



# **Resolution for a Strong Youth Sector in the Council of Europe**

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 23-24 April 2010

*Welcoming* the intention of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to reform the institution to become politically more relevant and to act as “...(the) lighthouse for Europe, carefully watching developments and trying to anticipate new social and political crises” and further build Council of Europe as safeguard of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law;

*Recalling* the central role played by the youth sector and its unique components, mainly the co-management system, the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation, in furthering Council of Europe values;

*Further welcoming* the work made by the Advisory Council on youth to represent the interests of young people in the Council of Europe;

*Recognising* the great importance played by the Council of Europe as a progressive actor in the field of youth policy and in the institutionalisation of human rights on the continent;

*Regretting* that the recent budget re-allocations in the youth budget will reduce the amount of money available from the European Youth Foundation to youth organisations by 13%;

*Fully endorsing* the statement regretting the budgetary cuts enforced upon the youth sector of the institution made by the Joint Council on Youth at its statutory meeting in March 2010;

*Taking note* of the European Youth Forum urgent resolution “Funding of Youth Organisations by the Council of Europe”, adopted at the COMEM 26-27 April 2002;

**The European Youth Forum urges the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to:**

Recognise that a vivid youth sector is a long-term investment in human rights, democracy, and deep security in Europe;

Reverse the trend of cuts in the youth sector of the Council of Europe;

Find long term solutions to increase the amount of money allocated to youth policy development and activities of youth organisations in order to not only promote democratic governance and stability but also human rights.

Encourage Member States to increase their contribution to the European Youth Foundation as well as consider voluntary contributions to the programmes of the youth sector.

Ensure that the role and the importance of the youth sector is reflected in the organisational reform of the Council of Europe as well as its funding.

Direct the focus of the political work of the Council of Europe on the implementation of the Agenda 2020 towards developing rights-based youth policies and instruments that further this aim.