



## **Resolution on the situation in Northern Caucasus**

**Adopted as amended by the Executive Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 26-28 November 1999**

**The European Youth Forum wants to express its concern regarding the recent development in the North Caucasus region, specifically the ongoing war in Chechnya. According to recent information, 200.000 people are refugees due to this war. The military actions taken by Russia are obviously causing a humanitarian disaster, greatly affecting civilians on a huge scale. Also, the impact this conflict has on Ingushetia, which has received the majority of the refugees, as well as other neighbouring countries raises great concern.**

**The fact that the international media as well as representatives of intergovernmental organisations promoting peace and stability, such as the OSCE, have been denied access to Chechnya by Russian authorities causes concern and raises questions about the Russian authorities' respect for the civilian situation as well as their will for a peaceful and sustainable solution of the conflict.**

**The European Youth Forum, as a representative of youth organisations throughout Europe and with a responsibility to promote the interests of young people in Europe, cannot let this situation pass without expressing its strong concern regarding the serious consequences the conflict has for the people in that area. The military actions carried out by Russia; forcing hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes in order to secure their lives can and must not be accepted.**

**The European Youth Forum also condemns the terrorist acts carried out by extremist groups based in Chechnya, as for example the military raids in neighbouring Dagestan.**

**This is not the first time, recently, that Europe has experienced armed conflicts that have resulted in the violation of fundamental human rights for thousands of civilians, and the European Youth Forum calls for immediate action by the international community. Violations of Human Rights as we can see today in Chechnya are not internal affairs, but rather a violation of humanity.**

**Therefore, the European Youth Forum:**

- Calls upon the Russian government to stop the actions causing the civilian disaster in Chechnya.**
- Calls upon the Russian government to allow international observers in Chechnya.**
- Calls upon the international community; institutions, intergovernmental institutions, NGOs and governments to do their utmost to contribute to the end of the sufferings endured by civilians.**

- **Calls specifically upon the European institutions; Council of Europe and European Union, as well as the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to push for the presence of international observers in Chechnya in order to ensure information on the situation of civilians in Chechnya.**

**The European Youth Forum has recently decided to take specific action in another European area struck by war, namely the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the neighbouring countries affected by the recent war. The European Youth Forum has to look into how one can use its role and competence in the war-struck Caucasus area, with the same fundamental commitment which is expressed on the issue of South-Eastern Europe. It is an aim for the European Youth Forum to be consistent and to avoid double standards in its approach to conflict-situations and areas in Europe. However, the European Youth Forum acknowledges that its actions must be based on the initiative, experience and commitment of its member organisations.**

**Therefore the European Youth Forum commits itself:**

- **To explore, together with its member organisations, the possibilities to support young people in Chechnya.**
- **To assess how experience from the work carried out by the European Youth Forum and its member organisations in other war-struck areas can be used in this specific area.**