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Resolution on the Situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Adopted by the Executive Committee Potsdam (Germany) 26-28 March 1999

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Adopted by the Executive Committee of the European Youth Forum, In Potsdam (Germany) 26-28 March 1999

The youth organisations in the Executive Committee of the European Youth Forum support the peaceful co-existence of countries and people, the maintenance of stability in Europe, the respect and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, find ourselves facing a war, where many countries are engaged or could be easily engaged in, causing an enormous threat to young people's lives and taking away their fundamental right to develop in a sustainable and democratic environment.

Noting that

- The conflict in Kosovo has existed for about 20 years and the measures taken so far by the international community to solve the conflict have proven to be unsuccessful;
- Democracy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has not yet been established;
- Violations of human and minority rights are continuously conducted in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
- The situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and especially in Kosovo is deteriorating daily;
- There is a possibility for a spill-over of the conflicts to the neighbouring countries and wider in the region;
- Many European countries are engaged in war without a clear decision of the United Nations;
- The conflict severely affects the young people and young generations.

The European Youth Forum insists that

- Conflicts should be solved by political and peaceful solutions;
- The use of violence from any side in the conflict must be stopped;

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- Negotiations for peaceful settlement must be re-initiated, and a real dialogue must be established;
- Human lives have to be equally respected;
- Solutions must be sought to ensure that the refugees and internally displaced people receive immediate aid;
- Democracy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must be promoted by peaceful, justifiable and viable means.

The young people and youth organisations in the European Youth Forum are determined to

- Support the youth organisations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially those engaged in the peaceful resolution of the conflict;
- Include different organisations from all constitutional parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the activities of the European Youth Forum;
- Initiate and support actions where youth organisations are in favour of the multi-ethnic society;
- Promote co-operation, as well as strengthen bilateral and multilateral contacts between European and international youth organisations with youth organisations coming from all parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
- Make a special study on youth organisations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with an input of the Member Organisations, Bureau and Secretariat of the European Youth Forum.

The European Youth Forum urges

- The Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE to make use of the tools and programmes available to support the youth organisations of the region, and help them participate in those activities;
- The Council of Europe to organise a special training courses for youth organisations of the region;
- The statutory bodies of the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe to propose concrete action and give priority to proposals and activities regarding the region;
- The European Union to set up a special youth programme which will focus on the region of South-Eastern Europe;

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• The European Union to expand the Youth for Europe programme and European Voluntary Service to young people and youth organisations from all parts of South-Eastern Europe.