



**52nd International Session
of the European Youth Parliament**

VeRi 2006

RESOLUTION BOOKLET



21st - 30th July 2006
Ventspils/Riga, Latvia

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Friday 28th July 2006

Opening of General Assembly

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Coffee Break

Committee on Security and Defence

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Lunch

Committee on Constitutional Affairs 2

Committee on Foreign Affairs 1

Committee on Constitutional Affairs 1

Coffee Break

Committee on Culture and Education 1

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs 2

Saturday 29th July 2006

General Assembly reconvenes

Committee on Human Rights

Committee on Development

Coffee Break

Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Committee on Culture and Education 2

Lunch

Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Committee on Foreign Affairs 2

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs 1

Coffee Break

Closing Ceremony

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

‘The average unemployment rate in the EU 25 is at just over 8.7% (2005). The average youth unemployment rate in the EU 25 is 18.5%. (Eurostat)’

How can European governments tackle the challenges of the youth unemployment in both the short and long term?

Submitted by: Thibaut Toye (BE); Liosha Patapyenka (BY); Monika Kachlik (CZ); Elena Osenstetter (DE); Carla del Valle Lafuente (ES); Cécile Langlais (FR); Eleni-Sofia Adamopoulou (GR); Ljudmila Klasic (HR); Anna Cocchi (IT); Tatsiana Martos (BY); Hessam Mobasser (BE); Johannes Rackow (DE); Carl-Alexander Van Tornout, Chairperson (BE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Acknowledging the importance of the Lisbon Strategy, whose aim is to ensure that the EU has the most highly developed knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010,
 - B. Recognising the poverty of information exchange concerning working vacancies across Europe,
 - C. Fully aware of the increased redundancy of workers due to technological advances,
 - D. Desiring better educational standards in order to complement both practical and theoretical studies,
 - E. Alarmed by the lack of vocational training facilities,
 - F. Seeking public service guidance for both skilled and unskilled unemployed youth,
 - G. Noting with approval the existence of merit-based and need-based scholarships from universities on the condition that the students maintain a part time job to repay the scholarship,
 - H. Extremely concerned that the youth is seen as inexperienced and unreliable in the workplace,
 - I. Hopes for improved contractual conditions that ensure fair salaries and full time employment for young employees,
 - J. Noting with deep concern the lack of financial aid for and government attention to the issue of youth unemployment,
 - K. Deeply disturbed by the growth of black market labour,
 - L. Keeping in mind that while the minimum wage exists to guarantee a certain standard of life, it can cause unemployment if it does not match the market wage rate,
 - M. Recognising that complicated dismissal procedures, strong social demands and increased bureaucracy discourage employers from hiring young workers;
1. Asks for greater cooperation between Member States in fighting unemployment across the EU;
 2. Expects that the financial aid provided by the government to employers will be used efficiently for sound job-creating investments;

3. Strongly recommends the creation of a European based information centre about job opportunities including language courses as well as cultural and legal rights courses;
4. Urges European governments to invest in education by:
 - a) offering language and ICT courses to ensure an appropriate level of knowledge beginning in primary school,
 - b) increasing the number of work experience courses and practical training centres for young people,
 - c) reducing the cost of attending the public school system,
5. Asks for incentives to make studying more attractive by:
 - a) giving needs-based scholarships,
 - b) organising job fairs in universities,
 - c) revision of the labour code concerning part-time jobs in order to provide students with better conditions to work while studying,
 - d) providing the possibilities for additional jobs by promoting the work/study lifestyle,
6. Endorses easier exchanges of students among universities in the EU for better job opportunities in other countries;
7. Suggests the creation of a youth promotion campaign to break down existing prejudices concerning young employees and clarify the benefits of youth employment;
8. Considers gradual decrease of unemployment benefits throughout the course of the first year unemployment until a standard minimum;
9. Asks for the simplification of the 'hire and fire' laws by giving a six month trial followed by a six month probation period;
10. Strongly supports the idea of fiscal benefits (tax reduction, profit tax reduction) to companies that hire youth or offer vocational training;
11. Requests an increase in the structural funds and asks for loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB) which has the resources and the experience in project evaluation to ensure that these funds finance sound, job creating investments;
12. Recommends the creation of a European Commission for Administrative Simplification;
13. Calls for loans with interest below market rate for starting SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises);
14. Calls for the implementation of "service cheques" in all the EU countries in order to reduce the black market in the service sector.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE

NATO as a traditional guardian of European security or a player on the world stage: what role should NATO play in modern global defence arrangements?

Submitted by: Timothy Desmetz (BE); Alexandrina Vladimirova (BG); Céline Pfisterer (CH); Bernd Schlegl (DE); Hanna Pfeifer (DE); Martin Saar (EE); Gaetan Lemoine (FR); Maria Anastasopoulou (GR); Michela Candi (IT); Caroline Folmer (NL); Lars Kristian Selbekk (NO); Monika Seidel (DE); Bentley Yaffe, Chairperson (TR)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Acknowledging that after the fall of the USSR, NATO has lost some of its original functions,
 - B. Realising that the role of NATO in today's global defence arrangements is not clearly defined,
 - C. Expressing its appreciation of the missions of current NATO stabilisation forces operating outside of NATO Member States territories,
 - D. Keeping in mind that the responsibilities of a stabilisation force would include:
 - i) political advice,
 - ii) military training and consultation,
 - iii) humanitarian aid,
 - iv) military assistance;
 - E. Noting with deep concern that, in its current form, Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty does not address the emergence of new threats,
 - F. Bearing in mind that NATO is currently one of the most powerful military organisations in the world,
 - G. Pointing out that according to Article 7 of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO has always acted in accordance with international law or decisions of the United Nations,
 - H. Aware of the unequal financial contribution system for participation in specific NATO missions,
 - I. Viewing with appreciation NATO's democratic voting system, which includes unanimous decision making,
 - J. Recognising that several NATO Member States are more influential than others within NATO decision-making processes,
 - K. Deeply concerned by the growing number of terrorist activities and attacks across the world,
 - L. Fully believing that close military cooperation is an essential element of NATO;
-
- 1. Proclaims that the main aim of NATO is to defend Member State territory and provide its Member States with security and stability;
 - 2. Further proclaims that NATO can act as an international military stabilisation force on the conditions of:
 - a) intervention requested by a UN mandate or,
 - b) a request for intervention in accordance with international law from a concerned party involved in conflict in order to safeguard peace;

3. Redefines Armed Attack as mentioned in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty as the Armed Attack of one country on another;
4. Calls for the creation of an Article 15 of the North Atlantic Treaty, dealing with NATO's specific duties and responses concerning terrorist attacks;
5. Proposes the creation of a NATO operation fund based on the economy and GDP of each Member State, in order to ensure increased participation of all Member States in NATO missions;
6. Suggests those Member States that have a limited research budget should specialise in specific fields of military equipment and technology in order to contribute more efficiently to the military structure and capabilities of NATO;
7. Calls upon Member States to expand the existing information sharing network by exchanging all available research;
8. Emphasises the importance of full military cooperation between Member States in order to maintain NATO's current global military strength;
9. Encourages further international cooperation between NATO and non-member countries in order to maintain global peace and stability;
10. Encourages the further sharing of information between local and international intelligence agencies of Member States and the NATO intelligence division to ensure the security of NATO Member States;
11. Proposes a joint action and training programme for security and defence structures and organisations of Member States in order to fight more efficiently and cooperate against terrorist organisations;
12. Emphasises that any decision taken by NATO should not be influenced by the interests of individual Member States, but should be in accordance with the aims of NATO;
13. Reasserts that according to Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, future NATO enlargement must only include European countries.

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

'Middle East instability, growing Chinese demand and Russian politics': How can Europe best achieve energy security?

Submitted by: Christian Marik (AT); Andreas Uhlstein (DE); Heidi Kukk (EE); Albert Antolin Fontes (ES); Eero Oksanen (FI); Chris Hawkesford (GB); Efthymios Karaiskos (GR); Karen Concannon (IE); Francesca Siboni (IT); Anne Moraal (NL); Agata Kostrzewa (PL); Anna-Maria Talihärm, Chairperson (EE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining Energy Security to be:
 - a) for producers: the consistency and predictability of demand requirements,
 - b) for consumers: available, reliable, affordable and secure sources of supply,
 - c) for governments: secure supplies at predictable and stable prices to support economic growth, preserve national security interests, and meet consumer needs,
- B. Realising that since in the next half-century fossil fuel supplies are set to continue to deplete, dependency on them is uneconomical and dangerous,
- C. Noting with deep concern that much energy is wasted through homes and inefficient manufacturing techniques,
- D. Acknowledging that the transport industry is a large consumer of oil and its related products,
- E. Recognising that an open market creates healthy competition, which in turn results in better service and improves reliability,
- F. Understanding that efficient energy production from renewable energy sources requires careful planning that takes into consideration regional differences,
- G. Alarmed by the fact that exporters of fossil fuels, such as Russia and OPEC member countries, are willing and able to use their resources as diplomatic weapons,
- H. Notes with approval the existing dialogue between the European Union (EU) and Russia,
- I. Considering the EU-Russia energy dialogue to be an opportunity to raise all questions of common interest relating to the energy sector, including those concerning:
 - a) production and cooperation on energy saving,
 - b) nationalisation of energy production,
 - c) transport infrastructure,
 - d) European investment possibilities,
 - e) relations between producer and consumer countries,
- J. Keeping in mind that the unstable relationship between the EU and Middle Eastern countries, as well as internal disputes in the Middle East, can have negative effects on the EU's oil imports,
- K. Bearing in mind that research into alternative energy sources will reduce pressure on global fossil fuel reserves,

- L. Citing the following as examples of alternative energy sources:
- a) solar power,
 - b) biomass,
 - c) wind,
 - d) geothermal,
 - e) hydroelectric,
 - f) tidal,
 - g) wave;
- M. Asserting that obtaining energy from as wide a variety of sources as possible is the best way to achieve security.
1. Calls for an official dialogue between OPEC and the EU in order to strengthen the bonds between the two organisations;
 2. Suggests that the EU offers to act as a mediator in conflicts in the Middle East;
 3. Resolves to use nuclear fission as a short-term solution to potential energy shortages until alternatives become viable;
 4. Calls for the EU to conduct large scale research and development on nuclear fission in terms of increasing efficiency and reducing waste;
 5. Expresses its hope that current research into nuclear fusion will provide a long-term solution to the problem of energy security;
 6. Proposes the formation of an EU-wide organisation responsible for the strict regulation of all aspects of nuclear energy production;
 7. Supports close cooperation between the EU and Russia;
 8. Strongly urges the initiation of a large scale EU-wide information campaign that will increase people's awareness about energy issues and ways to save energy;
 9. Encourages national governments to carefully plan the positioning of alternative energy facilities to consider regional differences in order to make production efficient;
 10. Recommends that the EU imports energy from as many different sources as possible reducing its dependency on any one individual supplier;
 11. Considers regulating energy prices with a system of taxes and subsidies to maintain that wide variety of energy sources;
 12. Suggests that the EU improve energy reserves, so that in the event of an international incident European economies could continue to function;
 13. Asks car-manufacturing companies to design vehicles that use alternative energy fuels (for example bio-fuels), and to improve the efficiency of existing models;
 14. Urges the passing of regulations to improve energy efficiency in homes and industry;
 15. Calls for the use of incentives, such as grants and tax-breaks, to encourage further research into alternative energy sources by private businesses;
 16. Endorses the expansion of existing systems into an EU-wide energy network, so that any country with an energy shortage could quickly top up their supply from other countries;
 17. Urges Member States to open up their energy markets to private investors;
 18. Supports closer cooperation between the EU and China by sharing research and information on energy.

FACT SHEET

1. Estimated EU energy consumption for the next 10 to 15 years:
 - 40% oil
 - 24% natural gas
 - 18% coal
 - 12% nuclear power
 - 6% renewables

(Source: BP-European Energy Security)

2. Chinese petroleum consumption (millions of barrels/ day):
 - 1990: 2
 - 2000: 4.5
 - 2006: 7

(Source: Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington D.C.)

3. World Oil Resources:
 - Western Europe: 1.4%
 - Russia: 4.7%
 - Middle East: 57%
 - Total OPEC: 69%

4. OPEC members:
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Iraq
 - Iran
 - Kuwait
 - Qatar
 - Venezuela
 - Nigeria
 - Indonesia
 - Libya
 - Algeria
 - UAE

5. Nuclear:
 - a. Fission: the use of moderated, enriched Uranium to create a chain reaction of radioactive decays in order to produce heat.
 - b. Fusion: the combination of two or more lighter nuclei into one heavier nucleus, with the release of some energy, performed in a highly controlled vessel. At the current time this is not possible as more energy must be used to maintain the reaction than can be harvested.
 - c. Waste: fission produces radioactive waste in three levels: low, intermediate and high. Low and intermediate level wastes decay in a relatively short time, but high level waste remains hazardous for thousands of years and must be stored. Although it is not fully researched, fusion does not appear to create hazardous waste.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS 1

The question of Europe's ethical responsibility to the Iraqi people – in the face of civil war is Western withdrawal acceptable?

Submitted by: Anna O'Leary (IE); Dimitri Kokkinis (CH); Kypros Zenonos (CY); Yves Schwarzbart (DE); Maanas Jain (GB); Kimon Rudolf (GR); Andrea Stagni (IT); Ruben Wagenaar (NL); Anna Clara Werne (SE); Tibor Korvin (HU); Tamás Kozma (HU); Maciej Urban (PL); Michel Hochstrasser, Chairperson (CH)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Believes that a fully formed Iraqi police force and army will lead to a more democratic society, normal social order being restored and a decreased probability of civil war,
 - B. Acknowledging that the situation in Iraq has the potential to develop into a civil war,
 - C. Believing at present that sporadic violence does not represent a state of civil war,
 - D. Noting that the Iraqi police force in their present condition is not capable of sufficiently maintaining law and order,
 - E. Observing that certain countries have either started or intend to start to withdraw their troops from the country,
 - F. Fully aware that the country's recently formed democracy is becoming increasingly unstable,
 - G. Having considered that the USA and the various nations of Europe have different views and aspirations for finding solutions to the problems in Iraq,
 - H. Believing that immediate troop withdrawal will increase Iran's political and diplomatic influence over Iraq,
 - I. Believing that the NGOs working in Iraq at present are safe because of the presence of coalition troops,
 - J. Recognising that Iraq is clearly divided along sectarian lines between the Kurds and the Shia and Sunni Muslims,
 - K. Deeply concerned that the continuing violence has had a devastating impact on the country's oil production and economy,
 - L. Fully aware of the current low standards of living and the lack of fulfillment of basic human needs,
 - M. Noting with regret previous human rights violations by the occupying forces in Iraqi prisons,
 - N. Acknowledging that those people who were responsible for the human rights violations have or will be put on trial;
1. Suggests that the troop withdrawal will start after the police force and Iraqi army are fully formed and able to control the situation;
 2. Urges for the withdrawal of European troops within the following 2 years;
 3. Encourages the training of Iraqi soldiers within a 2 year time period before troop withdrawal;

4. Strongly urges countries to give sufficient aid allowing a fund to be created for reconstruction and development;
5. Acknowledges that the EU is ethically obliged not to abandon the Iraqi people but to fulfill its moral responsibility towards them;
6. Reaffirms the need for:
 - a) financial assistance,
 - b) humanitarian aid,
 - c) medical support,
 - d) improved infrastructure;
7. Proposes that the Iraqi security forces be trained to be more efficient through:
 - a) the increased provision of equipment,
 - b) better training with specialised personnel,
 - c) the creation of a more representative force which integrates Sunnis and Kurds, as well as Shia Muslims;
8. Supports that the prisoners will complete their sentences under the power of the Iraqi forces thus giving them full responsibility;
9. Encourages that removal of troops from the Southern provinces of the Muthana and Misan so that they may be handed over to Iraqi security forces;
10. Encourages the US forces to hand over 110 bases in Iraq by July 2007;
11. Suggests that the US government should coordinate its withdrawal with EU Member States withdrawal policy;
12. Requests that the US should withdraw their troops simultaneously with the EU Member State troops.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS 1**

“It will be important to draw inspiration, with creative fidelity, from the Christian heritage which has made such a particular contribution to forging the identity of this continent.”(Pope Benedict XVI)

The role of Europe’s Christian heritage in its modern values and the identity of its peoples: What role should Christianity play in today’s Europe?

Submitted by: Ihar Ramanenka (BY); Ellen Murula (EE); Helga Kalm (EE); Javier Conejos Montenegro (ES); Anna Ristiluoma (FI); Ben Marshall (GB); Albina Stimac (HR); Maggie Hunter (IE); Laura Kranenburg (NL); Melin Dökmeci (TR); Tony Abladey (GB); Chris Kelly (IE); Kerstin Mathias (DE); Niamh Keegan, Chairperson (IE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining Christian heritage as a set of personal or national values that have evolved from a shared set of religious beliefs and the manifestation of those beliefs in Europe’s traditions, arts, science and politics,
 - B. Accepting that through religious wars and missions, trade and migration, aspects of other cultures have developed a Christian heritage into a diverse European culture,
 - C. Acknowledging that Christianity has had a significant role in the development of Europe’s basic moral values,
 - D. Noting that the role of Christianity has been in decline in recent years,
 - E. Deeply concerned that conservative religions who are unwilling to contemporise are alienating modern believers,
 - F. Believing that a national constitution is an expression of identity that includes culture, history and religion,
 - G. Bearing in mind that the number of people looking to organised religion for moral guidance is decreasing,
 - H. Accepting the continuing importance of religions in ensuring the spiritual and moral well-being of their followers;
1. Reaffirms the right to freedom of religion;
 2. Proclaims that every person has the right not to belong to an organised religion if they so choose;
 3. Authorises freedom to practice religious belief within the boundaries of the European Union (EU) laws;
 4. Declares accordingly that all religions have an equally important role in modern day Europe;
 5. Proposes that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights be a fundamental moral code for both believers and non-believers;
 6. Calls for increased implementation of existing religious anti-discrimination legislation;

7. Strongly urges equal respect for all individuals and for all religion in order to create a multicultural, multi-denominational, secular Europe;
8. Strongly urges European countries to adopt a policy of political secularisation by a pan European separation of Church and State enabling the church to maintain a voice without excessive control, with fiscal penalties for countries who do not comply;
9. Calls for religious representatives to become involved in political decision making through democratic elections by society;
10. Proposes that countries are free to include a reference to those who believe in a God in their national constitution as long as equal reference is made to those who do not believe;
11. Recommends the introduction of a pan-European religious education curriculum to enable students to become aware of the existence, culture and history of religions other than Christianity;
12. Encourages more inter-denominational, inter faith dialogue to achieve further understanding and co-operation between different religious groups in Europe;
13. Promotes the establishment of summits of multi- denominational religious representatives at a national and European level;
14. Solemnly affirms that the EU will not promote or use Christianity or any other religion as an entry requirement into the Union;
15. Proposes the integration of a festival of world religions into the programme of Europe Day (9th May).

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION 1**

The role of education in the construction of Europe and European citizenship in light of the rise of nationalism and increased support for extreme-right wing parties.

On the question of national curricula including European topics and citizenship education: How can national curricula best represent today's multicultural society and be part of the fight against racism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia?

Submitted by: Johanna Hakoniemi (FI); Masoumeh Moridian (AT); Simona Grozeva (BG);
Valentina Mina (CY); Monika Cernikova (CZ); Christian Macht (DE); Mari-Liis Orav (EE); Ruth Arkley (GB); James O'Connor (IE); Wouter Looijen (NL);
Caroline Mannestål Johansson (SE); Sacha Nauta, Vice President (NL)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Believing today's multicultural society to be peoples of different cultures living alongside one another, with varying degrees of integration,
- B. Defining integration as a state of mutual acceptance, tolerance, respect and communication between coexisting cultures,
- C. Acknowledging that schooling and national curricula possess limited abilities to combat social problems, but that their potential influence is significant and should be appreciated as such,
- D. Aware of attitudes, such as the perpetuation of prejudices within families or other social groups, that limit and undermine positive work achieved through multicultural dialogue,
- E. Believing that in modern, multicultural societies, integration may be hindered by:
 - i) either party being afraid of losing their own cultural identity and therefore choosing to reject any cultures that are seen as threatening to it,
 - ii) the existence of prejudices caused by ignorance and underexposure to objective information,
 - iii) the support of culture-specific schools,
 - iv) socio-economic factors leading to academic underachievement amongst migrants,
- F. Concerned that school environments are not currently ideal for promoting multiculturalism because:
 - i) teachers are not prevented from transferring their own prejudices onto pupils,
 - ii) minorities are under-represented in the teaching profession,
 - iii) certain forms of self-expression are prohibited in some schools in Europe,
- G. Aware that fear of the unknown is a natural human characteristic,
- H. Noting with deep concern that limited or biased education can exacerbate problems associated with extreme nationalism and ethnocentrism,
- I. Alarmed by the insufficiency of education concerning world religions and cultures, and associated topics such as racism, tolerance and cultural diversity,
- J. Bearing in mind that national curricula are already demanding in terms of teachers' time and resources,

K. Deploring existing trends of:

- i) media sensationalism concerning race and religion and the public's tendency to elicit stereotypes from this,
- ii) ignorance of current affairs, particularly amongst young people,

1. Requests that all secondary schools introduce or develop a tutorial where students may:

- a) study citizenship, current affairs, economics and/or politics;
- b) enhance their knowledge of race and religious issues in Europe by completing research projects and other assignments;
- c) learn to interpret and analyse the media;
- d) debate current, contentious topics with their peers;

2. Further requests that primary school children study citizenship and cultural awareness through games, songs and reading books;

3. Encourages the governments of Member States to introduce children to foreign languages and cultures at an early stage in their academic lives;

4. Strongly recommends that schools in multicultural communities provide the facilities for students to study whichever languages may be represented in the area;

5. Further recommends that multicultural schools provide out-of-hours tuition for students and families of students who are unable to speak the school's official language;

6. Calls upon education authorities to employ peripatetic language teachers in order to broaden the choice of foreign languages that are available to students;

7. Emphasises the need for a national curriculum to represent an increasingly multicultural perspective, especially in the following courses:

- a) Social Sciences;
- b) Music;
- c) Physical Education;
- d) Visual Arts;
- e) Languages;

8. Calls for Religious Education, if compulsory, to be taught in a comprehensive and unbiased way, presenting the values of and similarities between different religions;

9. Encourages schools to organise various multicultural events such as concerts and festivals;

10. Recommends that schools offer a wider variety of extra curricular activities that both educate and entertain about different cultures.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS 2

'Belarus: the limits of diplomacy'

What positive steps to promote democracy can the international community take in dealing with Europe's last dictatorship?

Submitted by: Nadine Pfiffner (CH); Gretta Oltjer (EE); Marina Noguera Martorell (ES); Ciaran Gallagher (IE); Janet Coen (IE); Gerald Gilhooley (NL); Harald Maaland (NO); Marte Stubsjøen (NO); Carmen Indrani Rivera (ES); Alexander Skridlevsky (BY); Larissa Riepl (AT); Karlis Lapsa, Chairperson (SE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining the international community as the Member States of the European Union (EU) and all other countries and organisations that are concerned about the political situation in Belarus,
 - B. Deeply disturbed by the persistent violation of human rights in Belarus, including those of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly,
 - C. Deeply concerned by the absolute power held by the Belarusian President following the unlawful change to the Belarusian Constitution,
 - D. Noting with concern that the President does have support in Belarus, particularly amongst the older generation and the rural population,
 - E. Fully alarmed that the President is using media censorship to consolidate and maintain his power,
 - F. Having noticed the absence of an independent media as recognised by Reporters Without Borders, who ranked Belarus at position 152 out of 167 countries in their press freedom listing,
 - G. Noting with regret that many Belarusians are misinformed regarding the rest of the world due to Belarusian political and social isolation,
 - H. Bearing in mind that the concept of democracy is unclear to the population of Belarus at large,
 - I. Realising that the growth of opposition parties is hindered by political intimidation and fear amongst the population of the authorities,
 - J. Recognising that financial aid given by the EU to the opposition in Belarus is frequently intercepted by the current administration,
 - K. Taking note of the suppression of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Belarus,
 - L. Fully aware that there is a close and longstanding relationship between Russia and Belarus;
-
- 1. Endorses an international investigation into the disappearances of Belarusian politicians, businessmen and journalists who have challenged the authoritarian regime in Belarus;
 - 2. Has resolved to increase the support to independent media working within Belarus and from locations in neighbouring EU Member States;
 - 3. Considers the internet and other modern technologies as a potential resource of spreading objective information to and within Belarus;
 - 4. Calls upon the aforementioned media to provide the opportunity for the Belarusian opposition to communicate freely their policies and ideals;

5. Calls for the international community to support NGOs promoting democracy and human rights in Belarus;
6. Supports the work of the foreign embassies in Belarus to continue promoting democracy within the country;
7. Encourages the EU to enter into discussion with Russia specifically concerning Belarus;
8. Urges for more European and transatlantic student exchange programmes and scholarships to be available to Belarusian students;
9. Recommends current EU and U.S. imposed visa-sanctions against high ranking Belarusian governmental officials in the authoritarian regime to be maintained.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

“The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of national minorities” (Article 4, UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity)

Despite this Universal Declaration, minority rights are not always respected. What more can be done by the European Union and the Council of Europe to ensure that minority rights are sufficiently guaranteed?

Submitted by: Vahur Vallistu (EE); Cristina Mont Castro (ES); Xavier Silva Garcia (ES); Lia Bonnemain (FR); Adam Barnes (GB); Konstantina Theodosaki (GR); Clare Cooney (IE); Xedes Remmers (NL); Ömer Dogan Dincer (TR); Stephanie Lis (GB); Caroline Wannerberg (SE); Laura-Ioana Dumitrescu (RO); Michael Leyland, Chairperson (GB)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Considering a minority as a group of people who share certain characteristics such as religion, nationality and ideology who do not belong to the majority because these characteristics differentiate them from the rest of the population of any particular region or country,
- B. Acknowledging that every minority is unique and has its own unique problems,
- C. Alarmed that some minorities are segregated against their will despite Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- D. Acknowledging the fact that conflict in today’s world is often generated and fuelled by tensions in relations between majorities and minorities,
- E. Recognising that poverty plays a significant role in the violation of minority rights,
- F. Reiterating the value of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and as a standard that should be maintained globally,
- G. Declaring that all humans, regardless of such things as religion, nationality and ideology are entitled to the same respect for their human rights,
- H. Taking into consideration that the problem of a lack of respect for minority rights lies not with the rights themselves, but in the application of the those rights,
- I. Bearing in mind that whilst minority rights are often respected, this is not always the case,
- J. Realising that minority groups often desire political and public representation which is not always recognised,
- K. Concerned that whilst minority rights are defended in theory and protected for example, by the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, these values are not always put into practice,
- L. Disturbed by the lack of knowledge by individuals about minority groups, which can lead to ill informed prejudices,
- M. Noting with great concern that the lack of information and recognition of minorities can lead to tension and even extremism,
- N. Conscious that some minority groups are not fully aware of their rights,

- O. Notes that equal participation in society is required from majority and minority groups in order to achieve better understanding,
1. Recommends giving special training to police officers working in the EU Member States in order to improve their ability to deal with the tensions associated with relations between both majority and minority groups and between different minority groups;
 2. Suggests the introduction of specialised minority rights officers to work within existing citizen information centres around Europe, and desire that such officers are given the ability to apply for funding from the EU via the European Centre for Minority Rights (ECMR);
 3. Calls for the provision (under the ECMR) of regional based legal advisers to provide support and information to those who feel their rights have been violated;
 4. Approves the current work of pressure groups and NGOs whilst encouraging them to work closely with the ECMR in order to further their success;
 5. Calls for the establishment of a department of the ECMR to investigate violations of minority rights within the EU Member States;
 6. Warns all EU Member States of the penalties and actions that would be administrated by this newly established department;
 7. Encourages organisations working with minority groups to provide programmes involving cookery workshops or art classes for the general public, to promote cultural exchange and diversity in a positive and enjoyable manner;
 8. Acknowledges the importance of the further defence of minority rights within the Constitutional Treaty;
 9. Encourages the use of a wide range of media, such as television and newspaper advertisements, to create better awareness and understanding about minorities.
 10. Calls for the creation of a European wide educational programme to teach young people in Europe about minorities living in their own countries with, for example, designated cultural days;
 11. Expresses its hope that following the standardisation and improvement of minority rights within the EU and the wider Europe, other countries will follow their example to apply minority rights universally.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Darfur: What action should the international community take to bring the humanitarian disaster in Western Sudan to an end?

Submitted by: Pavel Chumakou (BY); Bérengère Dequeant (FR); Tereza Dubovcová (CZ); Claire-Aimée Grimshaw (GB); Andreas Huschke (DE); Tatu Isotalo (FI); Johnny McKenna (IE); Martin Membré (DE); Nina Müller (CH); Sven Nouwen (NL); Nikos Yambouranis (GR); Tara O'Leary, Chairperson (IE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining the Humanitarian Disaster in Darfur to be the total deterioration of living standards due to both natural and man-made causes,
- B. Defining the International Community as everyone who can express their opinion on political affairs associated with voluntary or governmental organisations,
- C. Noting with regret that the United Nations (UN) fails to recognise the conflict in Sudan to be a genocide,
- D. Recognising that the international community has not yet agreed on a common term for the current cultural, social and ethnic conflict in Sudan,
- E. Appreciating the previous attempts made by the international community to resolve the Sudan conflict,
- F. Noting the insufficiency of African Union (AU) peace enforcement in Darfur due to the lack of troops, misadministration and shortage of supplies and funding,
- G. Affirming the need to end all conflict in Darfur by the immediate realisation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA),
- H. Taking into account that the DPA has been inadequately implemented and complied with,
- I. Very alarmed by the appallingly inhumane conditions in refugee camps,
- J. Fully aware of the international community's responsibility to focus on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through both the protection of basic rights and the satisfaction of physiological needs,
- K. Deeply concerned by the possible spread of violence across Sudan's borders, particularly over its borders with Chad,
- L. Fully aware that the Sudanese government is unreliable, and unofficially supports the Jajaweed,
- M. Acknowledging the requirement for political reform as well as intercultural tolerance and respect in Sudan,
- N. Realising that the problems of civil war are intensified by the geographic conditions and the lack of accessible natural resources in Sudan,
- O. Declaring that economic stability can be achieved through equal access to natural resources,
- P. Fully aware of the necessity to establish an international public awareness campaign regarding the situation in Darfur,
- Q. Deeply concerned that the Sudanese government is politically isolating itself and not cooperating with international organisations;

1. Recognises the violent actions committed by the Janjaweed to be a genocide;
2. Calls upon the UN to officially acknowledge the occurrence of genocide in Darfur;
3. Calls for the continuation of support and funding of AU troops to thus increase peace enforcement;
4. Further encourages the deployment of EU peace enforcement troops to work in collaboration with the AU troops if the current situation remains unchanged;
5. Notes that military action should include strict border controls between Chad and Darfur in the form of buffer-zones;
6. Encourages this peace enforcement to be combined with diplomatic measures by:
 - a) holding peace talks aiming to reach agreements,
 - b) drawing up treaties;
7. Strongly urges the immediate disarmament of all fighting parties as stated in the DPA;
8. Strongly urges the international community to recognise displaced persons with refugee status and provide humanitarian aid accordingly and in cooperation with NGOs;
9. Further requests not only short-term aid but also long-term development aid to rebuild the country with a primary emphasis on satisfying basic human needs, and secondarily on education;
10. Requests that this aid be given through specific schemes and not donated to the government as general funding;
11. Proposes that the international pressure on the Sudanese government be increased to force their respect for those human rights set in international law and to judge the non-Muslim population outside areas of Muslim religious jurisdiction;
12. Calls for the immediate trial of those who committed crimes against humanity during the civil war in Sudan by the International Criminal Court (ICC) the Hague;
13. Urges the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to lessen the barriers between the rich and poor countries in order to improve the stagnant economy of Sudan;
14. Requests the enforcement of the Addis-Ababa agreement in order to ensure an equal division of oil revenues;
15. Proposes that debt-relief be provided for Sudan in line with the HIPC scheme proved that the government follows the terms of previous peace treaties;
16. Asserts the importance of a more open education system within Sudan in which tolerance, understanding and respect towards different cultures will be taught;
17. Suggests that the situation in Sudan be incorporated into international media and educational systems in order to inform the public about the ongoing disaster;
18. Calls for the monitoring of the upcoming elections in Sudan in order to safeguard democratic procedure.

FACT SHEET

Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) proposes the following, inter alia:

- 1) The complete disarmament of both the Janjaweed and other militia, including the removal of their heavy weapons.
- 2) Following this, African Union (AU) peacekeepers are to inspect and certify that areas are safe and secure.
- 3) The Sudanese government is to punish violations of the DPA.
- 4) The establishment of buffer zones around Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps.

Genocide:

Genocide is commonly accepted to consist of any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in the whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group:

- a) killing members of the group;
- b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

(Resolution 260 (III) A of the United Nations General Assembly 9 December 1948)

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC):

This scheme has been used successfully to completely cancel the debt of several nations in the past. It requires nations to meet certain economic, political and cultural criteria, in order to gradually reduce their national debt.

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

**On the question of balancing economic growth with sustainable development: in
the face of these twin pressures, how might Europe best respond?**

Submitted by: Rafaela Huonder (CH); Pere Estol Batlle (ES); Benoit Viault (FR); Stamos Tahas (GR); Gillian O'Halloran (IE); Maite Karssenber (NL); Bjørn Nordmo (NO); Isabella Hayward (SE); Jolien Van Daele (BE); Veera Karvonen (FI); Indra Mangule (LV); Nathalie Stanford, Chairperson (IT)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into account that short term sacrifices may have to be made to achieve a balanced situation in the long run,
- B. Further noting that not taking precautions in securing sustainable development will cost the European Union (EU) more and hinder its economic growth in the long term,
- C. Bearing in mind that not all European countries are members of the EU and therefore cannot be forced to adopt EU legislation and policies,
- D. Noting that the lack of general awareness about environmental issues is a major obstacle in the effort to reach a sustainable environment,
- E. Fully aware that the activities of mankind, such as industry, over-consumption and transport are harmful to fragile ecosystems and the quality of the environment,
- F. Alarmed by major environmental problems, such as:
 - i) Over harvesting,
 - ii) Pollution,
 - iii) Habitat destruction and fragmentation,
 - iv) Erosion,
 - v) Climate changes,
 - vi) Intensive agriculture,
 - vii) Depletion of the Ozone layer,
 - viii) Deforestation,
 - ix) Desertification,
- G. Deeply concerned that the economy is based on non-renewable energy sources, which are diminishing,
- H. Convinced that EU activity which promote green-technology will lead to future competitive advantage and political independence,
- I. Recognising that the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols are not being implemented as firstly planned,
- J. Fully aware of the practical and ethical importance of bio-diversity and stable ecosystems,
- K. Bearing in mind that environmental problems do not follow national borders,

- L. Noting with satisfaction the already existing international agreements, such as:
- i) Kyoto protocol,
 - ii) Montreal protocol,
 - iii) CITES convention,
 - iv) Lisbon agenda;
1. Supports the actions of existing Non Governmental Organisation (NGOs) regarding the aforementioned issues;
 2. Proposes the use of renewable energy and its promotion by setting higher ratios than the currently existing ones;
 3. Calls for the increase variety of research carried out on sustainable development in general;
 4. Recommends giving funds to multinational energy companies which will be used in the research for sustainable energy sources;
 5. Supports the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals as well as an extension to all industrial material;
 6. Calls upon producers to be responsible for the waste created by their products;
 7. Further recommends that industries should have more energy recycling measures and should reduce the dumping of waste;
 8. Urges the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by fining highly polluting companies and rewarding less polluting companies;
 9. Accepts the current policies of buying and selling remaining emissions quotas from other countries and companies however requests that only fifty per cent of the remainder may be sold;
 10. Affirms that intensive agriculture be redeveloped in a way that more sustainable methods be put in use, with the assistance of regional advisory;
 11. Calls upon EU Member States to:
 - a) Eco-label products according to their environmental impact,
 - b) Put into action a European advertising campaign concerning the adoption of an environmentally friendly approach to everyday life,
 - c) Introduce a compulsory environmental course in the schools' curricula,
 - d) Create a common list of products that must be recycled in each state,
 - e) Increase the protection of national parks,
 - f) Invest more money in public transportation;
 12. Urges multilateral agreements be implemented through increased diplomatic effort in order to avoid European countries being the only ones making sacrifices in favour of sustainable development, in particular compared with the more pollutant countries;
 13. Calls upon the spreading of data concerning the issue between European and developing countries encouraging the latter to create a recycling system modelled on those effective in more developed countries;
 14. Approves and calls for increased EU support for international initiatives such as that proposed by the UN's Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in favour of an international approach to the matter;

15. Further calls for EU support for an international action which applies the “Clean Development Mechanism” initiative, proposed by the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade And Development);
16. Supports the EU’s expansion of the BAT (Best Available Technique) aid system in accordance with the IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control directive);
17. Suggests the introduction of or the increase in taxes on fossil fuels in the industrial sector, depending on the country;
18. Further suggests the introduction of consumption taxes on non-environmentally friendly goods;
19. Proclaims that the money collected through “environmental taxation” be reinvested into executing the solutions proposed in this resolution;
20. Invites non-EU European states to adhere to the proposed resolution.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION 2

On the question of in the face of increasing cultural standardization, is cultural protectionism a necessity; and if so, what measures might be employed for Europe to protect its own cultural identity?

Submitted by: Tim Devriese (BE); Karolina Reszec (PL); Eirini Christofidou (CY); Sarah Laubenstein (DE); Estíbalitz Soto Alañón (ES); Juulia Suvilehto (FI); Garret Power (GB); Sofia Christoforidou (GR); Evan Wright-Goff (IE); Grzegorz Mroczkowski (PL); Aksels Neilands (LV); Raj Gathani, Vice President (GB)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining Culture to be the way in which unique aspects of a society, or sections of that society, are expressed,
 - B. Further defining Cultural Standardisation to be the process by which a uniform culture is created from two or more cultures as a result of external or internal factors,
 - C. Further defining Cultural Protectionism to be the means of preventing a positive or negative change in a culture caused by external or internal forces,
 - D. Convinced of the need to protect all forms of culture contained within Europe's borders, both native and immigrant, through cultural protectionism,
 - E. Strongly believing that there should be a balance within Europe between necessary cultural protectionism and the exchange of values between cultures and cultural development,
 - F. Accepting that through European and local cultural exchange as well as cultural protectionism on a European and local scale, European and local identities are created,
 - G. Deeply concerned about the level of cultural apathy amongst the youth of Europe,
 - H. Strongly preferring the integration of the immigrant cultures into a host country over a pure assimilation of the host culture,
 - I. Expressing the need to support institutions that express and promote the culture of Europe,
 - J. Deeply concerned that cultural services are not sufficiently accessible to the European public;
1. Calls upon all EU Institutions to consider all possible cultural effects during the decision making process of any new directive, regulation, or other piece of legislation;
 2. Reaffirms that the funding of European cultural activity be the responsibility of the European Commission and specifically of the European Commissioner for Culture and Education;
 3. Strongly urges the governments of EU Member States to strengthen their collaboration with UNESCO on preserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage within their own countries;
 4. Recommends the creation of an internet "Web Bank" in order to promote cultural exchange between the various cultures within the EU, which would contain:
 - a) a cultural messaging forum,
 - b) a user-created encyclopaedia of cultural resources and information on all cultures present in Member States;

5. Asks that Member States create and introduce a compulsory subject in secondary schools that teaches about the following in respect of each Member State:
 - a) local culture(s),
 - b) European cultures,
 - c) immigrant cultures;
6. Demands greater subsidies for, and promotion of, student exchange programmes such as Erasmus;
7. Seeks to promote the greater integration of immigrant cultures into each Member State by:
 - a) encouraging the creation of “Cultural Representative Councils” among immigrant communities, where they do not already exist,
 - b) setting up “Culture Houses” run by the councils previously mentioned but open to the whole community as a place of cultural activity and practice,
 - c) advising these councils to support the learning of the respective Member States’ official language as well as the native language of the immigrants;
8. Calls upon the Culture Houses to also teach locally native languages in cooperation with local schools;
9. Proposes increased funding for cultural service providers such as museums and art galleries;
10. Further proposes that these cultural service providers forge stronger links with youth programmes, such as the scouting movement;
11. Requests the creation of a European Arts Centre promoting contemporary European Art, Literature and Music run by artistic experts in conjunction with the European institutions so as to:
 - a) provide artistic education and information,
 - b) offer grants to groups and individuals carrying out cultural activity,
 - c) hold competitions and exhibitions;
12. Strongly recommends the provision of incentives for various forms of broadcasting media to transmit more European based and locally based cultural material.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNAL MARKET AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION**

“We have to take up the challenge of globalisation. In the face of increasingly keen competition, the government wishes to rally everyone around the idea of a true economic patriotism”. (Dominique de Villepin)

To what extent is a policy of ‘economic patriotism’ compatible with the aims and values of the European Union, and how should the EU react in future?

Submitted by: Stefan Feuchtinger (AT); Siegfried Buettner (DE); Jan Patrik Reimann (DE); Younes Souirji Gómez (ES); Khyle Raja (GB); Athanasios Karagiannis (GR); Jean Acheson (IE); David Bokhorst (NL); Martyna Piechowicz (PL); Philip Danielsson (SE); Ingrid Wester Amundsen (NO); Maxym Androshchuk (UA); Marcus Pollard, President (GB) and Helya Houshmand, Chairperson(SE)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Defining the aims of the EU as
 - i) Economic growth
 - ii) Social welfare
 - iii) Sustainability
 - iv) Single market
 - v) Strategic control,
- B. Recognizing that the values of the EU are
 - i) Fairness, justice and responsibility
 - ii) Cultural diversity
 - iii) Social equality
 - iv) Economic cooperation,
- C. Observing that the Internal Market of the EU is yet to be completed,
- D. Emphasising the validity of the values of the EU both inside and outside the Union,
- E. Underlining the difference between economic patriotism, which aims to improve the welfare of citizens and economic protectionism, which may have adverse consequences,
- F. Believing that economic patriotism is acceptable up to the point where it conflicts with the value of fairness and the aim of creating a single market,
- G. Fully aware of the shift of economic focus from Western economies to rapidly industrialising countries such as China and India,
- H. Concerned about populist politics and vote winning policies that have the effect of undermining the internal market,
- I. Disapproving of government intervention in multinational takeovers when there is no substantial risk of harmful changes happening to the company being taken over,
- J. Strongly condemning protectionism based on xenophobia and self importance that results in an exclusion of foreign interests,

- K. Acknowledging that the EU's External Trade Policy is unfair,
 - L. Recognising the operation of different currencies in Europe as a market barrier,
 - M. Troubled by the risk that large multinational companies may abuse their economic strength,
 - N. Aware that while free trade does have positive effects it may also strengthen multinational companies too much,
 - O. Identifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (representing 44% of the EU budget), as a major form of economic patriotism that does not fit with the trends of globalisation,
 - P. Recognising that the EU is dependant on external resources such as for its energy supply,
 - Q. Noting that government intervention in the energy sector is not an act of economic patriotism,
 - R. Noting that an Internal Market Scoreboard does exist;
1. Endorses the completion of a single integrated EU market;
 2. Requests that in cases where a government's policy of economic patriotism comes into conflict with the aims of the single market, a cost benefit analysis (CBA) be carried out by a group of independent economists within that country and their findings be implemented by the government;
 3. Approves of government involvement and intervention only when protecting social welfare (cost benefit analysis) and promoting cultural diversity;
 4. Calls upon the EU to continue with its policy of aiming to fulfil the Lisbon Agenda;
 5. Endorses the gradual reduction of financial aid from the EU to its Member States for those who do not comply with the findings of the CBA;
 6. Requests that the parties involved in a conflict be made accountable by making the findings of the CBA public and accessible;
 7. Requests that the current discretionary powers of the European Commission with regard to single market enforcement actions become a duty to enforce the rules of the Single Market;
 8. Proposes the gradual reduction of the CAP in tandem with the stimulation of a knowledge based economy in accordance with Lisbon Agenda;
 9. Further recommends more education focused EU-incentives in order to stimulate a knowledge based economy;
 10. Calls for improved efficiency of infrastructure in and between EU Member States to promote an integrated market;
 11. Seeks to raise public awareness on consumer prejudices;
 12. Calls upon the European Commission to publicly speak out more often on matters of economic patriotism;
 13. Strongly urges the EU to become as self sufficient as possible in energy resources;
 14. Encourages non Eurozone member states to have referenda regarding the Euro.

FACT SHEET

The Lisbon Strategy, also known as the Lisbon Agenda or Lisbon Process, is an action and development plan for the European Union. It was set out by the European Council in Lisbon on March 2000.

Preparation was carried out in relation with the broader reaching Council of Europe, the international organization of the "wider Europe", which also has charge of education in Europe.

Background and objectives

The Lisbon Strategy intends to deal with the low productivity and stagnation of economic growth in the EU, through the formulation of various policy initiatives to be taken by all EU member states. The broader objectives set out by the Lisbon strategy are to be attained by 2010.

It was adopted for a ten-year period in 2000 in Lisbon, Portugal by the European Council. It broadly aims at making "the EU the world's most dynamic and competitive economy" by the 2010 deadline. According to Euronews this is to be achieved by transforming Europe into the world's largest knowledge based economy by 2010.

The Strategy

The main fields are economic, social, and environmental renewal and sustainability. The Lisbon Strategy is heavily based on the economic concepts of:

- Innovation as the motor for economic change (based on the writings of Joseph Schumpeter)
- The "learning economy"
- Social and environmental renewal

Under the strategy, a stronger economy will drive job creation in the EU, alongside social and environmental policies that ensure sustainable development and social inclusion, which will themselves drive economic growth even further.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND
HOME AFFAIRS 2**

“Blatant violations of Human Rights, such as secret detention and torture, are not only morally wrong and illegal, they are dangerous because they undermine the long term effectiveness of our fight against terrorism”
(Terry Davis, Council of Europe)

In light of secret US prisons in Eastern Europe, detention without trial, and reports of torture and draconian measures elsewhere: What is the correct balance between ethics and the law with the need to fight terrorism?

Submitted by: Nassos Stylianou (CY); Jorg Körner (DE); Erik Proomann (EE); Lluís Solericens (ES); Catherine Starr (GB); Georgia-Christina Kosmidou (GR); Hugo Schaaf (NL); Mads Opheim (NO); Fredrik Bauer (SE); Mariya Senyk (UA); Danny Shanahan (IE); Monika Golebiewska (PL); Danielle Vannucchi, Vice President (IT)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into consideration the definition of torture as provided by Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT),
- B. Emphasising that torture, cruel, degrading and inhumane treatment are unacceptable under any circumstances,
- C. Reaffirming that the basic human rights of all prisoners are undeniable,
- D. Noting with satisfaction that the Council of Europe and the European Parliament have been undertaking extensive investigations concerning the complicity of European Governments in practices involving torture,
- E. Strongly convinced that the growing public awareness of previous human rights violations whilst countering terrorism can put governments under great pressure to prevent future allegations of such behaviour,
- F. Keeping in mind that a Member State that consciously allows violations of human rights in their territory without taking action is just as much to be considered an infringement of human rights as a direct infringement, such as with extraordinary renditions,
- G. Deeply convinced that the work of secret service agencies are a vital tool in order to fight the threat of terrorism,
- H. Deeply concerned with previous allegations of illegal interrogation methods being used during the fight against terrorism by countries such as the United States;
 1. Deplores the use of any information obtained through torture or other illegal interrogation methods as evidence in a trial;
 2. Considers each Member State to possess the right to establish an individual maximum time for detention without trial, on the condition that the maximum time does not exceed 28 days;
 3. Encourages every Member State of the Council of Europe to examine and investigate thoroughly any case of alleged human rights violations of suspect terrorists within their country;

4. Reaffirms that prison administration authorities are prohibited from monitoring any type of communication between prisoners and their legal and human rights organisation contacts;
5. Encourages state cooperation when detainees held in secret detention are released in order to reallocate and introduce them into an appropriate judicial system;
6. Calls upon the incorporation of a clear crime of terrorism in International Criminal Law, specifically into the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC);
7. Calls for the foundation of an Agency under the auspices of the EU Commissioner of Justice and Home Affairs dealing with the issue of human rights and counter terrorism whose responsibilities would include:
 - a) powers to investigate any suspicion of human right violation in EU member states,
 - b) the ability to refer cases to the European Court of Human Rights,
 - c) the ability to carry out regular and unannounced inspections of detention facilities throughout Member States,
 - d) acting as an independent body whilst receiving funding from the EU;
8. Furthermore recommends that the non-EU member states of the Council of Europe accept the authority of the Agency;
9. Urges the creation of protection scheme programmes for individuals charged with crimes of terrorism within every country in Europe, in order to ensure a prisoner's safety after they have confessed and cooperated with relevant authorities;
10. Encourages cooperation amongst secret service agencies of European and non European countries aiming at the prevention of terrorism;
11. Strongly urges that secret service agencies seek permission for their actions in other countries while complying with the laws of the country in which they are operating;
12. Further rejects the use of searches without warrants;
13. Calls for the facilitation of a more rapid issuing of search warrants by the relevant authorities;
14. Strongly urges the increase in public awareness of unacceptable treatment of terrorist suspects through active education schemes and media coverage.
15. Requests every Member State of the EU to immediately take all actions deemed necessary to end any Human Rights infringements upon discovery and provide detailed reports to the newly created Agency.