

DISCUSSIONS
YOUR EUROPE — YOUR FUTURE

CONCLUSIONS

03-03-2007

LiJOT (Council of Lithuanian Youth Organisations) organised a discussion for young people together with the European Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Lithuanian Republic, the office of the European Commission in Lithuania, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and the European Union Department. Young people discussed the most important topics about *Globalisation, Europe in the world, trends in youth policy in Lithuania and the world, and the future of the European constitution*. They made suggestions:

- The process of ratifying the European constitution gave conflicting results and requires focusing and finding time for discussions and open consideration, but those discussions should not interrupt EU integration or the solution of practical questions. The delay would reduce the belief in this project;
- For most new European democracies, the prospect of membership in the European Union is a secure base and incentive for development. As an organisation, the European Union must be open, but it is important to focus on economic reform and security, energy, defence, and foreign affairs policies;
- The question of the development of a common policy of foreign affairs and security is getting more relevant. The European Union must become an independent subject of international relations capable of being an equal partner in the global context;
- It is necessary to solve the question of the integration of isolated energy markets into the general system of the European Union. It is also important to create an energy system with neighbouring countries that produce, consume, or serve as a country of transit for energy;
- New member states should finish the process of integrating into the European Union, including joining the Euro zone and the Schengen space and forming a European infrastructure. These questions are priorities and should positively be discussed;

- It is necessary to promote environmental protection by initiating agreements that promote higher standards of environmental protection and use ecological sources of energy. Third countries should be involved in these processes;
- To allow European Union values, personal freedoms, and democracy to expand beyond the boundaries of the Union;
- Youth organisations and the non-governmental sector must be involved in the decision-making process at various levels (local, national and European). The development of structural dialog, as the most effective way, must be stimulated by involving young people in the decision-making process at the level of European Union institutions;
- To give humanitarian aid to economically poor third countries suffering from natural disasters and catastrophes, to search for human resources, to invite the volunteers to participate in this program.