

Resolution Booklet

- English Version -

55th International Session
of the European Youth Parliament
Białowieża/Białystok, August 2007



RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE 55TH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

1. **AFCO** – The EU's ability to 'absorb' new members and the obligation to ensure peace and stability in South Eastern Europe: should the EU halt the accession of new EU member states in the absence of institutional reforms and if so, which reforms are necessary?
2. **AFET I** – EU-Russia relations in the light of the PCA, anti-missile defence shields and democracy: how can a strategic partnership between the EU and Russia be formed on a basis reflecting mutual interests?
3. **AFET II** – The unproductive dialogue with the 'last dictatorship in Europe': what further measures should the EU and other international organisations take to avoid being a paper tiger? Has the time come for imposing economic and financial sanctions against Belarus?
4. **AGRI** – From foie gras to fur production and Europe's commitment to animal rights: to what extent are human rights and animal rights connected and how can the protection of animals be improved throughout Europe?
5. **CULT** – The Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA): what further steps need to be taken to ensure world class education for all university students across Europe?
6. **DEVE** – The promotion of human rights, democracy and good governance and the increasing use of the political conditionality: to what extent should the sharing of common values be a precondition for development aid?
7. **DROI** – Darfur, Zimbabwe and other places of systematic abuses of human rights: how should the EU and other international organisations act to stop human rights abuses outside its borders and can interference in another state's affair be justified on these grounds?
8. **EMPL I** – The rights of people with developmental disabilities in Europe: how can people with disabilities be included more effectively in the labour force?
9. **EMPL II** – Labour shortage in key economic sectors and the challenge of integrating migrants in the labour market without discrimination: how should European states act to insert immigrants in the labour market whilst ensuring equal opportunities?
10. **ENVI** – Shaping a European waste policy and the challenge of growing waste volumes: how can European states become recycling societies that avoid waste and use remaining waste as a resource?

11. **FEMM**- The participation of women in public life in Europe: do directives, quotas and campaigns reinforce gender divisionism or encourage gender equality? How best can cultural norms be challenged in this field?
12. **INTA**- Winners and losers of economic globalisation- profit for investors and pittances for workers: how can the EU mitigate the downsides of globalisation and ensure worker's rights are upheld within and outside the Union?
13. **LIBE I** – LGBT rights as a minefield of moral and cultural identities as well as prejudices and discrimination in Europe: how can European states reconcile respect for cultural and religious traditions whilst ensuring equal rights for people of all sexualities?

FAILED RESOLUTIONS:

1. **IMCO** – The rise of the consumer-driven Internet: the end of fifty years of rule by mass media, TV, publishers and phone operators? How can Europe boost competition whilst securing cultural diversity and the active role of consumers on the web?
2. **LIBE II** – The EU's fight against terrorism and the need to modernise laws to reflect today's reality: how can the EU strike a balance between providing security and safety on one hand and protection civil liberties and fundamental rights on the other?

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

The EU's ability to 'absorb' new members and the obligation to ensure peace and stability in South Eastern Europe: should the EU halt the accession of new EU member states in the absence of institutional reforms and if so, which reforms are necessary?

Submitted by: Sebastian Blümmert (DE); Iuliia Khurchakova (UA); Anna Klaile (FI); Pablo Mellado Hidalgo (ES); Andrea Sbrana (IT); Vladimír Soukup (CZ); Katarina Stojakovic (HR); Sandra Stojanovic (CS); Ezgi Teksoy (TR); Brecht Warnez (BE); Cecilia Pellosniemi (FI – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Confident that further European Union (EU) enlargement will give rise to advantages such as:
 - Unity and peace,
 - Economic benefits,
 - A stronger international position,
 - Transparency,
 - B. Aware of the negative aspects of enlargement of the EU such as:
 - a) Temporary economic recession,
 - b) The stretching of EU subsidies,
 - c) Conflicts due to the wide variety of views represented,
 - C. Noting with regret that recently acceded Member States have yet to reach the Copenhagen Convergence Criteria,
 - D. Considering that the costly process of EU enlargement exceeds the Union's current budget,
 - E. Noting with approval that geographical proximity and cultural similarity are conditions of accession to the EU as stated in the Treaty of Maastricht,
 - F. Emphasising that every European country has the right to apply for EU membership but that the final decision is taken by the Member States,
 - G. Reaffirming that the enlargement policy is based upon the principles of communication, consolidation and conditionality,
 - H. Taking into account the new Reform Treaty to be implemented by 2009 with new voting procedures, as outlined therein, being implemented between 2014 and 2017,
 - I. Fully aware of the fact that the European Commission is a representative of common interests rather than national interests;
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- 1. Urges the halt of the accession of candidate states until current Member States reach acceptable standards, as required by the Copenhagen Criteria as well as having achieved economic stability;
 - 2. Recommends that the number of countries acceding to the EU in a single wave of enlargement be limited in order to ensure its stability;
 - 3. Endorses the Copenhagen Criteria;

4. Calls upon the EU to assist candidate states in fulfilling the Copenhagen Criteria;
5. Approves of pre-application funds such as the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS);
6. Recommends the establishment of bilateral agreements with countries which cannot fulfil the Copenhagen Criteria in the near future, or do not wish to join the EU;
7. Trusts the new voting system proposed in the Reform Treaty will render European politics more efficient and democratic;
8. Recommends a simplification programme to decrease excessive bureaucracy and to clarify legal texts in order to increase efficiency of EU decision making;
9. Strongly recommends reducing the number of Commissioners in the European Commission before further enlargement and introducing a system of rotation so that each Member State will be represented in the European Commission on a regular basis;
10. Encourages further discussion on the issue of the High Representative of the EU holding the mandate to speak as the EU's "common voice";
11. Supports the EU's diplomatic efforts to ensure peace and assist in the process of accession of countries in the Balkan region.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs I

EU-Russia relations in light of difficulties over the PCA, anti-missile defence shields and democracy: how can a strategic partnership between the EU and Russia be formed on a basis reflecting mutual interests?

Submitted by: Mihaela Acatrinei (IT); Liva Bremere (LV); Jamie Brown (IE); Theodora Dyakova (UK); Filip Faltejsek (CZ); Alexander Küng (CH); Mats Kuuskemaa (EE); Joachim Lommelen (BE); Efthymios Markidis (GR); Kerstin Mathias (DE); Larissa Riepl (AT); Terje Söelsepp (EE); Kostas Emmanouil (GR – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Acknowledging that the Russian Federation is a sovereign state with aspirations of influencing and being involved in European politics, as a result of its status as a major global power,
- B. Noting with deep concern that the Russian Federation seeks to control its former allies and provinces adjacent to its borders,
- C. Deeply concerned by the Russian government's attempts to deflect criticism by discrediting internal and external opposition,
- D. Taking into account Russian concerns regarding the expansion of Western institutions, such as the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO),
- E. Deeply disturbed by the failure of the Russian Federation to abide by the international treaties that it has signed and ratified, such as the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) and the Geneva Conventions,
- F. Aware of the need to create a more constructive diplomatic relationship between the EU and Russia by addressing the inherent imbalance of power caused by the EU's reliance on Russia's natural resources,
- G. Regretting the reinterpretation, exploitation and glorification of an outdated mentality, originating from the Soviet era, by the current administration,
- H. Alarmed that the Russian Federation is leaning away from fundamental democratic principles, indicatively expressed by:
 - a) The self-censorship of a wide range of Russian media, resulting in a lack of political transparency,
 - b) The misinformation that occurs through all official media - especially during the pre-electoral period - directly violating the Russian Constitution,
 - c) The opportunistic altering of constitutional laws in order to limit the power of opposition parties in pre-election periods,
- I. Deeply shocked by the human rights violations occurring within the Russian Judicial System,
- J. Noting with regret that Russian law does not sufficiently protect private property, thus inhibiting private competition and the development of a well-functioning, free-market economy,
- K. Concerned about the unreliability of the Russian Federation as a major energy supplier for the EU, in light of its use of energy as a means of applying political leverage,

- L. Convinced of the extreme importance of an assertive common European stance towards the Russian Federation;
1. Recommends the PCA be updated with the addition of:
Incentives that must be provided to both governmental and private sectors with the aim of promoting gradual domestic economic and social reform,
The furthering of the existing common spaces of freedom, security and justice, external security, research and education;
 2. Supports existing student and labour exchange schemes for mutual economic benefit, such as work visa schemes to help in bringing skills learned abroad back home in order to further inter-cultural dialogue;
 3. Emphasises the co-operation between EU and Russia in order to secure shared borders against transnational crime such as human trafficking and arms smuggling;
 4. Calls for a reduction in the EU's dependence on Russian energy supplies in order to strengthen the EU's position in EU-Russian relations;
 5. Further proclaims that closer co-operation with Russia is vital in addressing threats to world peace such as international terrorism and nuclear proliferation;
 6. Urges the EU to develop a unified assertive stance regarding relations with Russia whilst taking into account the foreign policy of every Member State;
 7. Condemns the Russian Federation's violations of ratified international treaties;
 8. Expresses its hope that the EU will take a stronger stance against further such violations;
 9. Requests that the Russian Federation accepts monitoring by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in forthcoming elections in order to progress towards a more stable democracy;
 10. Endorses the liberalisation of the Russian media;
 11. Expresses its hope that there will be fewer obstructions in the advancement of civil liberties and political freedom.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs II

The unproductive dialogue with the 'last dictatorship in Europe': what further measures should the EU and other international organisations take to avoid being a paper tiger? Has the time come for imposing economic and financial sanctions against Belarus?

Submitted by: Cristina Bernacchi (IT); Ailbhe Brazel (IE); Ruben Corijn (BE); Emanuele Giorgi (IT); Anna Heinen (DE); Caspar Jansen (NL); Jan Mesuere (BE); Liudmila Pestun (BY); Kateryna Polulyashenko (UA); Sjur Rasmus Rockwell Djupedal (NO); Malte Jonathan Roßkopf (DE); Ciarán Gallagher (IE – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with deep regret the lack of democracy in Belarus,
 - B. Deeply disturbed by the continuing violation of human rights in Belarus,
 - C. Realising that current measures designed to promote democratic opposition can be developed further,
 - D. Alarmed by President Lukashenka's extending influence on the executive, legislative and judicial branches of power,
 - E. Keeping in mind that President Lukashenka enjoys almost complete control of Belarusian media,
 - F. Taking into consideration that the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) determined that the Belarusian Presidential election in 2006 failed to meet international standards for free, fair and transparent elections,
 - G. Recognising that a people's initiative for change is vital for progress in Belarus,
 - H. Bearing in mind that any radical steps imposed on Belarus will affect Russia,
 - I. Taking into account that Russia has indicated that it is unwilling to continue its current level of support to the Belarusian economy in the future,
 - J. Fully aware that the supply of oil and gas from Russia to the European Union (EU) passes through Belarus, and serves as diplomatic link,
 - K. Believing that the positive effects of EU membership in Member States neighbouring Belarus will help to foster a pro-EU environment in the region and thus giving Belarusian citizens an indirect experience of a democratic and free society;
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- 1. Recommends offering economic incentives to Belarus in return for meeting democratic criteria;
 - 2. Expresses its hope to continue and expand investigations into human rights abuses in Belarus;
 - 3. Calls for the continuation of managed EU funding of pro-democratic opposition parties;
 - 4. Requests that Belarus allows transparent, independent supervision of elections;

5. Urges the EU to initiate negotiations with Belarus in order to obtain the release of political prisoners in the country;
6. Calls upon the EU to offer asylum to persons in Belarus who are persecuted because of their political beliefs;
7. Urges the opening of diplomatic negotiations with Russia, in order to work together in encouraging democracy and greater respect of human rights in Belarus;
8. Encourages non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other international organisations to focus their activities in Belarus at a local level and in particular in rural areas;
9. Further requests that international embassies in Belarus be used as information centres and venues for citizen support groups;
10. Calls for the provision of student scholarships, internships and youth programmes for Belarusian citizens in the EU and further afield;
11. Resolves to develop alternative sources of information in Belarus through:
 - a) Increasing support and development of radio stations broadcasting into Belarus from neighbouring countries,
 - b) Research into radio broadcasting technology, especially with regard to enlarging the area to which stations broadcast,
 - c) Increasing support for independent Belarusian newspapers;
12. Supports the establishment of an international media campaign in order to raise global awareness of human rights violations in Belarus.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs II

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 - c) Increasing support for independent Belarusian newspapers;
12. Supports the establishment of an international media campaign in order to raise global awareness of human rights violations in Belarus.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Culture and Education

The Bologna process and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA): what further steps need to be taken to ensure world class education for all university students across Europe?

Submitted by: Georgina Alvarez Morera (ES); Kamil Baluk (PL); Anna Cocchi (IT); Veronika Fafienski (DE); Ania Galinska (PL); Jonas Geeraerts (BE); Eva Kalinowski (AT); Sebastian King (SE); Jeanne Lantz (FR); Laura Limperk (EE); Tomislav Palinic (HR); Michaël Schlegel (CH); Katie Teahan (IE); Kair Kasper (EE – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognising the need for further development of the Bologna Process,
- B. Recognising the current problems of the higher education system across the EHEA, including:
 - i) Diversity of curricula,
 - ii) Incomparable diplomas and degrees,
 - iii) Disparity between higher education institutes,
- C. Beware of inadequacies within the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS),
- D. Noting with regret that the Bologna Process is only a set of guidelines which implicate:
 - i) That governments are not obliged to apply the Bologna Process,
 - ii) Ineffectiveness in some areas,
- E. Recognising the lack of an independent body supervising the Bologna Process thus causing:
 - i) Confusion, lack of awareness and lack of credibility,
 - ii) Incoherence between the governments within the EHEA,
- F. Bearing in mind that the mobility of students within the EHEA is affected by:
 - i) Complex university exchange and transfer procedures,
 - ii) Insufficient flexibility in the application of ECTS,
 - iii) Differences in the cost of living within the EHEA,
- G. Noting with deep concern the high cost of university tuition preventing students from pursuing a high level of education,
- H. Aware of the unequal educational opportunities available to people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds,
- I. Alarmed by the high rates of interest charged by financial institutions on student loans,
- J. Noting with regret that scholarships for ERASMUS exchanges have remained stable since 1993 in spite of the rise in living costs during this time,
- K. Deeply concerned that scholarships do not take into account the living standards of the country the student is going to,

- L. Recognising that the ERASMUS programme allows students to spend only one year abroad,
 - M. Recognising that students need to have work experience in their field of study and an income to maintain them whilst studying;
1. Insists upon the establishment of:
 - a) Standards of common knowledge in every subject, while reserving a larger portion for national differences,
 - b) A European Excellence Level (EEL),
 - c) A pan-European exam to ensure that a level of common knowledge is achieved at higher education levels;
 2. Encourages the coherent implementation of the ECTS throughout the EHEA ensuring:
 - a) Flexibility by making the transfer of credits easier,
 - b) Comparability, taking into account the diversity of subjects and universities,
 - c) A unique system of course evaluation;
 3. Supports the ongoing idea of the diploma supplement;
 4. Demands a more accurate, appropriate and reliable rating system for universities;
 5. Strongly recommends the creation of an independent, apolitical body which will:
 - a) Co-ordinate actions between the governments of the EHEA states,
 - i. Ensure that the governments fully apply the Bologna Process,
 - b) Organise bi-annual meetings with country representatives;
 6. Affirms that each country organise education courses which would include information about the Bologna Process, EHEA and ECTS in order to ensure the public becomes acquainted with these subjects;
 7. Encourages co-operation between universities and companies, introducing work opportunities for students related to their field of study;
 8. Encourages companies to finance education in order to guarantee prospective graduate employees;
 9. Calls for investments in order to raise the standard of lower ranked universities;
 10. Further recommends this money to be spent in areas which require modernisation and improvement;
 11. Promotes the exchange of educational staff within the EHEA in order to raise the level of lower ranked universities;
 12. Supports a reduction in the rate of interest charged on student loans;
 13. Promotes on-campus student employment;
 14. Encourages universities to allow students to access a variety of departments in order to explore all areas of personal interest;
 15. Expresses its hope for an increase in ERASMUS scholarships, therefore benefiting more students;
 16. Emphasises the need for adjusting grants to the living standards of the host country;
 17. Further encourages a simplification of transfer procedures, further allowing extended exchanges.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development

The promotion of human rights, democracy and good governance and the increasing use of political conditionality: to what extent should the sharing of common values be a precondition for development aid?

Submitted by: Maria Anastasopoulou (GR); Marie Boltenstern (AT); Agnese Bremere (NO); Eloisa Fazzi (IT); Ariane Lebot (FR); Edvard Ljulko (EE); Ryan O'Hagan (IE); Jindrich Rusin (CZ); Sebastian Bazza Steele (SE); Stefan Vandenhende (BE); Ben Woolgar (UK); Lacina Koné (FR – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Acknowledging that emergency aid cannot be conditional, while in cases of development aid political conditionality may be implemented if needed,
- B. Clarifying that any European Union (EU) development aid must be given together with:
 - i) Extensive studies of the country's political situation,
 - ii) Respect of its religious social and cultural traditions,
- C. Endorsing the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) as a set of internationally recognised and acceptable standards of basic and inalienable human rights,
- D. Reaffirming the need for transparency in all aspects of development aid,
- E. Taking into account the necessity for developing nations to become independent of donor countries by controlling their own policies on the use of aid,
- F. Noting with concern the tendency of Member States to impose inappropriate conditions on aid which serve their own policies on the use of aid,
- G. Alarmed by the fact that the interference of a third party may create problems in previously reached agreements,
- H. Bearing in mind the importance of deeply-rooted social structures and customs in many nations of the developing world,
- I. Aware of the fact that certain areas of the EU are still in need of development aid,
- J. Expressing its satisfaction with the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and their continued promotion,
- K. Recognising the successes of "Payments for Progress"(PfP) schemes, which make donation sizes directly proportional to aid outcomes,
- L. Acknowledging the EU Commission's definition of good governance as including:
 - i) Transparency,
 - ii) Responsibility,
 - iii) Accountability,
 - iv) Participation,
 - v) Responsiveness;

1. Recommends that all conditions imposed with EU development aid have the eventual goal of:
 - a) The protection of basic human rights,
 - b) The spread of democracy and democratic values,
 - c) The achievement of effectiveness and good governance;
2. Proposes that the Common Foreign Security Policy (CFSP) produce guidelines in partnership with other European government bodies to help Member States achieve the previously outlined goals;
3. Encourages donors to give greater independence to recipients in the fields of:
 - a) The allocation of aid to specific areas,
 - b) Policy development;
4. Urges stronger co-operation between donor and recipient states in the fields of:
 - a) Expertise concerning development,
 - b) Industrial and scientific technology, including medicine;
5. Confirms that the EU will provide enough funding to enable the receiving country to reject proposals of unfair political conditionality;
6. Discourages Members States from:
 - a) Using aid to advance individual interests,
 - b) Delivering “tied aid”;
7. Urges donors to seek redirection of aid through alternative means such as NGOs, rather than governments;
8. Proclaims the necessity for the EU to impose targeted sanctions on governments that misuse aid by:
 - a) Freezing bank accounts,
 - b) Imposing travel bans,
 - c) Using any other suitable and available measures;
9. Emphasises that each nation has the right to its own religious, social, and cultural traditions that do not interfere with human rights;
10. Suggests EU development aid be made conditional on the provision of open and balanced education and information on traditions, democratic values and human rights;
11. Supports the continuation of:
 - a) The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) programme,
 - b) The Everything But Arms (EBA) initiative,
 - c) The PfP schemes;
12. Authorises the appointment of an independent services company to conduct independent, transparent audits on:
 - a) How the EU distributes its development aid,

b) How recipient countries spend this aid;

13. Requests the publication of these audits on an official EU website;
14. Declares that the EU will heavily fine any Member State that is found to be in breach of human rights;
15. Calls for a reduction in EU structural funds in case of obvious regional inequalities.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Human Rights

Darfur, Zimbabwe and other places of systematic abuses of human rights: how should the EU and other international organisations act to stop human rights abuses outside its borders and can interference in another states' affairs be justified on these grounds?

Submitted by: Anthony Abladey (UK); Annalisa Buscaini (IT); Kelly De Rooms (BE); Barr Even (UK); Jonas Jancarik (CZ); Anna Malkan (SE); Ellie Melliou (GR); Tonio Möllmann (DE); Juha-Pekka Nurvala (FI); Mark Sheridan (IE); Katrina Šuvajeva (LV); Leonie Waltraut Wahjudi (DE); Kristbjörg Bjarnadóttir (IS – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the systematic abuse of human rights in places such as Darfur, Zimbabwe and China,
 - B. Fully believing in the European Union's (EU) moral obligation to help in the fight against human rights abuses,
 - C. Aware that the systematic abuse of human rights has detrimental repercussions in both developed and developing countries,
 - D. Deeply concerned by the EU's perceived inability to act effectively against human rights abuses,
 - E. Recognising the mistrust aroused by European intervention in Less Developed Countries (LDCs) as a result of the legacy of imperialism,
 - F. Reaffirming the need for the EU to comply with international law,
 - G. Believing that the systematic abuse of human rights cannot be limited to domestic jurisdictions and should be dealt with on an international level,
 - H. Emphasising that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) cannot take military action against a country solely on the basis of human rights violations,
 - I. Concerned by the problems associated with the voting procedures of the UNSC,
 - J. Realising the possible negative effects of economic sanctions on the welfare of civilians,
 - K. Noting with regret that some countries' national interests can affect their response to cases of systematic human rights abuses;
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- 1. Proposes that Chapter 7 of the United Nations (UN) Charter is expanded to authorise military intervention in areas of systematic human rights abuses;
 - 2. Emphasises that any military intervention by the EU requires a UN mandate;
 - 3. Requests that current EU peace keeping forces are strengthened immediately;
 - 4. Expresses its hope for the creation of a common and permanent EU peacekeeping force;
 - 5. Recommends the establishment of an European forum of experts to advise on any nation-rebuilding programmes necessitated humanitarian intervention;
 - 6. Approves the use of political sanctions and diplomatic pressure in order to condemn the abuse of human rights;

7. Supports the use of arms embargoes to combat the systematic abuse of human rights;
8. Calls on the EU to assist LDCs in the promotion of human rights by:
 - a) Breaking down trade barriers,
 - b) Financing local infrastructure projects;
9. Urges further co-operation with the African Union through:
 - a) Exchange of knowledge,
 - b) Joint operations,
 - c) Further financial support;
10. Proclaims its support for the work of the International Criminal Court and other such institutions;
11. Encourages support for NGOs in their fight against the abuse of human rights;
12. Promotes education programmes in LDCs in order to:
 - a) Aid the alleviation of current human rights abuses,
 - b) Prevent future abuse;
13. Aims to raise awareness of human rights abuses amongst EU citizens through advertising campaigns;
14. Stresses that military intervention should only be considered:
 - a) In the most extreme cases of human rights abuses,
 - b) When all other options have been exhausted.

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

The rights of people with disabilities in Europe: how can people with disabilities, in particular of developmental character, be included more effectively in the labour force?

Submitted by: Eleni Aristodemou (CY); Machteld Cornelis (BE); Begüm Erdoğan (TR); Viktor Galler (LV); Aoife Hollywood (IE); Velimir Ilić (CS); Karolina Jönsson (SE); Martin Saar (EE); Leon Philip Sanders (DE); Sofia Zafeiriou (GR); Christa Kerkhof (NL – Chairperson); Séamus Carey (IE – Vice-President)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining developmental disabilities as long-term disabilities of varying degrees, caused by mental and/or physical impairments, and which affect specific areas of daily functioning, with onset prior to the age of twenty-two,
 - B. Fully aware that people with developmental disabilities are neither recognised as an integral part of society nor able to exercise their full rights as citizens,
 - C. Alarmed by the prolific presence of stereotypical views and the behaviour of the general public towards people with developmental disabilities, especially concerning their productivity in the labour force,
 - D. Expressing deep concern that people with developmental disabilities face intolerance in modern-day society,
 - E. Noting with regret the overall lack of awareness of the special and everyday needs of people with developmental disabilities, thus leading to divisions within society,
 - F. Aware that people with developmental disabilities may have relatively low self-esteem resulting in their self-exclusion from society,
 - G. Emphasising the lack of suitable infrastructure for people with developmental disabilities (e.g. inefficient transport), resulting from the excessive cost of the implementation of such infrastructure,
 - H. Recognising the fact that modern technology can be effectively used as a means to assist people with developmental disabilities,
 - I. Believing that employers are discouraged from hiring people with developmental disabilities due to excessive costs related to their specific needs and special equipment,
 - J. Bearing in mind that the slight difference between wages and benefits is little incentive for people with developmental disabilities to enter the labour force,
 - K. Taking into account the monetary concerns of employers regarding the financial risks involved when hiring people with developmental disabilities;
1. Affirms the need to raise public awareness regarding people with developmental disabilities and their position as active and valuable members within the workforce through:
 - a) Information campaigns,
 - b) Communal activities,
 - c) Workshops;

2. Emphasises the importance of psychological counselling, where necessary, as a means of increasing self-esteem and providing motivation to enter the labour market;
3. Recommends small group training programmes in order to develop a common ground for effective co-operation, communication and mutual assistance between disabled and non-disabled colleagues;
4. Encourages the integration of people with disabilities into the educational system from an early age, whenever possible;
5. Requests the introduction of a suitable support structure within the educational system in order to provide additional classes and special needs staff;
6. Calls for the provision of sufficient vocational training to provide necessary work as well as social skills in order to be effectively involved in the labour force;
7. Resolves to improve accessibility of workplaces by:
 - a) Equipping current buildings with suitable and necessary facilities and
 - b) Setting regulations for future buildings;
8. Endorses the provision of financial aid in order for employers to cover the additional costs arising from the employment of a disabled person;
9. Suggests that attention be drawn to companies hiring people with disabilities through online magazines and materials;
10. Proposes a reform of the benefit system under which:
 - a) People with disabilities, upon entering the labour force, will receive a reduced benefit on top of their wage,
 - b) In the case of an unsuccessful trial period, disabled people would be allowed to return to their prior disability benefit;
11. Stresses the need for international co-operation in order to share experience, knowledge and to establish a common framework for further co-operation on the issue of developmental disabilities;
12. Recommends either the introduction of a governmental body responsible for the integration of developmentally disabled people into the labour force in each Member State of the European Union, or in the case of existing governmental bodies, their restructuring and further empowerment;
13. Calls for the establishment of an experience sharing network for companies that hire people with disabilities to foster best practise through conferences and other related events;
14. Calls upon each governmental body to:
 - a) Provide information about job availability,
 - b) Place people with disabilities in the workforce according to their skills and their wishes,
 - c) Inform people with developmental disabilities about their rights and provide protection in cases of discrimination,
 - d) Maintain contact and support throughout their period of employment between the employer and the disabled employee,
 - e) Encourage co-operation between NGOs,
 - f) Involve people with developmental disabilities in their policy-making.

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

Labour shortage in key economic sectors and the challenge of integrating migrants in the labour market without discrimination: how should European states act to insert immigrants in the labour market whilst ensuring equal opportunities?

Submitted by: Alisa Arakelian (SE); Ann-Sophie Caerels (BE); Gabriele Caiulo (IT); Carla del Valle (ES); Christian Drews (DE); Anna Feeney (IE); Borna Guevel (UK); Tamara Matkovic (CS); Lubov Novozhilova (BY); Stéphane Renevier (CH); Mariia Romanenko (UA); Sasha Andrusyk (UA – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Recognising that discrimination against immigrants leads to:
 - i) Poorer working conditions,
 - ii) Low representation in trade unions,
 - iii) Unequal pay compared to natives
 - iv) Illegal labour,
 - v) High skilled immigrants being forced into low skilled jobs,
 - vi) A lack of further qualification development/ future promotions,
- B. Deeply concerned by the lack of workers in certain key economic sectors within the European Union (EU),
- C. Alarmed by the ageing population of Europe and its effect on the workforce within the EU,
- D. Realising the need for immigration to combat the effect of the ageing population in the EU,
- E. Convinced that a lack of language skills and legal awareness leads to the isolation of immigrant workers, which results in fewer job opportunities,
- F. Aware of the fact that highly skilled workers are hindered from migration due to complicated visa procedures,
- G. Believing that there is not enough emphasis placed on investigating cases of illegal labour,
- H. Confident that sanctions placed on companies found with illegal workers are not severe enough,
- I. Aware of the Employment Equality Directive (2000) as a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation,
- J. Deeply convinced that employment should be based solely on qualifications,
- K. Further noting the need for universal recognition of qualifications;
- 1. Recommends the establishment of a compulsory integration programme for immigrants with the intention of taking up permanent residence in a country, which would include:
 - a. Free part-time language courses,
 - b. Cultural integration campaigns,
 - c. Legal rights awareness programmes;

2. Suggests the implementation of standardised EU aptitude tests in specialised fields to enable a better comparison of skills and academic levels;
3. Calls for the establishment of information centres in countries with high numbers of emigrants to the EU providing information on the immigration policies and employment opportunities of all Member States;
4. Requests the creation of an accessible EU database providing information on the labour market situation in each Member State;
5. Further requests the introduction of visas that allow students to work whilst studying abroad;
6. Encourages trade unions to ensure adequate representation of immigrants;
7. Further recommends increased support and financial assistance for the EU Monitoring Centre in order to improve both quality and quantity of investigations of immigrant discrimination in the labour market;
8. Endorses systems of “anonymous CVs” without names, photographs, or nationalities to prevent potential discrimination against immigrants seeking employment;
9. Calls on employers to provide on request explanation for their decision when an individual is rejected for a job, so as to improve transparency and fairness in the labour market;
10. Considers it necessary to increase fines on companies that discriminate against immigrant workers;
11. Urges Member States to provide self-employment schemes for immigrants which would;
 - a. Clarify the legal processes for setting up businesses,
 - b. Offer subsidies to immigrants to set up businesses in areas of labour shortages,
 - c. Supply information on gaps in the labour market;
12. Congratulates the European Commission on its recent decision to implement a system of EU “blue cards” providing EU-wide working permits.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment

Shaping a European waste policy and the challenge of growing waste volumes: how can European states become recycling societies that avoid waste and use the remaining waste as a resource?

Submitted by: Adriana Díaz Martín-Zamorano (ES); Tereza Hadravová (CZ); John Joy (IE); Vladislav Kojic (CS); Paul Lavin (IE); Bogdan Mircea (RO); Alexandra Papatheodorou (GR); Melanie Staehelin (CH); Chrysovalandy Tryfonos (CY); Valentina Vitolo (IT); Maria Sleptsova (BY); Federico Fasol (IT – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Admitting that our current pattern of production and consumption must be adapted to minimize pressure on natural resources,
 - B. Alarmed by the amount of waste produced as a result of our unsustainable lifestyle,
 - C. Fully aware of the rigor of European Union (EU) legislation concerning waste management and of the existence of green taxes regarding the production of environmentally unfriendly goods,
 - D. Truly alarmed by the impact of the extraction, processing and treatment or disposal of waste on the environment,
 - E. Convinced that long-life products are both advantageous to consumers and environmentally friendly,
 - F. Bearing in mind that re-usage is preferable to recycling since there is then no need to reprocess waste,
 - G. Emphasising that recycling is beneficial for the world as it reduces the utilisation of raw materials,
 - H. Taking into account that the lack of appropriate waste collection infrastructures discourages recycling;
 - I. Recognising waste as a potential resource to produce energy,
 - J. Stressing the integral role that education and awareness play in the reduction of waste,
 - K. Deeply regretting the current wide-ranging usage of landfills,
 - L. Realising that landfills are a necessary method of waste disposal;
-
- 1. Urges the generation of waste to be minimised during the production stage within industries;
 - 2. Declares that EU waste management legislation should be reviewed and enforced to prevent potential hazards caused by the misuse of waste processing facilities;
 - 3. Calls for the development of alternative methods of waste disposal;
 - 4. Encourages research and innovation in the production of long-life products in order to reduce over-consumption;
 - 5. Calls for the use of low-waste energy for recycling purposes;

6. Requests further efforts to be made by local and national authorities in all Member States in order to make recycling more accessible by increasing the number of separate containers in private and public spaces;
7. Promotes the creation of composting facilities, anaerobic digesters and incinerators situated in all Member States as a viable way to obtain electricity, heating and fertilisers from waste;
8. Recommends the creation of an environmental conscience among all sectors of society by:
 - a) Providing information through the media to consumers in order to change their habits,
 - b) Supporting the involvement of schools in special projects and programmes;
9. Urges steps to be taken by the relevant authorities to minimise the environmental impact of landfills through:
 - a) Their usage as a last resort for waste disposal,
 - b) Stricter control and monitoring of illegal landfills,
 - c) Implementation of systems that, once the landfills have reached their capacity, can harness the released gases to produce energy.

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

The participation of women in public life in Europe: do directives, quotas and campaigns reinforce gender divisionism or encourage gender equality? How best can cultural norms be challenged in this field?

Submitted by: Micha Beekman (NL); Maria Chalhoub (SE); Sabina Crisan (RO); Kiriaki Kiriazidou (GR); Clara Mota Gassó (ES); Heleen Rijckaert (BE); Andrea Stagni (IT); Bram Vogels (BE); Tatjana Wahjudi (DE); Jonas Dreger (DE– Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Aiming at a societal evolution based on a mental revolution towards respect and objectivity, thus closing the gap between genders,
- B. Taking into account that women's rights are legally well-developed as per Art. 2 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the European Pact on Gender Equality, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the roadmap for equality between women and men (EP Resolution 13/03/07),
- C. Further considering the efforts made in political campaigns by non-governmental organisations and governmental bodies to put legal provisions into practice, such as All Equal All Different, the EQUAL Initiative as well as the initiatives of Terre des Femmes and the United Nations Development Fund for Women,
- D. Noting with regret that, according to the European Parliament's FEMM Committee, the average woman earns 15% less than the average man,
- E. Fully aware that differences on the labour market and in family life are caused not only by inequality and injustice, but also by biological differences,
- F. Deeply concerned about persistent prejudices towards the constitution, intelligence and competence of women,
- G. Bearing in mind that women are less attractive to the private labour market than men, as maternity leave requires further expenses for employers,
- H. Convinced that women still have difficulties in combining work and family life due to the fact that most Member States do not provide nurseries and kindergartens free of charge,
- I. Taking into account the number of female immigrants who are particularly vulnerable to isolation from public life due to the lack of personal freedom and information regarding their own rights and protection, as well as due to language problems,
- J. Realising that gender equality directives are prone to incorrect implementation at the national level,
- K. Believing that information campaigns may help to raise public awareness, but may consequently cause information overload and disinterest,
- L. Recognising the need for quotas favouring the employment of one gender in some Member States in specific cases to provide a launch pad to many women, nonetheless aware that long-term quotas encourage gender divisionism,

- M. Defining gender mainstreaming as an activity in which one screens projects and laws for their foreseeable effects on both sexes, with the aim of removing inequalities and promoting gender equality;
1. Supports gender mainstreaming by promoting:
 - a) Gender equality in the workplace and the home,
 - b) Equal participation and representation in public life,
 - c) Equal access and full enjoyment of social rights for men and women,
 - d) The change of gender roles and stereotypes;
 2. Suggests the creation of a curriculum that aims for the integration of gender equality topics into school subjects;
 3. Demands that social groups and organisations such as youth movements should be open to both genders;
 4. Calls upon the establishment of state-funded kindergartens and nurseries in all Member States that are free of charge;
 5. Demands that all Member States implement legislation to ensure three months each of voluntary parental leave for both parents in the first year after childbirth, with self-employed people being financially compensated by the state whereas employees would be compensated by their employers;
 6. Recommends that all quota in elected institutions fulfil the following:
 - a) All quota should be temporary and expire after the following election,
 - b) All quota should be implemented only in situations where they can provide a launch pad for women,
 - c) All quota should be periodically reviewed for their efficiency, appropriateness and adequacy;
 7. Draws attention to the need for an information campaign on the national level within the European Union in order to raise awareness by:
 - a) Informing about the laws concerning gender equality and their potential use within society, as well as about the right to enforce them in court,
 - b) Involving the public through debates and discussions concerning parental leave, quotas, as well as the situation of non-traditional families.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on International Trade

Winners and losers of economic globalisation – profits for investors and pittance to workers: how can the EU mitigate the downsides of globalisation and ensure workers' rights are upheld within and outside the Union?

Submitted by: Jolien De Witte (BE); Kateryna Kondrunina (UA); Konstantin Kraus (AT); Patrick Matthey (CH); Nam-Thanh Nguyen Cuu (FR); Sinem Örmeci (TR); Maximilian Piekut (PL); Afra Pujol Campeny (ES); Aniol Quer (ES); Kyriakos Toulgaridis (GR); Dimitris Zacharias (GR); Eric Katskowski (EE – Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with deep concern the increased industrial competition faced by the European Union (EU) because of the rapid growth of India and China,
 - B. Deeply dissatisfied by some European companies' decisions to create production sites outside the Union because of the availability of cheaper labour,
 - C. Bearing in mind the frequent violation of workers rights within and outside the borders of the EU,
 - D. Deeply disturbed by the abuse of the human workforce especially regarding the issue of child labour,
 - E. Deeply concerned about the increased industrial pollution caused by the process of globalisation,
 - F. Noting with regret that while the USA's research expenditure at 260 billion euros eclipses the EU's total research expenditure of 190 billion euros,
 - G. Noting with deep regret the difficulties that both legal and illegal immigrants face in integrating into the labour market;
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- 1. Encourages companies that have production sites in developing countries to respect workers' rights by sending inspectors and creating independent working associations for the exchange of know-how;
 - 2. Suggests the creation of new technologies in order to maintain competitiveness;
 - 3. Proposes an educational programme with the purpose of immigrant integration;
 - 4. Recommends the lowering and harmonisation of corporate taxes in member states of the EU in order to attract increased investment;
 - 5. Emphasises the importance of the creation of an attractive investment climate in the EU by ensuring political stability as well as reliable infrastructure;
 - 6. Forcefully requests that International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards must be applied when an EU company establishes a factory outside the EU;
 - 7. Strongly insists that a fine must be applied if a factory of an EU company operating outside the EU does not meet ILO standards;

8. Strongly suggests that the problem of child labour should be addressed by:
 - a) Supporting NGOs such as Free The Children, UNICEF and Global Marching,
 - b) Sending independent inspectors;
9. Calls for further research into alternative sources of energy to help reduce pollution;
10. Congratulates the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation and the High-Level Segment of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ESC) for promoting fair trade organisations and facilitating import tariff reduction through the General System of Preferences (GSP);
11. Supports the ESC's efforts to improve working conditions globally by:
 - a) Sending inspectors and experts from the EU to developing countries in order to convince countries to follow core labour standards,
 - b) Supporting management conferences such as the STAGE programme of the International Labour Organisation,
 - c) Monitoring compliance in respect of basic human and workers' rights in developing countries;
12. Requests an increase in the money spent on research by Member States with a minimum total of 2% of their GDP in order to achieve "state-of-the-art" technologies to create,
 - a) New branches of technology,
 - b) A dynamic economy;
13. Further requests that companies in the EU finance a redundancy payment equal to 3 months wages for employees that are dismissed.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs I

LGBT rights as a minefield of moral and cultural identities as well as prejudices and discrimination in Europe: how can European states reconcile respect for cultural and religious traditions whilst ensuring equal rights for people of all sexualities?

Submitted by: Praxedes de Vilallonga Papaseit (ES); Chrysanthi Karfi-Koi (GR); Ruth Kennivé (BE); Konstantinos Pantazopoulos (GR); Dino Pešut (HR); Laura Pettersson (FI); Riaan Stipp (DE); Lucka Stockova (CZ); Christopher Tripp (DE– President)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind that there is a diverse range of sexualities,
 - C. Deeply concerned for those being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation,
 - D. Believing that the younger generation of Europeans are more likely to approach this subject with an open mind,
 - E. Recognising the diversity of legislation concerning same-sex civil unions in Europe,
 - F. Acknowledging that cultural and historical factors can affect Member States' policies towards marriage and legislation concerning same-sex civil unions,
 - G. Recognising EU institutions which guarantee the principles of:
 - i) Human rights,
 - ii) Fundamental freedoms,
 - iii) Protection from discrimination,
 - H. Deeply concerned by the negligence of certain Member States in failing to uphold these principles,
 - I. Noting with satisfaction the current implementation of EU legislation, which assures that a same-sex marriage conducted in one Member State, must be recognised in all Member States;
-
- 1. Promotes an expansion of anti-discrimination laws forbidding discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation;
 - 2. Calls upon the European Court of Human Rights to uphold the institution of marriage as a basic human right for all consenting couples irrespective of gender;
 - 3. Designates that awareness should especially be directed towards children;
 - 4. Declares the need for better understanding of different sexual orientations and the importance of equal treatment through:
 - a) The study of different orientations during sex education,
 - b) The elimination of stereotypes and prejudice towards sexual orientation in school books;

5. Promotes the organisation of educational seminars for teaching personnel in order to achieve and preserve objectivity;
6. Calls upon the EU to support, in the form of partial partnerships, the already existing NGOs that defend LGBT rights by:
 - a) Allocating funds for campaigns which will provide their cause with the necessary publicity, recognition and acceptance,
 - b) Promoting governmental dialogue;
7. Further endorses Member States to enforce already existing EU legislations concerning human rights;
8. Proposes sanctions on Member States which fail to uphold the rights of LGBT couples, such as financial sanctions;
9. Strongly believes that, as a next step, adoption by same-sex couples should be legalised in every Member State after each one has socially accepted same-sex marriage.