



**RESOLUTION**  
on the functioning of the EU Youth in  
Action programme and administrative  
funding to European youth organisations

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*Adopted by the Council of Members  
2-3 May 2008 (Castelldefels, Catalonia - Spain)*

The European Youth Forum raises its serious concern to the attention of European Union institutions on the functioning of the EU Youth in Action programme and in particular the situation of the administrative grants to European youth organisations. We very much welcome the introduction of the Partnership Framework Agreement (i.e. multi-annual administrative grant), yet we do not appreciate the way it has been implemented. The European youth organisations in particular are significantly financially dependent on funding through the Youth in Action programme. It is a shame that once again the Commission fails to live up to the expectations and promises it has set to the European youth organisations.

Giving the end of October 2007 as the deadline for applications, only on 1, 5 months notice (The Call for Proposals was sent on 17 September 2007) put great pressure on the European youth organisations. They took all their limited resources available to meet this deadline. This was something youth organisations were willing to do, as they were promised by the Commission that they would have the results of the grants earlier than in the previous year, by the 31 March 2008.

The Commission communicated that the results of the administrative grant applications will be postponed to the end of April. We have now the beginning of May and we have not received anything. After a call to the Commission, a vague promise about answers by mid-May was given. This is not an example of transparent and good governance. Once again, youth organisations with limited resources manage to pull off a huge feat of administrative work to hit a shortly announced deadline, yet the Commission, with all its resources available, has not been able to do the same in return.

Due to having faced similar scenarios in previous years, the European youth organisations have learned that when the first paper comes with an answer, it will take up to two months, if not even longer, to actually sign the contracts and receive the money. It is a pity that in the year 2008 when the debate on structured dialogue with youth and the role of volunteering is on the highest level ever, the youth organisations, as key partners in this dialogue have to suffer under such fundamental problems. How can we fulfil the promises to our members if we simply cannot afford it?

During the development of the Youth in Action programme European youth organisations were promised by the Commission representatives an extensive evaluation of the programme after the first year of its implementation, i.e. after 2007. So far no information has been released whether such evaluation has commenced. We strongly feel that such an evaluation should be conducted and this should include input from the European Youth Forum together with its Member Organisations. The evaluation should include financial operations (e.g. payments) in both the Executive Agency in Brussels as well as the National Agencies in the Programme Countries.

With this resolution, we, the 95 Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum, demand the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to swiftly adopt the proposed legal base of the Youth in Action programme, taking out the requirement for comitology procedure. We further demand the European Commission to better the level of transparency of the Youth in Action programme, its various implementing bodies as well as the decisions taken and we demand that the Commission follows the same obligations as we have to follow, to stick with the promised deadlines and to make sure that the decisions taken as well as the payments are done in time.