

Rome Summit on the Future of Europe, Conclusions of Cyprus Youth

Preamble:

We, the Youth of Cyprus, have reached an agreement on various issues relating to the future of the Europe. Our conclusions, derived from the open debates organized by the Cyprus Youth Council (CYC), are based on fundamental principles such as:

- The development of long term policies eliminating racism and xenophobia and promoting the common values of respect, equality, diversity and democracy.
- The ageing population should not be dealt as a problem but as a tool and challenge. Elderly need to be included and to contribute to the social model of the European Union.
- The advancement of new ideas for a common European sustainable development and cohesion between Member States and the creation of a common European policy and roadmap through research and specific targeted actions.
- The formulation of a common foreign policy through a democratized system that will allow the voices of all Member States to be heard, and will recognize the sensitivities of all Member States.
- The elimination of nationalism and racism in education, by developing a European consciousness through formal and non-formal education, while respecting diversity and local particulars.

Our message is ‘**Less Representation and More Participation in Our Future Europe**’ in order to fulfill the need of youth to be lead by youth in tomorrow’s Europe.

The Future EU Treaty:

It is suggested that the future EU Treaty should be based on fundamental principles and values that derive from a model that will encompass to the greatest extent our suggestions under the following headings. Above all, we suggest that the future EU Treaty should be based on the answer to the very basic question of ‘**What is it that can make us all feel Europeans?**’

To this respect, the delegation proposes more information through the **media** on EU subjects, the development of a **common curriculum on EU citizenship** to be taught to all public schools in Europe, make **mobility** during studies an **obligatory** part of the main curriculum and encourage further mobility by lessening for example travel costs for young people and the promotion of diversity among Europeans. Develop **common history books** on the contemporary European history. Finally, the future EU Treaty should also be based on the principle of understanding, acceptance and tolerance of the different national identities that exist within the European Union and try to establish a sense of “pride” for being European!

The Social and Economic Model of the EU:

This part of the debate dealt with the question of the “demographic changes in Europe (ageing population etc) and the ways that the fragile position of youth could be improved”. It was accepted that new forms of **intergenerational solidarity** should be developed. This can happen by promoting **a new mentality and a new meaning of “learning”** by paying particular emphasis on the concept of **life-long learning**, by giving incentives to increase births and through non-formal education programmes that will exchange experiences of generations, which is linked, accordingly, to the promotion of **volunteerism for all ages**. Additional ways of improving the social model of the EU are the following: **family education as part of school curriculum** which is also linked to the social inclusion of the elderly (e.g. city centre, easy access to wheel chairs, etc) or the inclusion of elderly in NGOs, and the adoption and monitoring by EU institutions of a **sustainable pension system**.

Sustainable Development:

In order to achieve sustainable development, the Cyprus' youth suggests the development and institutionalization of programmes and enhancement of education of know-how and **research** and a **pan-European strategy for the environment**. In addition, sustainable development could be fulfilled through a variety of measures and policies that include incentives to Member States to create and develop public transport systems and the financing of research for the development of new sources of energy, especially of research conducted by young researchers. It is also suggested that the training of **unemployed young scientists** in order to develop skills on environmental issues so as to be employed in companies operating on sustainable development and the environment is also important in achieving the EU goals on sustainable development. The creation of **environmental consciousness parks** is also linked to such development.

The EU's Role in a Globalised World:

The Role of the EU in a Globalized World was seen through the adoption of a common foreign policy. Cyprus youth answers with a big **YES to the development of a common European foreign policy**. Accordingly, it is suggested that a common foreign policy will enhance EU's role in the global political scene and will also promote the values of the EU, develop common beliefs and establish a system based on peace, stability, security and sufficient crisis management. Also, the empowerment of the **EURO** as a common currency and of social policies, will 'upgrade' the role of the EU in a Globalised World. The aforementioned suggestions will create a **common European identity**, as well as trust, equality and security amongst Europeans that will help the EU to face the necessities of globalization and develop common European interests. It is suggested, that the EU should act independently of other powers based on its common principles, and that this will empower cohesion and bonds amongst Member States.

Building Democracy and Civil Society in Europe:

The central question that was dealt with under this heading was the ways that the EU can enhance democracy and the participation of Young People in the 'civil society'. To this effect, we suggest the institutionalization of **pan-European institutions for discussion and participation** and the further **empowerment of current institutions** such as the YFJ solely for youth and the reinforcement of NGOs through **financial, legal and institutional support**, which is linked to local actions and demographic dialogues. It is also important to attain **transparency in the decision making process**, which is linked to the reinforcement of democratic values and ideals of EU, and the development of dialogue amongst social groups. This can happen through the provision of incentives to youth for active participation, encouraging them to be involved in the decision making processes, and also through the provision of incentives to Member States to formulate policies on active participation of their citizens.

Youth and Education in the EU:

The workshops organized by the CYC dealt in particular with **Article III-282 of the proposed Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe**. To this effect, we suggest that the EU should **enforce the specific article** on all Member States and create a monitoring system for supervising its enforcement. These, it is suggested, might happen by developing cooperation between State institutions and NGOs, as well as with the Ministries of Education and through the provision of incentives to volunteerism and non-formal education. Additionally, it is suggested that **non-formal education skills should be added as an advantage** in vacancies for the public sector **starting from the EU institutions**; that education should aim in the **development of skills** not just learning of facts; the EU should encourage **learning of new languages**; and make **mobility and exchange programmes an obligatory part of the school curriculum**.