



Resolution on an annual European Youth Capital

*Adopted by the Council of Members
9-10 November 2007, Brussels (Belgium)*

- a) *Referring to* the ‘Declaration of Rotterdam’ and the ‘conclusions of the working groups’ of the 2007 EU Youth Week that both call for a European Youth Capital,
- b) *Considering* the need for a strengthened attention to European youth policy at the local level and direct contact between European institutions and local decision-makers,

The Council of Members of the European Youth Forum, assembled in Brussels,

1. Welcomes and appreciates the initiative of the Dutch National Youth Council and the City of Rotterdam for the appointment of a European Youth Capital;
2. Speaks out that the appointment of an annual European Youth Capital is desirable, amongst others:
 - a. Strengthening the relationship between European institutions and the local level and thus attention for the common European objectives regarding youth policy,
 - b. The attention for youth participation at the local level as well as the European level,
 - c. The strengthening of European citizenship, complementary to local, national and other citizenships,
3. Declares that the title ‘European Youth Capital’ may only be applicable when a European municipality distinguishes itself in a positive way and has an ambitious programme for empowering youth;
4. Requests the Bureau to propose to the spring 2008 COMEM a selection procedure for future European Youth Capitals:
 - a. In which European youth organisations, local youth councils and young people from current and previous European Youth Capitals are involved,
 - b. Open to all municipalities in Member States of the European Union and of the Council of Europe,
 - c. With transparent criteria such as:
 - i. A variety of new projects to be implemented that year with significant resources allocated to them,
 - ii. Involvement of the European Youth Forum, national, regional and local youth council(s),
 - iii. Possibilities to participate in designing and implementing activities for all young people of the municipality,
 - iv. A cross sectoral approach,
 - v. A positive approach to youth (policy),
 - vi. Activities with a European focus,
 - vii. Activities aiming for high attendance of young people from all over Europe,

- d. That gives municipalities reasonable time to nominate themselves and, after election, to implement activities and policies,
- e. That is proposed after consultation of the members of the YFJ, local youth councils through the national youth councils and relevant institutional stakeholders;

5. Accepts the invitation of Rotterdam to help them realise European Youth Capital 2009 and to play an important role in the further development of the concept of a European Youth Capital, while emphasising that future European Youth Capitals need to be preceded by a transparent and fair competition open to all European municipalities.