



## **European Youth Forum Resolution ahead of the EU- LAC Youth Summit**

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS  
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## **Introduction**

The European Union–Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Youth Summit to precede the Heads of State and Government Summit to be held in Madrid, on 18 May 2010, on the theme “Towards a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: Innovation and Technology for sustainable development and social inclusion”, will provide an important opportunity for youth organisations from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean to address core challenges and strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between the two regions on regional and global issues, contributing to the further development of the EU-LAC strategic partnership.

Countries in both regions are going through a wide range of demographic changes and challenges. Investing in youth is crucial for every country’s social and sustainable development.

Based on months of discussions and consultations leading up to the Youth Summit, the European Youth Forum:

*Welcomes* the sixth EU–LAC Summit and its renewed commitment to consolidate the bi-regional cooperation on a priority issue such as technology and information, which has the particularly significant potential to contribute to sustainable development and inclusion, as it brings more coherence to the policies and actions undertaken within this strategic partnership. The main strategic challenge is to provide education and employment to all young people.

*Firmly believes* that only by taking into consideration the valuable contribution that young people and youth organisations can give to the bi-regional dialogue and cooperation, and through their full and effective participation in the process, will we be prepared to face these challenges and achieve the objectives of the strategic partnership, as well as the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

*Welcomes* the EU-LAC effort to integrate in the process of the Summit other events promoted by civil society, namely by non-governmental youth organisations, offering them the chance to participate in the process, provide their valuable contribution and influence the final outcome, taking into consideration also the 64<sup>th</sup> UNGA Resolution on ‘Policies and Programmes involving youth’.

*Agrees* that particular attention needs be paid to the following issues, related concerns and recommendations that arise from them:

### **1. Economic processes towards overcoming the crisis**

#### ***a. Poverty alleviation and eradication***

The slowdown of the economic growth in some countries was further worsened by the financial and economic crisis, which has especially hit the most vulnerable and, amongst them, young people. The crisis has threatened to exacerbate the difficulties young people face in finding decent work, achieving autonomy and being able to fully exercise their rights as citizens.

At the same time, the current young generation has the highest potential to contribute to a lasting recovery from the crisis. It is the best educated generation ever, most familiar with new technologies, more mobile and open to new opportunities. Policy makers should not run the risk of a “lost generation” engendered by the crisis. Losing the potential of the current young generation will have long-term negative effects, whereas effective and strategic investment in youth will be crucial for a successful recovery in the mid- and long term.

## ***b. Decent work***

Poverty is a phenomenon that, especially in times of crisis, affects many young people. On the one hand, many young people are poor despite being employed: the so-called working poor. These are young people who have a very low salary and/or work under precarious working conditions, which do not allow them to live above the threshold of poverty and hence to live a decent and dignified life. We also note with deep concern the high level of youth unemployment, potential risk factor for poverty and social exclusion, and its impact on young people employment prospects and future careers.

One of the biggest problems of the labour market today is also the 'black labour market'; the undeclared work to which millions of working people are driven because of lack of choices and lack of public control mechanisms. Undeclared work is an offence both to the employee who has no working rights, social security nor healthcare, and to the society, who cannot profit from the fruit of its people's work and strengthen social services and public goods.

While an urgent concern at the global level, youth employment is not only an issue for developing countries: in recent decades, both developed countries and countries in transition have seen their labor markets incapable of integrating newcomers. Appropriate answers to such common challenges are yet to be found, but one example of new forms of response is the creation of "green jobs", in view of the increasing concerns over climate change and sustainable development.

What is more, young people face longer periods of transition from education to employment, which hinders their capacity to lead an autonomous life. Linked to this transition period is the issue of internships. In principle, internships are a positive way of fostering the transition from education to the labour market, providing young people with a learning experience in the work place. However, many times, they have been proven to be not more than a cheap replacement of paid work. Young people are thus exploited and only offered low -or no- remuneration and social security provisions, which leads to poverty.

Additionally, there are specific groups of young people facing discrimination and exclusion in the labour market, which leads them to poverty situations: young women, young migrants, young people with disabilities, young LGBT<sup>1</sup> people and young people from different ethnic, language and religious groups, as well as young people with fewer financial means.

## ***c. Social inclusion***

Youth is a precious resource for society in order to achieve higher social goals, economic development and technological innovation. Acknowledgement of youth rights at the European level and worldwide, alongside youth policy measures, are gaining momentum as a means to guarantee favourable conditions for young people to develop their skills, fulfil their potential, work and actively participate in society, have access to quality services including health, transport and housing, and be able to lead autonomous lives.

Already, governments around the world have accepted responsibility for increasing the real opportunities available to young people striving to be healthy, educated, autonomous and active participants in their communities. In this regard, we highlight the Iberoamerican Convention on the

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<sup>1</sup> *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender*

Rights of Youth<sup>2</sup> that lays out specific rights for young people between 15-24 years old and recognises them as strategic actors in development.

Recognising the need for a rights-based youth policy, we emphasise the process launched by the European Youth Forum with the objective to adopt within the framework of the Council of Europe a European Convention on the Rights of Young People, as a legal document recognising both the rights and responsibilities of young people, aiming at fulfilling youth autonomy, and enabling them to actively participate in society life.

We stress that the acknowledgment of child and youth rights, while promoting young people's active participation in society and offering them the chance to fulfil their potential, has a positive impact on social inclusion and poverty reduction, significantly contributes to the development of policies that better address the needs of young people and, simultaneously, to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which are founded upon the principles of human equality and respect for human rights.

Therefore, we call European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to:

- Lift all people living in extreme poverty in their countries out of the poverty trap by ensuring that the United Nations MDGs are reached by 2015.
- Ensure decent working conditions to young people, with adequate salaries and social protection, making sure that these young people do not fall into poverty. It is also crucial to ensure that social policies integrate the more vulnerable groups in society preventing them to fall into a poverty trap.
- Take concrete measures to ensure that the potential of the current young generation is acknowledged by making youth the key target group of the recovery measures and thereby use their full potential as actors in the economic recovery process. An increased investment in young people's education, training, mobility, entry into the labour market and autonomy should therefore come quickly.

## **2. Migration and co-development**

### ***a. Rights of migrants***

We strongly believe that, in order to integrate migrants, it is fundamental that European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments ensure the same access to social services including language education, political rights, autonomy and well-being to all, as well as the same respect for and guarantee of human rights, while acknowledging the benefit of a transcultural society. The right to citizenship is fundamental, and no young person in Europe, Latin America or the Caribbean, including young migrants and the children of migrants, should be denied the right to citizenship.

Moreover, we believe that migration should be a choice and that no one should be driven into migration by force, discrimination, political, religious, economic or other circumstances in their countries of origin.

On account of that, we call upon European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to grant migrants the rights to fully and equally participate in the political, social and economic life of the receiving societies by:

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<sup>2</sup> *Iberoamerican Convention on the Rights of Youth, October 2005, available at: <http://www.laconvencion.org/>*

- Developing and implementing migration policies, be it on asylum, labour or irregular migration, which fully respect fundamental human rights and international conventions and are made non-discriminatory and gender sensitive.
- Creating policies that promote the social inclusion of migrants, strengthening their capacity to organize themselves, ensuring their access to good quality social services, such as health, housing and education, and offering the same opportunities to all in society, bearing in mind that empowerment is crucial for the integration of migrants, and for tackling social exclusion, which often leads to poverty and, in some countries, also to conflict.
- Ensuring that migrants benefit from the right to decent work and that undocumented migrants are offered the access to information about their rights, alongside stricter control on employers of undocumented migrants, taking into account that migrants, whether in regular or irregular situations, face greater difficulties in accessing the labour market, discrimination, low wages, exploitation and frequently dangerous environments and precarious work conditions.
- Tackling prejudicial perceptions of migrants.

Emphasising the fundamental role played by education in this regard, we also recommend that limitations of schools be addressed and the role of non-formal education in developing skills, values and competences and in educating on diversity, especially through youth organisations, be recognised.

Likewise, we believe that co-development policies should also be promoted as a tool to limit the effects of brain drain, while development policies and development aid must remain a priority.

Stressing the importance of this issue to young people and youth organisations in the two regions, we encourage European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to support the proposal of devoting the United Nations World Youth Report 2011 to the topic of “Youth and Migration” in order to access information gathering and analysis on the topic, enabling knowledge-based policies and strategies.

### ***b. Integration and intercultural policies***

Migration policy within the EU has had an uneven development across Member States and has primarily focused on immigration policy in terms of border control mechanisms rather than in terms of strategies and measures to achieve integration and inclusion effectively in the medium and long term.

Migrants, especially young migrants, must, in the receiving country have equal access to social services, political rights, autonomy and well-being, as well as the same respected and guaranteed human rights, while acknowledging the benefit of a transcultural society. It is therefore crucial for the European Union and European countries to develop and implement migration policies, be it on asylum, labour or irregular migration, which fully respect fundamental human rights and international conventions, which prohibit discrimination and which are gender sensitive. In particular, all governments should ensure that the rights of children, as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are respected, regardless of their migration status.

## **3. Sustainable Development**

For young people, two very important issues that need to be tackled when discussing sustainable development are climate change and natural resources.

### **a. Climate change**

Children and youth are vulnerable groups and at high risk with the expected devastating consequences of climate change. European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments should therefore ensure appropriate training for young people, both on how to mitigate and to adapt to climate change and include comprehensive Climate Change education in formal and non-formal education curricula.

Youth can provide invaluable perspectives into issues that affect them, while tremendously contributing to youth empowerment and youth participation in general. Therefore, youth should be involved and their needs should be considered in the design and implementation of Climate Change policies.

European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments should take measures equal to the scale of the issues at stake and in line with the science and experts' reports that have been recently published. This means that, in order to prevent "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system", global temperature increases should be kept as far below 2°C as possible and a level of greenhouse gases concentration stabilised at 350ppm CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent as quickly as possible. The fair, ambitious and binding agreement needed should stem from a multilateral context provided by the United Nations.

Considering their responsibility, industrialised nations should commit to the allocation of bold financial commitments, both in terms of mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. Moreover, this support should be additional to the current Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Addressing the challenges brought on by climate change can only be successful through an intergenerational implementation, stimulating young people to commit to taking actions themselves and acting as role models. Hence, policy makers should include measures to promote global education, in order to enable a real shift in the lifestyles of current and future generations, to address the new challenges and use the opportunities of the economic and climate crisis in a globalised world.

We demand that:

- Sustainable consumption and production be encouraged, in particular with regards to food.
- Environmental refugees, including climate refugees, be legally recognized as refugees under the Geneva Convention<sup>3</sup>.
- Deforestation be halted and biodiversity be preserved. Involvement of local communities and youth is crucial for a sustainable conservation of biodiversity. Indigenous knowledge and languages should be preserved for coming generations and intellectual property rights' frameworks need to be reviewed so as to not threaten biodiversity, food sovereignty, or the fight against diseases.
- Governments adopt as soon as possible an ambitious and fair deal that ensures a decent life for current and future generations both in the global North and the global South. This deal, which needs to be agreed while still in 2010, should acknowledge the role of young people in taking up this responsibility.
- Education for sustainable development and, in a broader sense, global education, be mainstreamed into formal education and further strengthened as a part of non-formal education and informal learning. This would prepare people to fully take up their role as citizens of the world, enabling them to develop the empathy, sense of belonging to the global community, and sense of responsibility towards other people and the environment that are paramount to a new development model.

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<sup>3</sup> Geneva Convention relating to the status of refugees of 28 July 1951

### ***b. Natural resources: water and energy***

Natural resources are often the engine of economic development. Resources need to be used and managed in a sustainable way. Restricted access, exploitation and depletion all require a change in policy. Renewable energies need to be boosted. Thus the well-being of both present and future generations will be ensured.

Water is not an ordinary commodity. It is indispensable, but is yet diminishing as a resource. Therefore, we need a rights-based approach to it. Clean drinking water should be a right for everyone, while water used for agricultural purposes should be controlled in order to avoid water waste. The need to preserve water resources from, for example large-scale hydropower development, is also of importance and the participation of youth in water-management should be acknowledged.

### **4. Equal Opportunities in the access to knowledge**

Recognising the importance of innovation and technology in education, the European Youth Forum would still stress that education for all has to be the first priority. All governments in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean should ensure free and high quality education for everybody.

The constant developments in the information society bring new challenges for media and communication policy, especially in relation to young people. The role of the media has become crucial for the work of youth organisations as a tool to enhance access of young people to information and for the development of active youth participation in democratic processes.

Young people are increasingly engaged with new communication technologies and services. These provide possibilities for the promotion and strengthening of democracy and human rights. Particularly, they can be a means of encouraging young people to actively participate in democratic processes. In order for this potential to be realised, certain conditions need to be fulfilled.

We also note with concern the digital and literacy divide among young people. This is a result of the lack of access to the Internet and often coincides with a gender divide, widens the gap and excludes many young people from participating in this global community.

Bearing this in mind, we urge European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to:

- Provide young people with the possibility to exercise their fundamental rights and especially their freedom of speech and expression, while at the same time ensuring that they are aware of the responsibilities that come with these rights. It is therefore indispensable to take into account the voice of young people, as advanced users and important stakeholders in society, when discussing innovation and technology policy.
- Guarantee equal possibilities to access communications technologies and services, both as users and as creators, as a fundamental right, regardless of origin, geographical location, gender, language, religious, social and cultural background, abilities, economic possibilities, political views or any other criteria.
- Mainstream media literacy at all levels of formal education to raise awareness and knowledge about the rights, responsibilities, opportunities and risks related to the use of new communications technologies and services and introduce theoretical knowledge and active media skills in the educational curricula.
- Recognise and promote the role of youth organisations as the main providers of non-formal education in this field. These measures will help individuals develop a critical awareness of the media.

## **5. Equality**

### **a. Gender Equality**

Due to historical, cultural, traditional, political and societal circumstances, girls and young women, who constitute more than 50% of young people, are potentially disadvantaged, unequal, under-represented, sexually exploited, underpaid, exposed to domestic violence and other forms of violence, and disproportionately unemployed by virtue of nothing more than their sex. Young women still join the labour market in inequality with men, continue to fall prey to the media pressure depicting an unrealistic image of themselves and need to reconcile the working, personal and family elements of life. These circumstances have led to a reality where achieving equality between women and men remains one of the biggest challenges facing society. Young people are strongly affected by this situation, as it prevents them from achieving their fullest potential in life and prevents them from enjoying, to a full extent, their basic human rights.

While recognising the progress that society, particularly in certain regions, has made in achieving equality between women and men, it must be stated that rather than a motivation for further action, this fact has unfortunately begun to represent a barrier in understanding that inequalities remain.

Women often have fewer resources. Even when access to information is available, women face larger social pressure from their sexual partners to engage in unsafe sex. Ensuring the sexual and reproductive health rights for young women must therefore be a priority for governments in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We call upon European, Caribbean and Latin American governments to:

- Ensure gender-mainstreaming in development cooperation and policies,
- Reduce barriers to the participation of women in elections on all levels and promote female candidates for leader positions in international institutions,
- Support the implementation of the UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform,
- Implement gender-sensitive teacher training and evaluate and improve the current situation in the educational systems in terms of curricula, textbooks, pedagogical methods, etc. for the ways they are reinforcing certain gender roles,
- Raise awareness among young men about the importance of taking an active role in the work on achieving equality between women and men,
- Introduce anti-harassment policies in all levels and types of schools,
- Ensure the availability, accessibility, and affordability of sexual and reproductive health information and counselling services,
- Offer free contraceptives to young people.

### **b. Gender-based Violence**

As youth, as the engine for changes and as speakers in the world of social injustice, we believe that women and men should be free from violence of all kinds. Gender-based violence, far from being eradicated, is still evident as one of the worst problems worldwide.

Gender-based violence includes both psychological and physical violence, in which some of the most vulnerable groups are young girls, women experiencing poverty, migrant women, sex workers, homosexuals, bisexuals and transgender individuals. Gender relations, especially masculinities depicting women as objects or as inferior, can impede the possibilities for men to express their emotion, and are an important cause of these forms of violence. Women are more



exposed to violence in the media and pornography, and are much more frequently sexually harassed in the workplace, in public places and even in organisations.

One of the major causes of death and disability of women aged 16-44 around the world is violence against women. Being one of the most widespread violations of human rights, it is often not acknowledged as the huge epidemic it is. It takes place in a societal framework, in which there is an unequal balance of power and is not restricted to any particular ethnic group or social class.

Although in the majority of cases violence occurs within the family or within an intimate relationship, sexual violence by non-partners (such as acquaintances, colleagues, relatives, friends, or strangers) is also very common. Approximately one in five<sup>4</sup> women in the world becomes a victim of rape or attempted rape during her lifetime.

Issues such as domestic violence need to be particularly targeted in work with boys and men. An understanding of violence perpetrated by men is essential and needs to include a focus on loss of control, the wider socialisation of men, as well as sexism and abuses of power effected by men. Targeted work on the empowerment of girls and women should also seek to enable them to stand up against this phenomenon and to break down oppressive domestic power relations. Youth work can play a significant role in assuring safe spaces, where violence and bullying is not only unacceptable, but where young people will become advocates for respectful interaction.

### ***c. Fight against discrimination***

The issue of discrimination is an important one for young people. Young people suffer (multiple) discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation in similar ways to any other section of the population, and these conditions prevent them from their full integration in society. There is evidence to indicate that this discrimination is often compounded also by the fact of their youth. It is therefore important to tackle issues of discrimination among the young in order to prevent prejudices emerging and persisting into adulthood. Human Rights education and intercultural learning in the context of youth organisations plays and, given more resources, could play an even more significant role in challenging the attitudes that promote discrimination.

## **6. Democratic governance and citizenship promotion**

### ***a. Millennium Development Goals***

We welcome the initiative of the Mexican Government – in cooperation with the United Nations system – to host the World Youth Conference 2010, focusing on the role of young people in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Recognising the important contribution young people can make to the meeting, we urge European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to include youth representatives in their delegations.

Equally, we welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to hold a High-level Meeting, at the opening of its 65<sup>th</sup> Session, in September 2010, to review the progress towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other international development goals, and urge European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to include youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://unifem.org/gender\\_issues/violence\\_against\\_women/facts\\_figures.php?page=3](http://unifem.org/gender_issues/violence_against_women/facts_figures.php?page=3)

## ***b. Youth Rights***

In Europe and the world today, there is a need to recognise young people as a demographic group, between childhood and adulthood, with specific needs. A rights-based youth policy should strive to actively promote the autonomy of young people as well as their full participation in society. Protection against discrimination should be strengthened and specific measures to include young people with fewer opportunities in society need to be put in place. Youth rights encompass a wide range of basic rights and fundamental freedoms, already enshrined in international and regional human rights instruments.

While at the European level, no binding instrument exists as yet, which would ensure the respect, protection and promotion of the rights of young people, a counterpart convention was adopted in the framework of Iberoamerican cooperation. The Iberoamerican Convention on the Rights of Youth, which entered into force in 2008, should thus be ratified by all Member States, and should pave the way for the beginning of a process towards a UN Convention on the Rights of Young People, starting at the World Youth Conference in Mexico.

## ***c. Youth participation***

Participation is about having the right, the means, the space, the opportunity and, where necessary, the support to participate in and influence decisions, to engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society.

We believe that only by effective participation of young people and youth organisations in national, regional and global decision-making and policy implementation can we develop policies and programmes that will successfully meet their needs and expectations.

Despite the recognition of the crucial role young people and youth organisations play in the development of societies and the commitment of European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to promote their active participation, much still remains to be done to ensure their full and effective participation in society.

During recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance strong regional integration also has on the development of youth policies.

Therefore, we urge the European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to:

- Ensure young people's right to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes on the national, regional and international level, in matters concerning them, regardless of their background and/or characteristics.
- Support the establishment of independent, youth-led and democratic National Youth Councils, whose members should have the capacity to decide on the direction and actions of the organisations through their internal democracy mechanisms.
- Support international Youth NGOs working on the regional level, including Regional Youth Platforms.
- Ensure that no country has a voting age higher than 18 and that all women and men can be elected to national assemblies from the age of 18.
- Support projects and mechanisms to lower the voting age to 16.
- Foster evidence-based policy making through facilitating research on youth participation in civil society and political decision making processes.
- Ensure the rights of and support young volunteers, who through their work in the frame of youth organisations put into practice human rights, democracy and pro-actively participate in the society they live in.
- Support youth organisations providing voluntary activities, particularly those that promote interregional cooperation.

- Ensure full and effective youth participation in continuously integrating young people in the implementation and evaluation of decisions affecting youth.
- Strengthen the regional integration processes and ensure that the representatives of youth organisations are secured an appropriate space in these processes.

Stressing the valuable contribution that bi-regional dialogue and cooperation of youth offer to the EU-LAC cooperation, namely to the implementation of the strategic partnership, we also call upon European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to strengthen the support to the existing youth bi-regional cooperation process, providing the adequate political and financial support to the activities, programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting youth work and cooperation between the two regions.

## **7. Life – long learning**

### ***a. Education for all***

Youth organisations and non-formal education play an important role in tackling inequality. However the main responsibility for social inclusion and equality is the formal education system that should increase its efforts and work together with non-formal education.

We urge European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments to:

- Drastically reduce early education leaving by ensuring that everyone has the right, the means and the support to enter, take part in or re-enter formal education.
- Promote gender sensitive co-education in order to counter gender disparities.
- Give a special focus to integration and language support for children with migrant backgrounds, taking into account that students with migrant backgrounds do often perform at levels significantly lower than their native peers.
- Combat child poverty by breaking cycles of poverty early, through tailored support. Formal education should be free of charge.
- Give a special focus to indigenous languages and cultures providing education in their mother tongue and supporting cultural activities.

### ***b. Non-formal education***

Recognition and strategy for action, transmission of values and promoting citizenship

The move towards a knowledge-based society requires everyone to learn and build competencies, life-long and life-wide, all this in an increasingly global context, in which education needs to contribute to a sense of belonging to the global community, and responsibility towards other people and the environment. Non-formal education is an essential part of life long learning process and youth organisations are a space for and main provider of non-formal learning.

Therefore, we stress the need for:

- Increased funding for youth organisations providing non-formal education.
- More cooperation between different educational providers, providing flexible educational pathways.
- Instruments for the recognition of individual learning outcomes that are developed by or in cooperation with the non-formal education field.
- A clear focus in all policy making on the threefold aim of education: personal development, citizenship and transition to employment.
- All educational institutions to facilitate the set up of student councils as they improve education and are an effective way of learning citizenship by learning by doing.
- The inclusion of global education/*educación popular* in formal school curricula and available resources and support for youth NGOs carrying out global education activities.

### ***c. Peace culture***

Young people are growing up in a globalised world and are often at the forefront of dealing with the global issues, such as peace. Learning by doing should be the key method of participatory peace education. Schools should provide time, space and recognition for projects initiated by young people themselves, including projects in which pupils go out and educate others in society, and through which pupils can act as peer-educators and multipliers.

## **8. Open and permanent youth cooperation**

- a. Objectives and partners of the youth cooperation in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b. Instruments and strategies for the strengthening of the youth cooperation.

The value of young people and youth organisations needs to be recognised when it comes to promoting development and poverty reduction, as does the significant contribution they can make to the strengthening of the bi-regional dialogue and cooperation and the achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America and Caribbean;

We recall the Communication from the Commission of 30 September 2009 on the European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership [COM(2009) 495/3], where a comprehensive dialogue involving civil society, with the support of the EU-LAC Foundation, was recommended, as regards the new strategies of the Bi-Regional Dialogue;

We call upon European, Latin American and Caribbean Governments and International Institutions to:

- Make further efforts to ensure the full involvement of young people and youth organisations within the bi-regional cooperation, which implies increased support to youth organisations leading to the meaningful participation of young civil society in the process. In this context, the establishment and consolidation of independent and democratic National Youth Councils and Regional Platforms in both regions should be supported.
- Set up a coherent and coordinated strategy on youth in the EU-LAC partnership, for the full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth.
- Provide a solid support to the cooperation efforts being made between youth organisations of the two regions, enabling a permanent and sustainable dialogue and cooperation.
- Continue their commitment to appropriate political and financial support to platforms that enable exchange of experience and the development of joint actions between the regions. Based on the good example of the Euro-Latin-American Youth Forum, and taking into consideration the deepening cooperation between Europe and Latin America and Caribbean, it is high time to commit to a Euro Latin American and Caribbean Youth Forum (FEULAC).