

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2008

European Youth Parliament . The Netherlands

National Conference 2008, Amsterdam

25th – 27th of January, Barlaeus Gymnasium



Resolution Booklet

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2008

## AGENDA FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2008.**

OPENING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

*Coffee Break*

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

*Lunch*

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

*Coffee Break*

COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
CLOSING CEREMONY

## PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### READING OUT OF OPERATIVE CLAUSES

3 MIN . DEFENCE SPEECH

3 MIN . ATTACK SPEECH

POINTS OF INFORMATION

GENERAL DEBATE

3 MIN . SUM -UP SPEECH (1-2 SPEAKERS)

### General Rules

Before speaking, a chair/delegate must always raise the committee sign, which will be recognised by the President or another member of the Board. Upon being recognised, delegates should stand up and speak clearly. Delegates may not pass the microphone to other delegates, except during the final summing-up speech. Delegates or chairs may not speak out of turn from the floor. The authority of the President and their Board is absolute and all delegates must respect his/her decisions. Delegates who do not respect the rules will be called to order one or two times, and thereafter may be expelled from the Assembly.

### Placards

**Points of Information** - Points of Information are points made by delegates requesting **clarification, explanation or definition** of a word or phrase in a resolution *only*. They should not be used to attack or defend the speaker or the resolution. The information sign must be recognised before the delegate can make his/her point and the question is directed to the committee in question. An example of a Point of Information question would be 'What is the EU?'.

**Point of Personal Privilege** - The privilege sign should be raised when a delegate cannot hear or understand what has been said. In this case the President may interrupt the speaker to recognise the point.

**Points of Order** - A delegate with the permission of their chair should raise the order sign when they disagree with a decision of the President or the Board. Delegates should not interrupt the debate, but raise the order sign and wait until they are recognised. This sign is only to be used when it is felt that General Assembly procedure has not been adhered to, or a mistake has been made.

**Point of Direct Response** – Each committee can use this card only once during a resolution and it has to refer **directly** to the last point made in that debate. Once the direct response card is held up by a committee, the board will recognise this point as the next one, ahead of any 'regular' placards that are visible. The proposing committee can also use this card only once during their own debate. In the event that more than once direct response cards are visible, it is at the discretion of the board which committee is recognised.

### Voting Procedure

## Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2008

Following the completion of general debate, delegates will be given the opportunity to vote on the resolution in the form of for, against and abstentions. Delegates should refrain from abstaining on resolutions whenever possible. Chairs will collect the votes, standing-up to announce the results when called. A Board member counts the votes and announces the result after the debate on the following resolution.

## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**

**The myth of an 'endless' water supply in Europe: how can over-consumption, pollution and misuse of this valuable resource be combated to prevent a parched Europe?**

**Submitted by:** Benno Kruit , Samantha Maat, Tycho Smit, Arnaud Tanke, Aart de Vletter, Julie Westerweel, Ailbhe Brazel (IE – Chairperson), Ruben Wagenaar (NL – Chairperson).

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Deeply concerned by the large amount of water pollution caused by agricultural and industrial factors,
  - B. Convinced that full awareness of water problems such as over-consumption, pollution and misuse, are of crucial importance in tackling the problem of a parched Europe,
  - C. Noting with concern that water consumption within Europe has significantly increased,
  - D. Observing the lack of awareness regarding the value of fresh water,
  - E. Aware of the significant differences in water consumption and access to sources of water between the Member States;
- 
- 1. Recommends that governments work harder to enforce existing laws regulating pollutants and water quality;
  - 2. Supports the international sharing of knowledge on better water technology such as desalination, purification and infrastructure, and the uses of which have previously proven successful;
  - 3. Encourages the faster establishment of educational programs and media projects to inform people about the value of fresh water;
  - 4. Calls for the use of various solutions including 'grey water', to make the efficiency of water usage stronger;
  - 5. Urges co-operation, within and beyond the EU, to share information on water research;
  - 6. Calls for the implementation of taxes and price increases on water-polluting products, in the domestic, agricultural and industrial spheres.

## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Culture and Education**

**United in diversity or diversity in unity? How to define European identity with an ever-diversifying population? What are the bases of Europe in terms of identity?**

**Submitted by:** Olivia Bwalya; Ilse de Koning; Lea Mars; Ehsan Nouzart; Elise van Es; Philip d'Áilly; Pia Spiesmacher (DE); Campbell Price (UK – Vice President).

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Aware that there are many definitions of the word 'identity',
  - B. Defines 'identity' as an individual within a community,
  - C. Noting the emergence of new economic powers around the world and deeply concerned by the prospect of the EU losing its current position in the global economy,
  - D. Realising with regret that many European citizens do not feel 'European' because of a lack of knowledge of the EU,
  - E. Seeing multi-culturalism in Europe as one of its strongest assets;
- 
- 1. Affirms the need for the European Union to secure its current position in the global economy by taking a strong united approach;
  - 2. Calls for more transparency within the EU through the use of the media and education;
  - 3. Recommends that the establishment of a European constitution be pursued to stimulate discussion about a European identity and in doing so further strengthening equal rights among the people of Europe;
  - 4. Endorses the sharing of good practice in exchanging cultural experiences and visions between European Member States.

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

**With an increasing amount of anti-terrorism measures being taken and a relatively low amount of serious attacks within the EU, how serious should the EU take the threat of terrorism and how should it best respond to this threat?**

**Submitted by:** Lisanne de Blok; Ulrich Hessling (DE); Niek Houterman; Kelly Meulenberg; Elvira Partoredjo; Ramses Walon; Anna Hardman (UK – President); Ivo Jongejan (Chairperson).

### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Defining terrorism as any action including the taking or endangering of lives in order to undermine law and order,
  - B. Recognising that the use of fear as a weapon was intensified by major terrorist attacks such as those in New York City, London and Madrid,
  - C. Fully aware of the fact that a terrorist threat may come from within or outside of the EU,
  - D. Alarmed by the fact that fear can change public opinion, behaviour and reactions, which in turn encourages stereotypes and social polarisation,
  - E. Noting with deep concern that fear and stereotypes can be created through negative images in the media,
  - F. Supporting the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy,
  - G. Emphasising that the individual's right to privacy should not be abused by any person or organisation;
- 
- 1. Affirms that under no circumstances can total abolition of the right to privacy be legal, whereas the Member States' fundamental duty should be to protect the life of every human being;
  - 2. Calls for research into the roots of terrorism in order to find adequate means to tackle its fundamental causes;
  - 3. Requests the implementation of a 2-year mandatory school subject, Cultural Studies, to improve the understanding of world religions in order to combat prejudice and stereotypes;
  - 4. Recommends the enhancement of cooperation between the EU and third-countries in order to increase efficiency in combating terrorism;
  - 5. Further encourages the sharing of knowledge with Middle-Eastern governments, in order to provide assistance in their struggle with terrorism, without physical military presence.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

**With few referenda planned for the Reform Treaty and upcoming European elections: how can the EU better listen to its citizens and increase its democratic legitimacy?**

**Submitted by:** Bart Van Elk, Shanti Bruyn, Angelo Groenendaal, Jeroen Blom, Rosa Douw, Caspar Jansen (Chairperson), Mark McDaid (Chairperson, UK).

### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Deeply regretting of the lack of knowledge of the average European citizen concerning the facts and organisation of the EU,
  - B. Deeply concerned about the low voter turnout for European elections in each member state,
  - C. Convinced that this low turnout makes the results of the referenda unrepresentative of the European population at large,
  - D. Recognising that many European citizens do not understand the purpose of non-binding referenda,
  - E. Believing that the Reform Treaty is a positive political step towards increased democratic legitimacy and supports the passing of it,
  - F. Further believing that a Europe-wide referendum would better represent the opinion of the whole body of European citizens,
  - G. Observing that the average European citizen does not believe that the European Union listens to their views or responds to their problems;
- 
- 1. Calls for more comprehensible information to be provided for European citizens on a smaller scale and a more personal level;
  - 2. Trusts that the aforementioned information, when communicated through the media, will result in an increased voter turnout throughout Europe;
  - 3. Supports the provision of accurate and comprehensible information about the pros and cons of the Reform Treaty, as well as the content of the Treaty itself;
  - 4. Expresses its hope that this information will influence future voting on the Reform Treaty, in turn leading to its successful implementation;
  - 5. Further supports the implementation of EU-wide referenda, believing that this will accurately represent the opinion of all European citizens;
  - 6. Notes that informing European citizens of the undertakings of the EU through media projects, such as documentaries will regain the publics trust in the EU as a governmental organisation.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on The Future

**With regards to Sarkozy's plan to draw final borders for the EU: Should there be final borders or should we continue with enlargement on the long run? What should the EU's enlargement policy look like?**

**Submitted by:** Jantine de Haan; Anne-Wil Heijlaerts; Leo Hubberts; Roshan de Jong; Floor Kellerman; Gijsbert Steenman; Leonie Goettsch(Chairperson); Hugo Schaaf (Vice-President).

### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Stressing that the EU is a union created for the continent of Europe,
  - B. Taking into consideration Sarkozy's plan to draw final borders for the current geographical limitations of the EU, and stop negotiations with Turkey,
  - C. Welcoming Turkey to join the EU as soon as the accession criteria have been met,
  - D. Deeply concerned by the level of awareness among European citizens on the consequences of the expansion of the EU,
  - E. Confident that enlargement of the EU would be beneficial to its position in international politics and trade;
1. Recommends, as an alternative to Sarkozy's plan, the establishment of a two-part border plan consisting of:
    - i. a final border consisting of the borders of Turkey and the current South-Mediterranean border;
    - ii. a border zone on the Eastern borders of Belarus and Ukraine

where the countries within these borders may apply to join the EU;
  2. Reaffirms that countries eligible for entry to the EU can only join under the conditions stated in Article 49 of the Treaty of Maastricht;
  3. Encourages countries within the previously outlined borders to work towards joining the EU;
  4. Urges national governments to stimulate the general public to be more involved in European expansion affairs by using measures including, but not limited to
    - iii. Broadcasting debates on EU-affairs involving expansion;
    - iv. Promoting more EU-related youth events.

## Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs

**In the light of the recent events in Kenya: what role should the EU play when facing situations of upcoming civil war?**

**Submitted by:** Lisa Geerts; Paul Klarenbeek; Alexander ten Cate; Joël Meyer; Paul Heinemans; David Bosselaar Maite Karssenbergh (Chairperson); Xander van den Eelaart (Chairperson).

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Aware of the tension between the two main political leaders in Kenya, Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga,
  - B. Convinced that the re-establishment and maintenance of a stable government in Kenya is crucial,
  - C. Bearing in mind that Kenya is considered to be an example for neighbouring countries,
  - D. Noting that there are significant economic and political inequalities between different tribes in Kenya,
  - E. Alarmed by the high likelihood of corruption within the current political system,
  - F. Deeply concerned about the inadequate operations of the Kenyan security forces;
- 
- 1. Calls upon all Member States of the European Union (EU) to adopt a policy of
    - i. co-operation with support for the African Union (AU),
    - ii. attempted persuasion towards the United Nations (UN);
  - 2. Recommends that the African Union takes the leading role in solving the current conflict;
  - 3. Encourages the African Union to facilitate the dialogue between Kibaki and Odinga;
  - 4. Calls for a Treaty between the EU and the AU to
    - i. define the limits of policy towards Kenya,
    - ii. ensure co-operation,
    - iii. outline guidelines for solving the problem;
  - 5. Calls for an independent enquiry into the fraud in the recent elections;
  - 6. Urges the Kenyan government to hold new, internationally-supervised and fair presidential elections;
  - 7. Expresses its hope that development aid will be continued when the situation is stable again,
  - 8. Requests the establishment of new development schemes such as humanitarian projects and the promotion of investment in Kenya;
  - 9. Recommends parliamentary exchanges between EU and Kenyan delegates, in order to share expertise on democracy.

## **Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary affairs**

**Europe caught between the US, China and India as the economic superpowers of the future: how can the Lisbon strategy be revived and European growth and prosperity be achieved?**

**Submitted by:** Boudewijn Bisschop; Renske Boersma; Irina van Dijk; Dirk Janssen; Max Klijnstra; Sjors Oudshoorn; Pelle Baas (Chairperson); Mark Brakel (Chairperson).

**The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Acknowledges that the Lisbon Strategy has not succeeded in making the EU the most competitive knowledge-based economy of the world,
  - B. Noting that the EU will have to take appropriate measures in order to remain an economic superpower,
  - C. Believing that European cooperation can foster economic growth and prosperity,
  - D. Aware that citizens of Member States with low minimum wages migrate to Member States with higher minimum wages,
  - E. Seeing that high-quality education is essential for future economic growth,
  - F. Noting that European employees of multinationals have insufficient knowledge about the emerging economies,
  - G. Observing that the scholarship system in the US has had a positive effect on the education of top students,
  - H. Fully believing that students should be selected on merit, rather than their financial situation,
  - I. Observing that a lot of potential is not exploited due to a lack of talent-scouting and cooperation between universities,
  - J. Believes that Life Long Learning (LLL) improves the skills of the older working population,
  - K. Concerned about the environmental damage generated by industry in Europe;
5. Strongly recommends further economic cooperation between Member States whilst retaining internal competitiveness;
  6. Calls for investment in the Member States with low minimum wages to strengthen their economies and eventually reach a more equal distribution of wealth;
  7. Calls for an increase in funds for education;
  8. Calls upon universities to:
    - i. Create international specialised masterclasses,
    - ii. Cooperate more on a pan-European level,
    - iii. Work together with companies in order to improve the productivity of students and the workforce;
  9. Supports new European scholarships for highly talented students without financial resources to allow easy access to top universities;

10. Promotes the use of a 'blue card' system to encourage the integration of talented foreign students into the European economy;
11. Encourages European-based multinationals to provide more training for their future employees who will work outside of the EU;
12. Calls upon the Member States to provide resources for LLL;
13. Urges workers to continue working past the age of 65;
14. Encourages companies to develop solutions in order to benefit from environmental challenges.