

Resolutions of the 61st
International Session of the
European Youth Parliament



Under the High Patronage of
Lodewijk De Witte, Bernard Caprasse and Louis Tobback

RESOLUTION BOOKLET

61st International Session of the European Youth
Parliament

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RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE 61ST INTERNATIONAL SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS II

With the Taliban resurgent in Afghanistan and Pakistan on the brink of collapse: how should the EU work with the international community to prevent the further acceleration of instability and security lapses in the AFPAK region?

Submitted by: Radina Angelova (BG); Wim van Doorn (NL); Maria Kristine Göthner (NO); Alexander Van Laer (BE); Steliana Moraru (RO); Lydia Ni Fhloinn (IE); Pavlos Pachidis (GR); Matthew Pollock (GB); Angelica Richtner (SE); Davor Šišul (HR); Robert Siudak (PL); Rebecca Smith (FR); Laura Solenghi (IT); Eriks Varpahovskis (RU); Tornike Zurabashvili (GE); Oscar Schonfeld (Chairperson, UK)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Guided by the fact that efforts to impose values, beliefs and institutions have failed numerous times in the past in cases across the world,
- B. Noting with concern the power of extremist groups in parts of the region and their ongoing violent conflicts with the Pakistani military and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF):
 - i) Have a severely destabilising effect on the region as a whole and in the arenas of conflict themselves,
 - ii) Cause a humanitarian crisis through the generation of refugees in particular,
 - iii) Hinder economic development,
- C. Reaffirming the importance of the Pakistani military as a partner in the fight against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in the Afghanistan-Pakistan (AFPAK) border region,
- D. Deeply disturbed that the AFPAK border region is home to extremist religious groups who have carried out and continue to plan terrorist attacks against Europe, India and the United States (US) amongst others,
- E. Taking into account that civilian support for extremist religious groups in parts of the region encourages and facilitates their activities,
- F. Recognising that the ongoing dispute between Afghanistan and Pakistan over the Durand Line:
 - i) Results in diplomatic tension between the two countries,
 - ii) Contributes to a porous border which is susceptible to arms and drug smuggling,
 - iii) Hampers coordination of the fight against extremist religious groups in the border region,
- G. Convinced that Pakistan's hard-line approach to separatist movements, such as in Pashtun populated areas and Baluchistan, contributes to continuing instability in such regions,
- H. Fully aware of the ongoing use of so-called 'good jihadis' by the Pakistani military in the conflict against India in Kashmir and against separatist movements,
- I. Affirming that the EU cannot force a resolution to separatist disputes according to its own judgement of the merits of the case,
- J. Greatly encouraged by the Pakistani and Indian joint statement of intent (July 16th 2009) agreeing to:
 - i) Freeze the conflict in Kashmir,
 - ii) Work together to combat terrorism in the AFPAK region,
 - iii) Cooperate in the investigation of the Mumbai attacks,

K. Applauding EUPOL's ongoing work in:

- i) The implementation of anti-corruption strategy,
- ii) The development of the criminal investigation service,
- iii) The advancement of intelligence based policing,
- iv) Co-operating with ISAF,
- v) Increasing the police's role in securing key cities such as Kabul and Kandahar,
- vi) Combating the drug trade,

L. Expressing its disappointment about Member States' failure to fulfil their stated commitments to the EUPOL force,

M. Supporting the new less aggressive policy towards poppy production adopted by the US and the EU in Afghanistan,

N. Convinced that the development of alternative sources of livelihood is the long-term solution to poppy production,

O. Viewing with increasing approval the ongoing development of infrastructure in Afghanistan,

P. Concerned that education in the ACPAK region is not easily available for all,

Q. Taking into consideration that cultural, historical and religious customs which exist in parts of the region inhibit women's education,

R. Bearing in mind that highly educated women are required and culturally accepted in certain types of employment such as midwifery,

S. Believing that the development of the democratic process in Afghanistan is crucial to the country's future;

1. Prioritises soft power as the area for the EU's major assistance to the ACPAK region by focusing on:

- a) Development of civilian institutions in Afghanistan and the Pakistani border provinces,
- b) National reconstruction in Afghanistan;

2. Believes that the EU should delegate decisions regarding troop numbers to NATO and individual Member States;

3. Encourages the continuation of close cooperation between the EU and the Pakistani military whilst engaging with the newly established civilian administration;

4. Urges the EU to work towards alleviating the humanitarian and refugee problems caused by the conflict between extremist religious groups, the Pakistani military and ISAF through:

- a) Increasing crisis aid provision,
- b) Sending additional EU observers to ensure that the use of funds is as efficient as possible;

5. Supports talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan aimed at settling the Durand line dispute through:

- a) Joining with other international players in the region such as the US to put diplomatic pressure on Afghanistan and Pakistan to come to a resolution,
- b) Offering to play a mediating role in the negotiations;

6. Suggests that the EU acts as a mediator in separatist conflicts if allowed to do so by parties to any potential negotiations;

7. Continues to work towards a warming of relations between Pakistan and India in order to end the perception within Pakistan of being under constant threat from India;

8. Requests that the EUPOL operation be:

- a) Expanded in terms of number of officers,

b) Prolonged beyond its stated end date of 15th June 2010;

9. Calls for Member States to be compelled to follow through on their stated commitments to the EUPOL force;
10. Proposes the introduction of tax breaks for multinational companies' European operations provided that these companies invest in enterprises in Afghanistan;
11. Seeks to assist the upgrading of Pakistan and Afghanistan's financial services sectors, through expertise-sharing and financial backing, in order to increase access to banks and microfinance for the rural poor as well as small to medium sized enterprises;
12. Declares that EU funded reconstruction in Afghanistan should be carried out using local contractors wherever possible;
13. Designates a portion of local aid in Afghanistan to be positively linked to the level of school attendance in a given area;
14. Suggests that in addition to existing development aid direct payments be made to families in Afghanistan whose children attend school;
15. Urges the EU to subsidise the foundation of vocational schools by the government of Afghanistan to provide practical skills for women on a level footing with men;
16. Approves the EU observation mission for the upcoming Afghan presidential election on 20th August 2009

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Facing political disengagement: What opportunities do newer forms of technology offer in the challenge to widen democratic participation: How can the representatives of Europe do more to hear the voices of its citizens?

Submitted by: Seyran Aliyev (UA); Mareike Bojer (DE); Mícheál Callaghan (IE); Daniel Danev (BG); Chrysanthi Karfi – Koi (GR); Martin Kilp (EE); Floris Lauwers (BE); Teona Lavrelashvili (GE); Nemanja Predojevic (RS); Cristian Simion (RO); Estrella Waleson (NL); Sonja Pürckhauer (Chairperson, DE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into consideration the connection between the lack of European identity and the alarming drop in the European Parliament election turnouts in June 2009,
 - B. Concerned by the absence of a common European identity,
 - C. Bearing in mind that the citizens of the EU share common historical backgrounds and values,
 - D. Convinced that European identity should be developed and not imposed whilst not replacing but supplementing the national one,
 - E. Aware that European identity can be achieved with both input and output legitimacy,
 - F. Realising the need to tighten the pre-existing bonds between the Member States in order to develop a European identity,
 - G. Noting with regret the difficulty in easily accessing unbiased information regarding European institutions,
 - H. Realising the potential of newer forms of technology in the challenge to widen democratic participation,
 - I. Approving the European Ombudsman's role as a successful intermediary between the representatives of Europe and its citizens,
 - J. Recognising that interest groups play an important role in widening democratic participation of citizens in the EU,
 - K. Approving the possible implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative, that would enable citizens to influence legislation in the EU, as proposed by the Lisbon Treaty;
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- 1. Introduces a unified voting system for the European Parliament elections that will provide all citizens with the possibility to vote for:
 - a) A party list as a whole,
 - b) An individual candidate within a party or an independent candidate;
 - 2. Proclaims the acceptance of an e-voting procedure under the guidance of an EU watchdog organisation, which ensures security in the internet;
 - 3. Recommends national governments to inform their citizens about their civic duties by sending information packs on voting procedures and EU institutions to first time voters;
 - 4. Supports live streaming of all sessions of the European Parliament and its expansion to further EU institutions;
 - 5. Recommends the purchase of advertising space in major newspapers and their online versions by the EU in order to inform citizens about European legislation and current European topics at a European level;

6. Encourages the representatives of Europe to familiarise themselves with new technologies in order to reach out to voters;
7. Recommends the facilitation of communication between MEPs and the electorate by the establishment of EU-wide “online town halls”;
8. Authorises an extension of the “European Citizens Consultation” programme which will:
 - a) Take place in specially designed online fora,
 - b) Address contemporary issues,
 - c) Consist of a certain number of participants according to each country’s population coming from different social and economic backgrounds from all EU Member States,
 - d) Operate on an ongoing basis,
 - e) Send the results of its discussions to the corresponding EU commissioner;
9. Urges EU officials to listen to the voices of its citizens for the legislation process by taking into account the Eurobarometer polls;
10. Calls upon all MEPs to:
 - a) Arrange monthly visiting hours at their local offices,
 - b) Publicise the aforementioned visiting hours,
 - c) Hold open live-meetings on the internet for the public;
11. Recommends the pan-European expansion of EU information offices to all Member States;
12. Calls for the European institutions to further promote their already existing websites using version such as web 2.0 and web 3.0;
13. Endorses the inclusion of European history courses to all Member States as a part of the school curriculum to foster an understanding among young people;
14. Approves the promotion of European political simulations and exchange programmes.

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

With rape, forced marriages and sexual harassment still present in Europe: what policies could better protect women against violence in society?

Submitted by: Faustine Bidaud (FR); Jakob Fölster (DE); Patricia Garcia Guix (ES); Elsa Horn af Rantzien (SE); Andreia Hozhan (PT); Artemis Ioannides (GR); Semra Jakupi (MK); Rania Kourou (CY); Christiane Kraus (AT); Ciara McGrath (IE); Sebastiaan De Meue (BE); Tihomir Nedev (BG); Anneclaire van Not (NL); Giulia Pace (IT); Slawomir Pelczar (PL); Ruben Wagenaar (Chairperson, NL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining violence against women as occurring in their public or private lives and involving:
 - i) Female-directed violence which will or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm,
 - ii) Threats of such actions,
 - iii) Coercion,
 - iv) The deprivation of liberty,
- B. Noting with deep concern that approximately one in five women in Europe are victims of physical or sexual violence at least once in their lives,
- C. Bearing in mind the contribution of societal norms, religious dogmas and traditions, and biological differences to gender-inequality and violence against women,
- D. Noting with concern that violence against women, in addition to the human suffering it causes, has a negative effect on society, including high costs for the health sector, social services, the police and the judiciary,
- E. Alarmed by the fact that cases of violence against women often remain unreported,
- F. Taking note of the difficulties in collecting data relevant to violence against women and comparing this data between Member States,
- G. Aware of the social stigma concerning violence against women,
- H. Defining forced marriage as marriage without the genuine consent of both parties,
- I. Noting that forced marriages cannot be easily identified because official consent is given even when genuine consent is not,
- J. Viewing with appreciation the Daphne III programme (2007-2013) aimed at:
 - i) Raising awareness within the EU,
 - ii) Providing support to Non Governmental Organisations and other organisations aimed at combating violence against women,
- K. Noting with satisfaction that eradicating all forms of gender-based violence is a main priority of the "Roadmap for equality between women and men 2006-2010",
- L. Welcoming the request for a 'European Year on Zero Tolerance of Violence Against Women' by the European Parliament,
- M. Noting with appreciation resolution 2008/2071/(INI) on combating female mutilation in the EU,
- N. Recognising the need for continued improvement of support for victims of violence against women;

1. Draws attention to the need for a pan-European definition of gender-based violence to be established as a basis for making legislation pertaining to violence against women more uniform;
2. Urges Member States to introduce lessons about perceived gender roles and stereotypes as well as the social phenomenon of violence against women into the compulsory primary and secondary school curriculum;
3. Calls for the establishment of a media campaign with information concerning potential risks and dangers of violence against women, means of protection, and available support for victims and their families;
4. Requests that Member States adopt a standardised method of collecting data on gender-based violence;
5. Recommends that the legal age of marital consent regardless of parental consent be set at eighteen by all Member States;
6. Suggests that the European Year on Zero Tolerance of Violence Against Women be focused on:
 - a) Raising public awareness,
 - b) Combating social stigma,
 - c) Facilitating the involvement of men and young people in the Year's programme,
 - d) Encouraging increased cooperation between Member States;
7. Encourages the continuation of the Daphne programme beyond 2013;
8. Calls upon Member States to designate a percentage of their budget to support the eradication of violence against women;
9. Strongly recommends that Member States provide training to public servants involved with victims of gender-based violence in order to help them best support these victims and promote gender-equality in their professions.

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

Integration or assimilation? With several European countries recently introducing citizenship trajectories and tests, which model for immigrant integration should Europe adopt in an increasingly multicultural society?

Submitted by: Federico Biondi (IT); Malika Bouazzaoui (FR); Erik Burton (NO); Afra Pujol Campeny (ES); Anil Eryilmaz (TR); Mary Golden (IR); Anastasiya Kot (UA); Paulina Lushaku (AL); Jonathan Maerker (SE); Hanna Ollinen (FI); Stavros Pagonidis (GR); Frances Pimenta (PT); Aleksander Pudlowski (PL); Anna Ursu (RU); Jakob Van Wassenhove (BE); Philip Danielsson (Chairperson, SE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Observing the need for increased cooperation within the EU regarding immigration and integration policies,
 - B. Recognising the importance of the Common Basic Principles (CBP) on immigration policy agreed upon by the European Council in Brussels 2004,
 - C. Expressing hope for increased mutual respect between immigrants and the EU citizens,
 - D. Fully believing that multiculturalism does not pose a threat to the national identity of host countries,
 - E. Affirming that intercultural dialogue is essential for an effective integration process,
 - F. Concerned that assimilation can lead to segregation, frustration and violence causing people to change their cultural identity and heritage,
 - G. Deeply concerned by stereotypes towards immigrants employed in low-paid jobs or living of social welfare,
 - H. Noting with regret the legislation in some Member States banning religious practises and traditions,
 - I. Alarmed by the increased number of hate crimes against immigrants,
 - J. Noting with deep concern the spread of Islamophobia, Racism and Xenophobia across Europe,
 - K. Noting with approval the principal of using citizenship tests,
 - L. Confident in each Member State's ability to evaluate immigrants applying for citizenship,
 - M. Taking into account the difficult financial situation of many recent immigrants into the host country,
 - N. Bearing in mind that demographic decline in the EU will eventually lead to a lack of labour force,
 - O. Confident that recognising immigrants' skills helps them integrate into the labour market,
 - P. Aware of the fact that the financial crisis makes integration difficult due to increased tension in the labour market causing social conflicts,
 - Q. Emphasising the need to facilitate the access to essential public institutions for resident immigrants such as Healthcare System, Educational System and Legal Expert Assistance;
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- 1. Supports the creation of a common European network of information for immigrants supervised by a European Commission Directorate with the purpose of explaining rights and legislation, using means such as but not limited to brochures, help lines and counselling websites;

2. Endorses the promotion of international literature in schools, universities and libraries especially related to local minorities;
3. Calls upon the EU Member States to promote multiculturalism in state media both concerning presentation and content with particular regard to children's media;
4. Urges the reallocation of funds from the European Integration Fund (EIF) for the creation and maintenance of multicultural centres, whose activities include:
5. The organising of cultural events such as festivals promoting immigrants' cultures,
6. The organising of community level exchanges between immigrants and current inhabitants so as to enable the sharing of cultural practises and languages,
7. The establishment of social assistance programmes for immigrants in need;
8. Endorses anti-racism media campaigns, particularly those raising awareness of racially-related violence and crime;
9. Strongly recommends Member States not to legislate against religious and traditional practises whilst accepting the primacy of the European Convention for Human Rights (ECHR);
10. Recommends the introduction of citizenship tests that require basic knowledge of language, culture and law consisting of an EU-wide and a nationally specific section;
11. Encourages EU Member States governments to provide the citizenship test and optional citizenship test preparation courses on a pay back system in which immigrants pay the government back after obtaining citizenship, with a possibility of partial subsidies;
12. Further recommends that all immigrants applying for citizenship should be obliged to pass the citizenship test, except immigrants coming through the Family Reunification Act (FRA) and are economically dependent on an EU citizen family member;
13. Further requests that all immigrants who come through the FRA and are economically dependent on an EU citizen family member should be obliged to take the citizenship test preparation course;
14. Calls upon EU Member States to provide vocational programs for immigrants facing employability difficulties with:
15. Links to official integration mechanisms (e.g. citizenship trajectories),
16. Regard to facilitated cooperation between the programmes and relevant employers;
17. Requests a system of easier recognition of qualifications gained in a non-EU country.

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

With Europe facing great recession and high unemployment in the wake of the economic and financial crisis: how should European states encourage economic growth whilst achieving social cohesion?

Submitted by: Aida Arosoaie (RO); Burak Başoğlu (TR); Veronika Držková (CZ); Gustav Forssell (SE); Kevin Hartwell (FR); Pýry Helkkula (FI); Ilias Masouras (GR); Eimear O'Carroll (IE); Afrola Plaku (IT); Yavor Popov (BG); Ekaterina Sushchevskaya (RU); Katarzyna Uchman (PL); Panayiotis Votsis (CY); Iuliia Zemlytska (UA); Emre Tekişalp (Chairperson, TR)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Disturbed by the rising unemployment rate that is projected by the EU Commission Economic Prognosis to reach an average of 11% by 2010 for the EU27,
- B. Recognising the ever-changing nature of the labour market due to rapid technological advancement leading to deficit of skilled workers,
- C. Noting with deep concern the lack of work experience amongst graduates of institutions of higher education entering the labour market,
- D. Taking into consideration that it is inevitable and necessary for certain skills of workers to become redundant in order to achieve economic growth,
- E. Emphasising the need for increased geographical and occupational workforce mobility,
- F. Noting with deep regret the current strain on the provision of social welfare due to the deteriorating economic situation,
- G. Aware of the current tendencies to implement protectionist policies within Member States,
- H. Alarmed by the decrease in investment and trade due to the economic and financial crisis,
- I. Bearing in mind the relative stability of household consumption expenditure in comparison with investment and trade,
- J. Stressing the distrust between financial institutions and consumers, resulting in declining liquidity in turn limiting investment prospects,
- K. Emphasising the importance of the banking system in maintaining the vitality of the economy,
- L. Observing the recent bank bailouts by Member States, resulting in diminished public confidence in the banking sector,
- M. Conscious of the fact that the annual inflation rate in the Euro area is currently at - 0.1%,
- N. Taking into consideration the disparities between EU countries with regards to unemployment rates, tax rates and social welfare spending,
- O. Welcoming the proposal of 'Shared Commitment for Employment' by the EU Commission focusing on:
 - i) Creating apprenticeship opportunities for more than 5 million young people across Europe,
 - ii) Redirecting 19 billion Euros to the European Social Fund (ESF) that is devoted to promote employment and retraining opportunities in the EU,
 - iii) Reallocating 100 million Euros towards the creation of a new microcredit facility;

1. Urges all Member States to invest in occupational training, retraining and apprenticeships in order to produce a flexible, multi skilled workforce;
2. Encourages universities to further facilitate voluntary work placements where relevant, in tandem with the regular academic programme;
3. Calls for the immediate implementation of the 'match and map' service which will provide a pan-European database of job vacancies for the unemployed, taking into consideration their skills and geographic location;
4. Invites increased government spending into social welfare, healthcare and education;
5. Condemns the use of any further protectionist policies in order to strengthen the single market;
6. Endorses the introduction of tax incentives for start-up companies in their initial years of trading;
7. Requests the further provision of micro-credit loans for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and entrepreneurs;
8. Emphasizes the need for further investment in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector and Research and Development (R&D);
9. Deplores the use of government funds to bail out bankrupt companies;
10. Recommends regular monitoring of the banking sector to measure the level of high risk debt in the system in order to achieve financial credibility;
11. Proposes the establishment of a pan-European insurance fund to be:
 - a) Funded by mandatory premiums paid by all European banks,
 - b) Available to bail out banks in times of financial crisis;
12. Suggests that the European Central Bank (ECB) adjusts required reserve ratios according to the needs of individual Member States;
13. Supports an increase in the number of repurchase agreements aimed at recapitalization between companies and the ECB;
14. Considers that the ECB should further reduce its interest rates whilst inflation levels remain low;
15. Approves of the ECB's policy of recapitalisation of banks.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS I

Given recent signals for engagement with Europe from the Belarusian regime, what can be done to welcome the continent's 'last dictatorship' into the diplomatic fold? Or how should Europe work with the continent's 'last dictatorship' in light of recent calls to thaw cold relations?

Submitted by: Frans Beerkens (NL); Valeriia Cherednichenko (UA); Lavrentia Christodoulou (GR); Marie Dromey (IE); Laszlo Gulacsi (RO); Arno Janssen (BE); Sandro Juplakiani (GE); Jorge Simelio Jurado (ES); Noora Piilola (FI); Remi Rivoal (FR); Lea Schiewer (DE); Konrad Staeger (CH); Bartosz Stós (PL); Eni Zyliftari (AL); Ceyda Erten (Chairperson, TR)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Guided by the intention of the EU to welcome Belarus into a community which stands for values such as human rights, the rule of law and free market,
- B. Noting with approval that the EU visa ban placed upon high ranking Belarusian officials has been lifted until December 2009,
- C. Supporting Belarus' decision not to recognise Georgia's two breakaway regions Abkhazia and South Ossetia,
- D. Noting with appreciation that Belarusian authorities released four political prisoners in August 2008,
- E. Deeply concerned by:
 - i) The arrests of those supporting democracy in opposition to the state,
 - ii) The unsolved cases of disappeared persons,
- F. Alarmed by the fact that despite Belarus being a member of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the most recent elections in September 2008 were not held in a fully transparent way,
- G. Disturbed by the fact that Belarus remains the only country in Europe that exercises the death penalty,
- H. Recognising that Belarus is not included in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which, through funding, aims at strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of the EU and its neighbours,
- I. Welcoming Belarus' participation in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) which aims at further strengthening of the relationship between the EU and six post-Soviet countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine,
- J. Bearing in mind that Belarus does not fully benefit from the EaP,
- K. Understanding that the Belarusian economy is not competitive, efficient or modernised,
- L. Noting that stable relations between Belarus and Russia have been jeopardised as a consequence of disagreements concerning political and economic matters,
- M. Noting with deep concern that censorship in Belarus results in limited media freedom and a lack of unbiased public awareness regarding the state of affairs in Belarus,
- N. Noting with regret that the authoritarian regime restricts the formation and action of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consequently restricting freedom of speech and the right to assembly,
- O. Acknowledging with regret that Belarusian youth has limited access to youth organisations and exchange programmes across Europe,

P. Noting with approval that the Council of Europe opened an European information centre in Minsk in 2009;

1. Proposes all sanctions placed upon Belarusian officials by the EU to be lifted indefinitely in accordance with future to progress by the Belarusian government;
2. Calls for:
 - a) The prevention of further political imprisonment,
 - b) Joint EU-Belarus investigation into the cases of disappeared persons;
3. Urges the allowance of unrestricted access of independent observers during the election process;
4. Demands the establishment of a moratorium on death penalty;
5. Strongly requests that the Belarusian authorities respect democratic values and human rights in order to gain access to the benefits provided by the ENP such as economic integration, improved market access, financial and technical aid as well as facilitation of visa issuance;
6. Expects Belarus to make vast improvements regarding human rights in order to actively participate in the EaP;
7. Calls for greater ease of access to the European market for Belarusian goods;
8. Supports the improvement of conditions for foreign investment by engaging foreign companies with the Belarusian market;
9. Proposes organising an international conference on investing in Belarus gathering private investors and Belarusian state representatives;
10. Emphasises that stronger relations between Europe and Belarus would allow Europe to act as a reliable partner to Belarus;
11. Notes that a healthier relationship between Russia and Belarus would be mutually beneficial;
12. Requests Belarusian authorities:
 - a) Give media full access to the available distribution networks,
 - b) Remove restrictions for foreign media to operate within and distribute to Belarus,
 - c) Simplify media registration procedures,
 - d) Allow citizens to access the different forms of media without the interference of the government;
13. Calls upon Europe to financially support Belarusian NGOs through programs such as the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
14. Further requests the Belarusian government allow the registration of independent NGOs;
15. Calls for Belarusian authorities to remove any punitive restrictions on participation in youth activities;
16. Urges Europe to provide Belarus with more access to educational funds and additional information on youth organisations and exchange programmes;
17. Encourages the Council of Europe to open new information points across the country thus allowing Belarus to participate more in the activities of the Council of Europe.

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

Smoking bans and alcohol restrictions: protection of citizens or impingement on individual rights? To what extent does the state have a role to educate and protect its citizens' health and what strategy should it adopt?

Submitted by: Ioana Laura Alecsiu (RO); Monica Ileana Dobre (AT); Melissa Forss (FI); Ariadne Frangi (BE); Monika Kachlik (CZ); Eugene Korotaev (RU); Snezhina Marinova (BG); Nikolas Mavreas (CY); Antonia Proka (GR); Viktoriia Pustynikova (UA); Magdalena Swider (PL); Božidar Nikša Tarabic (HR); Saale Tartes (EE); Marta Valls (ES); Len Veenker (NL); Eleni Aristodemou (Chairperson, CY)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Fully aware that tobacco usage and alcohol abuse cause severe health problems,
 - B. Recognising individuals' freedom of choice concerning the consumption of alcohol and use of tobacco products,
 - C. Affirming the right of all citizens to enjoyment of the highest obtainable standard of health,
 - D. Deeply conscious of the consequences of second hand smoking on public health,
 - E. Alarmed by the fact that tobacco remains the number one avoidable cause of death in Europe,
 - F. Observing the increase in the usage of alternative forms of tobacco products such as snuff,
 - G. Welcoming Portugal's decision to decriminalise drug use as a means of combating the abuse of drugs,
 - H. Believing that if cigarette sales fall the reduction in government tax revenue associated would be offset by the decrease in healthcare expenditure,
 - I. Noting the social and economic costs alcohol abuse imposes on society,
 - J. Alarmed by the fact that Europe is the continent with the highest consumption of alcohol per capita in the world,
 - K. Deeply concerned with the rising problems surrounding alcohol abuse and its consequences, such as underage drinking, excessive drinking and drink driving,
 - L. Bearing in mind the differences in cultural norms regarding smoking and alcohol consumption between Member States,
 - M. Taking into consideration that drinking habits vary according to age and gender, requiring different approaches to tackle the problems related to alcohol abuse;
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- 1. Calls for a total ban on smoking in enclosed public places, with the exception of offices equipped with specially designed smoking rooms;
 - 2. Urges Member States to extend existing anti-smoking campaigns to ensure that non-smokers are fully aware of the potential damage to their health from second hand smoke;
 - 3. Supports the work of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and EU programmes such as HELP and Euro-Bob in campaigning against smoking and drink-driving;
 - 4. Calls upon the European Commission to draft updated proposals for:

- a) A total ban of tobacco product advertising,
 - b) A prohibition of advertising alcoholic products on television;
- 5. Endorses the pan-European introduction of warning labels on alcoholic drinks;
- 6. Encourages the establishment and the organisation of more alcohol-free venues and events;
- 7. Calls for an increase in financial support of rehabilitation programmes for addicts;
- 8. Recommends the introduction of measures to reduce the accessibility of tobacco and alcohol products including:
- 9. The removal of such products from vending machines,
- 10. Tighter restrictions on purchasing hours;
- 11. Further recommends an increase in the frequency of inspections of shops and clubs investigating cases of sale of products to under-aged individuals to ensure that ID checks are carried out.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Biting the bullet: After decades of European development aid to sub-Saharan Africa, how should Europe refine its objectives and priorities? Is the current economic crisis a black cloud with a silver lining when it comes to the future of international development?

Submitted by: George Barnes (GB); Alison Connolly (IE); Aude Durand (FR); Justus Goettemann (DE); Martin Haba (CZ); David Hemmi (CH); Dirk Anton Janssen (NL); Dora Katarina Jericevic (HR); Julia Khurchakova (UA); Aniol Quer (ES); Ivelina Slavova (BG); Maria Tandek (PL); Inger Brunvatne Thommessen (NO); Spiros Zafiris (GR); Helya Houshmand (Chairperson, SE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into account that Africa consists of 53 countries with 900 million inhabitants yet has a GDP that accounts for only 1.78% of world Gross Domestic Product (GDP),
- B. Alarmed by the fact that the current economic crisis has hindered sub-Saharan development, decreasing growth from 6.9% in 2007 to 2.4% in 2009, leading to a significant drop in private and foreign direct investment,
- C. Reaffirming that the many basic prerequisites that are needed for African development outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (e.g. basic education, infrastructure, nutrition, clean water and health care), should be the primary goals of our development policies,
- D. Realising that geographical factors have a sizeable effect on development,
- E. Bearing in mind that the already disadvantageous circumstances (e.g. demographic growth, extreme poverty, diseases, unemployment, debt, years of conflict) in Africa have been further aggravated by the current economic crisis,
- F. Believing that the current economic crisis is an opportunity for the EU to focus aid more effectively rather than spending valuable funds on inefficient aid strategies,
- G. Noting with deep concern that development aid does not always reach its target due to lack of transparency and traceability, corruption, bad governance and long-lasting conflicts, resulting in the misuse of development aid given,
- H. Noting with regret that the lack of cooperation between development agencies on a local level lead to inefficient results,
- I. Deeply concerned by primary product dependency in several sub-Saharan countries,
- J. Believing that unilateral trade liberalisation imposed by international organisations create obstacles for the development of an African internal market,
- K. Keeping in mind that high debt and high interest rates in combination with a lack of capital create further barriers to the development of sub-Saharan Africa,
- L. Deeply concerned by the African brain drain caused by the lack of employment opportunities,
- M. Believing that aid is not a one-way process for the sole benefit of the recipient, but can in fact create significant benefits for donors in both the short and long term,
- N. Noting that the current aid system results in African dependency upon international aid,
- O. Recognises that the flow of capital in aid form to Africa often returns to the donor country because of donor centric aid conditions, thereby the potential of the aid is not fully maximised,

P. Bearing in mind that aid and the methods through which it is provided will not be effective without acknowledging African customs and cultures;

1. Strongly requests that EU Member States meet previously agreed levels of financial aid by 2015 despite the current economic situation and only then discuss a possible change of percentage of GDP given as aid to Africa;
2. Calls for increased supervision and monitoring of EU financial aid by EU supervisors and institutions;
3. Calls for the EU to accelerate the reduction of agricultural subsidies given to Member States with the aim of creating greater competition for African goods;
4. Demands that greater amounts of aid, such as machines and irrigation, be utilised to stimulate and improve sub-Saharan agriculture in order to yield self sufficiency;
5. Encourages the creation of a central structure to organise and distribute micro credit;
6. Suggests that more aid be targeted to those sub-Saharan Africa states that allow tax breaks on African companies, in order to encourage entrepreneurship in Africa;
7. Further recommends that European investment and expertise be used in the initiation of African companies so that training is provided leading to future self reliance on the condition that the initial investment cost is paid back by the benefactor;
8. Emphasises that aid be targeted towards infrastructure development projects undertaken by African workers to improve access to basic facilities in order to make African countries more attractive to international investors;
9. Approves and expresses its hope for:
 - a) Partnerships between African and European secondary and tertiary level educational institutions,
 - b) The creation of 'branches' of European universities in Africa (such as the already existing Oxford and Cambridge branches),
 - c) Scholarships for African students to increase access to EU and African universities;
10. Approves and calls for further multilateral rather than bilateral aid;
11. Strongly calls for greater support for sustainable and environmentally friendly development projects;
12. Calls for the creation of an online database which would allow aid workers to contribute detailed reports on their experience and which EU organisations would be required to join;
13. Endorses the lowering of requirements of debt cancellation and freezing policies according to the situation of each country, taking into account the date the loan was taken by which government and focusing on whether the country is using the received aid in an efficient and responsible way;
14. Urges cooperation between all present aid organisations on a local level and that health aid agencies in sub-Saharan Africa merge so that they may benefit from economies of scale, allowing greater distribution and a greater quantity of health aid to be provided in the future;
15. Recommends the sub-Saharan African states embark upon a large-scale educational campaign, using internationally influential individuals along with the mandatory courses in schools in order to inform Africans of current health issues;
16. Calls for the EU to utilise its expertise to help develop greater economic integration in sub-Saharan Africa by assisting the already existing economic blocs and targeting aid to address those needs identified from dialogues with African parties;
17. Further invites the private sector to invest more in the telecommunication industry of sub-Saharan Africa to improve the access to information and basic infrastructure;
18. Resolves to provide development aid through government budget support only when basic human rights of the citizens are respected in the recipient country. Failure to do so would lead to the recommendation of aid being distributed by independent organisations;

19. Encourages greater political partnerships between the UN and the African Union concerning combined peace-keeping operations to help solve conflicts;
20. Strongly emphasises the need for both short and long term development measures in regions of conflicts in the form of:
 - a) Humanitarian aid which bypasses the government and reaches the people directly,
 - b) Diplomatic dialogue between both parties,
 - c) The introduction of UN and African Union (AU) peace-keeping troops into the region when necessary.

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

With cultural spending being hit hard by the economic and financial crisis, what should be done to protect cultural heritage and support cultural institutions from scaling back and closing? Has time come for the state to intervene?

Submitted by: Milena Aleksieva (BG); Anna-Liisa Altmets (EE); Madalina Huzum (RO); Valeriia Konstantynova (UA); Kübra Kundak (TR); Lilian Liu (SE); Kyle Meyr (NO); Elina Astrid Peltoniemi (FI); Yoann Péron (FR); George Pontikas (GR); Eldar Salamov (RU); Kaat Vandervelde (BE); Przemyslaw Wilk (PL); Simon Wurster (DE); Dominik Drašnar (Chairperson, CZ)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining culture as creations that are considered valuable, worth conserving and forming part of an identity,
 - B. Further defining cultural heritage as the reflection of culture derived from the past,
 - C. Acknowledging that already existing problems such as insufficient funding and declining interest faced by cultural institutions have been worsened by the financial crisis,
 - D. Deeply conscious about the general lack of interest in cultural events shown by the state and the public,
 - E. Noting with regret the insufficient funding of cultural activities due in part to the perceived belief that funding social responsibility programs should not be a priority,
 - F. Noting with approval the success of EU sponsored initiatives such as the European Heritage Network (HEREIN) and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA),
 - G. Recognising the need for freedom of expression and creative independence in art and culture,
 - H. Believing that there is an inherent relationship between cultural activity and the formation of national identity,
 - I. Convinced that educational systems throughout Europe fail to bring young people into sufficient contact with culture,
 - J. Bearing in mind the need for more people with a background in management and engagement in cultural activities to participate in policy making for the respective activities,
 - K. Observing that access to cultural institutions is limited by, amongst other factors, an individual's socio-economic situation and / or disability,
 - L. Taking into consideration the importance of cultural institutions and activities for the local community as well as its benefits for local economy, as demonstrated by the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao;
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- 1. Suggests that public funding of cultural institutions be dependent on the implementation of policies to:
 - a) Reduce expenditure that is not designated to be spent upon the primary purpose of the institution,
 - b) Improve marketing and promotion in order to make cultural institutions more attractive to the public;
 - 2. Recommends that Member States provide further financial incentives for private investment in cultural institutions through tax breaks for investors;

3. Endorses the promotion of cultural institutions and the reinvention of their public image using the modern forms of communication such as internet and TV broadcasting;
4. Proposes that cultural events such as visits to museums are incorporated into the school curriculum by the states that have not done so yet;
5. Approves the EU sponsored initiatives such as HEREIN and EACEA;
6. Further urges the continuation and further development of HEREIN and EACEA;
7. Demands the Member States to establish a homogenised system of 'Social tickets' for cultural events to certain social groups, such as children, pensioners, people with special needs and other groups as specified by individual Member States;
8. Calls for more effective use of cultural heritage through public social activities;
9. Demands the support of artists regardless of ideology through:
 - a) Non-monetary support such as provision of promotional and practical materials and state-owned venues,
 - b) Redistributing the existing monetary aid in smaller amounts to larger numbers of people;
10. Further suggests the establishment of cultural management programmes in higher education in all Member States;
11. Emphasises the need for the preservation of cultural heritage to be carried out on a local level by local institutions being best qualified to identify their specific needs;
12. Expresses its hope that the suggested initiatives would be in part implemented by local authorities.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS I

The limits of human rights: to what extent are human rights universal and how should European countries best promote them in international fora?

Submitted by: Yulia Absalyamova (RU); Severin Bischof (DE); George Alexander Charalambous (CY); Tamta Gabunia (GE); Annika Gilljam (SE); Flurina Aurelia Ineichen (CH); Henry Kirveslahti (FI); Marina Lazeri (AL); Douglas Newlands (UK); Alex Nompilakis (GR); Simone Passeri (IT); Aleksandrs Safronovs (LV); Duncan Tristan Scholten (NL); Silvia Susach Giralt (ES); Ingvild Thorsvik (NO); David Bokhorst (Chairperson, NL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into consideration the large variety of cultures in different global regions which generally hinders the universal implementation of basic human rights,
 - B. Acknowledging that certain human rights are vital to maintain a reasonable standard of living and rate of development,
 - C. Deeply regretting that the paternalistic attitude of the West has led to increased international tension and distrust,
 - D. Bearing in mind that economic sacrifices of the West have to be made in order to obtain a better human rights situation,
 - E. Contemplating on the possible positive and negative effects of imposing trade sanctions on countries that violate human rights,
 - F. Noting with regret that the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is performing inadequately in protecting human rights (e.g. Darfur),
 - G. Convinced that democracy is not a necessary condition for the implementation of basic human rights,
 - H. Expressing its satisfaction concerning the positive effect that the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) has in building relationships between the EU and its neighbours,
 - I. Emphasising the importance of education for the understanding and implementation human rights in the long term,
 - J. Noting with deep concern that some businesses tend to abuse human rights to maximise their profit,
 - K. Reaffirms the need for continual improvement of human rights within the developed as well as the developing world in order to perfect Europe's human rights record thus maintaining credibility among other nations;
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- 1. Recommends that Member States take a step-by-step approach to the problem of human rights violations by:
 - a) Prioritising the promotion of the implementation of those human rights that ensure the life and physical well being of all human beings on a global scale,
 - b) Further integrating additional human rights from the UDHR to be promoted in accordance with the culture and society of the respective area;
 - 2. Encourages greater publicity and support to be given to those Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that currently raise awareness of human rights by providing media attention and funding;
 - 3. Advises the separation of the EU's democratisation programme and the human rights initiatives to avoid the perception of paternalism by the West;

4. Urges the EU to introduce product labels (similar to the warnings on cigarette packages) to be put on products affiliated with human rights violations (e.g. slave labour) by the European Court of Justice;
5. Strongly encourages the further prioritisation of human rights clauses into the already existing ENP;
6. Further proclaims that the EU will take no military actions in the enforcement of human rights;
7. Encourages the EU to further engage in multilateral discussions in order to reach a compromise with countries in which the EU is trying to promote human rights;
8. Endorses the further support of already existing programmes in education such as the UNICEF “peer-to-peer” education in order to ensure an adequate level of education in Least Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) and the long-term ability to obtain a better human rights situation;
9. Urges the EU to not cause further suffering for citizens when using economic pressure on governments by encouraging the Member States to scrutinise the situation and judge whether there will be undesirable effects.