



# RESOLUTION

## Europe is our home - No Visas

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*Adopted by the Council of Members/Extraordinary General  
Assembly 27-28 April 2007, Baku (Azerbaijan)*

## The European Youth Forum calls for the abolishment of student and tourist visas

### Whereas

- Europeans cannot move freely within the borders of Europe because of current policies obliging them to have a visa to travel abroad, even for short leisure stays
- The freedom to move from one European country to another, whether for leisure or for a conference, is a fundamental precondition for ensuring that young people can contribute to European integration and growth.

### Noting that

- EU Interior Ministers agreed last April to raise from 2007 the price of visas for the Schengen zone from 35 euros to 60 euros, due to the costs of collecting biometric data, making the situation even more difficult for non-EU citizens,
- The visa release process is unnecessarily long, expensive, bureaucratic and upsetting for the people who need visas,
- Some Europeans do not have in their countries the embassies of the countries they wish or need to travel to, which makes the process of acquiring such visas almost impossible
- Visa release is not guaranteed to all, as some can have their request denied for unclear reasons and/or have their visa delivered too late
- The only activities permitted during a short-term stay are sightseeing, visiting relatives, and short-term business activities.

### And considering that

- The freedom to move from one European country to another and to experience cultural difference whilst feeling a sense of unity is at the core of the European dream
- Visa regimes negatively affect the development of tourism on the European continent and are an obstacle to the birth of a European civil society
- Restrictions to free travel are used by dictatorships to prevent the spread of democracy, as epitomized nowadays in Belarus

The Council of Members of the European Youth Forum meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, asks for:

- Complete abolishment of tourist visas for European citizens travelling from an EU country to another European country and reverse, and its facilitation until the full abolishment is not achieved.
- Complete abolishment of visa regimes between non-EU European countries
- Complete abolishment of visas for non-EU European students to study in the European Union

And will forward this resolution to all European governments, to the European Commission and the European Parliament.