Europe has reduced Member States governments' ability to increase public pension spending for the future²⁵,
- The old-age dependency ratio²⁶ of the European Union is set to increase by 21.9% until 2050, due to increasing life expectancy coupled with a decreasing birth rate²⁷, endangering the sustainability of the Pay-as-You-Go-based²⁸ public pension systems of Member States,²⁹
- The overwhelming majority of Member States still rely mainly on the first pillar of their

²⁴ [Eurostat \(2024, 15.3\). "Productivity trends using key national accounts indicators"](#)

²⁵ [Erixon, Guinea, du Roy, European Centre for International Political Economy, \(May 2024\). "Keeping Up with the US: Why Europe's Productivity Is Falling Behind"](#)

²⁶ **Old-age dependency ratio:** The proportion between pensioners, on the one hand, and working-age people on the other.

²⁷ [Eurostat \(2024, March\). "Mortality and life expectancy statistics"](#)

²⁸ **Pay-as-You-Go (PAYG)** or Defined Benefit (DB): systems that use the money put in by pensioners to determine how much money they will receive upon retirement, ie, payouts will always be the same.

²⁹ [Eurostat. \(2021, 30.9.\). "Old-age dependency ratio increases across EU regions"](#)



pension systems³⁰, demonstrating insufficient risk distribution, and posing a growing financial burden and risk for governments³¹,

- Informal or irregular work, as well as long-term unemployment due to a shortage of professional skills, chronic illness or disability, or any other issue, tends to result in severely-reduced old-age pension benefits, due to both lack of contributions to first pillar systems, and lack of access to second pillar occupational pension schemes³²
- Low-income individuals often lack the means to a private or supplementary pensions³³,
- Pension replacement rates are projected to decline by 9% to 37.5% until 2070, reducing pension adequacy and consequently increasing old age poverty³⁴,
- Member States' labour participation rates further drive pension systems' vulnerabilities, due to the:
 - late entrance of young workers into the labour market³⁵,
 - average retirement ages falling below statutory thresholds³⁶,
 - below-average participation of immigrants in European formal labour markets³⁷,
- Active and retired workers make up important electoral groups with economic and political interests in retaining pension systems' status quo, driving societal reluctance to implement structural reforms,
- 14% of Europeans are not saving for private pensions due to a lack of information regarding different pension schemes, fueling unrealistic expectations on the extent of future benefits, and depressing saving rates for supplementary pensions³⁸,
- Artificial intelligence and automation are increasingly present in the workforce, leading to the risk of job losses, particularly in less-skilled labour;

³⁰ **The first pillar:** Public pensions funded by taxes paid directly from paychecks, from which the state calculates future pension payouts.

³¹ [OECD, Pensions at a Glance 2023: OECD and G20 indicators \(2023\), "Architecture of national pension systems"](#)

³² **The second pillar, or occupational pension programs:** systems managed by employers for their employees and have been promoted by EU and national legislation to alleviate the burden on public pension systems

³³ **Voluntary or supplementary pensions (or the third pillar):** systems that allow workers to choose to contribute to private pension funds or old-age insurances, often incentivized by tax benefits to encourage savings for retirement.

³⁴ [European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion \(2021\), "2021 pension adequacy report – Current and future income adequacy in old age in the EU"](#)

³⁵ [OECD Data Explorer \(2022\), "Employment rates by age group in the EU"](#)

³⁶ [Eurostat \(2020\), "Ageing Europe — looking at the lives of older people in the EU"](#)

³⁷ [Eurostat \(2024., 6.5\), "Migrant integration statistics – labour market indicators"](#)

³⁸ [Insurance Europe \(2023\), PAN-EUROPEAN PENSION SURVEY \(November 2023\), "PENSION PRIORITIES IN EUROPE"](#)



The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Macroeconomic Reforms

1. Instructs the Member States to make use of the European Semester³⁹ to coordinate on pension system reform and multi-pillar diversification;
2. Orders the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises⁴⁰ to update the goal for investment in productivity-boosting research and development to 4% of the EU's GDP, up from the current target of 3%;
3. Invites remaining Member States to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)⁴¹ in order to benefit from its policy analysis and recommendations on pensions systems;
4. Requests the OECD provide blueprints for fiscal incentives for the adoption of occupational pension systems by private-sector employers;

Pension System Awareness and Changes

5. Strongly encourages Member States to implement pension credits systems to ensure the provision of old-age pension benefits for:
 - i. workers not in formal employment, such as informal carers, gig workers, freelancers, or seasonal workers,
 - ii. individuals with chronic illness/disabilities that prevent them from working full-time,
 - iii. individuals in high-stress employment (both physical and mental), who are often unable to work for statutory retirement career durations,
 - iv. individuals in long-term unemployment, namely those that have lost their jobs to automation;
6. Mandates the European Commission to include in the Pan-European Pension Product⁴² requirements that the plans offered:

³⁹ **European Semester:** an annual exercise that coordinates the EU's economic and social policies. During the Semester, EU Member States align their budgetary and economic policies with the objectives and rules agreed upon at EU level.

⁴⁰ **Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises:** European Commission's department creating and implementing policies to support the European Single Market and free flows of goods and services.

⁴¹ **OECD:** the OECD is an intergovernmental organisation founded to promote economic development and world trade. It provides economic policy analysis and recommendations to its Member States.

⁴² **Pan-European Pension Product:** a uniform European pension product, designed to provide an old-age income alongside the traditional three pillars. It can be defined as a cross-EU, third-pillar pension, designed to complement other European pensions.



- i. provide state subsidies, in the form of tax breaks or direct account deposits, to any new pension account, within the first two years of it being opened,
 - ii. additionally, the subsidies provided be more extensive and of longer duration for accounts opened by low-income people;
7. Asks Member States to follow the example of Sweden's orange envelope initiative⁴³ and implement informational initiatives regarding future retirees' pension benefits in simple, accessible terms;

Labour Market Participation

8. Directs the Member States to implement reforms for the boosting of labour market participation by immigrants, such as:
 - i. the simplification of visa processes for immigrants,
 - ii. the implementation of state loans for recent immigrants' further education;
9. Urges Member States to encourage the employment of young and old people by implementing:
 - i. age-specific income tax breaks for both young workers and individuals approaching or past the statutory retirement age,
 - ii. payroll tax breaks;
10. Further requests that Member States offer training programmes relating to digital and technological skills, directed towards individuals formerly employed in industries that have recently undergone automation.

⁴³ **Orange envelope:** a statement sent by the Swedish Pensions Agency to pension contributors in the country that simply states how much the individual has accumulated in their pension.



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

Green Unity Quest: *With the EU taking retaliatory action in response to the US's Inflation Reduction Act, what opportunities are there for the US & Europe to cooperate in developing, scaling, and securing green energy and decarbonisation technologies?*

Submitted by: Fedor Artiushenko (UA), Ben Daschner (AT), Maja Góralaska (PL), Azar Guliyev (AZ), María Gascó Napoleon (ES), Sergios Georgaras (GR), , Srihari Karri (UK), Nađa Reljić (RS), Boutaina Squali (DE), Massimiliano Nicolò Stefani (IT), Kavika Vasanthakumar (FI), Marjolijn Webb (NL), Pavle Vučković (RS, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to establish a prosperous relationship between the EU and the US regarding the development of green energy and decarbonisation technologies by building upon current trade partnerships, ensuring fair competition, securing supply chains, and funding research for a sustainable future,

because

- Balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability presents a significant challenge for both the US and the EU⁴⁴,
- Differing approaches to decarbonisation, with the US relying on subsidies and the EU on a regulatory framework, negatively impact the effectiveness of collaboration between both parties⁴⁵,
- Trade barriers, including tariffs like Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and non-tariff measures such as supply chain verification requirements under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), complicate the exchange of green technologies and raw materials between the US and the EU by increasing costs and creating administrative burdens^{46 47 48},
- European companies face a competitive disadvantage relative to US corporations, which gain substantial advantages from the financial incentives provided by the IRA⁴⁹,

⁴⁴ [Yang Z., Gao W., Li J., Int J Environ Res Public Health. \(2022, August 10\). "Can Economic Growth and Environmental Protection Achieve a "Win-Win" Situation?"](#)

⁴⁵ [European Union. \(2015, November\). "Climate policies in the EU and USA: Different approaches, convergent outcomes?"](#)

⁴⁶ **The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** is the EU's tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.

⁴⁷ [Optel. \(2022\). "THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT \(IRA\): THE IMPACT ON AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY CHAINS"](#)

⁴⁸ **The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** is a landmark United States' federal law which aims to possibly reduce the federal government budget deficit, lowering prescription drug prices, and investing into domestic energy production while promoting clean energy.

⁴⁹ [Wright G., Institut Montaigne. \(2022, December 15\). "The Real Reasons Why Europe Is Concerned by the US Inflation Reduction Act"](#)



- The lack of agreed upon international standards for “green businesses” creates significant confusion over what qualifies as environmentally friendly in both the EU and US,
- The economic divide among Member States creates disparities in green technology development, complicating the implementation of the European Green Deal measures⁵⁰,
- Some corporations oppose the transition to sustainable practices due to concerns about significant upfront costs, impacts on profit margins, competitiveness, and disruption to established business models,⁵¹
- Many industrial decarbonization technologies are not commercially viable and face challenges in being implemented due to a lack of sufficient research⁵²,
- The EU and the US are overly reliant on third-party suppliers for raw materials and components essential for renewable energy systems and infrastructure, making these powers susceptible to potential supply disruptions⁵³,
- The market shifts towards greener technologies and sustainable practices lead to:
 - many workers lacking the necessary skills and education to adapt to new roles,
 - workers in traditional industries, which are being phased out or transformed by the green transition, potentially facing unemployment or job displacement^{54 55};

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Cooperation and Facilitation

1. Invites the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to provide a template framework for green businesses and technologies to be adopted by the EU and the US based on the International Labour Organization’s green business guide^{56 57};
2. Calls upon the EU-US Trade and Technology Council to harmonise collaborative action by organising quarterly sessions where the path towards decarbonization is discussed;

⁵⁰ **The European Green Deal** is a package of policy initiatives, which aims to set the EU on the path to a green transition, with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050.

⁵¹ [Bryan K., Mooney A., Financial Times, \(2024, June 21\), “How companies are starting to back away from green targets”](#)
⁵² [Golnaraghi M., Belanche-Guadas I., The Geneva Association, \(2024, 15.01.\), “Climate tech for industrial decarbonisation: What role for insurers?”](#)

⁵³ [European Commission, \(2024, April 5\), “Joint Statement EU-US Trade and Technology Council of 4-5 April 2024 in Leuven, Belgium Page”](#)

⁵⁴ [Simmonds P., Lally C., UK Parliament POST, \(2024, January 18\), “Green skills in education and employment“](#)

⁵⁵ [Tamma P., POLITICO, \(2022, March 16\), “Will the Green Deal be a job drain?”](#)

⁵⁶ **The International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** – provides organisations with guidelines to consistently achieve universally recognized standards.

⁵⁷ [International Labour Organisation \(2023, May 23\), “Green Business Guide”](#)



3. Calls upon EU-US Trade & Technology Council to advocate for furthering research collaboration between the EU and the US, with the example of the Research Data Alliance, focusing on green technologies;
4. Calls upon the European Commission to lower suggested tariffs in the CBAM in order to facilitate trade between the US and the EU;

Financing policies

5. Advises and the European Investment Bank (**EIB**) to provide financial incentives such as subsidies and tax credits for EU green businesses;
6. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (**DG GROW**) to financially aid the implementation of green technology among small and medium enterprises (SMEs);
7. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Climate Action (**DG CLIMA**) to allocate resources to financially limited Member States and support regions most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality;
8. Suggests the EIB provide funds to companies that require support for a smooth transition to a more sustainable business model;
9. Calls upon the Member States' ministries of labour to develop company training programmes in cooperation with the private sector to ensure employees can gain necessary skills required for the green transition.

Supply Chains and Resilience

10. Calls upon the European Commission to accelerate the implementation of green economic partnerships, like the⁵⁸;
11. Urges Member States' ministries of energy to reduce private companies' dependency on imports by incentivising them to:
 - i. further develop supply strategies that diversify trade relationships,
 - ii. purchasing raw materials and components mines and produced within EU borders;
12. Calls upon the European Commission to invest in the Joint Research Centre, through Horizon Europe to develop decarbonisation technologies and accelerate their commercialisation.

⁵⁸ **The Critical Minerals Agreement (CMA)** has an overall objective to support development of EU-US supply chains in critical raw materials needed in the production of electric vehicle batteries.



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

Go green or go home: *With the EU now making an effective commitment to reduce its GHG emissions by 90% before 2040, how should Europe ensure that the costs of the transition are spread fairly?*

Submitted by: Shahan Antabian (AM), Anastasiia Bolkhovitina (SE), Dea Boriçi (AL), João Dias (PT), Réka Sophia Eberhard (LU), Jorina Kaminski (CH), Stivi Meta (XK), Aadishesh Mohan (IE), Pulato Rakhimov (CZ), Ela Rastić (HR), Hugo Ridal (SE), Aparna Shankar (UK), Marijana Taš (RS), Henrique Rosário (PT/LU, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure a transition towards carbon neutrality across all Member States, guaranteeing costs are spread fairly and with equity among all power structures. It aspires to tackle cross-cutting issues regarding economic development, employment and energy poverty connected to the green transition,

because

- Member States contribute to the green transition accounting only for the size of their economy and not their possibilities, needs and emissions,
- Fossil industry workers will take a long time to be upskilled into new green jobs, which causes structural unemployment and a mismatch of required skills for future jobs,
- Greenhouse gas emissions still correlate to economic growth despite decoupling efforts,
- The high upfront costs associated with the quick implementation of green technology leads to cost-driven inflation and overall economic instability,
- The current polluter pays principle is not being held up to standard in the prevention of environmental damage⁵⁹,
- Existing EU funds such as the Social Climate Fund (**SCF**) and the Just Transition Fund (**JTF**) do not have sufficient resources to cover the costs of the transition in all vulnerable regions^{60 61},
- The unequal development of European regions makes a just and equal green transition at a synchronised pace especially difficult,

⁵⁹ **The polluter pays principle:** an idea at the core of EU environmental policy: those responsible for environmental damage should pay to cover the costs.

⁶⁰ **Social Climate Fund:** provides dedicated funding so that the most affected vulnerable groups, such as households in energy or transport poverty, are directly supported, and not left behind during the green transition.

⁶¹ **Just Transition Fund:** one pillar of the Just Transition Mechanism. The Commission provides support to Member States having identified the territories expected to be the most negatively impacted by the transition towards climate-neutrality. The Just Transition Fund supports the economic diversification and reconversion of the territories concerned. This includes upskilling and reskilling of workers, investments in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises



- Low-income households are disproportionately impacted by the EU's green transition,
- The ability to participate in the transition to emission-free vehicles depends heavily on individuals socioeconomic background and city of residence⁶²,
- In 2023, over 10% of Europeans were unable to adequately warm their homes, exacerbating energy poverty⁶³,
- Transitioning to green technology (e.g. batteries) will involve the extraction and refinement of large quantities of rare mineral resources often obtained from outside the EU and commonly not sourced sustainably or ethically,
- Green technologies cause harm on human well-being (e.g. noise), affecting the population unequally,
- Renewable energy is not as reliable as fossil fuels due to their dependence on weather and climate conditions,
- There is a lack of funding for crucial technologies such as energy storage and renewables, leading to energy losses;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Economic Protection

1. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (**DG EMPL**) to collaborate with InvestEU⁶⁴ and the European Social Fund Plus⁶⁵ on funding and monitoring reskilling activities and vocational training for sectors most affected by green transition such as the petrochemical or automotive industry;
2. Instructs the Directorate-General for Climate Action (**DG CLIMA**) to diversify the European energy mix and engaging in reskilling their own workforce through a mix of subsidies and grants;
3. Calls upon Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (**DG ECFIN**) to incentivise the creation of cooperatives through subsidies and grants, contributing to an economy that considers both growth and environmental and community impact;
4. Urges Member States to enact subsidies targeted at companies aiming to transition to more sustainable forms of energy usage;
5. Asks Member States to generate transition subsidies through the application of taxes like Emission Trading Systems;

⁶² [European Union, "European Climate Pact"](#)

⁶³ [European Commission, "Energy poverty"](#)

⁶⁴ **Invest EU** promotes the recovery, green growth, quality jobs and well-being across Europe through targeted investment that makes a difference at the national and the local level.

⁶⁵ **The European Social Fund Plus** is the European Union's main instrument for investing in people and supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights



6. Urges Member States to quickly regulate and monitor the supply chains of Multinational Corporations with headquarters in Europe, which highly contribute to the damage done in the countries of production (in case of companies who have production sites outside of the EU);

Equity

7. Proposes that the European Commission increases funding for the JTF and SCF;
8. Directs the revenue from the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (**CBAM**) towards the JTF and SCF⁶⁶;
9. Encourages innovation hubs like the World Economic Forum or the Digital Innovation Hub For Climate Neutrality to make efforts to include less developed regions and sharing their expertise according to the EU Cohesion Policy⁶⁷;
10. Calls upon DG ENER to assist Member States in drafting new National Renewable Action Plans (**NREAP**) to achieve its 2040 goals with input from MEPs, experts, scientists, and representatives of local communities to keep vulnerable regions in mind⁶⁸;
11. Directs the European Commission to develop a framework within Just Transition Mechanism⁶⁹ to ensure lower income households receive financial aid in order to make green transition as accessible as possible;
12. Encourages Member States to encourage joining the Green City Accord⁷⁰;
13. Urges Member States to improve their infrastructure by installing more EV-chargers and making them convenient for everyone in order to make them more accessible;
14. Further invites Member States to invest into research and funding for renewable synthetic fuels with the help of private-public partnerships;

Energy security in vulnerable communities

15. Encourages Member States to favour the implementation of new and more efficient systems for temperature control and maintenance as requirements for new homes, with a special focus on retrofitting low-income households;
16. Calls upon Member States to dedicate a bigger percentage of their GDP to combat climate change regulated by the EU;
17. Directs the Directorate-General for Trade (**DG TRADE**) to ensure high-quality social and environmental mining standards by prohibiting the purchase of raw materials from countries not adhering to sufficient standards set by the Critical Raw Materials Act; whilst also diversifying sources and innovating technologies that do not use these resources;

⁶⁶ [The European Commission, "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism"](#)

⁶⁷ [European Commission, "European Digital Innovation Hubs Network"](#)

⁶⁸ [European Commission, "Joint Research Centre Data Catalogue"](#)

⁶⁹ **The Just Transition Mechanism:** a key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind. It provides targeted support to help mobilise around €55 billion over the period 2021-2027 in the most affected regions, to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the transition.

⁷⁰ [European Commission, "Green City Accord"](#)



18. Calls upon Member States to redistribute the financial profits gained by the Energy Taxation Directive (**ETD**) to local governing bodies, whose communities are affected by the energy production's environmental hazards;
19. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Climate Action to heavily diversify the plan for its green energy mix and further develop its energy storage capacities;
20. Calls upon the Directorate-General of Research and Innovation (**DG RTD**) to form private-public partnerships with companies performing research to further develop energy storage systems and grid technologies and encourage them to issue green bonds⁷¹;

⁷¹ [European Commission, "The European green bond standard – Supporting the transition"](#)



ASSOCIATED OPINION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND ENERGY (ITRE)

Submitted by: Fedor Artiushenko (UA), Ben Daschner (AT), Maja Góralaska (PL), María Gascó Napoleon (ES), Sergios Georgaras (GR), Azar Guliyev (AZ), Srihari Karri (UK), Nađa Reljić (RS), Boutaina Squali (DE), Massimiliano Nicolò Stefani (IT), Kavika Vasanthakumar (FI), Marjolijn Webb (NL), Pavle Vučković (RS, Chairperson)

The Committee aims to enhance innovation and research in climate technologies by securing funding from the European Investment Bank, InvestEU programme, and DG CLIMA. Additionally, it seeks to improve renewable energy storage and distribution through the existing electricity grid and public-private partnerships,

The European Youth Parliament, suggests the following actions to achieve these aims:

- Calls upon the European Investment Bank, InvestEU programme, and DG CLIMA to fund climate technology research and innovation, and to create a global knowledge-sharing network on decarbonization.
- Calls upon the Member States' Ministries of Energy to integrate solar panels, wind turbines and other renewables into the existing electricity grid for storing and transporting to address the issue of insufficient sources and storage.
- Calls upon the Member States' energy suppliers to participate in forming a public-private partnership with research companies to develop hydrogen storage, enhance hydropower, and improve the electricity grid.



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

It's my life: *People with intellectual and developmental disabilities face reduced opportunities to access the highest quality of life as safety is often favoured over self-determination in many areas of public healthcare. How can countries safeguard the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to ensure that all people can live a life of their choosing?*

Submitted by: Aimee Chin (UK), Julie Grimbers (BE), Teodora Hadžović (RS), Kerttu Kajander (FI), Herbert Kanchinyan (AM), Vojtěch Krejčí (CZ), Petra Moldovan (RO), Christopher O'Sullivan (IE), Marcos Ordóñez Monfort (ES), Tena Radigović (HR), Julie Solheim (NO), Beatrice Stefani (IT), Nika Šmid (SI), Maria Tsompani (GR), Krista Bergmane (LV, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure dignified lives for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It aims to advocate for a shift from institutionalisation to inclusive community care, alongside standardised care plans that guarantee accessible and high-quality care. It focuses on ensuring freedom and choice for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who have been constrained by an outdated system by providing alternative care and prioritising choice, thus allowing for the EU to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

because

- There is an absence of an EU appointed regulating body, overseeing implementation of deinstitutionalisation leading to government at all levels not taking responsibility⁷²,
- Healthcare systems and social services lack the resources and funding for personalised support, residential care over independent living⁷³,
- Institutionalised people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are more vulnerable to suffer from abuse and neglect by staff⁷⁴,
- Despite the EU's commitment to Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)⁷⁵, only 13 Member States have adhered to and followed the recommendations⁷⁶,

⁷² [The European Committee of the Regions, 126th plenary session, 30 November – 1 December 2017 “Deinstitutionalisation in care systems at local and regional level”](#)

⁷³ [Dr.med. Elke Jakubowski, Dr.med. Reinhard Busse, European Parliament, 1998, “Health care systems in the EU. A comparative study”](#)

⁷⁴ [Bailey Glasser, “Institutional Abuse & Neglect”](#)

⁷⁵ The **UNCRPD** is an international treaty ratified by the European Union that outlines the fundamental rights of people with disabilities, including the right to live in the community and freedom from exploitation and abuse

⁷⁶ [Irmgard Anglmayer, European Parliamentary Research Service, \(2016\), “EU Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)”](#)



- The declining standard of care for institutionalised individuals does not align with EU values of respect for human dignity, freedom, and human rights⁷⁷,
- People with intellectual and developmental disabilities face significant challenges in accessing health services due to:
 - communication barriers between patients and healthcare providers,
 - lack of accessibility,
- The number of institutionalised European individuals has not substantially changed over the last 10 years⁷⁸,
- Isolation from community and family for institutionalised patients can prevent them from reporting instances of ill health, exposure to violence, and social exclusion⁷⁹,
- 28.8 % of the EU population aged 16 years or over with a disability is at risk of poverty or social exclusion contributing to institutionalisation⁸⁰,
- Current institutionalisation facilities provide controlling and inadequate care, prohibited by the UNCRPD for being a violation of human rights⁸¹,
- Infants, toddlers, and young children raised in conventional institutions experience poor physical, mental, and social-emotional development⁸²,
- The transition to independent living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is directly linked to improvements in adaptive behaviour, participation, self-determination, interpersonal relationships and quality of life⁸³;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Policy Development

1. Asks the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (**DG SANTE**) to create a standardised framework for developing individual care plans;
2. Urges the European Commission to create a new supporting body under the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (**DG EMPL**) to:
 - i. allocate funds to deinstitutionalization initiatives,
 - ii. develop a platform for data collection on the implementation and execution of the UNCRPD,

⁷⁷ [Helen Portal, Gerlinde Schmidt, Rita Crespo Fernández, Bárbara Marcondes, Milan Šveřepa, Valentina Dragičević, David Lysaght, Inclusion Europe \(2020\), “Neglect and discrimination. How Covid-19 affected the rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families”](#)

⁷⁸ [Jan Šiška, Julie Beadle-Brown, The European Expert Group on the transition from institutional to community-based support \(2020\), “Report on the Transition from Institutional Care to Community-Based Services in 27 EU Member States”](#)

⁷⁹ [André Felix, 2020, “Persons with disabilities: locked up in institutions, forgotten by governments”](#)

⁸⁰ [Eurostat, 2024, “Disability statistics - poverty and income inequalities”](#)

⁸¹ [European Network on Independent Living, 2023, “Institutions in Europe, models of good practice?”](#)

⁸² [Robert B. McCall, Child Adolesc Ment Health, 2013 “The consequences of early institutionalization: can institutions be improved? – should they?”](#)

⁸³ [Laura Esteban, Patricia Navas, Miguel Ángel Verdugo, Víctor B. Arias, National Library of Medicine, 2021, “Community Living, Intellectual Disability and Extensive Support Needs: A Rights-Based Approach to Assessment and Intervention”](#)



- iii. assist Member States in implement regular assessments of community-based care facilities by an external expert to ensure objectivity;

Awareness and Support Systems

3. Requests the Directorate-General for Communication⁸⁴ to create public multimedia awareness campaigns:
 - i. encouraging conversations regarding institutionalisation,
 - ii. raising awareness about intellectual and developmental disabilities;
4. Invites the European Network on Independent Living⁸⁵ to support independent living through:
 - i. Advocating for the integration of mobility aids, communication devices, and adaptive equipment within community-based living facilities,
 - ii. Facilitate online and in-person therapy;
5. Instructs DG EMPL to collaborate with NGOs such as the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities to organise support programmes for family members of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
6. Encourages Member States implement specialised teaching programs for healthcare staff to help them learn suitable treatment procedures for people with intellectual disabilities;
7. Calls upon the Joint Research Centre to conduct further research on the long term effects of early intervention for preventing the development of intellectual and developmental disabilities;

Integration

8. Further encourages Member States to develop accessible transportation systems for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to facilitate their mobility between caregivers and their home;
9. Recommends DG EMPL to create guidelines for transitioning individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities from institutionalised care to community-based living facilities to guarantee the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights;
10. Further inviting Member States to consider shifting funding from institutions to support family care, independent living and day-care programmes;
11. Proposes that European Social Fund Plus⁸⁶ subsidise employers who provide employment and training opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

⁸⁴ The Directorate-General for Communication manages and coordinates the European Commission's communication strategies and actions, aiming to inform the public about EU policies, activities and facilitate dialogue with citizens.

⁸⁵ **The European Network on Independent Living** is an organisation of people with disabilities that advocates for their empowerment by providing expertise to stakeholders around independent living

⁸⁶ **The European Social Fund Plus** is an EU funding program that supports projects aimed at improving employment opportunities, social inclusion, and education for disadvantaged groups across Europe.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM (TRAN)

“Bowing to pier pressure”: *While some European harbours are among the most performing in the world, with 20% of goods coming to the EU by sea passing through three harbours, others continuously underperform. How can the EU and Member States support harbours to keep up with the innovation in the logistical chain, lowering the structural performance gap and enabling harbours to truly be the main gateways to the Trans-European network?*

Submitted by: Laura Barry (IE), Valentin Cedric Bonnet-Aumann (IT), Andreas Christou (CY), Dimitrije Djuric (RS), Stella Ignatius (FI), Lora Markova (BG), Jan Pašek (CZ), Jacob Helmut Rado (DE), Antonis Tsilakis (GR), Alejandra Villalba Gassó (ES), Natalia Wozniak (PL), Gular Yusubova (AZ), Colin Gutsche (Chairperson, DE)

The European Youth Parliament aims to strengthen Trans-European maritime trade and minimise the existing performance gap among Member States’ ports by improving the infrastructure of underperforming harbours. We emphasise the importance of implementing innovations, digitalisation and cybersecurity, and building a more efficient workforce in order to create a mutually beneficial trade network.

because

- Some ports underperform due to a lack of adequate infrastructure, modern technology, geographical position, logistical integration and capacity⁸⁷,
- While the modernisation of ports constantly advances, underdeveloped harbours struggle to implement innovative technologies^{88 89},
- Smaller ports struggle to attract investment due to different legislation and investment capabilities between Member States⁹⁰,
- Antiquated port operation models, legal requirements and bureaucratic processes are common⁹¹ among minor ports, and reduce efficiency^{92 93},
- Ports are getting more digitalised, increasing the risk of cyber attacks^{94 95},

⁸⁷ [European Commission, Directorate General for Mobility and Transport, "Ports 2030" \(2013\)](#)

⁸⁸ [European Commission, "Europe's Seaports 2030: Challenges Ahead", \(2013/05/23\)](#)

⁸⁹ [van den Heiligenberg et al, Pathways and harbours for the translocal diffusion of sustainability innovations in Europe, 2022](#)

⁹⁰ [European Commission, "ASSESSMENT Accompanying the document Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework on the market access to port services and the financial transparency of ports", \(2013\)](#)

⁹¹ [European Commission, "Europe's Seaports 2030: Challenges Ahead", \(2013/05/23\)](#)

⁹² [European Court of Auditors, Maritime transport in the EU: in troubled waters, 2016](#)

⁹³ [European Commission, "Europe's Seaports 2030: Challenges Ahead", \(2013/05/23\)](#)

⁹⁴ [EU Blue Economy Observatory, "Port activities", 2022](#)

⁹⁵ [Risk Intelligence, "The cybersecurity threats to ports", 2021](#)



- Geopolitical tensions, such as the war in Ukraine, might cause economic issues to ports due to higher insurance premiums and freight rates⁹⁶,
- Foreign powers' interference and partial-ownership in EU ports decrease autonomy, decision-making sovereignty and distort free market principles^{97 98},
- Large companies are locating their headquarters in areas with the most efficient ports, disadvantaging other locations in their economic development^{99 100},
- Poor working conditions lead to employee dissatisfaction resulting in underperformance and a manual labour shortage in ports^{101 102 103},
- Traffic detours and congestion result in higher operational expenses and have a negative impact on the environment¹⁰⁴,
- Smaller ports face difficulties implementing sustainable practices due to cost and complexity¹⁰⁵,

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Closing the Performance Gap

1. Advises the European Commission to further develop the TEN-T, prioritising new rail connections and river canals to further integrate ports in the TEN-T;
2. Requests the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (**DG MOVE**) and the European Investment Bank (**EIB**) to reallocate funds from the Connecting Europe Facility¹⁰⁶ (**CEF**), allocated to the TEN-T and the Loan Guarantee Instrument for TEN-T Projects (**LGTT**)¹⁰⁷ to:
 - i. increase the capabilities of smaller ports to expand their terminals and modernise their infrastructure,
 - ii. expand the use of automation in docking and loading and compatibility with newer technology both in ultra-large ships and logistics integration,
 - iii. improve integration of smaller ports within broader infrastructure such as roads, rails and waterways in the TEN-T,

⁹⁶[Economist Intelligence, "War risks raise marine insurance premiums", 2024](#)

⁹⁷[European Parliament, "Chinese strategic interests in European ports", 2023](#)

⁹⁸[Committee on Foreign Affairs, "REPORT on the security and defence implications of China's influence on critical infrastructure in the European Union", 2023](#)

⁹⁹[The role of ports in the making of major cities: Self-agglomeration and hub-effect, Masahisa Fujita and Tomoya Mori](#)

¹⁰⁰[European Commission Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, "Final Report Study aimed at supporting an impact assessment on: "Measures to enhance the efficiency and quality of port services in the EU", 2013](#)

¹⁰¹[Dr. Theo Notteboom, "Port Economics, Management and Policy - Chapter 3.7 – Port Labor", 2022](#)

¹⁰²[Deutsche Welle, Richard Connor, "Germany: Hamburg port workers on 'warning strike' over pay", 2024](#)

¹⁰³[Prof Dr Eric Van Hooydonk for the European Commission, "PORT LABOUR IN THE EU", 2013](#)

¹⁰⁴[Mark Dupuis, "Port Congestion: Why It Happens And 9 Ways To Avoid It", 2024.](#)

¹⁰⁵[European Commission, "Europe's Seaports 2030: Challenges Ahead", \(2013/05/23\)](#)

¹⁰⁶[Directorate-General for Communication, "Connecting Europe Facility"](#)

¹⁰⁷[European Investment Bank, "The Loan Guarantee Instrument for TEN-T Projects: Synopsis Report" \(2014\)](#)



- iv. hire experts to oversee the investment process and bureaucratic remodelling and make annual reports to DG MOVE;
- 3. Asks the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) to establish a specialised auditing committee for ports in order to ensure the implementation of anti-corruption policies and the transparent use of public funding;
- 4. Aims for DG Move to establish Trans-European standards for all ports to adhere to, focussing on advances in digitalisation and economic safeguards, based on expert opinions and future risk assessment studies to be conducted;
- 5. Advises Member States to adopt transport strategies that combine different modes of transportation, such as roads, rails and waterways, to lower port congestion;

Digitisation and cybersecurity

- 6. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Informatics (**DIGIT**) for to support administrative simplification in ports through digitalisation to further alleviate bureaucratic burden;
- 7. Urges the Directorate-General for Security and Safety (**DG SAFE**) to enhance security protocols and innovative softwares across Member States;
- 8. Instructs the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (**ENISA**) to establish cyber security systems for ports under the guidance of local industry experts and NGO's, such as Det Norske Veritas¹⁰⁸;

Foreign investment

- 9. Requests the Directorate-General for Trade (**DG TRADE**) to strengthen regulations¹⁰⁹ on foreign investments to reduce dependency of EU harbours on external actors;
- 10. Asks DG MOVE to adopt criteria for enhanced screen of foreign entities' investments;
- 11. Calls upon Members States to increase the independence of port authorities through direct investments in logistical and mechanical technologies;

Port Efficiency

- 12. Calls upon Member States to implement training programmes for port workers in order to achieve a more capable and efficient workforce at European harbours;
- 13. Encourages Member States to further research and implement maritime technologies and policies that minimise environmental harm, such as innovative fuel technologies or just in time arrivals¹¹⁰;

¹⁰⁸Det Norske Veritas is a Norwegian registrar and classification society focusing maritime matters, including the intersection of cybersecurity and shipping, active all around the world.

¹⁰⁹[European Parliament, "Regulation \(EU\) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union", \(2019\)](#)

¹¹⁰[International Maritime Organisation, "Just in Time"](#).



14. Urges the European Commission to implement rules preventing price abuses by operators with exclusive rights in order to establish and maintain a competitive environment between harbours.

OPINION IN THE FORM OF A LETTER BY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AGRI)

Submitted by: Zhasmina Beridze (BG), Anton Böös (SE), Marios Georgantas (GR), Valentina Huitfeldt (BE), Elsa Rose McIntyre Córdoba (ES), Lena Rubio Döring (LU), Adam Stafford (IE), Ljubica Stevanović (RS), Tuur van Berge Henegouwen (NL), Rebecca Verschuure (AM), Veronika Vrbová (CZ), Alf Marius Florvåg (NO, Chairperson)

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development believes in the reduction of income disparity between Member States by supporting the development of necessary infrastructure and increasing the capacity of smaller ports and harbours, while also maintaining the importance of trade and the EU's ambitious climate goals. We believe in continuous support for local markets, while making sure no part of Europe continues to significantly lag behind economically. We believe in bringing innovative structures to all parts of the EU to make inter-european trade more efficient and sustainable. We believe that using tax incentives is an effective measure to reroute trade routes to Eastern and Southern Europe. We believe that by instituting caps on external imports of the largest ports, we can decrease the current dependence on a few select ports and incentivise more transport through smaller ports. Finally, we believe that a temporary tax is a good way for redistributing resources away from the largest harbours to be used to improve marine infrastructure elsewhere.



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

Totally spies!: *With numerous government spying scandals emerging across the EU, what more can be done in Europe to protect citizens' political freedoms and democracy?*

Submitted by: Miriam Altmueller (CH), Paula Barić (HR), Saša Blažek (CZ), Mariia Deviatko (UA), Henri Grimbers Pecnik (BE), Nikita Kovaļevs (LV), Raahan Mehta (UK), Jelena Nićiforović (RS), Eemil Sihvonen (FI), Dominik Starzycki (PL), Ezel Yelve Toprak (TR), Frédérique Umbreit (NL), Nina Tsoutsanis (NL, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to protect EU citizens from the misuse of spyware by governments, leading to an increase in mass surveillance. We wish to improve and create a legislative framework around the existence and use of different types of spyware, following the recommendations of the PEGA Committee¹¹¹. By improving transparency and accountability regarding governmental espionage, we aim to further protect human rights such as the right to protest and freedom of speech in international law,

because

- Abuse of spyware threatens fundamental democratic rights, such as the right to privacy, freedom of speech and press, and the right to protest,
- Spyware scandals have deteriorated public trust in European democracies¹¹²,
- There is no current regulatory framework on spyware holding Member States legally accountable for their use of spyware against their citizens,
- Threats created by the misuse of spyware failed to get eliminated due to recommendations of the European Parliament's former Committee of Inquiry on Surveillance Spyware Committee (**PEGA Committee**) not being implemented¹¹³,
- Racial profiling has been present in governmental espionage practices across Europe¹¹⁴,
- Many forms of spyware are created, used and produced by private companies with their own political, economic and ideological goals, such as Pegasus from the Israeli NSO Group,
- Governments have used spyware to imprison political opponents, activists and investigative journalists¹¹⁵,

¹¹¹ The **Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA)** was established in 2022 by the European Parliament for a year-long mandate to gather information on Member States' use and abuse of intrusive surveillance, with a specific focus on the spyware Pegasus.

¹¹² [Apelblat, M., Brussels Times. \(2022, April 20\). "Spyware investigation: 'European democracies aren't immune'"](#)

¹¹³ [European Digital Rights \(2023, 9 May\). "PEGA Committee does not go all the way on spyware regulation"](#)

¹¹⁴ [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights \(2023, 5 July\) "Stop discrimination and ethnic profiling in Europe"](#)

¹¹⁵ [PEGA Committee \(2022, November 28\). "Draft Report of the Investigation of alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware"](#)



- The fear of mass surveillance and possible consequent prosecution can lead to a lack of journalistic integrity¹¹⁶;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

European Legislation

1. Encourages the European Commission to leverage the existing work of the PEGA Committee by:
 - I. reconsidering the PEGA Committee's outstanding recommendations,
 - II. creating and implementing a legislative framework based on its analysis;
2. Requests the European Court of Human Rights to ensure legal consequences against governments misusing spyware;
3. Invites the Directorate General on Justice and Consumers (**DG JUST**) to revise the existing regulations regarding the import and export of spyware in both private and public sectors;

Transparency

4. Calls upon the European Commission to expand the responsibilities of the European Anti-Fraud Office (**OLAF**) to include the monitoring and regulation of governmental spyware use;
5. Further calls upon Member States to disclose their usage of spyware in periodic public reports delivered to OLAF;
6. Suggests Europol to collaborate with Member States in a formal exchange of information about the potential use of spyware by private and foreign actors;
7. Urges the European Commission to impose financial sanctions on Member States who misuse spyware;

Protection of Human Rights

8. Seeks for the Council of Europe (**CoE**) to define racial profiling as a form of racism in the European Charter of Human Rights;
9. Requests the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights to devise clear action plans on discriminatory practices within espionage by:
 - i. conducting research on racial profiling and discrimination within spyware,
 - ii. providing comprehensive guidelines based on this research;
10. Instructs DG JUST to provide detailed guidelines on the use of spyware by Member States while protecting citizens' rights to privacy;
11. Recommends the Directorate-General on Communications Networks, Content and Technology to conduct an information campaign on breaches of democratic rights through the use of spyware;

¹¹⁶ [European Federation of Journalists. \(2024, March 6\), "Safety of Journalists report: serious concern about the use of spyware, abusive lawsuits and journalists in exile"](#)



12. Proposes the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom to provide financial and psychological help throughout legal cases to victims of privacy invasion by spyware;

Spyware Practices

13. Encourages the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group to provide clear training events on cybercrime and spyware by:
 - i. conducting workshops for court officials working on legal cases surrounding spyware on the protection of the human rights of their clients,
 - ii. providing journalists with communication training on forms of cybercrime;
14. Strongly encourages non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Reporters Without Borders to create an educational campaign highlighting the historical and political importance of investigative journalists;
15. Authorises the EU Agency for Cybersecurity to oversee the use of spyware technologies within Europe exclusively for purposes such as safeguarding national security.



OPINION IN THE FORM OF A LETTER BY THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS II (JURI II)

Submitted by: Oskar Bollman (DE), Anja Budo (AL), Sebastian Mendez Johannassen (NO), Varnavas Kakoulli (CY), Margarita Khanjian (AM), Miona Kosijer (RS), Christos Liosis (GR), Matilda Lorér (BG), Viiktoría Oserkevych (UA), Maria Miguel Santos (PT), Emma Strömberg (SE), Arda Ekrem Çakir (TR), Flavio Haliti (AL Chairperson)

The Committee on Legal Affairs II (JURI II), believes that efficient and transparent intelligence agencies are needed to uphold territorial integrity and peace, especially in times of foreign aggression. This is just as relevant with instances of government-organised attacks on civil society groups, political opponents, and journalists. Therefore, our Committee advocates for preliminary measures to be taken on the account of racial profiling, infringing on citizen's privacy, mass surveillance, and low awareness of cybersecurity in Europe. Furthermore, supporting the LIBE Committee cause on a comprehensive security strategy, we suggest expanding already existing intelligence frameworks throughout Member States.



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

Topic title: *With Germany recently ending its requirement for dual nationals to relinquish their original nationality & Spain ending its golden visa programme, should Europe align its rules on participating in local, national, and European elections?*

Submitted by: Oskar Bollman (DE), Anja Budo (AL), Sebastian Mendez Johannassen (NO), Varnavas Kakoulli (CY), Margarita Khanjian (AM), Miona Kosijer (RS), Christos Liosis (GR), Matilda Lorer (BG), Viiktorija Oserkevych (UA), Maria Miguel Santos (PT), Emma Strömberg (SE), Arda Ekrem Çakir (TR), Flavio Haliti (AL Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to align the principles of electoral laws of European Parliament elections with the ones of Member States, while enhancing the ones for local and national elections and preserving the national sovereignty of the Member States. It seeks to foster inclusive and equitable electoral systems across Europe. Furthermore, it aspires to increase citizens' trust in the electoral system, ease the understanding of electoral processes, ensure transparency of voting and voter lists, and increase voter turnout rates. This includes setting overarching electoral standards for Member States to achieve these goals.

because

- The lack of compliance towards democratic principles among Member States leads to democratic norms and human rights standards being ignored¹¹⁷,
- The lack of prevention measures on foreign electoral interference poses threats such as disinformation campaigns and corruption¹¹⁸,
- Not all Member States' electoral standards ensure equal fairness, with election results often not reflecting voters' preference for candidates they voted for, contributing to the rise of populism and extremism¹¹⁹,
- Voting rights' discrepancies in EU countries such as Sweden and Denmark permit non-citizen residents to vote in local elections but exclude them from participating in EU elections¹²⁰,
- Security flaws in e-voting systems such as voter authentication, ballot integrity and

¹¹⁷ [Explanatory Report to the European Convention on Nationality, "European Treaty Series", \(1997.06.11\)](#)

¹¹⁸ [Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations, \(2023.11\), "Foreign Electoral Interference Affecting EU Democratic Processes"](#)

¹¹⁹ [Council of Europe, \(2020.08.01\), "Setting minimum standards for electoral systems in order to offer the basis for free and fair elections"](#)

¹²⁰ [Aggeborn L., Andersson H., Dehdari, S., Lindgren K., Cambridge Core, \(2023.22.12\), "Granting Immigrants the Right to Vote in National Elections: Empirical Evidence from Swedish Administrative Data"](#)



transparency threaten electoral democratic values¹²¹,

- Golden visa programmes¹²² can threaten the social, political, and economic structure of the less populated Member States, potentially having an impact on the integrity and stability of the local communities, by driving up housing prices and displacing residents¹²³,
- Golden visas give a legal pathway for non-EU citizens who do not reside in Member States to vote in EU elections, as evidenced by smaller Member States such as Cyprus¹²⁴,
- Participation in EU elections is concerningly low, with an overall turnout of roughly 51%, and several countries, such as Lithuania and Croatia, are failing to reach 30% in 2024¹²⁵,

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Electoral Policies

1. Urges the Council of the EU to reevaluate and standardise EU voting requirements across all Member States, by defining guidelines regarding means of elections, legal residency, date of vote casting and voting age requirements;
2. Member States to give EU citizens prospective methods on voting in EU elections regardless of where they are on the day of the election, following examples of Member States such as Portugal¹²⁶;
3. Calls upon Member States to implement e-voting systems available for all eligible voters before the next EU election in 2029, following Estonia's example;
4. Recommend to Member States that non-EU citizens are granted voting eligibility in local and national elections across Member States;

Electoral Transparency

5. Advises Member States to develop countermeasures against disinformation campaigns, including fact-checking and collaborations with social media platforms to identify and remove false information;
6. Encourages Member States to establish equal participation opportunities for each candidate, in order to sustain democratic values and fair representation;

¹²¹ [The Inria Foundation, \(2023.26.07\). "The security of electronic voting: vulnerabilities and solutions"](#)

¹²² **Golden visas** are programs that allows residency or citizenship to individuals through investment, offering education, healthcare, and potential tax benefits due to significant economic contributions

¹²³ [Harris Tailor Ch., Get Golden Visa, \(2023.22.05\). "The Golden Visa Controversy"](#)

¹²⁴ [Official Journal of the European Union, \(2016.07.06\). "Consolidated Versions of the treaty of the European Union and the Functioning of the European Union"](#)

¹²⁵ [European Union, "European Results"](#)

¹²⁶ [European Parliament, \(2024\), "How to vote in Portugal"](#)



Electoral Integrity

7. Requests the European Commission to standardise basic requirements such as investment threshold while leaving space for Member States to define specific requirements for the acquisition of a golden visa such as the time of legal residence;
8. Encourages the Member States to align and set more stringent admission criteria for golden visa applicants, to ensure their alignment with EU principles as expressed in Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty.



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

Who cares?: With women accounting for 76% of all care workers in the EU and the fact that many of these workers are living in poverty, how should Europe refocus its care economy to promote gender equality?

Submitted by: Majken Almevik (SE), Sofia Bellino (IT), Pavlos Raj Bismal (CY), Madhuvanathi Karthik (CH), Kasija Knežević (RS), Siranush Makhmuryan (AM), Jaqueline Molho (GR), Leon Paladinić Pažulinec (HR), Liza Pirtskhelava (GE), Tara Popović (SI), Sarah Schirmer (FI), Max Williamson (NO), Amélie Pasmanns (DE, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to reduce the gender pay gap and mitigate gender-based discrimination women, especially mothers, face within the care economy. Furthermore, we aspire to accentuate the value and hardships of care workers both within the formal and informal care sectors by expanding protection in the workplace,

because

- Even though care work is essential to a functioning society, it is undervalued, low paid, precarious and with little to no career advancement or development¹²⁷,
- By 2050, there is expected to be an substantial rise of individuals in need of care, while the available infrastructure and human resources cannot keep up with the demand¹²⁸,
- Care is still socially considered a woman's duty, which leads to women taking up 90% of the paid care jobs¹²⁹,
- 29% of women report being unable to work full-time due to their unpaid care work responsibilities, which leads to gender inequality in the labour market¹³⁰,
- Due to the informal care¹³¹ not being monitored, a large number of workers are not able to exercise their rights to legal protection¹³²,
- Due to the lack of pay transparency in companies, many women remain unaware of the full extent of the gender pay gap, perpetuating inequalities and hindering efforts to achieve fair and equitable compensation¹³³,

¹²⁷ [European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Communication. \(2022, 07.09.\) "European Care Strategy"](#)

¹²⁸ [Caritas Europa, Press release. \(2023, 26.06.\) "Europe's care systems at risk"](#)

¹²⁹ [Eurocarers, Press release. \(2023, 30.10.\) "Building up European care capital: sustainable investments, not burdensome costs"](#)

¹³⁰ [The European Institute for Gender Equality, Report. \(2021\). "Gender inequalities in care and consequences for the labour market"](#)

¹³¹ **Informal care:** Informal care refers to care delivered without contractual agreements or formal pay, often done by relatives, acquaintances, or neighbours.

¹³² [Hendrickx. \(2019, 16.10\). "Informal Employment, New Forms of Work and Enforcement of Labour Rights"](#)

¹³³ [European Parliament, Press release. \(2023, 30.03\). "Gender pay gap: Parliament adopts new rules on binding pay-transparency measures"](#)



- Significant challenges in addressing the Gender Pension Gap (**GPG**) as a result of the double pay penalty¹³⁴ and a lack of measurement frameworks¹³⁵,
- Discrimination regarding maternity leave decreases women's chances of employment and career advancements¹³⁶,
- Women are at a higher risk of dismissal because of automation technologies in healthcare that perform simple routine tasks, which are mainly performed by women¹³⁷,
- Women face difficulties regarding harassment, assault, and gender-based violence in the workplace¹³⁸,
- Physical harm due to unfitting personal protective equipment (**PPE**) is more likely to occur to women¹³⁹;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Pay and Benefits

1. Encourages Member States to offer free childcare options for children under three years old and subsidised options for older children;
2. Calls upon Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (**DG EMPL**) to prevent the double pay penalty and GPG by creating EU certifications for private companies in the care sector that successfully implement these measures;
3. Urges DG EMPL to reinforce the laws of standardised minimum pay for parental leave and non discrimination in terms of promotion;
4. Calling upon the European Commission to extend existing binding pay transparency rules to companies of any size within the next 2 years;
5. Recommends DG EMPL to increase awareness of the magnitude of the gender pay gap through publicly available reports;
6. Invites The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (**Eurofound**)¹⁴⁰ to establish a database that provides an overview over benefits such as health insurance and pension plans, supporting workers' rights;

¹³⁴ **Double pay penalty:** The double pay penalty refers to the issue that women are not only paid less than men for similar work, but also work in an underpaid sector, which further exacerbates the issue.

¹³⁵ [Wilkinson & Adams, Research report, \(2024, 02\), "The Underpensioned: Defining the Gender Pension Gap"](#)

¹³⁶ [Hofman et al., Study, \(2020, 11\), "After parental leave: Incentives for parents with young children to return to the labour market"](#)

¹³⁷ [Filippi et al., Scientific Article, \(2023, 29.03.\) "Automation technologies and the risk of substitution of women: Can gender equality in the institutional context reduce the risk?"](#)

¹³⁸ [Eurofound, Survey, \(2023, 17.02.\), "Violence in the workplace: Women and frontline workers face higher risks"](#)

¹³⁹ [Turner & Marshall, Scientific article, \(2021, 01.\), "Can gendered personal protective equipment design account for high infection rates in female healthcare workers following intubation?"](#)

¹⁴⁰ **Eurofound:** Eurofound is a tripartite EU agency that provides knowledge to support the development of improved social, employment, and work-related policies.



Education

7. Invites the European Hospital and Healthcare Federation to initiate seminars, workshops and conferences at educational institutions in order to highlight the importance of care and promote careers in this sectors, targeting both men and women;
8. Further invites Member States' ministries of education to promote care work by subsidising the expansion of education in these fields;
9. Urges DG EMPL to put initiatives in place that assist women working in healthcare in acquiring new skills and transferring to a position that is less likely to be automated;
10. Encourages the European Labour Authority to provide healthcare staff with AI training to complement human and AI-based work in the care setting;

Safety at work

11. Calls upon Member States to implement and utilise Framework Guidelines For Addressing Workplace Violence In The Health Sector¹⁴¹;
12. Calls upon the Member States to ratify the Convention 190¹⁴² made by the International Labour Organisation within the next two years;
13. Calling upon the European Committee for Standardization and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization to conduct diverse research targeted at creating PPE that is adjustable and fitting to women.

¹⁴¹ **The Framework Guidelines For Addressing Workplace Violence In The Health Sector:** This framework supports those responsible for workplace safety, including governments, employers, and professional bodies. It helps develop anti-violence policies and strategies adaptable to local and national needs.

¹⁴² **Convention 190:** Convention 190 was the first international treaty to recognize everyone's right to a workplace free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment. As of July 2024, eight EU countries have ratified this convention.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE (SEDE)

Lending a hand: *Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, discussions about further European defence coordination emerged amidst Member States continuing to increase their defence spending. With instances of breaches of existing support mechanisms such as the European Peace Facility, how can the EU ensure its defence strategy can aid its neighbours at times of war, while upholding its environmental, human rights, and economic goals?*

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The European Youth Parliament aims to enhance its defence strategy to effectively support neighbouring countries during times of conflict, whilst ensuring that all of its commitments to human rights, the environment, and the economy are being upheld. We strive to ensure that the EU and its allies respect international laws, and that treaties are respected in times of conflict. We further emphasise the importance of strong security guarantees, ensuring an efficient and coordinated response to external threats,

because

- The European defence sector is currently not self-sufficient, being largely dependent on extra-EU equipment¹⁴³,
- Several European North American Treaty Organisation (**NATO**) members do not provide adequate defence funding, diminishing their strategic autonomy¹⁴⁴,
- European defence cooperation is structurally and politically fragmented, leading to a lack of efficiency in the decision-making process within the Permanent Structured operation¹⁴⁵ (**PESCO**) and the Common Security and Defence Policy¹⁴⁶ (**CSDP**)¹⁴⁷,
- There is a lack of a unified and effective EU military command structure, limiting cross-border coordination¹⁴⁸,
- Certain Member States, such as Estonia, have been exploiting the European Peace

¹⁴³ [Mejino Lopez, J., and Wolff, G., Bruegel, \(2024\) "What role do imports play in European defence?"](#)

¹⁴⁴ [Fix, L. and Kapp, C., Council on Foreign Relations, \(2024\) "As NATO Countries Reach Spending Milestone, Is 2 Percent Enough?"](#)

¹⁴⁵ **Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO):** a treaty-based framework and process to deepen defence cooperation amongst EU Member States who are capable and willing to do so.

¹⁴⁶ **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP):** a policy offering a framework for cooperation between EU Member States within which the EU can conduct operational missions with the aim of peace-keeping and strengthening international security in third countries by relying on civil and military assets provided by EU Member States.

¹⁴⁷ [Alvarez-Couciro Fernandez, P., War on the Rocks, \(2023\) "Europe at a Strategic Disadvantage: A Fragmented Defence Industry"](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Monaghan, S., Center for Strategic and International Studies, \(2023\) "Solving Europe's Defense Dilemma: Overcoming the Challenges to European Defense Cooperation"](#)



Facility (**EPF**)¹⁴⁹ by overestimating their reimbursement expenses¹⁵⁰,

- Directly supplying armaments to allies opens the possibility of it being potentially sent to autocratic military regimes, bypassing sanctions, and standing in direct opposition to the EU's human rights commitments¹⁵¹,
- The logistics, infrastructure, and cybersecurity standards differ between Member States¹⁵²,
- Breaches of international laws and agreements during conflicts have not always been met with appropriate EU reaction¹⁵³,
- Coordination of research and development of technology and defence equipment between Member States is limited, leading to fragmentation of weapons systems¹⁵⁴,
- The defence industry is a significant contributor to the EU's carbon footprint¹⁵⁵,
- The increasing reliance on technology, especially unmanned devices such as drones, within military and defence applications raises significant human rights concerns¹⁵⁶;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Training

1. Calls upon the European External Action Service (**EEAS**)¹⁵⁷ to improve the functionality and transparency of the European Peace Facility reimbursement scheme by creating a list of objective assessment criteria for military aid supplied through it;
2. Directs the EEAS to amend the CSDP, ensuring efficient cooperation and preventing structural and political fragmentation by:
 - i. expanding the European Union Military Committee to ensure an efficient decision-making process,
 - ii. introducing a joint European war doctrine with general strategic military guidelines to enhance the combat readiness of Member States,
 - iii. increasing the amount of joint military exercises;
3. Requests Member States to increase cooperation and knowledge exchange between top-level EU military leaders with the help of designated liaisons;

¹⁴⁹ **European Peace Facility (EPF)**: an off-budget instrument enabling the EU to act as an external global security provider.

¹⁵⁰ [Hanke Vela, J. & Camut, N., Politico, \(2023, 28 March\), "EU allies query Estonia's bumper refund from weapons to Ukraine"](#)

¹⁵¹ [Amnesty International, \(2024\) "Arms Control"](#)

¹⁵² [Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, \(2024\) "Logistics"](#)

¹⁵³ [Gwyn Jones, M., Euronews, \(2024\) "EU must suspend ties with Israel to prevent crimes of genocide in Gaza. UN rapporteur says"](#)

¹⁵⁴ [Directorate-General for Defence, Industry and Space, "Defense procurement"](#)

¹⁵⁵ [Conflict and Environment Observatory, \(2021, 23 February\), "The EU military sector's carbon footprint"](#)

¹⁵⁶ [Perkey, A., Medium, \(2021, 5 August\), "Why AI cannot prevent dehumanization in drone warfare"](#)

¹⁵⁷ **European External Action Service (EEAS)**: the EU's diplomatic service.



4. Calls upon the Council of the EU to place further sanctions on countries violating international laws and the rule of law;

Industry Development

5. Recommends the European Defence Fund (**EDF**)¹⁵⁸ to facilitate the expansion of European defence industrial output by providing subsidies for domestic research and production of equipment;
6. Urges Member States to increase their defence spendings in line with NATO requirements, or directly contribute to CSDP structures through other measures such as facilities, equipment, personnel, or training;
7. Urges the European Defence Agency (**EDA**)¹⁵⁹ to introduce greater standardisation of defence infrastructure and logistics structures;
8. Advises Member States to cooperate on increasing their military counterintelligence and improving their cybersecurity;
9. Calls upon the EDA to expand and improve its coordination system for research and development, to ensure the development of technology and defence equipment similar to the European Patrol Corvette¹⁶⁰ and Future Air Combat System¹⁶¹ programmes;

Human Rights and the Environment

10. Advises PESCO to ensure the upholding of human rights in warfare by:
 - i. providing additional training and education on autonomous warfare for military personnel, ensuring their continued employment,
 - ii. organising extensive training on target identification for military drone operators in order to minimise unnecessary loss of lives;
11. Instructs Member States to respect and thoroughly act upon the eventual International Court of Justice ruling on the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine;
12. Calls upon the EDA and the European Court of Justice to ensure strict agreements on the sale and use of European weapons to third parties by:
 - i) implementing a registry of standardised serial numbers to identify European military equipment,
 - ii) effectively prosecuting European arms manufacturers and exporters who breach sanctions;

¹⁵⁸ **European Defence Fund (EDF):** a component of the CSDP, established in 2017 as a means to stimulate research and industry in the field of defence technologies. By promoting interoperability and cooperation between actors, it emphasises intra-EU military collaboration.

¹⁵⁹ **European Defence Agency (EDA):** a European defence cooperation hub. It works towards strengthening the European defence industry and acts as a facilitator and interface between Member States' military stakeholders and EU policies that impact on defence.

¹⁶⁰ **European Patrol Corvette:** a program of innovative naval vessels developed in a collaborative way by several Navies and members of the European Union, under the banner of the PESCO project.

¹⁶¹ **Future Air Combat System:** a collaborative project between Dassault and Airbus aiming to design a fleet of manned and unmanned systems to support European fighter aircraft and achieve air dominance.



13. Calls upon Member States to prioritise environmentally friendly production of military equipment and make warfare more sustainable by:
 - i. replacing fossil fuels in the supply chain with nuclear and renewable energy sources,
 - ii. creating specific and binding environmental regulations on military production,
 - iii. providing financial offsets for environmental damages in war-torn countries;
14. Encourages Member States and its foreign allies to introduce common legislation addressing the ethical question of liability when fully autonomous weapons are used.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS (BUDG)

I will never financially recover from this: *The rising costs of government borrowing and prolonged periods of inflation have stretched the EU's own resources to fund its spending to its limits. What new own resources should the EU consider to both invest in Europe and respond to future crises?*

Submitted by: Vesa Bezhani (AL), Kerem Dogan (TR), Marilyne Halpern (FR), Fayrouz Hassan (NL), Eduardo Heiniger Cascos (CH), Lora Kirova (BG), Kim Lih Sandal (FI), Luca Petean (ES), Alice Quattrocchi (IT), Nahom Tsegaye (SE), Lea Wellmann (AT), Andrea Soteriou (CY), Chairperson

The European Youth Parliament aims to propose new additions to the EU's own resources, as they are currently unfit to finance the EU's spending and repay the considerable debt it has amassed in the last few years. We aim to propose the EU's own resources that are future-proof and diverse, to protect the EU's budget against future crises. Additionally, we will increase the EU's spending capacity through means aligned with the EU's political goals,

because

- Currently implemented own resources, specifically the Gross National Income (**GNI**)¹⁶² own resource, traditional own resources, and the Value-Added Tax (**VAT**) own resource, do not align with the EU's policy goals¹⁶³,
- The polluter pays principle¹⁶⁴ stands underutilised, as most own resources are not currently aligned with the EU's environmental policy¹⁶⁵,
- Financing vital initiatives of the EU, such as the NextGenerationEU¹⁶⁶ program, have led to increased EU borrowing¹⁶⁷,
- The EU's outstanding debt of EUR 400 billion, creates a long-term obligation for debt servicing¹⁶⁸ that will make it difficult to maintain financial stability¹⁶⁹,
- Considerable increases in the European Central Bank (**ECB**) base interest rate are

¹⁶² **Gross National Income (GNI):** a measure of a country's total economic activity. It encompasses the total domestic and foreign output claimed by residents of a country. It includes the gross domestic product (GDP) and net income from abroad.

¹⁶³ [Members Research Service. European Parliament Think Tank \(2023, June 19\). "Reform of the EU system of own resources: State of play"](#).

¹⁶⁴ **Polluter pays principle:** mandates that those responsible for pollution bear the costs of managing it to prevent harm to human health and the environment. It incentivises pollution control by holding polluters financially accountable for their impact.

¹⁶⁵ [Members Research Service. European Parliament Think Tank \(2023, June 19\). "Reform of the EU system of own resources: State of play"](#).

¹⁶⁶ **Next Generation EU (NextGenEU):** a recovery plan introduced as a temporary instrument following the pandemic. Its purpose was to finance and invest in the green transition, digital innovation, and more. The NextGenEU plan was financed through debt.

¹⁶⁷ [Pari, M. European Parliamentary Research Service \(2023, May\) "Impact on the 2024 EU budget of increasing borrowing costs for the European Union Recovery Instrument"](#).

¹⁶⁸ **Debt servicing:** the process of making regular payments on a debt, which includes repaying the principal amount borrowed and the interest accrued. These payments are made according to the terms agreed upon with the lender, and they are essential for maintaining a good credit rating and avoiding default.

¹⁶⁹ [Claeyes, G., McCaffrey, C. and Welslau, L., Bruegel \(2023, 31 May\). "The rising cost of European Union borrowing and what to do about it"](#).



putting pressure on the budget as the EU will owe an additional EUR 45 billion per year than was initially owed due to compound interest¹⁷⁰,

- To meet the EU's goal of repaying the NextGenerationEU debt by 2058, the EU will start net repayments by 2027, averaging over EUR 23 billion annually¹⁷¹,
- The GNI own resource was initially introduced as a complement to the EU's budget but it now accounts for more than 70% of the EU's revenue, making the EU overly-dependent on GNI contributions¹⁷²,
- Reliance on GNI as the main own resource leaves the EU vulnerable to fluctuating economic conditions and global crises,
- Reliance on Member States' individual GNI contributions causes them to focus on their monetary net returns from the EU budget, further aggravating the collective action problem¹⁷³,
- The collective action problem means that reform of the own resource system is lengthy and complicated, as it will be difficult to reach the unanimity that is required for budgetary concerns;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Environmental Own Resources

1. Endorses the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (**CBAM**)¹⁷⁴ and the Emission Trading System (**EU ETS**)¹⁷⁵ as practically implementable own resources, and encourages the Council of the EU to prioritise own resources with pre-existing infrastructure, which require Member State collaboration, and which are less exposed to the collective action problem;
2. Calls upon the Council of the EU to expand the EU ETS to include a commercial aviation tax and cryptocurrency mining, whilst also increasing the percentage of EU ETS income that is contributed to the EU's yearly budget;
3. Further calls upon the Council of the EU to extend the CBAM to other imports that are produced in carbon-intensive processes, such as plastic products or packaging, and non-recyclable materials;

¹⁷⁰ [Pari, M. European Parliamentary Research Service \(2023, May\) "Impact on the 2024 EU budget of increasing borrowing costs for the European Union Recovery Instrument"](#).

¹⁷¹ [Álvarez, M. C., Funcas \(2020, August\), "The EU recovery plan: funding arrangements and their impacts"](#).

¹⁷² [Eurostat \(2024, 7 January\) "Verification of GNI for own resource purposes"](#).

¹⁷³ **Collective action problem:** occurs when all parties would be better off making sacrifices to cooperate but fail to do so because of conflicting interests and fears of free-riding.

¹⁷⁴ **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):** imposes a carbon price on imported carbon-intensive goods to match the EU's domestic pricing, encouraging cleaner production globally and supporting the EU's climate goals. CBAM, compatible with WTO rules, will fully apply from 2026, following a transitional phase from 2023 to 2025.

¹⁷⁵ **EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS):** operates on the 'cap and trade' principle, by providing a yearly limit to greenhouse gas emissions for companies (mainly aircraft operators). Companies can buy and trade allowances, in an auction system. Part of the EU ETS is used to finance EU initiatives regarding the energy transition.



4. Asks the European Commission to recommend a new food waste levy requiring Member States to pay a contribution proportional to the food waste per capita rate of the country;
5. Encourages the Council of the EU to adopt a new own resource of an aviation fuel levy (**AFL**) which will apply to private or chartered flights;
6. Asks the Directorate-General for Budget to produce an aviation fuel levy calculator tool for the AFL, that will adjust the levy according to the length and distance of the flight, as well as whether there were viable alternatives to the flight;

Finance & Investment Own Resources

7. Asks the European Commission to propose a new bond & investment own resource, which will:
 - i. lend money in the form of bonds¹⁷⁶ to private companies, third-sector organisations, and public institutions,
 - ii. finance projects and investments linked to EU goals,
 - iii. allocate the interests from the bond back to the EU budget;
8. Urges the Council of the EU to consider a financial transactions fee aimed at charging 0.1% against the exchange of shares and bonds, and 0.01% across derivative contracts, excluding:
 - i. day-to-day financial activities of citizens and businesses (e.g. loans, payments, insurance, deposits),
 - ii. investment banking activities in the context of raising capital,
 - iii. transactions carried out as part of restructuring operations,
 - iv. refinancing transactions with central banks and the ECB, with the European Financial Stability Facility, and the European Stability Mechanism;

Own Resources for Social Purposes

9. Asks the European Commission to propose an EU fair border mechanism, asking companies importing products that do not meet European social justice and wages standards into the EU to pay a charge;
10. Calls upon the Council of the EU to revisit the proposed adjusted gender pay gap own resource¹⁷⁷ and create a new distribution method, requiring Member States to contribute proportionally to their adjusted gender pay gap;
11. Calling upon the European Commission to propose an EU-wide progressive wealth tax own resource, calculated to harmonise taxation on the wealthier households across the EU.

¹⁷⁶ **Bonds:** fixed-income securities representing a loan made by an investor to a borrower, typically a corporation or government, which agrees to pay back the principal amount with interest at specified intervals.

¹⁷⁷ **Gender pay gap own resource:** a proposed statistical own resource based on Eurostat information.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)

How can Europe breathe new life into the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) while providing greater opportunities to current and aspiring CCS workers?

Submitted by: Uliana Burian (MD), Charlie Donnery (IE), Riccardo Draisci (IT), Josephine Dubest (FR), Christos Ioannou (CY), Atilla Karakaya (TR), Hasmik Kraskyan (AM), Marielena Kyriacou (CY), Jovan Radojković (RS), Adem Ugarak (BA), Katarina Vandenhende (BE), Heleen Vanagt (BE, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to create CCS that are welcoming and accessible for everybody. Additionally, we wish to improve the working conditions and job security for current and future CCS workers. We strive towards regulating the usage of artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure fair usage while acknowledging its potential. Furthermore, we aim to connect artists from different Member States with each other across borders. Lastly, we wish to tackle the monopoly that large corporations and Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs)¹⁷⁸ have in the CCS,

because

- CCS workers are commonly underemployed^{179 180};
- Insufficient funding at the national level of the CCS results in:
 - cultural institutions and events setting high prices,
 - CCS workers being at risk of poverty,
 - limited cooperation and networking between artists from various Member States,
- The lack of regulations on the utilisation of AI is causing a lack of employment stability,
- Potential CCS workers encounter high entry requirements, such as university degrees and unpaid internships, which require personal funding, and are additionally demotivated to join due to a lack of job opportunities and job security,
- Large corporations and VLOPs have a monopoly in the CCS which has led to difficulties for independent artists, inflated pricing of art, less competition and diversity of products, and exploitation of CCS workers¹⁸¹,
- A market shift in entertainment industries following the COVID-19 pandemic has seen streaming in a dominant position and has left traditional entertainment and markets struggling to compete¹⁸²,

¹⁷⁸ **Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs):** Websites that reach at least 45 million monthly active users.

¹⁷⁹ **Underemployment:** This is the case in which a person is working below their education and skill level and/or working less hours than they would want.

¹⁸⁰ [Pasikowska-Schnass, M. \(2019.10\) "Employment in the cultural and creative sectors"](#)

¹⁸¹ [European Investment Fund \(EIF\). "Market Analysis of the Cultural and Creative Sectors in Europe - A Sector to Invest in"](#)

¹⁸² [Richard, R. \(2022.02.08\) "Hollywood vs. Streaming"](#)



- The lack of harmonisation of the legal rights of CCS workers within the EU has caused the exploitation of CCS workers in Member States with less regulation¹⁸³,
- There is a risk of brain drain due to the higher rate of CCS employment in North-Western Europe, compared to the rest of Europe¹⁸⁴,
- Marginalised people face a lack of opportunities within the CCS and are disproportionately impacted by low salaries¹⁸⁵,
- The lack of regulations on the utilisation of AI is causing a lack of employment stability,
- The Creative Europe programme 2021-2027¹⁸⁶ is the EU's only programme specifically devoted to supporting CCS, which has neglected certain subsectors,
- Member States have taken a stance of austerity and significantly reduced their spending on CCS initiatives, as a result of recent economic recessions, i.e. 2008 and 2020¹⁸⁷,
- Young people decreasingly engage with cultural events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, price hikes, and the significant increase in usage of social media¹⁸⁸,
- The political situation in certain Member States, such as Germany, has limited artistic freedom¹⁸⁹;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

CCS Workers & Market

1. Invites Member States to abide by Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union (**TEU**)¹⁹⁰ regarding the freedom of expression;
2. Calls upon the European Trade Union Confederation (**ETUC**)¹⁹¹ to encourage the creation of workers' unions;
3. Further calls upon the ETUC to create a network for registering self-employed CCS workers, providing the government with reliable and accurate information;
4. Requests Member States improve market competition by cooperating with local administrations and setting ticket prices on CCS events;

¹⁸³ [Pasikowska-Schnass, M. \(2019.10\) "Employment in the cultural and creative sectors"](#)

¹⁸⁴ [Vilares, M., Rausell, P., and Martínez, C. \(2022.22.11\) "Measuring the Cultural and Creative Sectors EU"](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Taylor, K. \(2021.05.09\) "Changing cultures: class, place, and cultural institutions"](#)

¹⁸⁶ The **Creative Europe programme 2021-2027** is the European Union's only programme specifically devoted to supporting culture, doing so with a EUR 2.24 billion budget. It aims to safeguard, develop, and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage, as well as increase the competitiveness and economic potential of the CCS.

¹⁸⁷ [Bishop, C. \(2013\) "Radical Museology"](#)

¹⁸⁸ [Dr. Smyth, E. \(2016.09\) "Arts and Cultural Participation among Children and Young People: Insights from the Growing Up Ireland Study"](#)

¹⁸⁹ [Adams, G.K. \(2023.7.12\) "Cultural institutions accused of censorship over Israel-Palestine war"](#)

¹⁹⁰ **Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union (TEU)**: "The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.

¹⁹¹ **The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)** works in a consulting role with the European Commission as the trade union organisation representing workers at the European level.



5. Asks the European Commission to invest in exchange programs such as Erasmus+ to collaborate on cultural and creative projects internationally and share knowledge and ideas;

Equity and accessibility

6. Encourages umbrella organisations within the CCS, such as the Network of European Museums Organisation (**NEMO**)¹⁹² and the European Theatre Convention (**ETC**)¹⁹³, to strive towards being institutions reflective of its workforce, by:
 - i. organising seminars and workshops encouraging inclusivity and equality for employees,
 - ii. providing alternative leadership models that redistribute power and challenge the current systems that have resulted in unrepresentative managerial staff;
7. Directs the Creative Europe Programme to reallocate its funding budget to:
 - i. artists residencies¹⁹⁴ that will provide professional creatives with the space and resources to both work on projects and network with other creatives,
 - ii. designated urban spaces that allow artists and performers to work in public for free,
 - iii. practice areas, available to rent by the public, which contain resources necessary to practise various creative pursuits;
8. Encourages the European Commission and the Council of Europe to organise activities, such as European Heritage Days¹⁹⁵, regularly for students across all Member States;
9. Advises Member States to increase the number of marginalised people employed in the CCS by setting proportionate targets alongside developing strategies to achieve a representative and diverse CCS;
10. Suggests national labour authorities to organise checkups at companies in the CCS to assess their working environment for health and safety standards as well as exploitation;
11. Asks the European Commission to substantiate current grant systems, such as the WORTH Partnership Project¹⁹⁶, to give priorities to independent artists;
12. Invites the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture (**DG EAC**) to organise cross-border events to increase communication between CCS workers and EU bodies;

¹⁹² The **Network of European Museums Organisation (NEMO)**: This is an international association that represents the interests of 30,000 museums in the 40 countries in the Council of Europe

¹⁹³ The **European Theatre Convention (ETC)**: This body represents theatres in 31 European countries and promotes European theatre as a vital platform for dialogue, democracy, and interaction.

¹⁹⁴ **Artist residencies**: Programs that provide guest artists with the space and resources to support their artistic practices.

¹⁹⁵ **European Heritage Days (EHD)**: Cultural events under the Council of Europe taking place yearly that allow free access to monuments and cultural sites to the public and encourage learning about cultural heritage and the importance of its protection.

¹⁹⁶ The **Worth Partnership Project** provides funding to businesses in order to increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the lifestyle industry.



13. Hopes Member States reduce the financial barriers of cultural experiences that citizens face, by implementing free museum days and making cultural institutions free for lower-income households;

Artificial Intelligence

14. Encourages the European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance¹⁹⁷ to introduce workshops about the risks and benefits of AI to CCS workers;
15. Suggests the European AI Office¹⁹⁸ to ensure that AI responses are limited to copyright-free and fair-use sources so CCS workers' art cannot be imitated and subsequently devalued, as well as avoid copyright infringement;

Finance

16. Welcomes Member States to create a crisis welfare fund for small and medium-sized enterprises (**SMEs**)¹⁹⁹ and self-employed workers within the CCS, as done during the Covid-19 pandemic²⁰⁰;
17. Asks Member States to create laws prohibiting uncontrolled budget cuts in crisis situations;
18. Encourages Member States to provide basic income for CCS workers falling under the minimum wage.

¹⁹⁷ The **European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance** is an Erasmus+ sponsored project that aims to address skill shortages and mismatches in the cultural sector.

¹⁹⁸ The **European AI Office** is the centre of AI expertise across the EU, trying to ensure the implementation and use of trustworthy AI.

¹⁹⁹ **Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** are all enterprises with fewer than 250 staff members and an annual turnover under EUR 50 million. They represent 99% of all the businesses in the EU.

²⁰⁰ [European Commission "Culture and Creativity - Coronavirus response"](#)



OPINION IN THE FORM OF A LETTER BY THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS I (JURI I)

Submitted by: Daniel B. Asalf (NO), Mattia D'Angelo (IT), Defne Erdoğan (TR), Nina Glavač (RS), Abduselam Hozic (BH), Timur Kazachkov (DE), Rose Macdonald (UK), Elena Macura (AT), Ivo Nedvěd (CZ), Emilia Kruczek (PL), Dariia Kruczek (UA), Dominik Sović (HR), Sophie van den Heuvel (NL), David Zarbaliyev (AZ), Leila Debiasi (IT, Chairperson)

The Committee on Legal Affairs believes that the Committee on Culture and Education should protect CCS workers' rights by reviewing the role of AI in the cultural sector, specifically the use of AI technology that would threaten to replace citizens' creative jobs. We are of the opinion that the CULT committee should aim to ensure job security without limiting the development of AI and its use as a beneficial tool in the sector. We also believe that the CULT committee should strive to revitalise the post-COVID-19 cultural sector to guarantee fair wages and the survival of important cultural institutions. For specific actions, we believe that the cultural sector would benefit from harmonising the rules surrounding AI usage for CCS, specifically audio-visual AI.



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

Pax Technologica: *With the proposed Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) regulation already set to be reviewed in 2025, should Europe consider establishing a fully funded Sovereignty Fund promoting technological resilience and autonomy?*

Submitted by: Ena Galijašević (BA), Susanna Harutyunyan (AM), Ben Hilgemann (DE), Manos Kokkinos (GR), Ricardo Martínez (ES), Wiktoria Nadziak (PL), Farid Safarli (AZ), Renata Sheverdina (UA), Siddhu Vanipenta (FI), Klaragh Watt (IE), Robin White (UK), Mary Kekhyan (AM, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to make the EU more economically resilient and autonomous in the sector of emerging and critical technologies²⁰¹. We also strive to reduce regional technological disparity and foster cross-border cooperation and investments. This is achieved through the full support of the establishment of a sovereignty fund which would invest in the key STEP Regulation²⁰² target investment areas,

because

- The EU is currently dependent on foreign investments in critical sectors of supporting critical and emerging technologies, which puts the EU economy in danger of losing its competitiveness in the global market²⁰³,
- EU lacks incentives for investors due to taxes on income generated from investments in critical and emerging technologies²⁰⁴,
- STEP's capital comprises a diverse array of funds, including InvestEU and the Innovation Fund, among others, which can complicate fund management²⁰⁵,
- Differences in investment policies among Member States have led to reallocating funds away from critical technologies²⁰⁶,
- The EU needs to ensure fair, direct investments in critical sectors, free from political motives²⁰⁷,

²⁰¹ **Critical and emergent technology (CETs):** refers to the technologies that play a crucial role in economic stability, competitive edge, and national security, namely including classes such as cloud computing, biotech, deep tech, Greentech, nanotechnology, advanced robotics, and so on

²⁰² **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP):** is a new initiative that has the goal of supporting critical and emerging technologies, creating a "Sovereignty Seal" and "Sovereignty portal," and receiving €1.5 billion less in funding from the European Defence Fund (EDF) with extra provisions for the use of cohesion policy funds.

²⁰³ [European Investment Fund. \(2024, 24.07\). "European tech leadership requires more innovation financing. EIB report says"](#)

²⁰⁴ [International Tax Planning. \(2024, 28.05\). "EU: EU proposes strict new taxes on large technology companies"](#)

²⁰⁵ [European Investment Bank. \(2024\). "Investment barriers in the European Union 2023"](#)

²⁰⁶ [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. \(2022, 10\). "Investment Incentives: A survey of policies and approaches for sustainable investment"](#)

²⁰⁷ [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. \(2022, 10\). "Investment Incentives: A survey of policies and approaches for sustainable investment"](#)



- The variability of interest rates of technology investments across Member States reflects the diverse economic conditions and financial policies within these regions²⁰⁸,
- Securing initial funding for technologically innovative ideas to transition into startups poses a significant challenge²⁰⁹,
- As a result of the lack of investment in startups due to a non-entrepreneurial culture, there is less space for larger technology-related projects²¹⁰,
- Compared to countries such as the US and China, the EU has fewer startups within the critical and emerging tech sector, primarily due to a lack of incentives to foster and support such ventures²¹¹;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Establishing a Sovereignty Fund

1. Calls upon the European Commission to provide funding for sectors critical to the EU's technological resilience and autonomy through an expert-led, unbiased Sovereignty Fund²¹²;
2. Proposes the European Fund and Asset Management Association (**EFAMA**) to provide assistance to the Sovereignty Fund by conducting independent research in order to maintain impartial decisiveness and an unbiased strategic approach in the management of the fund;
3. Recommends the European Commission to create a specialised division within the sovereignty fund to specifically support critical and emerging tech-oriented startups;

Amendments to the Fiscal Policies

4. Advises Member States' ministries of economics to reduce taxes on income generated from investment in the sector of critical and emerging technologies;
5. Endorses the Member States to establish three-year tax credits for tech startups;
6. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (**DG ECFIN**) to provide subsidies within InvestEU²¹³ fund and Recovery and Resilience Facility (**RRF**)²¹⁴ to

²⁰⁸ [Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, \(2022, 10\), "Investment Incentives: A survey of policies and approaches for sustainable investment"](#)

²⁰⁹ [Kroes, N., \(2014, 24.02\) "Europe's risk-averse culture risks condemning it forever to second place behind the US"](#)

²¹⁰ [Kroes, N., \(2014, 24.02\) "Europe's risk-averse culture risks condemning it forever to second place behind the US"](#)

²¹¹ [Michaud, S., EU-Startups, \(2024\), "The EU's startup landscape is ripe with opportunity – it's about knowing where to look"](#)

²¹² **Sovereignty Fund:** a financial pool created by the government, which includes both the national and local governments, that owns a sovereign wealth fund that makes investments in financial assets.

²¹³ The InvestEU Fund provides funding for both public and private initiatives in four policy areas, such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social investment and skills, research, innovation, and digitisation, and sustainable infrastructure.

²¹⁴ **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF):** the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU, the EU's strategy to emerge stronger and more robust from the current crisis, as a temporary tool.



the competitive, yet vulnerable EU-based tech companies making them more competitive in global markets;

Regional Autonomy

7. Advises the European Commission to enhance and accelerate the implementation of the Capital Market Union (**CMU**)²¹⁵ in support of specialised technological investments;
8. Calls upon the European Commission to follow the example of the guidelines for Small Business Technology Transfer (**STTR**)²¹⁶ programs specifically stating that the small business and the research institution must perform at least 30% of the R&D for investment eligibility²¹⁷;
9. Proposes DG ECFIN to introduce subsidies for commercial corporations generating partnerships for the critical and emerging companies established in the EU;

Entrepreneurial Culture

10. Endorses the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture the European (**DG EAC**) in cooperation with Member States' Ministries of Education to implement exchange programs for technology-focused universities by:
 - i. collaborating with existing tech companies and emerging startups,
 - ii. supporting the establishment of dedicated tech startup hubs within universities across the EU,
 - iii. offering scholarships for educational programs in relevant sectors,
 - iv. establishing exchange programs in foreign educational institutions and critical and emerging tech companies to endorse the entrepreneurial culture across the EU;
11. Encourages the European Investment Fund in partnership with the European Securities and Markets Authority (**ESMA**)²¹⁸ to establish dedicated investment hubs and research centres allowing public and private investors to collaborate and share resources across countries' borders, coordinating with non-EU countries.

²¹⁵ **Capital Market Union (CMU):** a strategy to establish a single capital market with the goal is to increase the flow of savings and investments within the EU to the benefit of all businesses, investors, and consumers, regardless of where they are based.

²¹⁶ **America's Seed Fund:** offers non-dilutive funding through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business concept Transfer (STTR) programs to help you develop your concept and map out a route for commercialization.

²¹⁷ [America's Seed Fund. \(2018. 09\). "SBIR OR STTR? WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR ME?"](#)

²¹⁸ **European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA):** EU's supervisory and regulatory body for financial markets.



ASSOCIATED OPINION BY THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS (BUDG)

Submitted by: Kerem Dogan (TR), Marilyne Halpern (FR), Fayrouz Hassan (NL), Eduardo Heiniger Cascos (CH), Lora Kirova (BG), Kim Lihr Sandal (FI), Luca Petean (ES), Alice Quattrocchi (IT), Nahom Tsegaye (SE), Lea Wellmann (AT), Andrea Soteriou (CY, Chairperson)

The Committee aims to utilise new sources of EU's own resources to support innovation in the technological sector. We aim to provide insight into how funding technological innovation is compatible with the EU budget, focusing on long-term secure investments and the stable growth of the technology sector in the EU,

by:

1. Recommends that Member States which have an optional donation system (such as the 0.5% personal income contribution system in Italy), can include the STEP fund as an option for voluntary contribution;
2. Asks the Council of the EU to apply the Bond & Investment Own Resource to increase investment in sustainable technologies, Critical and Emergent Technologies (CET) and research;
3. Requests the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) to introduce an incentivised investment scheme where the European Investment Bank (EIB) matches a small portion of an investment made by venture capitalists into CETs.



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

Deepfake it ‘til you make it: *In recent years there has been a rise of deepfakes in various fields, ranging from nonconsensual pornography, to political propaganda and fake news. Now that these tools are becoming more accessible and readily available, how should Europe prepare for a world where deepfakes are increasingly pervasive in society?*

Submitted by: Daniel B. Asalf (NO), Mattia D’Angelo (IT), Defne Erdoğan (TR), Nina Glavač (RS), Abduselam Hozic (BA), Timur Kazachkov (DE), Emilia Kruczek (PL), Dariia Kumeiko (UA), Rose Macdonald (UK), Elena Macura (AT), Ivo Nedvěd (CZ), Dominik Sović (HR), Sophie van den Heuvel (NL), David Zarbaliyev (AZ), Leila Debiasi (IT, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament aims to stop the creation and circulation of harmful deepfakes, especially in the areas of non-consensual pornography and political propaganda. We aim to act in the interest of protecting citizens, private actors and political institutions from malicious deepfakes and to guarantee their rights. Furthermore, we believe that deepfake content should be easily recognisable, detectable and marked. Likewise, our goal is to improve awareness about the spread and influence of deepfakes. Lastly, we aim to facilitate further research on the development of deepfake technology, in order to adjust existing regulations through regular amendments.

because

- 96% of deepfake content online is pornographic material, most of which is non-consensual²¹⁹,
- Deepfakes harm multiple individuals at once, using the voice, face and body of the people without their consent²²⁰,
- Deepfakes are used to disseminate political misinformation²²¹ and disinformation²²², especially during elections, undermining the pillars of democracy²²³,
- Regulation is often unable to keep up with the rate at which deepfake technology is improving²²⁴,
- Due to the spread of deepfakes, video evidence used in court can become no longer

²¹⁹ [H. Ajder, G. Patrini, F. Cavalli, L. Cullen, Deeptrace labs, \(2019, September\) “The State of Deepfakes: Landscape, Threats, and Impact”](#)

²²⁰ [E. van der Nagel, Porn Studies, \(2020, 2nd June\) “Verifying images: deepfakes, control, and consent”](#)

²²¹ **Misinformation** involves the sharing of incorrect information in the media. Lately, it has increased also due to the use of deepfakes

²²² **Disinformation** also involves sharing untrue information, but with malicious intent. As for misinformation, this has been exacerbated by deepfake technologies

²²³ [P. Verma, C. Zakrzewski, The Washington Post, \(2024, 23rd April\) “AI deepfakes threaten to upend global elections. No one can stop them.”](#)

²²⁴ [A Hern, The Guardian, \(2024, 8th April\) “‘Time is running out’: can a future of undetectable deepfakes be avoided?”](#)



trustworthy, potentially leading to wrongful convictions²²⁵,

- Deepfakes are quick to create with free, easy-to-use tools and therefore are easily spreadable, increasing the amount of potential victims²²⁶,
- For the majority of general population, it is difficult to differentiate between genuine and deepfake content²²⁷,
- Deepfake pornography disproportionately affects women, as videos on dedicated deepfake pornography websites almost exclusively depict women²²⁸,
- The number of deepfakes has had a worrying 780% increase in Europe in the period between 2022 and 2023²²⁹;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Judicial and Policing Measures

1. Instructs the Member States' ministries of justice to establish training courses for judges, prosecutors, and legal staff on the use deepfake recognition software products and the risks they pose for video evidence in legal proceedings;
2. Directs the European Cybercrime Centre²³⁰ to integrate the investigation of deepfake-related crimes in the EU into their focus;
3. Advises Member States to update their national measures on deepfake crimes to consider all individuals violated by a deepfake as victims;
4. Urges Europol to create support systems in the form of an expert team as a liaison point connecting Europol and national police services and establishing protocols for cross-border investigation of deepfake crimes;

Regulatory Measures

5. Implores the European Commission quickly create the regulatory bodies specified in the AI Act that regularly review existing AI legislation, ensure emerging threats are adequately regulated, and made aware of to the public²³¹;

²²⁵ [J. Pattison-Gordon, government technology, \(2023, 14th September\) "Courts Consider the Coming Risk of Deepfake Evidence"](#)

²²⁶ [F. Arslan, The Sakarya Journal of Law, \(2023\) "Deepfake Technology: A Criminological Literature Review"](#)

²²⁷ [N.C. Köbis, B. Doležalová, I. Soraperra, i Science, \(2021, 29th October\) "Fooled twice: People cannot detect deepfakes but think they can"](#)

²²⁸ [H. Ajder, G. Patrini, F. Cavalli, L. Cullen, Deeprace labs, \(2019, September\) "The State of Deepfakes: Landscape, Threats, and Impact"](#)

²²⁹ [Sumsup, \(2023\) "Sumsup Research: Global Deepfake Incidents Surge Tenfold from 2022 to 2023"](#)

²³⁰ The **European Cybercrime Centre** was set up by Europol to strengthen the law enforcement response to cybercrime in the EU and thus to help protect European citizens, businesses and governments from online crime.

²³¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations \(EC\) No 300/2008, \(EU\) No 167/2013, \(EU\) No 168/2013, \(EU\) 2018/858, \(EU\) 2018/1139 and \(EU\) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, \(EU\) 2016/797 and \(EU\) 2020/1828 \(Artificial Intelligence Act\)Text with EEA relevance.](#)



6. Asks the European Commission to reclassify deepfakes as high-risk AI²³² in accordance with the AI Act;
7. Compels Member States to explicitly condemn the use of deepfakes for non-consensual pornography when implementing Article 5(1)(b) of the EU Directive 2024/1385²³³ on combating violence against women and domestic violence into national legislation;

Technical Measures

8. Requests European Union Agency for Cybersecurity to develop an intangible identifier mark for all deepfakes to make it easier to identify them²³⁴;
9. Calls upon Very Large Online Platforms and broadcasters to flag all political deepfake content as potentially influencing public opinion, in order to ensure that deepfakes do not interfere with politics;

Educational Measures

10. Designates the Directorate General on Communication Networks, Content, and Technology to create educational programmes and awareness campaigns aimed at instructing citizens on the harmful effects of creating malicious deepfakes;
11. Encourages the Directorate General for Justice and Consumers to expand the NON.NO.NEIN. campaign²³⁵ to include information for victims of deepfakes to seek support.

²³² **High-risk AI systems** include AI technology used in critical infrastructure, education, and other sectors, and they are subject to strict obligations before they can be put on the market.

²³³ [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#)

²³⁴ [Y. Zhao, B. Liu, M. Ding, B. Liu, T. Zhu, X. Yu, University of Technology Sydney, \(2023\) "Proactive Deepfake Defence via Identity Watermarking"](#)

²³⁵ The **Non.No.Nein. campaign** aims to share information and showcase success stories about the important work that is being done in this field across the EU



OPINION IN THE FORM OF A LETTER BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & EDUCATION (CULT)

Submitted by: Uliana Burian (MD), Charlie Donnery (IE), Riccardo Draisci (IT), Josephine Dubest (FR), Christos Ioannou (CY), Atilla Karakaya (TR), Hasmik Kraskyan (AM), Marielena Kyriacou (CY), Jovan Radojković (RS), Adem Ugarak (BA), Katarina Vandenhende (BE), Heleen Vanagt (BE, Chairperson)

The Committee on Culture and Education believes deepfakes are a powerful technological advancement that needs to be properly regulated to ensure fair and ethical use. Actors' and artists' likenesses, such as their voice and their body, have been appropriated non-consensually by third parties. The talent and work of artists have been exploited due to the inadequate legal framework and are facing job and financial insecurity as a consequence. However, we believe that deep fakes have potential in educational contexts and could be used productively by bringing new learning methods into classrooms and cultural institutions.



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

Homes under the Hammer: *With house prices increasing by nearly half since 2015, and construction costs increasing by almost a third in the same time span, how can Europe ensure all citizens have access to sustainable and affordable housing for the future?*

Submitted by: Alen Manukyan (AM), Aldo Vrapì (SE), Charles Crimson Mahoney (NL), Gráinne Ní Chróinín (IE), Harry Stamatoglou (GR), Ioana Aron (RO), Jonas Frombach (DE), Louka Vasse (FR), Maja Brzózka (PL), Marlies Delmotte (BE), Nikol Hambarlieva (BG), Nikola Trnavac (RS), Stephanie Soteriou (CY), Conor Comiskey (Chairperson, IE)

The European Youth Parliament aims to enable access to sustainable, affordable, and high-quality housing to all EU citizens. Our goal is to ensure an equitable housing market structure while keeping in mind the needs of different social groups. Furthermore, it aims to implement green architecture as well as alternative building materials in order to ensure more self-sufficient and energy efficient housing,

because

- A lack of social housing across the EU has led to a growing trend of people living in inadequate housing or becoming homeless²³⁶,
- The housing stock is insufficient to accommodate the fast growing urban population, creating a shortage of affordable housing²³⁷,
- There is an apparent investment gap in housing at a minimum of EUR 57 billion per year, worsening the housing shortage²³⁸,
- Inadequate housing can result in various problems such as noise pollution and poor ventilation that can affect physical and mental health²³⁹,
- Rising housing costs reduce individuals' disposable income, in turn affecting their quality of life²⁴⁰,
- Large investors own more than €1,700 billion worth of homes in Europe, allowing private corporations to dictate the market²⁴¹,
- The proliferation of short-term rentals, such as Airbnb, have driven up rent prices²⁴²,
- The concentration of low-income groups who are in weak positions on the property

²³⁶ [FEANTSA. \(2023\). "8th Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe"](#)

²³⁷ [Eurofound. \(2023\). "Unaffordable and inadequate housing in Europe"](#)

²³⁸ [Party of European Socialists Group. \(2024\). Affordable Housing Needs Europe – Europe Needs Affordable Housing](#)

²³⁹ [Eurofound. \(2023\). "Unaffordable and inadequate housing in Europe"](#)

²⁴⁰ [Eurofound. \(2023\). "Unaffordable and inadequate housing in Europe"](#)

²⁴¹ [Gabor & Kohl. \(January 2022\). "My Home is an asset class"](#)

²⁴² [Cox & Haar. \(December 9 2020\). Platform Failures: How Short-Term Rental Platforms like Airbnb fail to cooperate with cities and the need for strong regulations to protect housing](#)



market into specific residential areas may increase the chances of social segregation²⁴³,

- People with disabilities are twice as likely to face discrimination when looking for housing leading to a higher likelihood of inadequate housing²⁴⁴,
- Students are often negatively impacted by high accommodation prices, taking away from their quality of life and sometimes adding to the student debt burden²⁴⁵,
- It is estimated that 75% of buildings in the EU are energy inefficient²⁴⁶,
- There is a lack of investment into sustainable architecture, such as green architecture, modular buildings, and alternate building materials e.g., mycelium^{247 248},
- The building sector accounts for a total of 35% of greenhouse gas emissions in Europe, producing more than 950 million tonnes of emissions from heating and electricity²⁴⁹;

The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims:

Affordability

1. Suggests that Member States introduce minimum unit requirements for social housing in new housing developments;
2. Recommends Member States to provide citizens with means-tested rent subsidies;
3. Encourages Member States to introduce taxation for vacant houses, including holiday houses;
4. Further encourages Member States to confiscate non-holiday vacant housing for public housing use after a specific time period of vacancy is reached;
5. Urges Member States to proportionally increase capital gains tax in the case of ownership of multiple houses;
6. Advises Member States to provide mortgage relief for first time buyers;

Sustainability

7. Urges local authorities within Member States to oblige property developers to include the construction of amenities such as green areas when they are developing new housing units;
8. Invites the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) to provide more funding for sustainable housing projects such as self-sufficient housing and energy-efficient housing;

²⁴³ [Nielsen et al.\(2017\). Residential Segregation in 5 European Countries.](#)

²⁴⁴ [Discrimination and Inequality in Housing in Ireland Set Out in New Research. \(15 June 2018\). Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission](#)

²⁴⁵ [Info-sheet students' housing in Europe. \(2019\). European Students' Union](#)

²⁴⁶ [Powering our buildings: how policies can support energy efficiency through buildings electrification. \(November 2022\). Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy](#)

²⁴⁷ [Building for today and the future. \(2023\). Institute for Human Rights and Business](#)

²⁴⁸ [Why future homes could be made of fungus. \(14 January 2021\). Horizon - the EU Research & Innovation Magazine](#)

²⁴⁹ [Greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in buildings in Europe | European Environment Agency's home page \(europa.eu\)](#)



9. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) to inform construction firms, architects, and developers about sustainable and green practices and their benefits through workshops, model homes, and advisory centres;
10. Invites the European Commission to further revise the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive to ensure that every new property development must be a net-zero emissions building;
11. Suggests that the European Commission funds research as part of the New European Bauhaus (**NEB**)²⁵⁰ into sustainable architecture, with specific focus on green architecture and the use of alternate building materials;

Modernisation

12. Calls upon DG REGIO to fund media campaigns raising awareness on the process of obtaining EU funds for renovating and retrofitting homes;
13. Requests the European Commission to further revise the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive²⁵¹ to require that every energy inefficient building will be renovated or retrofitted by 2030;
14. Urges Member States to create proportionate incentives for property owners to renovate their buildings based on renovation costs and the property owners' level of income;

Accessibility

15. Urges the Directorate- General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) to fund research into health problems resulting from building materials or practices in inadequate housing environments.
16. Asks the Commission to allocate a portion of NEB funding to subsidise the modification of housing facilities in order to ensure optimal mobility for people with disabilities in both existing and future construction projects;
17. Urges Member States to provide means tested financial assistance to students living in unaffordable housing;

²⁵⁰ **New European Bauhaus:** The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is an EU policy and funding initiative launched by the European Commission in 2021 that fosters sustainable solutions for transforming the built environment and lifestyles under the green transition.

²⁵¹ **Energy Performance of Buildings Directive:** As part of the Fit for 55 package, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal to revise the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) on 15 December 2021. The initial EPBD 2010 was amended in 2018, as part of the Clean energy package. The amending directive required all Member States to develop long-term building renovation strategies.

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

