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The President

317373    17.10.2013

Mr Mariano Rajoy Brey  
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Spain  
Palacio de la Moncloa  
Edificio Inia  
E - 28017 MADRID

Dear Prime Minister,

Please allow me to express my concern about the inclusion of the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España - CJE) in the list of bodies to be abolished that was drafted by the Spanish government's Commission for Reform of Public Administration (CORA) and published on 21 July.

The importance of a platform like the CJE has been consistently reasserted in resolutions from various international institutions. For example, the EU White Paper on Youth calls for Member States to promote participation among young people in public life through the general introduction of youth councils that are independent of political authorities at regional and national level. It also calls on authorities to consult them before any decision that could have significant consequences for young people.

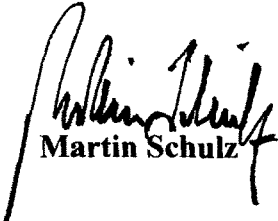
The CJE is a diverse and democratic platform, a state body for coordination, dialogue, training and cooperation for the many organisations and associations of which it is composed. It plays a crucial role in representing young people in Europe and around the world. It heads the struggle for youth rights and equality, it has created and it continues to maintain an important link with young people in Europe and Latin America, in the tradition of Spanish politics. It has helped ensure that thousands of young people are now active citizens.

The CJE has a very active role in the key actions of the Youth Employment Package in Spain. For several years, the CJE has been pushing to set up a Youth Guarantee scheme due to the critical rate of youth unemployment in Spain. I recall the crucial role of youth organizations in the establishment of the Youth Guarantee quoted in the Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee. Likewise, the CJE is involved very actively in the quality framework for traineeships and the European alliance for apprenticeships development processes.

If the CJE were to disappear, I wonder how the young people would organise themselves in an independent and self-managed platform that represents their interests across the country and in Europe? This would severely impair youth protection, as young people would lose a legitimate spokesperson to defend their interests. Taking into account the currently difficult situation for European youth in social, economic and labour terms, I believe that it is more necessary than ever to promote all possible channels of dialogue with civil society.

I am of the firm belief that the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) is a model for democratic participation and coexistence and for this reason would like to express my support for its struggle for survival. I hope that you will be sensitive to this appeal and could reconsider the decision to abolish it.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Schulz