

Europäisches Jugendparlament in Deutschland e.V. (EJP)

## **Nationale Auswahl Sitzung des EJP**

*zum Oberthema „Regional – Ökologisch – Nachhaltig?“*

*in Passau, 26. Mai – 02. Juni 2015*

Abschlussbericht über eine Parlamentssimulation für Jugendliche,  
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von

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**Projektkennblatt**  
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**Antragstitel**                      **Nationale Auswahlsitzung des Europäischen Jugendparlaments in Deutschland zum Oberthema 'Regional – Ökologisch – Nachhaltig?' in Passau**

**Stichworte**

Laufzeit	Projektbeginn	Projektende	Projektphase(n)
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Zwischenberichte

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***Zielsetzung und Anlaß des Vorhabens***

Durch die erweiterte Parlamentssimulation des Europäischen Jugendparlaments (EJP) in Passau setzten sich die jugendlichen Teilnehmer intensiv mit dem Oberthema der Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit und wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt auf regionaler Ebene auseinander. Zielsetzung war es, die Jugendlichen für Umweltproblematiken zu sensibilisieren und über die Gestaltung einer gewissenhaften, nachhaltigen Umweltpolitik zu reflektieren.

Als abschließende Veranstaltung unseres Schulwettbewerbs diskutierten die Gewinner aus den Regionalen Vorentscheiden in Passau zu dem Thema „Regional – Ökologisch – Nachhaltig?“ eine Woche lang neun verschiedene Fragestellungen, fassten ihre Lösungen und Ideen in Resolutionen und debattierten diese anschließend in der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung im Stil des Europäischen Parlaments.

***Darstellung der Arbeitsschritte und der angewandten Methoden***

Die Veranstaltung wurde ausschließlich von ehrenamtlich arbeitenden Mitgliedern des EJP organisiert und gliederte sich in 3 Abschnitte: Inhaltliche und organisatorische Vorbereitung, die Sitzung in Passau sowie die Nachbereitung durch Evaluation, Feedbackgespräche und ein abschließendes Nachtreffen.

Die teilnehmenden deutschen Schülerinnen und Schüler erhielten zur Vorbereitung drei Wochen vor Beginn der Veranstaltung eine Mappe mit thematischen Dossiers und weiterführenden Quellen („Preparation Kit“). Das Team aus erfahrenen internationalen Moderatoren unseres Netzwerks begleitete die Teilnehmer durch die Sitzung und führte spielerische gruppenspezifische Trainings zu Beginn der Veranstaltung durch, die die Jugendlichen auf die inhaltlich intensive, dreitägige Ausschussarbeit und die abschließende, zweitägige Parlamentarische Vollversammlung vorbereiteten.

Zusätzliche Elemente wie ein Peer-Review-Abend, zum Austausch unter den Ausschussgruppen, sowie eine betreute Vorbereitungszeit sicherte die inhaltliche Qualität der Ergebnisse. Neben der Betreuung durch die Moderatoren begleitete eine unabhängige Jury die Veranstaltung. Die Ergebnisse flossen in die finale Evaluation ein und ermöglichten den Teilnehmern im Anschluss ein individuelles Feedback.

Ein ausführliches kulturelles Rahmenprogramm, bei dem die Teilnehmer aus 15 europäischen Ländern kulinarische und musikalische Highlights zum Besten gaben, rundete die Veranstaltung ab.

## **Ergebnisse und Diskussion**

Die Nationale Auswahlsitzung in Passau war in vielerlei Hinsicht ein Erfolg. Die inhaltlichen Ergebnisse in Form der von den einzelnen Ausschüssen erarbeiteten Resolutionen sind hierbei eng mit dem Lernerfolg der Jugendlichen verknüpft. Betrachtet man die verschiedenen involvierten Teilnehmergruppen, zeigt sich, dass nicht nur die Delegierten, sondern auch das Organisations-, das Moderatoren- und das Medienteam maßgeblich von der Veranstaltung profitiert haben.

### **(i) Inhaltliche Ergebnisse**

Schon die im Vorfeld der Nationalen Auswahlsitzung von allen Delegierten angefertigten kurzen Essays, in denen sie individuell Stellung zu ihrem jeweiligen Ausschussthema beziehen sollten, zeigten eine bemerkenswerte akademische Vorbereitung auf die Veranstaltung die von der Qualität der Resolutionen bestätigt wird. Wir sind beeindruckt von den Kenntnissen, die sich die Jugendlichen in ihrer Freizeit zu komplexen europapolitischen Themen angeeignet haben. Insbesondere die Auswahl der Quellen geht weit über die üblichen Anforderungen an 16 bis 19-jährige Schülerinnen und Schüler hinaus und beinhaltet oftmals die englischsprachigen Originaldokumente der Europäischen Kommission und anderer offizieller Institutionen. Die Resolutionen bilden neben diesem fundierten Kenntnisstand vor allem aber auch ein hohes Maß an Engagement und Kreativität bei der Lösungsfindung ab. Das Zusammenspiel von wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt und ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit wurde von den Delegierten in ihren Resolutionen kritisch evaluiert und zugleich sinnvoll implementiert. Auf diese Weise zeigten die Jugendlichen, dass sich beide Ziele gegenseitig bedingen und sich unternehmerischer Erfolg und umweltbewusstes Handeln keineswegs konträr gegenüberstehen.

### **(ii) Lernerfolge bei den Teilnehmern**

Unser zentrales Anliegen ist es, Jugendliche für Politik, und hier insbesondere aktuelle europapolitische Themen, zu sensibilisieren und zu begeistern und ihnen gleichzeitig ein Verständnis von und Wertschätzung für demokratische Entscheidungsfindungsprozesse zu vermitteln. Auf inhaltlicher Ebene sind grundlegende Kenntnisse über die Arbeitsweisen und Kompetenzen der verschiedenen Institutionen der EU ebenso selbstverständlich wie Fachwissen zu den jeweiligen Ausschussthemen. Auf der Nationalen Auswahlsitzung in Passau wurden die Delegierten entsprechend des Oberthemas besonders darin geschult, umweltpolitische Zielsetzungen in Problemstellungen anderer Fachgebiete zu integrieren und nachhaltiges Handeln als Bestandteil wirtschaftlichen Denkens wahrzunehmen. Neben diesen inhaltlichen Lernerfahrungen konnten die Teilnehmer vor allem auch ihre sprachlichen Fertigkeiten in der Sitzungssprache Englisch verbessern, sich im Debattieren üben und ihre Fähigkeiten in der Zusammenarbeit mit zuvor unbekanntem Teammitgliedern ausbauen.

### **(iii) Lernerfolge bei Organisatoren, Moderatoren und Medienteam**

Auch die Mitglieder des Organisations-, des Moderatoren- und des Medienteams von der Teilnahme an der Nationalen Auswahlsitzung in Passau profitiert. Alle drei Teams erhielten im Vorfeld der Veranstaltung spezifische Trainings durch erfahrene Alumni unseres Vereins, setzten sich intensiv mit dem Oberthema der Veranstaltung auseinander, und ermöglichten ehrenamtlich eine sechstägige Veranstaltung mit 150 Teilnehmern. Die Mitglieder des Organisationsteams durften hierbei ein großes Maß an Verantwortung übernehmen und konnten sich der Betreuung und Hilfe erfahrener Alumni sowie des Vereinsvorstands sicher sein. Diese Kombination ermöglichte eine intensive selbstgeschaffene Lernerfahrung, ohne Angst vor Fehlern haben zu müssen.

## **Öffentlichkeitsarbeit und Präsentation**

Die Nationale Auswahlsitzung war in mehreren Print- und Funkmedien präsent. Dank der hochkarätigen Schirmherren auf Bundes- und Landes- sowie auf lokaler Ebene fand die Veranstaltung weitreichende Beachtung. Hierzu trugen auch die öffentlichkeitswirksamen Höhepunkte der Veranstaltung, die Eröffnungszereemonie und die parlamentarische Vollversammlung, im Passauer Rathaus bzw. der Passauer Redoute sowie Redner aus Politik und Wissenschaft bei. Die Präsentation unserer Förderer erfolgte über den gesamten Projektzeitraum hinweg in unseren Printprodukten, Roll-Up-Displays sowie online.

## **Fazit**

In der Zusammenschau betrachten wir die Nationale Auswahlsitzung in Passau als großen Erfolg. Das von uns gewählte Oberthema der Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit und wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt stieß bei den jungen Delegierten auf reges Interesse und fand auch bei den geladenen Rednern und Gästen vielfach Anklang. Die Veranstaltung hat uns gezeigt, dass gerade in der jungen Generation ein hoher Diskussionsbedarf zu umweltpolitischen Themen herrscht. Die Jugendlichen haben in Passau einen ersten, engagierten Schritt zur Auseinandersetzung mit diesen Problemfeldern getan.

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Kommission in Deutschland*

# 1. Zusammenfassung

Bei der erweiterten Parlamentssimulation des Europäischen Jugendparlaments e.V. (EJP) in Passau setzten sich die jugendlichen Teilnehmer intensiv mit dem Oberthema der Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit und wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt auf regionaler Ebene auseinander. Zielsetzung war es, die Jugendlichen für Umweltproblematiken zu sensibilisieren und über die Gestaltung einer gewissenhaften, nachhaltigen Umweltpolitik zu reflektieren.

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Die Veranstaltung wurde ausschließlich von ehrenamtlich arbeitenden Mitgliedern des EJP organisiert und gliederte sich in 3 Abschnitte: Inhaltliche und organisatorische Vorbereitung, die Sitzung in Passau sowie die Nachbereitung durch Evaluation, Feedbackgespräche und ein abschließendes Nachtreffen.

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Die 25. Nationale Auswahlsitzung des Europäischen Jugendparlaments in Deutschland e.V. wäre ohne die finanzielle und inhaltliche Unterstützung unserer Partner nicht zu Stande gekommen. Als gemeinnütziger und überparteilicher Verein, der von ehrenamtlich aktiven Jugendlichen getragen wird, sind wir auf die Unterstützung von öffentlichen Institutionen, aber auch von Privatunternehmen und Stiftungen angewiesen, um unsere Veranstaltungen und die Zusammenarbeit auf professionellem und anspruchsvollem Niveau durchzuführen.

Unser Dank gilt an dieser Stelle nochmals allen Förderern, insbesondere aber der Deutschen Bundesstiftung Umwelt, die durch die großzügige Unterstützung unserer Arbeit die Nationale Auswahlsitzung in Passau überhaupt erst ermöglichte.

## 2. Einleitung

Die Nationale Auswahlsitzung ist in jedem Jahr ein Höhepunkt der Arbeit des Europäischen Jugendparlaments in Deutschland e.V. (EJP). Mit dem Ziel Schülerinnen und Schüler für politische Debatten zu begeistern, demokratische Prozesse erfahrbar zu machen und neue Ideen für Europa zu entwickeln, richtete das EJP seine 25. Nationale Auswahlsitzung in Passau aus.

Vom 26. Mai bis 02. Juni 2015 kamen dazu 100 Schülerinnen und Schüler aus dem gesamten Bundesgebiet sowie Gäste aus Schweden, Rumänien, der Tschechischen Republik, Estland, Großbritannien, Österreich, der Ukraine, Irland, den Niederlanden, Portugal, Spanien, Finnland, Norwegen und Griechenland in der Dreiflüssestadt zusammen. Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer diskutierten fünf Tage lang in international geleiteten Ausschüssen auf Englisch ihre eigenen Visionen eines zukünftigen Europas. Unter dem Motto „Regional – Ökologisch – Nachhaltig“ (im Englischen: „Grow smarter. Go further.“) war die Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit mit ökonomischem Fortschritt das Oberthema der Diskussionen, während derer die Jugendlichen Resolutionen nach Modell des Europäischen Parlaments erarbeiteten. Diese Resolutionen debattierten sie abschließend in der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung in der Redoute Passau nach den Regeln des Europäischen Parlaments.

### Vorauswahl und Regionale Auswahlsitzungen 2014/2015

Im Mai 2014 wurden vom EJP alle Schülerinnen und Schüler der Sekundarstufe II dazu aufgerufen an der Vorauswahl teilzunehmen und als Gruppe in einer Resolution zu folgendem Thema Stellung zu nehmen:

*A quantum leap for economic growth or an erosion of standards for sustainability and healthy living? In 2014, the European Union and the United States are negotiating to create the largest free trade zone in the world under the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Should the European Union compromise its consumer protection and food safety standards in order to benefit from a liberalisation of trade with the United States?*

An dieser ersten Ausschreibung nahmen über 400 Jugendliche teil. Eine Auswahl von 27 Schuldelegationen wurde anschließend auf eine der Regionalen Auswahlsitzungen nach Hamburg, Münster oder Leverkusen eingeladen. Hier konnten sich je drei Delegationen für die Nationale Auswahlsitzung in Passau qualifizieren.

## **Thema und Zielsetzung**

Alle Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer in Passau brachten demnach ein solides Verständnis sowohl der TTIP-Thematik als auch des Ablaufs der Sitzung mit, erwarteten die Veranstaltung mit Spannung und bereiteten sich gründlich auf Ihre Themen vor. Vom Moderatorenteam wurden zu diesem Zweck Vorbereitungsmaterialien (Anlage 4.1., „Preparation Kit“) mit relevanten Informationen und Links als Einstieg erstellt.

Der inhaltliche Fokus der 25. Nationalen Auswahlsitzung in Passau war die Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit mit wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt. Materieller Wohlstand, hohe Beschäftigungszahlen und ein nachhaltiger Umgang mit endlichen Rohstoffen lassen sich wegen rivalisierenden Interessen und Prioritäten auf internationaler Ebene nur schwer in Einklang bringen. Lösungen finden sich daher häufig im Kleinen auf lokaler und regionaler Ebene in den Gemeinden und Kommunen. Aus diesem Grund lag bei der Wahl der Themen ein besonderer Fokus auf der von der Europäischen Kommission verfolgten Regionalpolitik.

Wir haben das Thema der Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit und wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt gewählt, weil wir darin ein zentrales und aktuelles Schwerpunktthema für Politik und Gesellschaft sehen. Wie die DBU halten wir es für entscheidend, das Umweltbewusstsein, gerade unter Jugendlichen, zu stärken und die Handlungsbereitschaft für den Umweltschutz zu fördern.

Durch die Veranstaltung der Nationalen Auswahlsitzung in Passau sollten folgende Ziele erreicht werden:

- Jugendliche aus ganz Deutschland und Gastdelegationen aus verschiedenen europäischen Ländern zusammenbringen, um Visionen und Ideen für ein zukünftiges Europa zu diskutieren;
- das Bewusstsein der Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer für die Bedeutung von Umweltschutz und nachhaltiger ökologischer Entwicklung in Europa fördern;
- die Verbindung von regionaler Aktivität und internationaler Verantwortung deutlich machen;
- Jugendliche zu zivilgesellschaftlichem Engagement sowie Eigeninitiative motivieren und zur Übernahme gesellschaftlicher Verantwortung ermutigen;
- die kulturelle Vielfalt Europas greifbar machen;
- das Verständnis demokratischer Entscheidungsprozesse fördern und die Jugendlichen erleben lassen, wie parlamentarisch und konsensbasiert in einer Gruppe gearbeitet und diskutiert wird;
- die Jugendlichen zu offenem Umgang miteinander, Verständnis füreinander und gegenseitiger Toleranz bewegen;
- politisches Interesse und Spaß am gemeinsamen Diskutieren wecken;

- ein Veranstaltungsformat und einen Einblick in die Politik bieten, die so keinen Platz im Unterricht oder an Universitäten finden;
- den jungen Organisatoren die Möglichkeit geben, persönliche Lernerfahrungen und organisatorische Expertise zu sammeln;
- das internationale Netzwerk des EJP weiter stärken und neue Jugendliche für die ehrenamtliche Arbeit im EJP gewinnen.

## **Konzept der Veranstaltung**

Während der Sitzung arbeiteten die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer dann zu verschiedenen thematischen Schwerpunkten des Oberthemas in neun internationalen Ausschüssen, welche den Ausschüssen des Europäischen Parlaments entsprechen. Zur Vorbereitung auf die vielschichtigen Diskussionen im Kontext der Nachhaltigkeit in der Europäischen Union und ihren Mitgliedsstaaten, recherchierten die Delegierten im Vorfeld eigenständig zu ihren jeweiligen Ausschussthemen und verfassten Essays, die ihre persönlichen Positionen umrissen.

Im Laufe der Sitzung erarbeitete jeder Ausschuss auf Konsensbasis eine Resolution zu seinem Themengebiet. In der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung präsentierte anschließend jeder Ausschuss diese Resolution und verteidigte sie nach parlamentarischen Regeln. In ihrer Zusammensetzung richteten sich die Ausschüsse nicht nach den Schuldelegationen, was den Anspruch für die Delegierten zusätzlich an hob. Neben der sachbezogenen Arbeit zählten auch das Finden der eigenen Rolle innerhalb der Gruppe und Teamarbeit zu den Herausforderungen.

Eine fünfköpfige Jury begleitete die Arbeit der Delegierten. Teil der Jury waren vier Alumni des Europäischen Jugendparlaments sowie eine Mitarbeiterin der Vertretung der Europäischen Kommission in Deutschland. Zu den Bewertungskriterien zählten neben der Teamfähigkeit vor allem das Verständnis des Ausschussthemas, die Sprachfertigkeit und die Zielorientierung der Schülerinnen und Schüler. Auf Basis ihrer Evaluation wählte die Jury zwei Schuldelegationen aus, die an je einer der beiden kommenden Internationalen Sitzungen des European Youth Parliament in Leipzig und Dublin-Belfast teilnehmen dürfen. Die Gewinnerschulen, das St. Raphael Gymnasium in Heidelberg und das Gymnasium Fridericianum in Schwerin, werden von den Schülern Dennis Makarov, Felix Heilmann, Linus Ax und Roland Reif begleitet, die durch ihre individuelle Leistung besonders positiv aufgefallen waren.

Trotz des Wettbewerbscharakters wurde das EJP mit seiner 25. Nationalen Auswahlsitzung vor allem seinem Bildungsauftrag gerecht. Jeder Delegierte erhielt auf der Sitzung die Möglichkeit, seine eigenen Ideen mit anderen zu teilen und sich inhaltlich intensiv mit seinem Ausschussthema auseinanderzusetzen. Mit den internationalen Gastdelegationen sowie den Ausschussmoderatoren und Sitzungsjournalisten, die aus fünfzehn weiteren europäischen Ländern stammten, stand das Erleben eines jungen und aktiven Europas im Mittelpunkt der Veranstaltung.

Die Relevanz und Aktualität des Sitzungsthemas unterstrichen auch die Schirmherren der Veranstaltung, Frau Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, Bundesministerin für Bildung und Forschung, Frau Dr. Beate Merk, Bayrische Staatsministerin für Europaangelegenheiten und regionale Beziehungen, und Jürgen Dupper, Oberbürgermeister der Stadt Passau, die den Ergebnissen der Delegierten durch ihre Unterstützung mehr Gewicht verliehen und ermutigende Worte fanden:

*„The annual selection process of the European Youth Parliament is dedicated to a crucial and challenging assignment - to motivate young people not only to take an interest in Europe but to get involved on a personal level by joining the debates on political key topics.“*

– Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, Bundesministerin für Bildung und Forschung

*„Seit 25 Jahren bietet das Europäische Jugendparlament jungen Menschen in Deutschland die Möglichkeit, mit Jugendlichen aus den verschiedenen Regionen und Ländern Europas zusammenzukommen und sich gemeinsam aktiv mit europapolitischen Fragen auseinanderzusetzen und Lösungen zu diskutieren. Das Europäische Jugendparlament leistet damit einen wichtigen Beitrag für die Beteiligung Jugendlicher in Europa und ist für unser demokratisches Miteinander in Europa unverzichtbar.“*

– Dr. Beate Merk, Staatsministerin für Europaangelegenheiten und regionale Beziehungen

*„Dear participants of the National Selection Conference of the EYP, I am pleased to welcome you to the three-river city of Passau. It is a special honour for me to be patron and host of the 25th National Selection Conference of the European Youth Parliament in Germany. The European city of Passau, located in the three-country-region of Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, is perfectly suited for discussing matters of European policy and societal issues. As a driving force and as home to many innovative companies and successful start-ups, Passau provides an ideal setting to examine the reconciliation of ecologic sustainability and economic progress within a regional scope.*

*[...] Due to your successful participation in the Regional Selection Conferences, you can now come together in the 25th National Selection Conference in Passau and thereby make an important contribution to forming Europe's future and its regional policy. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to enhance your knowledge, develop your rhetoric and debating skills and to meet new and interesting people. I wish you a pleasant stay with inspiring discussions and constructive debates!“*

– Jürgen Dupper, Oberbürgermeister von Passau

# 3. Arbeitsschritte, Methoden und Ergebnisse

Um den lobenden Worten und selbstgesteckten Zielen gerecht zu werden, baut das Europäische Jugendparlament in Deutschland e.V. (EJP) auf eine große Sammlung an Wissen, wie auch Erfahrung der ehrenamtlichen Mitglieder. Ein starker Austausch im Netzwerk des internationalen Dachverband begünstigt die fortlaufende Entwicklung des Vereins. Das bewährte und flexible Sitzungsformat ermöglicht dem Moderatoren- und Medienteam die Weitergabe von methodischem Wissen und praktischem Training, den ehrenamtlichen, jugendlichen Organisatoren einen klaren und rechtlich sicheren Rahmen und schließlich den Teilnehmern ein interessantes und forderndes Erlebnis, bei dem die Freude am Austausch nicht zu kurz kommt.

Der folgende Überblick über das abwechslungsreiche Programm soll die Vielfalt der Methodik und der Möglichkeiten der thematischen Auseinandersetzung, die den Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern geboten wurde, ebenso wie die Intensität der Arbeit deutlich werden lassen.

## 3.1. Programmelemente

Jede Sitzung des EJP besteht aus den drei Kernmodulen Teambuilding, Committee Work (Ausschussarbeit) und General Assembly (Parlamentarische Vollversammlung.) Die Sitzungen werden zudem durch ein akademisches und kulturelles Rahmenprogramm ergänzt. Für die gesamte Sitzung werden die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer in international gemischte Ausschüsse aufgeteilt, die jeweils aus zehn bis zwölf Personen bestehen. Die Leitung der Ausschüsse unterliegt erfahrenen Alumni des European Youth Parliament aus ganz Europa.

### **Donnerstag, 28.05.2015**

#### **14:30 - 18:30 Teambuilding**

##### *Thingplatz*

Neben dem Kennenlernen steht die Erarbeitung von Verfahren zur Konsensbildung und Problembearbeitung im Vordergrund.

#### **19:00 - 21:30 Eurovillage**

##### *Universität Passau*

Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer präsentieren und probieren Europas kulinarische und kulturelle Vielfalt.

Im Rahmen des Teambuildings wurden die Jugendlichen zu Beginn der Veranstaltung auf die intensive Zusammenarbeit der Folgetage innerhalb ihrer Ausschüsse vorbereitet. Das Teambuilding fand am Nachmittag des ersten und am Vormittag des zweiten Sitzungstages (28. und 29. Mai) in der Jugendherberge Passau und auf dem angrenzenden Thingplatz statt. Durch gruppenspezifische Spiele und Aufgaben, die auf die gemeinsame Problemlösung im Team abzielten, lernten sich Delegierten ge-

gegenseitig besser kennen und konnten Kommunikationsbarrieren insbesondere in der Sitzungssprache Englisch abbauen. Mittels spielerisch veranschaulichter Methoden wurden Rollen innerhalb der Gruppe gestärkt, der empathische Umgang miteinander geschult und eine respektvolle Kommunikationskultur geschaffen. Damit legten die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer die Grundlage für eine erfolgreiche Arbeit in ihren Ausschüssen.

## Eröffungsveranstaltung

Am 29. Mai fand im großen Rathaussaal der Stadt Passau die Eröffungsveranstaltung der 25. Nationalen Auswahlitzung des Europäischen Jugendparlaments in Deutschland e.V. statt. Die Redner Urban Mangold, Bürgermeister der Stadt Passau, sowie Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Dederer, Inhaber des Lehrstuhls für Staats- und Verwaltungsrecht, Völkerrecht, Europäisches und Internationales Wirtschaftsrecht an der Universität Passau, und Prof. Dr. Daniel Göler, Inhaber des Jean-Monnet Lehrstuhls für Europäische Politik an der Universität Passau, begrüßten die Delegierten und Mitwirkenden offiziell und schufen einen thematischen Einstieg in das Sitzungsthema. Zudem wurden die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer von Maximilian Kiehn, dem Vorstandsvorsitzendem des EJP, Kati Pärn, der Präsidentin und akademischen Leiterin der Sitzung, und Martha Stolze, der Projektleiterin der Veranstaltung, begrüßt. Musikalisch wurde die Eröffungszeremonie durch ein Streichquartett aus Studierenden der Universität Passau untermalt und abgerundet.

## Ausschussarbeit

Vom 29. bis 31. Mai erarbeiteten die Schülerinnen und Schüler in den neun Ausschüsse Lösungen zu kontroversen und aktuellen Fragestellungen europäischer Dimension in Bezug auf das Oberthema „Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit und ökonomischem Fortschritt“. Mit dem ambitionierten Ziel vor Augen, eine gemeinsame Resolution zu verfassen, welche anschließend während der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung debattiert werden sollte, standen die Ausschüsse unter Zeit- und Qualitätsdruck, da ihre Vorschläge auch der Kritik der anderen Ausschüsse Stand halten sollten. Die erarbeiteten Lösungsvorschläge, die die Delegierten innerhalb der Ausschüsse im Konsensprinzip beschlossen, wurden in Form von Resolutionen nach dem Vorbild des Europäischen Parlaments festgehalten. Die diskutierten Themen reichten von der Biodi-

### Freitag, 29.05.2015

#### 09:00 – 11:30 Teambuilding

#### 12:30 – 13:30 Eröffungsveranstaltung *Rathaussaal*

Die inhaltliche Arbeit der 25. Nationalen Auswahlitzung des EJP wird feierlich eröffnet.

#### 15:00 – 19:00 Ausschussarbeit

##### *Europaschule Gymnasium Leopoldinum*

Die Delegierten beginnen die Diskussionen innerhalb ihrer Ausschüsse mit dem Ziel, eine Resolution zu verfassen.

#### 21:00 – 23:00 Open Stage

##### *Europaschule Gymnasium Leopoldinum*

Mitwirkende der Veranstaltung gestalten den Abend mit kreativen künstlerischen und musikalischen Beiträgen.

### Samstag, 30.05.2015

#### 09:00 – 18:00 Ausschussarbeit

#### 19:30 – 22:00 Peer Review

##### *Europaschule Gymnasium Leopoldinum*

Die Delegierten erhalten die Möglichkeit die Arbeit der anderen Ausschüsse kennenzulernen und sich darüber auszutauschen.

versitätsstrategie 2020 der Europäischen Kommission bis hin zu der Frage, wie im Rahmen der Leitinitiative Nachhaltiges Wachstum der Europa 2020-Strategie ein umweltbewusstes Unternehmertum gefördert werden kann. Auf der Basis ihrer inhaltlichen Vorbereitung konnten die Delegierten die unterschiedlichen Argumente sachlich abwägen und schließlich überlegte und gleichermaßen innovative Lösungsvorschläge ausarbeiten.

## Peer Review

Um bei der Bearbeitung der Ausschussthemen die eigene Perspektive zu erweitern und einen frühen Austausch zwischen den einzelnen Ausschüssen zu ermöglichen, fand am Samstagabend (30. Mai) ein „Peer Review“ statt. Während des Peer Reviews hatten die Schülerinnen und Schüler in drei Diskussionsrunden die Möglichkeit, andere Ausschüsse zu besuchen und sich vor der Fertigstellung der Resolutionen über den jeweiligen Arbeitsstand auszutauschen.

Während zwei oder drei Mitglieder des jeweiligen Ausschusses ihr Thema und die bisher diskutierten Inhalte erklärten, konnten Delegierte anderer Ausschüsse noch vor den formellen Debatten der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung ihre Meinung zu den Ausschussthemen äußern. So konnten eine Vielzahl unterschiedlicher Perspektiven in die Arbeit aller Ausschüsse einfließen und die ersten Fragen und Anregungen zu konkreten Lösungsvorschlägen beantwortet werden.

Dieser Programmpunkt stieß auf große Begeisterung bei den Delegierten sowie den Ausschussmoderatorinnen und -moderatoren. Auch die am folgenden Tag verfassten Resolutionen zeugten von einer verstärkten und tieferen Auseinandersetzung der Jugendlichen mit dem jeweiligen Thema und belegten einen erfolgreichen Austausch zwischen den Ausschüssen.

## Sonntag, 31.05.2015

**09:00 - 13:00 Ausschussarbeit**  
*Europaschule Gymnasium Leopoldinum*

**14:00 - 18:00 Kulturprogramm**  
*Passau*

Nach der intensiven Ausschussarbeit haben die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer im Rahmen eines Freizeitprogramms die Möglichkeit, zu entspannen und Passau kennenzulernen.

**19:30 - 22:30 Vorbereitung auf die Parlamentarische Vollversammlung**  
*JH Passau „Feste Oberhaus“*

Die Jugendlichen bereiten sich auf die bevorstehenden Debatten vor. Es wird unter anderem ein Rhetorikworkshop angeboten.

## Vorbereitung der Vollversammlung

Am Vorabend der parlamentarischen Vollversammlung wurde den Delegierten die Möglichkeit geboten, an einem Rhetorikworkshop teilzunehmen. Unter der Anleitung der amtierenden Süddeutschen Meisterin im Debattieren und Deutschen Meisterin 2014, Laura Alviz, befassten sich die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer schwerpunktmäßig mit Redetechniken und Körpersprache und erhielten Tipps und Tricks für überzeugende Angriffs- und Verteidigungsreden. Parallel dazu wurde den Schülerinnen und Schülern die Möglichkeit zu letzten inhaltlichen Recherchen sowie dem Austausch mit erfahrenen Alumni unseres internationalen Netzwerks gegeben, um eine optimale Vorbereitung auf die Debatten der Vollversammlung zu gewährleisten.

## Parlamentarische Vollversammlung

Die Parlamentarische Vollversammlung der 25. Nationalen Auswahlsitzung wurde feierlich durch eine Rede des Leiters des Referats Europapolitische Koordinierung, Finanzen, Regionalpolitik, Justiz, Inneres, Forschung und Verkehr der Bayerischen Staatskanzlei, Ministerialrat Dr. Dirk Fronhöfer, und einer Videobotschaft des Leiters der Vertretung der Europäischen Kommission in Deutschland,

Richard Kühnel, eröffnet. Gemäß den Regeln des Europäischen Parlaments stellte am Montag, den 01. Juni, und Dienstag, den 02. Juni, jeder Ausschuss seine Resolution in der Vollversammlung vor. Nach Verteidigungs- und Angriffsreden folgten lebhaft auf Englisch geführte Debatten, in denen konstruktiv, aber auch kritisch über die vorgeschlagenen Lösungsansätze diskutiert wurde. Die Delegierten stellten sich dabei der Herausforderung, ihre Aussagen in Redebeiträgen begrenzter Zeit zu erklären und ihre Meinung in Form von sachlicher Kritik zu äußern. Den Abschluss jeder Debatte bildeten eine zusammenfassende Rede und schließlich die Abstimmung über die Resolution. Die Debatten der Jugendlichen während der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung zeichneten sich durch eine umfassende Kenntnis der Thematik und eine daraus resultierende hohe Qualität ihrer Beiträge aus.

## Feierliche Abschlusszeremonie

Die Arbeit in den Ausschüssen und die Aktivitäten der vergangenen Tage fanden ihren Abschluss in einer letzten feierlichen Zeremonie. Im Anschluss an die diversen Danksagungen zeigte das Medienteam ein Video aus Impressionen der vergangenen Tage und die ausgewählten Teilnehmer wurden durch die Jury verkündet.

## Kulturelles Rahmenprogramm

Das offizielle Programm wurde durch ein kulturelles Rahmenprogramm bereichert. Das EJP verfolgte neben den inhaltlichen Aspekten der Veranstaltung so das Ziel, zum interkulturellen Austausch und der Förderung von Toleranz beizutragen.

Zunächst fand am ersten Sitzungsabend, dem 28. Mai, das sogenannte EuroVillage statt. Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer präsentierten dabei verschiedene europäische Länder durch landestypische Speisen und Getränke sowie traditionelle Kostüme. Der Abend gab allen Anwesenden die Möglichkeit, die rund 20 vertretenen Länder kulinarisch zu erkunden und die kulturelle Vielfalt Europas zu entdecken. Auch konnten sich die Schülerinnen und Schüler ge-

### Montag, 01.06.2015

#### 09:45 – 16:00 Parlamentarische Vollversammlung

*Stadttheater Redoute Passau*

Die Parlamentarische Vollversammlung wird feierlich eröffnet. Die verfassten Resolutionen werden nach den Regeln des Europäischen Parlaments debattiert und von den Ausschüssen verteidigt. Die Debatten werden auf Englisch geführt.

### Dienstag, 02.06.2015

#### 10:15 – 12:45 Parlamentarische Vollversammlung

*Stadttheater Redoute Passau*

#### 13:15 – 14:30 Feierliche Abschlusszeremonie

*Stadttheater Redoute Passau*

genseitig besser kennenlernen und mehr über die Traditionen ihrer europäischen Nachbarn erfahren.

Am Folgetag wurde den Schülerinnen und Schülern im Rahmen der „Open Stage“ in der Aula des Gymnasiums Leopoldinum die Möglichkeit geboten, selbst mit künstlerischen Darbietungen an der Gestaltung des Abends mitzuwirken. Die vielfältigen und abwechslungsreichen Beiträge trugen nach einem Tag konzentrierter Ausschussarbeit zu einer positiven und aufgelockerten Sitzungsatmosphäre bei und bewirkten zudem ein Gruppengefühl, welches den Wettbewerbscharakter der Veranstaltung für den Abend in den Hintergrund stellte.

Am Vortag der Parlamentarischen Vollversammlung konnten die Delegierten dank eines vielfältigen Freizeitangebots für einen Nachmittag die Stadt Passau, ihr Kulturangebot und ihre Umgebung besser kennenlernen. Möglichkeiten hierzu boten unter anderem eine Radtour nach Österreich, eine Wanderung zum Ilzstausee, eine Stadtrallye durch Passau oder aber die musikalische Einübung der Europahymne in einem Chorarrangement.

## 3.2. Ausschussthemen

Im Mittelpunkt jeder Sitzung des EJP stehen die Resolutionen, deren Fragestellungen sich thematisch am Oberthema orientieren. Bei der Nationalen Auswahlitzung wird höchster Wert auf die eigenständige Erarbeitung der Resolutionen durch die Schülerteams gelegt, Moderatoren, Organisatoren und Medienteam sind lediglich für den möglichst flüssigen Ablauf der Diskussionen zuständig und leisten methodische Hilfestellung.

Der Volltext der englischen Resolutionen (Anlage 4.1, „Resolution Booklet“) liegt bei und wird, als bemerkenswertes Ergebnis der Sitzung, zur weiteren Lektüre empfohlen. Der folgende Überblick der Ausschussthemen soll lediglich zur Orientierung dienen. Die von den Moderatoren erstellte Vorbereitungsmappe (Anlage 4.2, „Preparation Kit“) bietet weiteres thematisches Material.

### **ITRE I – Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie I**

*In light of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives of Smart, Sustainable and Innovative Growth, how can the EU and its Member States ensure an eco-friendly development of entrepreneurship?*

### **EMPL I – Ausschuss für Beschäftigung und soziale Angelegenheiten I**

*Frameworks such as PROGRESS and the European platform against social exclusion exist to equalise opportunities towards cohesive and capable societies, how can the EU and its Member States further reduce poverty and discrimination?*

## **DEVE – Ausschuss für Entwicklungsfragen**

*Desertification and the degradation of marine and forest ecosystems remain a serious threat to our planet in the European Year of Development 2015, how can the EU effectively promote biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources?*

## **ENVI I – Ausschuss für Umweltfragen, Volksgesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit I**

*The Biodiversity Strategy 2020 is aiming to restore 15% of the EU's degraded ecosystems in a time of stagnating economic growth, how can the EU and its Member States promote the establishment of Green Infrastructure to ensure an efficient use of its natural resources?*

## **ENVI II – Ausschuss für Umweltfragen, Volksgesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit II**

*Promoting green European cities: Following the 7th Environment Action Programme to 2020 and steps towards green urbanisation, how can the EU and its Member States ensure sustainable development of its growing urban hubs?*

## **TRAN – Ausschuss für Verkehr und Fremdenverkehr**

*Following the 2011 White Paper on ‘Roadmap to single European transport area’ and keeping in mind the excessive level of pollution caused by transportation, how can the EU and its Member States further guarantee regional development towards sustainable transport networks?*

## **ITRE II - Ausschuss für Industrie, Forschung und Energie**

*Facing an ever-pressing need for secure and affordable energy supply as well as ambitious emission reduction targets, how can the EU further promote sustainable energy production and its equitable usage across all Member States?*

## **LIBE – Ausschuss für Bürgerliche Freiheiten, Justiz und Inneres**

*With only 4 per cent of displaced Syrian persons granted refuge in the EU and Member States having repeatedly failed to comply with the regulations of the Common European Asylum System, how can the EU further support asylum seekers from the Middle East and North African region?*

## **EMPL II - Ausschuss für Beschäftigung und soziale Angelegenheiten II**

*The European Blue Card has been unsuccessful in attracting the intended volume of high skilled labour, how can the EU and its Member States reshape their framework for legal migration in order to fill labour shortages?*

### 3.3. Lehrerprogramm

Die begleitenden Lehrkräfte erhielten einen Einblick in den Ablauf der 25. Nationalen Auswahlsitzung sowie in die Arbeitsweise des EJP. Neben der Teilnahme an einer Auswahl von Veranstaltungspunkten der Delegierten wurde in diesem Jahr zum sechsten Mal in Folge ein Seminar der Vertretung der Europäischen Kommission in Deutschland für die Lehrkräfte angeboten. Dieses stand mit dem Titel „Seminar zu der Vereinbarkeit von ökologischer Nachhaltigkeit mit wirtschaftlichem Fortschritt für Lehrkräfte der gymnasialen Oberstufe“ unter dem Oberthema der Veranstaltung und fand am Freitag, den 29. Mai in München statt. Für den thematischen Input sorgten die folgenden Referenten:

Dr. Raymond Sailer, Referat für Arbeit und Wirtschaft der Stadt München und Mitglied des Team Europe; Christiane Thömmes, Referat für Arbeit und Wirtschaft der Stadt München und Mitglied des Team Europe; F. Rischart, Betriebsleitung des Ökoprofitbetriebs Rischart; Tobias Winkler, Vertretung des Europäischen Parlaments in Deutschland; Dr. Ursula Triebswetter, Referat für Arbeit und Wirtschaft der Stadt München; Angelika Reiter-Nüssle, Referatsleiterin Ernährungsstandards und Qualitätssicherung im Bayerischen Staatsministerium; Christina Kunz, Referat für Bildung und Sport, Pädagogisches Institut der Stadt München,; sowie Thorsten Kerl, Europäische Akademie Bayern. Die Lehrkräfte gaben eine durchweg positive Rückmeldung zu diesem externen Input.

### 3.4. Maßnahmen zur Verbreitung der Ergebnisse

Mit einer Reichweite von über 20.000 Jugendlichen jedes Jahr ist das European Youth Parliament, der Dachverband des EJP, eines der größten europaweiten Bildungsnetzwerke. Dies bietet uns, zusammen mit unserer Erfahrung aus 25 Jahren politischer Bildungsarbeit, die Plattform für eine professionelle Präsentation unserer Ergebnisse.

#### **Vor der Veranstaltung**

Die Veranstaltung in Passau wurde bereits über ein Jahr im Vorfeld über unsere Homepage ([www.eyp.de](http://www.eyp.de)), entsprechende Pressemitteilungen, soziale Medien, Plakate in Schulen sowie auf den vorangegangenen regionalen Auswahlsitzungen beworben.

Durch die langjährige Kontinuität und die Einzigartigkeit unserer Veranstaltungen konnten wir bereits in der Vergangenheit ein hohes Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsinteresse an unseren Veranstaltungen erzeugen. Als Redner und Experten in Passau konnten wir prominente Gäste begeistern, sich an unseren Projekten zu beteiligen. Die Schirmherrschaft von Frau Bundesministerin Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, Frau Staatsministerin Dr. Beate Merk und Herrn Oberbürgermeister Jürgen Dupper zeigen, wie groß das Interesse und das Vertrauen der Politik in unsere Arbeit sind.

## **Während der Veranstaltung**

Die so generierte Aufmerksamkeit konnten wir bereits während der Sitzung für die Pressearbeit nutzen. So veröffentlichte die *Passauer Neue Presse* zwei Artikel zur Veranstaltung: Am 30.05.2015 zur Eröffnungsveranstaltung der Sitzung im Passauer Rathausaal und einen Artikel am 02.06.2015 in dem die Parlamentarische Vollversammlung als Höhepunkt der Veranstaltung vorgestellt und die inhaltlichen Debatten über die von den Schülern eigenständig erarbeiteten Resolutionen beschrieben werden.

Der Regionalsender TRP1 strahlte am 02.06.2015 einen Videobeitrag zur Eröffnungsveranstaltung sowie ein Interview mit der Projektleiterin Martha Stolze aus, in dem das Veranstaltungsthema und -format sowie der Schulwettbewerb des EJP im kommenden Jahr thematisiert wurden.

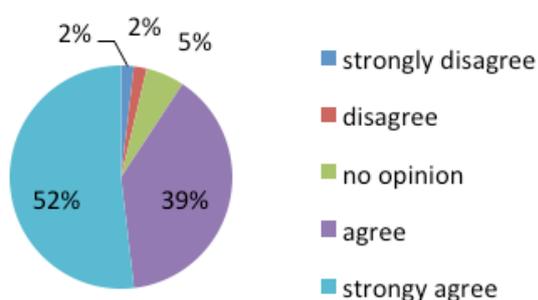
## **Nach der Veranstaltung**

Die Abschlussberichte und Resolutionshefte mit den Logos der Partner der Regionalen Auswahlitzung wurden im Nachgang an alle Schirmherren und Förderer der Veranstaltung versandt. Zusätzlich wurden die Dokumente gemeinsam mit dem Pressespiegel unter anderem an die Mitglieder des Europäischen Parlaments aus Bayern sowie an alle deutschen Mitglieder in den betroffenen Ausschussgruppen des Europäischen Parlaments verschickt. Ebenso bekamen die Fachausschüsse des Deutschen Bundestages die Ergebnisse des Nationalen Auswahlprozesses übermittelt.

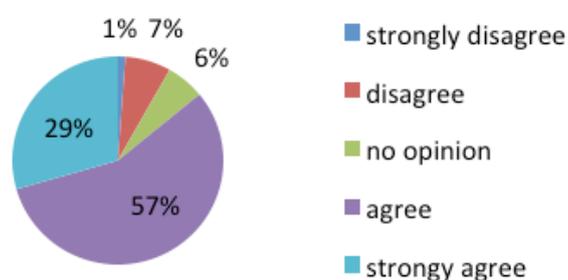
## 3.5. Evaluation

Die 25. Nationale Auswahlsitzung des EJP in Passau wurde erfolgreich durchgeführt. Durch unsere langjährige Erfahrung im Bereich der europapolitischen Bildungsarbeit, das bedingungslose Engagement unserer ehrenamtlichen Projektmitarbeiterinnen und -mitarbeiter sowie dank der Unterstützung unserer Partner war es möglich, die Sitzung auf professionelle Art und Weise zu realisieren. Die Ergebnisse der Evaluation zeigen, dass durch die Veranstaltung die zuvor gesteckten Ziele erreicht wurden.

My participation in this session helped to have a better understanding of current political developments in Europe

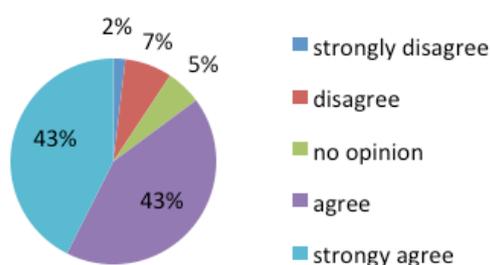


The main topic of the session raised my awareness towards current environmental issues in a European context

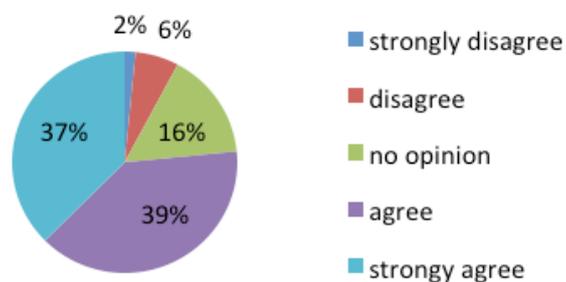


Die Delegierten der Veranstaltung wurden zu einer aktiven Auseinandersetzung mit aktuellen Themen auf dem Gebiet der europäischen Umweltpolitik angeregt. Dadurch konnten 91% bzw. 86% der Jugendlichen nach eigener Aussage ihr Bewusstsein für aktuelle und kontroverse Diskussionen schärfen und ihre Kenntnisse zu den verschiedenen Themen der Europapolitik ausbauen.

I have experienced in GA what democracy feels like



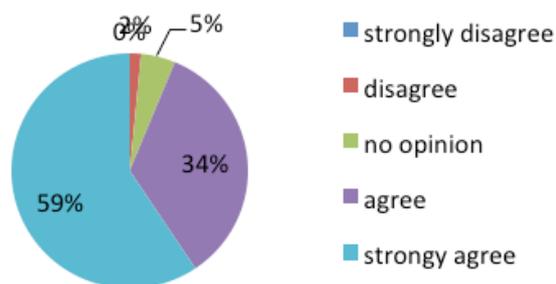
My participation in this session helped to improve my knowledge and understanding of different cultures



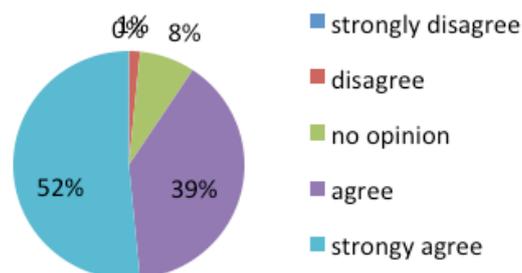
Gemäß unserer Zielsetzung versuchen wir, unseren Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern demokratische Entscheidungsprozesse näher zu bringen, indem wir Demokratie auch für die junge Generation erleb- und erfahrbar machen. Die Delegierten der Sitzung in Passau gaben im Anschluss explizit an, Demokratie selbst erlebt zu haben und 86% der Jugendlichen konnten

dadurch ihr Verständnis demokratischer Entscheidungsprozesse weiter ausbauen. Mit Bezug auf die zunehmende Bedeutung internationaler Kooperationen im politischen, wirtschaftlichen und auch wissenschaftlichen Alltag muss ebenfalls betont werden, dass 76% der europäischen Delegierten durch die Konferenz ein bewussteres Verständnis für verschiedene Kulturen und Traditionen entwickeln konnten.

My participation in this session helped me to improve my ability to work in an international and intercultural team

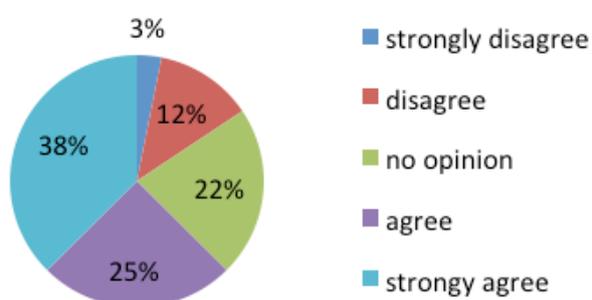


My participation in this session helped me to improve my negotiation and communication skills

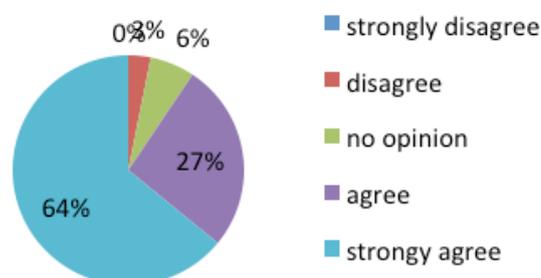


Projekten beteiligten Jugendlichen. Die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer sollen die Möglichkeit bekommen, ihre Fähigkeiten auch jenseits ihrer formellen Bildung auszubauen und sich eigenständig weiterzubilden. 93% der Delegierten in Passau drückten ihre Begeisterung darüber aus, dass sie durch die Veranstaltung ihre Fähigkeit ausbauen konnten, effektiv mit einem interkulturellen und internationalen Team zusammenzuarbeiten. Darüber hinaus konnten 91% der Jugendlichen ihre generellen Verhandlungs- und Kommunikationsfähigkeiten verbessern.

I would like to get active as a volunteer



I will share my experience with friends and fellow students once I am back in my home town



Sicherlich haben alle Delegierten sowie die beteiligten ehrenamtlichen Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter wertvolle Erfahrungen gewinnen können. Zwei Drittel der Delegierten möchten sich aufgrund der Erfahrungen beim Europäischen Jugendparlament zukünftig gesellschaftlich

engagieren, sodass die Nationale Auswahlsitzung in Passau nicht nur auf inhaltlicher sondern auch auf gesellschaftlicher Ebene eine nachhaltige Wirkung zeigt. Zudem kommt der Veranstaltung in Passau eine große Multiplikator-Wirkung zugute, da 91% der Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer ihre Erfahrungen und Erkenntnisse in ihrem privaten Umfeld weitergeben möchte

Auf lange Sicht hat das Europäische Jugendparlament mit der Veranstaltung in Passau einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur aktiven politischen Partizipation in Deutschland und zum interkulturellen Dialog in Europa geleistet.

## 4. Anlagen

4.1. Resolution Booklet (Resolutionsheft)

4.2. Preparation Kit (Vorbereitungsmaterial)

Anlage 4.1.  
**Resolution Booklet**

# RESOLUTION BOOKLET



NATIONAL SELECTION CONFERENCE OF  
THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT  
IN GERMANY

PASSAU, 28th OF MAY - 2nd OF JUNE  
2015



EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES **JEUNES**  
**DEUTSCHLAND** GERMANY



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**European Youth Parliament Germany**  
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## Programme of the General Assembly

### Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2015

- 09:30 – 09:45 Seating
- 09:45 – 10:15 Opening of the General Assembly
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch
- 10:15 – 11:00 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Transport and Tourism
- 11:00 – 11:45 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I
- 11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break
- 12:00 – 12:45 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry and Research II
- 12:45 – 13:30 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health  
and Food Safety I
- 13:30 – 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 – 15:15 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development
- 15:15 – 16:00 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II
- 16:00 – 16:20 Session Picture

### Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2015

- 10:00 – 10:15 Seating
- 10:15 – 11:00 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- 11:00 – 11:45 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry and Research I
- 11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break
- 12:00 – 12:45 Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health  
and Food Safety II
- 12:45 – 13:15 Coffee Break
- 13:15 – 14:30 Closing Ceremony

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## Notes

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## **Words of Welcome by Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka, Minister for Education and Research Grußwort zum Nationalen Schulwettbewerb des Europäischen Jugendparlaments in Deutschland**

Politik geht uns alle an, insbesondere auch auf europäischer Ebene. Wir können stolz sein, dass wir in den Ländern Europas Demokratien haben und in Freiheit miteinander leben können. Heute geht es darum, auf der Grundlage von Frieden, Toleranz und Verantwortung gemeinsame Perspektiven zu entwickeln.

Sich für das Gemeinwohl einsetzen – das ist interessant und kann sogar spannend sein. Besonders für junge Menschen ist es oftmals sehr reizvoll, sich politisch einzumischen. Das Europäische Jugendparlament bietet dazu eine gute Gelegenheit. Der Auswahlprozess zur Teilnahme zählt zu den anspruchsvollsten Schülerwettbewerben des Landes. Dass so viele junge Menschen daran teilnehmen, zeigt, wie sehr sie politisches Engagement reizt.

Die große Resonanz verdeutlicht aber auch die Attraktivität des Europäischen Jugendparlaments. Und das zu Recht: Dieses Parlament zeigt konkret, wie Demokratie funktioniert. Junge Menschen haben die Möglichkeit, über aktuelle politische Fragen zu diskutieren, die alle in Europa betreffen. Dabei lernen sie viele Menschen aus anderen Ländern und ihre Sichtweisen kennen, mit denen sie gemeinsam nach Antworten suchen.

Ich wünsche mir, dass der gegenseitige Austausch die Begeisterung für Europa verstärkt und sich alle Beteiligten auch weiterhin für die europäische Idee einsetzen.

Allen Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmern des Wettbewerbs wünsche ich viel Erfolg.



Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka  
Bundesministerin für Bildung und Forschung

### **General rules**

The wish to speak is indicated by raising the committee placard. The authority of the board is absolute. English is the only allowed working language of the General Assembly.

### **Procedure and time settings**

- I. Presenting the proposed motion for a resolution by the board
- II. 3 minutes to defend the motion for the resolution
- III. 2 speeches lasting 1,5 minutes each, to attack the motion for the resolution
- IV. 1 minute for the proposing committee to answer to the attack speech
- V. 30 minutes of general debate, split into 3 to 4 rounds
- VI. 3 minutes to sum up the debate
- VII. Voting procedure
- VIII. Announcing of the results

### **Defence Speech**

One member of the proposing committee delivers the Defence Speech from the podium. It is used to explain the rationale of the overall lines of the motion for the resolution and to convince the plenary that it is worthy of being adopted. This speech can last a maximum of three minutes.

### **Attack Speeches**

An individual Delegate, who is not a member of the proposing committee, delivers an Attack Speech from the podium. It reflects an individual opinion and is used to point out the flaws of the approach taken by the proposing committee and should suggest alternative solutions. Often, an Attack Speech is concluded with an appeal to the plenary not to adopt the resolution in its present form.

### **Response to the Attack Speech**

The proposing committee responds to the points raised by the Attack Speech. The response does not take place from the podium. The Response to the Attack Speech may last for one minute.

### **Points of Personal Privilege**

This point may be raised by a Chairperson if a Delegate demands to repeat a point that was inaudible. Failure to understand the language being spoken does not constitute a Point of Personal Privilege.

### **Direct Responses**

Once per debate, each committee may use the 'Direct Response' sign. Should a committee member raise the Committee Placard and the 'Direct Response' sign during the Open Debate, he/she will immediately be recognised by the board and given the floor as soon as the point being made is concluded. A Direct Response can only be used to refer to and discuss the point made directly beforehand. If two or more Direct Responses are requested at once, the board will decide which committee to recognise. In this case, the second Direct Response shall only be held if it can be referred to the first Direct Response.

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### **Points of Order**

This point may be raised by a Chairperson if a Delegate feels the board has not properly followed parliamentary procedure. Ultimately, the authority of the board is absolute.

### **Summation Speech**

One or two members of the proposing committee deliver the Summation Speech from the podium; the microphone can only be passed once. It is used to summarise the debate, respond to the main points, selected criticisms and to once more explain why the chosen approach is the most sensible. It typically concludes with an appeal to vote in favour of the resolution. This speech can last a maximum of three minutes.

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## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Transport and Tourism

**Following the 2011 White Paper on 'Roadmap to single European transport area' and keeping in mind the excessive level of pollution caused by transportation, how can the EU and its Member States further guarantee regional development towards sustainable transport networks?**

Submitted by: Linus Ax (DE), Katie Eitler (LUX), Aylin Kesdogan (DE), Cara Lynn Kim (DE), Charlotte Kleine (DE), Dennis Makarov (RU), William Dieden Richter (SE), Bendix Sibbel (DE), Fritjof Stiller (DE), Lucas Tietz (DE), Alexandru Vasilache (RO), David Soler Crespo (ES, Chairperson)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply alarmed by the fact that 24.3% of greenhouse gas emissions originate from the transport sector,
- B. Keeping in mind the EU goal of reducing green house gas emissions by 60% by 2050 required to limit a global temperature rise to an estimated 2°C,
- C. Fully aware that oil-based fuels account for 96% of the transport sector's energy usage,
- D. Recognising that eco-friendly investments in the transport sector are slowed by competition in transport systems and a lack of incentives,
- E. Further recalling that the current allocation of EU funding to different modes of transport<sup>1</sup> leads to a lack of innovation in the sector,
- F. Deeply concerned that the slow pace of innovation is an obstacle to fully develop eco-friendly transport systems,
- G. Taking into account that inefficient transport management across and within the different transport modes causes congestion leading to an annual loss of 1% of EU's GDP,
- H. Noting with deep concern that some regions, such as Thessaly or Extremadura, are poorly connected to the internal market and hindered in their economic growth due to an undeveloped infrastructure,
- I. Bearing in mind that there are still both technical and administrative barriers between Member States,
- J. Aware that the lack of integration between different transport modes affects mobility within the EU,
- K. Taking into consideration that an expansion of infrastructure bears the risk of damaging local eco-systems,
- L. Contemplating that the existing infrastructure is insufficient to accommodate the estimated rise of freight transport by 80% and passenger transport by 51% by 2050;

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<sup>1</sup> 60% of EU funds on transport are allocated to rail, while 5% are allocated to road transport.

1. Recommends Member States to implement the polluter pays principle<sup>2</sup> in transport emissions through a standardised gradual tax system<sup>3</sup>;
2. Encourages individuals to act eco-friendly by promoting the sharing of transport such as car2go<sup>4</sup> and bike hiring;
3. Seeks to establish an emission labelling of goods to promote awareness of transportation pollution effects;
4. Further recommends to support eco-friendly transport in Member States such as hybrid cars and scrapping incentives;<sup>5</sup>
5. Has resolved to balance the allocation of research and development funding in the transport sector;
6. Suggests to improve efficiency across and within transport modes by integrating the already existing traffic management systems into an EU-funded framework, making use of methods such as the in-time traffic analysis;<sup>6</sup>
7. Supports the proposals of the White Paper 2011 for the creation of a single roadmap and the completion of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) project;<sup>7</sup>
8. Further supports the White Paper 2011 in its aim to achieve a standardisation on transport connections on a technical and administrative level;
9. Has resolved to implement a multi-modal transport<sup>8</sup> chain as stated by the White Paper 2011;
10. Calls upon the European Commission to expand the competences of the European Agencies<sup>9</sup> in charge of implementing transport policies;
11. Endorses an increase in public funding through the Connection Europe Facility<sup>10</sup> towards improving the existing infrastructures;
12. Proposes a temporary exemption for underdeveloped regions from cost intensive sustainability targets;
13. Further recommends Member States to prioritise the improvement of efficiency of existing infrastructure before expanding their transport networks.

<sup>2</sup> The polluter pays principle requires higher polluters to pay more for pollution through a progressive system.

<sup>3</sup> A gradual tax system means that taxation rates increase on the basis of the environmental performance of the vehicle. This includes criteria such as local pollution, noise pollution, CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, the weight of the vehicle and the distance, prioritising road transport for short distance, rail for medium distance and air and maritime transport for long distance.

<sup>4</sup> The car2go is an initiative that provides eco-friendly cars in urban areas to passenger for short distances

<sup>5</sup> Scrapping incentives compensate individuals for discarding their old vehicles by partly financing the purchase of new, more eco-friendly ones.

<sup>6</sup> A system which provides live updates of traffic data in order to avoid congestion.

<sup>7</sup> The TEN-T is a policy aiming to modernise and to integrate national networks into a smooth running core European network by 2050.

<sup>8</sup> Multimodal transport chain, also known as combined transport, is the cooperation and coherence between different modes of transport in the carrying of goods and passengers in order to improve efficiency and reduce transport pollution.

<sup>9</sup> These European Agencies are: The European Railway Agency, The European Maritime Agency and the European Aviation Safety Agency.

<sup>10</sup> The Connecting Europe Facility finances projects creating missing links and promoting green transport and also assist therefore in the Trans-European Transport Network completion.

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## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs I

**Frameworks such as PROGRESS and the European platform against social exclusion exist to equalise opportunities towards cohesive and capable societies, how can the EU and its Member States further reduce poverty and discrimination?**

Submitted by: Luise Cornelli (DE), Isabella Craig (UK), Jan-Eric Fähnrich (DE), Veronika Groß (DE), Indira Geisel (DE), Timur Levent Kesdogan (DE), Ferdinand Kiesner (DE), Kirti Lickfett (SE), Ada Pavel (RO), Roland Reif (DE), Josef Tran (DE), Jose Feio (PT, Chairperson)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Reaffirming values such as human rights, human dignity, equal opportunities, and equal treatment before the law as stated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- B. Deeply concerned by the existence of discrimination on various grounds such as racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender,
- C. Fully aware that victims of the aforementioned forms of discrimination are more vulnerable to social exclusion than the general population,
- D. Emphasising that there are nearly 24 million people unemployed in the EU including 22.3% of the citizens under the age of 25,
- E. Strongly supporting initiatives such as the European platform against poverty and social exclusion and the European Social Fund (ESF),
- F. Having studied the link between poverty and discrimination,
- G. Noting with regret that some Member States are hesitant to implement legislation against poverty and discrimination, particularly with regard to age, sexual orientation and religion,
- H. Bearing in mind the lack of solidarity among Member States focusing on national economic aspects rather than on combating issues such as poverty on an European level,
- I. Noting with concern that the interest of women and minorities is underrepresented in the decision-making process,
- J. Further noting that the lack of public awareness with regards to discrimination and poverty leads to prejudices towards and alienation from minorities,
- K. Keeping in mind that multiculturalism among Member States enriches its economy;

1. Calls upon the European Commission to restart the legislative procedure referring to the Commission's 2008 proposal for a directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;<sup>11</sup>
2. Requests that the Commission takes into consideration to jointly tackle poverty and discrimination as a criterion when evaluating applications for the ESF;
3. Calls upon the Commission to issue a recommendation to the Member States for the requirement of a minimum eight years of school attendance;
4. Calls upon the Commission to issue a directive to create national networks for exchange of information and good practices under the control of national equality bodies<sup>12</sup> that shall take into consideration the views of:
  - a) equality bodies themselves,
  - b) victims represented by the equality bodies,
  - c) national Non-Governmental Organisations,
  - d) official institutions such as national and local governments;
5. Further invites to apply the principle of anonymity to all written labour market applications for European agencies;
6. Encourages Member States to adopt the aforementioned system;
7. Strongly urges the raise of public awareness on the issue of discrimination and poverty by:
  - a) promoting the Finish Non-Discrimination Act's educational aspects,<sup>13</sup>
  - b) restarting and strengthening the 2003 European information campaign "For diversity. Against Discrimination";<sup>14</sup>
8. Urges the Commission to increase the number of job offers in 'Your First EURES Job'<sup>15</sup> initiative from 5,000 to 25,000;
9. Encourages national job agencies to further increase the use of the ESF in order to develop possibilities for training.

<sup>11</sup> This proposal aimed at extending the legally binding aspects of the former directives to all types of discrimination.

<sup>12</sup> Equality bodies are organisations responsible for providing expert opinions on the issue of discrimination and assistance to its victims.

<sup>13</sup> The Finish Non-Discrimination Acts defined that all educational institutions in Finland shall promote the ideal of equality and non-discrimination in a manner that takes into account the age and maturity of children.

<sup>14</sup> This information campaign aimed at promoting awareness about the benefits of diversity and of current legal procedures in place.

<sup>15</sup> This initiative is a mobility scheme aiming at filling job vacancies all across Europe.

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## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Industry and Research II

### **Facing an ever-pressing need for secure and affordable energy supply as well as ambitious emission reduction targets, how can the EU further promote sustainable energy production and its equitable usages across all Member States?**

Submitted by: Franz Brandl (DE), Erik Frach (DE), Nelly Gunnarson (SE), Erik Jahn (DE), Yasmin Kartes (DE), Valentin Kissling (DE), Stephan Neitmann (DE), Christina Petrik (DE), Johann Prüß (DE), Adam Zákavský (CZ), Liv Colell (DE, Chairperson)

#### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Noting with regret that 48.6% of the EU's energy demand is produced by fossil fuels which are mainly responsible for the EU's greenhouse gas emissions,
- B. Alarmed by the fact the EU is currently importing 53% of its energy vectors and is thus heavily dependent on supplier and transit states<sup>16</sup>,
- C. Concerned that in spite of legal initiatives undertaken by the European Commission, the internal energy market within the EU has not been completed yet due to:
  - i) regulatory barriers,
  - ii) missing infrastructure,
- D. Noting with satisfaction that transnational energy markets have already been established, such as between France and Germany,
- E. Fully alarmed that the majority of energy markets within the EU still remain disconnected,
- F. Noting with deep concern that electricity and gas cannot be efficiently traded within the EU due to insufficient grid infrastructure,
- G. Considering that some technologies for renewable energy production have not yet fully developed with regards to their efficiency,
- H. Recognising the inefficiency of energy usage in the public, private, and the economic sector due to a lack of awareness and initiative,
- I. Keeping in mind the conflict between economic growth and environmental protection,
- J. Welcoming the fact that Member States are aiming to comply with the 2030 targets;<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The main supplier states are Russia, Norway, Libya, and Saudi Arabia.

<sup>17</sup> The 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy Policies aims to make the EU's economy and energy system more competitive, secure, and sustainable. The targets were laid down in 2014 and entail a 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions compared to the level of 1990 as well as an increase to 27% in renewable energy and energy savings.

1. Recommends Member States to introduce subsidies for electricity-producing companies and private households coordinated by the Commission and to be paid in accordance with:
  - a) the amount of electricity produced from renewable energies,
  - b) a set of criteria including efficiency and eco-friendliness;
2. Demands for the EU to become self-sufficient in terms of electricity as a long-term target by assessing and further utilising the potential to produce electricity from renewable energies within the EU in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions;<sup>18</sup>
3. Invites the Commission to further promote the completion of the internal European energy market by:
  - a) removing regulatory barriers in energy trade between Member States,
  - b) harmonising the national economic standards regarding energy trade,
  - c) integrating the already existing transnational energy markets into a single market within the next five years,
  - d) encouraging the governments of the remaining Member States to also join the internal energy market;
4. Urges Member States to promote the completion of the transnational European energy grid in cooperation with energy distribution companies through:
  - a) interconnections between the national energy grids,
  - b) harmonisation of technological standards for energy exchange,
  - c) intergovernmental agreements to promote investments in transnational grids rather than investments in national grids;
5. Instructs the Commission and the European Investment Bank to enhance the funds provided within the Horizon 2020<sup>19</sup> programme, especially the European Energy Efficiency Fund;
6. Requests the European Energy Research Alliance<sup>20</sup> to find solutions to the challenges brought about by a decentralisation of both energy production and distribution within the EU, such as universal grid access for private producers of electricity;
7. Further recommends the European Commission Directorate-General for Climate Action and Energy to launch media campaigns and public lectures on the efficient consumption of energy and renewable energies;

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18 The Committee of the Regions is an advisory body composed of 353 representatives of Europe's regional and local authorities. It is the voice of the civil society in European policymaking and checks that regional and local identities, competences, and needs are respected.

19 Horizon 2020 is a financial aid programme aiming to boost research and innovation within the EU with a budget of nearly €80 billion available until 2020.

20 The European Energy Research Alliance is an alliance of European public research centres and universities. It builds upon different national research programmes and aims to foster cooperation between scientific and industrial platforms.

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8. Reminds the Commission to reinforce the measures laid down in the European Energy Security Strategy, entailing:
    - a) increasing the energy production within EU borders,
    - b) diversifying suppliers and supply routes,
    - c) creating a cohesive and common external energy policy;
  9. Invites further third states to join the Energy Community.

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## Notes

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## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety I

**The Biodiversity Strategy 2020 is aiming to restore 15% of the EU's degraded ecosystems in a time of stagnating economic growth, how can the EU and its Member States promote the establishment of Green Infrastructure to ensure an efficient use of its natural resources?**

Submitted by: Razvan Antohi (RO), Amelie Von Bernuth (DE), Klara Franke (DE), Jana Gall (DE), William Girvan (DE), Eric Gu (DE), Lara Jo Pitzer (DE), Maximilian Schiersch (DE), August Sunnemark (SE), Juliane Wiedersberg (DE), Rebecca Kiiski (FI, Chairperson)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Fully alarmed by the consequences of the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems within the EU through e.g. desertification and the loss of pollination,
- B. Noting with deep concern that the EU consumes more than twice the amount of natural resources compared to what its ecosystems provide,
- C. Alarmed by the lack of knowledge in the general public concerning the Green Infrastructure (GI)<sup>21</sup> and the importance of environmental protection,
- D. Realising the disparities between Member States concerning the establishment of GI,
- E. Aware of the lack of private investments into GI due to the uncertainty of long-term returns,
- F. Deeply concerned by the insufficient funding of GI provided by the EU through the Natural Capital Financial Facility (NCF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
- G. Keeping in mind the global scale of the loss of biodiversity,
- H. Noting with approval the existence of trans-national GI projects, such as the European Greenbelt Initiative,
- I. Emphasising the importance of GI for the success of the European Commission's Biodiversity Strategy 2020,
- J. Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Commission to protect Europe's ecosystems through Natura 2000;<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Green Infrastructure describes natural and semi-natural areas that provide benefits to ecosystems.

<sup>22</sup> Natura 2000 is a network of protected natural areas across Member States.

1. Requests the Commission to enlarge the Natura 2000 areas in order to further protect biodiversity and ecosystems within the EU;
2. Recommends cooperation between the EU and Non-Governmental Organisations, such as Greenpeace or the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), to ensure and increase efficiency of environmental protection areas;
3. Urges Member States to raise awareness on GI within the general public by:
  - a) educational programmes on GI in schools,
  - b) direct advertisement of GI through campaigns in the media,
  - c) conferences open to the public,
  - d) calling upon local authorities to establish role model buildings and neighbourhoods;
4. Calls upon the Commission to increase public funding of GI by increasing the budget of the NCFE and assigning a percentage of the ERDF for GI;
5. Encourages the Commission to increase the attractiveness and security of private investments into GI by:
  - a) changing the revenue conditions of the NCFE so that 33% of profit gains come from GI projects,
  - b) introducing a certification system that rewards successful investment into GI;
6. Recommends other nations to follow the example of the EU by making GI projects a priority in their environmental policy;
7. Invites Member States to further develop trans-national GI projects within the EU as well as mutually beneficial arrangements with non-EU countries.

## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Development

**Desertification and degradation of marine and forest ecosystems remain a serious threat to our planet in the European Year of Development 2015, how can the EU improve its aid programmes and regional diplomacy to effectively promote biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources?**

Submitted by: Bjarne Astor (DE), Benedikt Foltmann (DE), Barbara Hogenschurz (DE), Maximilian Hußlein (DE), Ruxandra-Theodora Mazilu (RO), Rebekka Ostrop (DE), Jonas Reichert (DE), Katharina Schmitt (DE), Johanna Orth (DE), Oscar Engel (SE), Nina Thomic (AT, Chairperson)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Keeping in mind the need to take social, ecological, and economic aspects into account equally to ensure sustainable development,
- B. Acknowledging that the EU is the world's biggest donors of development aid, through programmes like B4Life,<sup>23</sup> the Action Against Desertification,<sup>24</sup> the Wildlife Crisis Window (WCW),<sup>25</sup> and the Global Partnership for Oceans,<sup>26</sup>
- C. Expecting the world population to reach 9 billion by 2050 and thus requiring a highly industrialised agricultural sector causing:
  - i) an increased use of insecticides, pesticides, and fertilisers polluting the ground and the phreatic water,
  - ii) promotion of deforestation provoking erosion,
  - iii) cultivation of monocultures,
- D. Noting with deep concern that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) suffer significantly more from climate change caused primarily by the industrialised countries,
- E. Regretting the on-going soil degradation in LDCs caused by the industry and agriculture,
- F. Fully alarmed that instable, non-democratic, and corrupt political systems in LDCs avoid transparent and efficient monitoring of the European development aid,
- G. Aware of the lack of know-how, skilled labour, and financial capabilities in LDCs preventing the successful implementation of sustainable development,
- H. Deeply concerned by the decline of biodiversity due to deforestation on a global level,

<sup>23</sup> B4Life helps poor countries to protect their ecosystems, combat wildlife crime and promote green economies with a budget of over 800 million €.

<sup>24</sup> The Action Against Desertification is a project to share knowledge on the fight against hunger and poverty and wants to foster stability with a budget of 41 million €.

<sup>25</sup> The Wildlife Crisis Window is an EU initiative to protect biodiversity and wildlife crime, particularly for African countries in need.

<sup>26</sup> The Global Partnership for Oceans unites representatives from about 140 national governments and international organisations in the private sector and offers financial support and know-how in the fight against overfishing and water pollution.

- I. Approving projects carried out in course of the European Year of Development and the International Day for Biodiversity<sup>27</sup> as a possibility to promote public awareness on sustainable development;
  
1. Calls upon the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)<sup>28</sup> to financially support LDCs willing to establish projects that promote biodiversity, restore degraded areas or support the sustainable use of natural resources;
2. Recommends the European Investment Bank and the European Micro-Loan-Network to grant micro-loans at low interest rates to farmers willing to set up sustainable agricultural production;
3. Strongly appeals to the European External Action Service (EEAS)<sup>29</sup> to cooperate with Non-Governmental Organisations and local communities in LDCs when deciding upon the adjustment and distribution of development aid;
4. Further recommends the EEAS to take a leading role in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development or the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of a post-2015 Development Agenda;
5. Supports the B4Life programme to monitor the distribution of development aid received by LDCs;
6. Further requests B4Life to enlarge the coverage of the WCW programme, which currently acts mainly in African countries, to a global scale;
7. Encourages further support and usage of the Horizon 2020 Strategy<sup>30</sup> as the main source to provide money for research programmes focussing on green technologies and sustainability;
8. Reaffirms to establish further educational trainings and provide technical assistance on fund distribution and monitoring for agencies receiving development aid in LDCs.

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<sup>27</sup> The International Day for Biodiversity takes place annually on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> The European Regional Development Fund is a fund allocated by the Commission and directly funded by the European External Budget.

<sup>29</sup> The European External Action Service is the EU's diplomatic service headed by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs. The EEAS is responsible for the implementation, operation and delivery of development aid.

<sup>30</sup> Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract.

## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs II

**The European Blue Card has been unsuccessful in attracting the intended volume of high skilled labour, how can the EU and its Member States reshape their framework for legal migration in order to fill labour shortages?**

Submitted by: André Brendler (DE), Erik Centerlind (SE), Hannah Dietrich (DE), Joshua Franzen (DE), Matoř ma Handy (DE), Gregor Heilborn (DE), Terezan Kalousová (CZ), Merle Marx (DE), Lawrence Julian Keenan Redford (DE), David Plahl (DE, Chairperson)

### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by a decrease of the Blue Card's attractiveness due to a rise of xenophobia resulting from a lack of public awareness in the EU,
- B. Deeply concerned that the current Blue Card framework is unsuccessful in attracting the intended volume of high skilled labour to enter the EU labour market,
- C. Noting with deep concern that the EU's population and therefore labour force are shrinking due to low birth rates in the Member States,
- D. Fully alarmed that by 2050 the EU will lack 35 million skilled workers,
- E. Seeking awareness of and understanding of the Blue Card framework by high skilled workers,
- F. Deeply regretting the lack of measures to support the integration of Blue Card holders and their families,
- G. Aware of the different implementation of Directive 2009/50/EC<sup>31</sup> in the Member States due to its legal nature,
- H. Concerned by complicated and different bureaucratic requirements for Blue Card applicants and holders such as the:
  - i) acceptance of diplomas,
  - ii) validity duration,
  - iii) salary criteria,
  - iv) free movement within the EU,
- I. Realising that the salary threshold amounts to a minimum of 1.2 times the average gross annual salary of the respective Member State,
- J. Noting with regret that only a work contract or binding job offer is indispensable for Blue Card applicants,

<sup>31</sup> The Council Directive 2009/50/EC introduced the Blue Card and its framework in 2009.

- K. Deeply convinced that the Blue Card's validity duration of one to five years is unappealing to many skilled workers,
- L. Bearing in mind that 54% of the Blue Cards in Germany are issued to workers in standard occupations,<sup>32</sup>

1. Invites the Member States to launch a marketing campaign to raise public awareness about the Blue Card and its function;
2. Encourages the Delegations of the EU to promote the Blue Card abroad in order to increase awareness among potential Blue Card applicants;
3. Calls upon the Member States in cooperation with the Commission to introduce a framework for providing language courses for Blue Card holders and their families in the each Member State;
4. Strongly affirms that the Blue Card framework keeps its legal status as a directive;
5. Requests the Commission to initiate changes of Directive 2009/50/EC in order to unify the criteria of the Blue Card, with the exception of the salary threshold;
6. Further requests the Member States to apply the aforementioned criteria of the Blue Card;
7. Authorises the EC to extend the eligibility criteria to the possibility of receiving a Blue Card for a sector suffering from labour shortages with:
  - a) an apprenticeship contract,
  - b) admission to a dual study programme;
8. Urges the Commission to abandon the need to reapply for a new Blue Card when a holder is moving to another Member State;
9. Calls for the Commission to modify the salary threshold to be the gross national average income of a respective job;
10. Further recommends the Commission to revamp the Blue Card framework by setting a five year validity of the Blue Card;
11. Declares accordingly that this timespan is guaranteed to a Blue Card holder after:
  - a) starting employment upon immigrating in the EU,
  - b) completing an apprenticeship,
  - c) completing a dual study program;
12. Approves that Blue Card holders automatically gain permanent residence after five years if not being unemployed for over six months during this period;

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<sup>32</sup> Standard occupations are such which are not suffering from labour shortages by individual definition from a Member State.

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13. Recommends that the Member States improve cooperation with and make use of:
    - a) the European Police Office and the Schengen Information System to determine whether a Blue Card applicant poses a threat to public policy or security,
    - b) the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to determine whether a Blue Card applicant poses a threat to public health;
  14. Designates the European Employment Services to gather job offers from the Member States' employment agencies in order to:
    - a) detect occupations suffering from labour shortage,
    - b) provide a platform for potential Blue Card applicants to search for a job.

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## Notes

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## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

### **With only 4 % of displaced Syrians persons granted refuge in the EU and Member States having repeatedly failed to comply with the regulations of the Common European Asylum System, how can the EU further support asylum seekers from the Middle East and North African region?**

Submitted by: Bianca Luisa Balanescu (RO), Jack Brereton (SE), Eliza Buckham (UK), , Matas Čuplinskas (DE), Celina Heinzelmann (DE), Paul Pawel Iwkin (DE), Max Eric Mihailescu (DE), Paul Milburn (DE), Nhu Anh Nguyen (CZ), Dennis Oancea (DE), Johanna Schleyer (DE), Ella Glenz (DE, Chairperson)

#### **The European Youth Parliament,**

- A. Recognising an increase of 44% in asylum claims of asylum seekers from the MENA region,<sup>33</sup> with a number of 560,000 in 2014 and up to one million expected in 2015, due to unrest or economic and political instability in their home countries,
- B. Deeply alarmed by the fact that between January and May 2015 more than 1,700 asylum seekers have died crossing the Mediterranean Sea which represents a significant increase to the equivalent time period in 2014,
- C. Noting with regret the recent decrease in funding and geographical reach of rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea,
- D. Aware of the large network of illegal human trafficking routes between the MENA region and EU,
- E. Drawing attention to the lack of legal options to apply for asylum from outside of the EU,
- F. Realising the partial failure of the Dublin III Regulation<sup>34</sup> due to:
  - i) an unequal distribution of asylum seekers with 75% of the applications processed in only five Member States,
  - ii) unsuccessful asylum claims due to the Safe Third Country rule,<sup>35</sup>
  - iii) overstrained EU border states which suffer from the European economic crisis,

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<sup>33</sup> The MENA region refers to Middle East and North African countries, such as Libya and Syria.

<sup>34</sup> The Dublin III Regulation determines that the responsibility for examining asylum claims lies primarily with the Member State which played the greatest part in the applicant's entry in the EU.

<sup>35</sup> The Safe Third Country Rule is a procedural mechanism for categorising the validity of asylum claims based on whether the country of origin is deemed to be secure.

- G. Concerned by the inefficiency of the national asylum processes, due to:
- i) their variety and complexity,
  - ii) understaffed institutions,
  - iii) excessive bureaucracy,
- H. Noting with deep concern the inhumane conditions and isolation asylum seekers in the Member States often have to endure in the early stages of immigration, in particular in:
- i) reception centres,
  - ii) detainment centres,
  - iii) asylum housing,
- I. Fully aware of an overall increase in right-wing parties and nationalistic movements in the Member States based on:
- i) xenophobia,
  - ii) fear of losing their respective cultural identity,
  - iii) fear of terrorism;
1. Encourages the Commission and the Member States to promote stability and development in the asylum seekers' countries of origin by:
    - a) intensifying diplomatic relations and trade partnerships with countries from the MENA region,
    - b) establishing "multi-purpose" centres on the regional level which provide information about chances and risks of the asylum process in the EU;
  2. Strongly requests the Commission to establish legal options for asylum seekers by reforming the Dublin III Regulation with regards to processing centres operated by EU officials in Lebanon and Jordan as relatively stable MENA region countries;
  3. Instructs Frontex<sup>36</sup> to increase the geographical scope of search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea;
  4. Urges the Commission to expand the current rescue missions by introducing a compulsory contribution in terms of finances and resources from all Member States to the Internal Security Fund<sup>37</sup> based on the respective GDP, the size of population, and the unemployment rate;
  5. Further requests the Commission to foster the introduction of a quota system under which all Member States are required to accept a certain number of asylum seekers based on criteria such as the respective GDP, size of population, unemployment rate, and the number of unexpected asylum applications;

<sup>36</sup> Frontex is a border control agency that manages the cooperation of national border guards with special regards to illegal immigration, human trafficking and terrorist infiltration.

<sup>37</sup> The Internal Security Fund (ISF) ensures a high level of security in the EU and is mainly implemented by the EU Member States through shared management with the Commission.

6. Urges the Commission to improve the existing Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by:
  - a) creating a unified and simplified asylum application form for all Member States,
  - b) establishing a buddy system that allows to employ persons with approved refugee status and the knowledge of the respective language to assist asylum seekers,
  - c) lowering the maximum duration of asylum seeking procedure to five months;
7. Calls upon the Commission to increase the budget of both the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)<sup>38</sup> and the Refugee Fund<sup>39</sup> to further support the Member States with housing facilities, supplies, human resources, and education for asylum seekers;
8. Encourages the Committee of the Regions<sup>40</sup> to establish a transparent mechanism to assess, report, and publish quarterly proposals on the:
  - a) improvement of conditions in the early stages of immigration,
  - b) existing standards of the CEAS,
  - c) necessary financial means provided by the AMIF;
9. Requests the Member States to:
  - a) further inform EU citizens about asylum seekers with information campaigns,
  - b) establish and promote integration programs such as language courses and mentorships for asylum seekers,
  - c) endorse cultural exchange by holding events such as world cafés,
  - d) reaffirm the eventual aim of promoting a welcoming culture for asylum seekers.

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<sup>38</sup> The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund was established to promote an efficient management of migration flows.

<sup>39</sup> The Refugee Fund especially provides resources for emergency measures when addressing sudden arrivals of a large number of asylum seekers.

<sup>40</sup> The European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of local and regional representatives and operates as an advisory body in legislative processes of the EU.

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## Notes

## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Industry and Research I

### In the light of the Europe 2020 flagship initiative of Smart, Sustainable and Innovative Growth, how can the EU and its Member States ensure and eco-friendly development of entrepreneurship?

Submitted by: Lucas Brendler (DE), Stefan Balan (RO), Jamila Elouali (SE), Jakob Horn (DE), Leonard Kubala (DE), Lena Kreft (DE), Friedel Pape (DE), Viktoriia Ratushniak (UA), Marie Thomas (DE), Nicolas Tuch (DE), Hannu Zhang (DE), Teresa Artjoki (FI, Chairperson)

#### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind the conflicting interests between stakeholders such as Member States, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and environmental non-governmental organisations regarding industrial policy,
- B. Viewing with appreciation the contributions of the European Regional Policy<sup>41</sup> to furthering industrial cohesion,
- C. Recognising the difficulties in accessing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for SMEs,
- D. Taking into consideration that the ERDF lacks efficiency in achieving its respective thematic targets,
- E. Observing that the ERDF's funding allocation may lead to market distortions,
- F. Taking note of the lack of private investments in green research and development,
- G. Aware of the limited demand for eco-friendly consumer products,
- H. Contemplating the significance of corporate responsibility<sup>42</sup> for SMEs,
- I. Recognising the negative impact of regional disparities for cluster cooperation in terms of regional specialisation and local resource efficiency,
- J. Taking into consideration the obstacles green start-ups face when entering the European market,
- K. Aware of the fact that Member States and the European Commission share competences in the field of environmental policy and industrial development,
- L. Emphasising that the promotion of sustainable economic growth is a global challenge;

<sup>41</sup> The Regional Policy is a policy of the EU aiming at reducing regional disparities between EU regions

<sup>42</sup> Corporate responsibility describes the commitment of firms to certain non-profit goals such as environmental stewardship, inclusion, and regional connection

1. Invites the Commission to revise the criterion of the ERDF to incentivise investments in Green Infrastructure;
2. Requests the European Enterprise Network to raise awareness on green investment opportunities for private investors;
3. Appeal to the European Resource Efficiency Excellence Centre (EREEC) to advise SMEs on green market opportunities with financial investments offered by the LIFE programme<sup>43</sup> under the Green Action Plan (GAP)<sup>44</sup>;
4. Encourages the European Investment Bank to:
  - a) increase the provision of guarantees to private investors,
  - b) require a commitment to corporate responsibility from the companies that were invested in;
5. Calls upon the Commission to instruct the EREEC and the European Cluster Observatory (ECO) to cooperate in assessing the efficiency of developing clusters under the GAP;
6. Further invites the Commission to extend the investments of the LIFE programme in regions with less infrastructural cluster potential to circular infant industries;
7. Hopes for Member States to reduce valued added taxes on consumer products resulting from a circular production chain to be evaluated by the EREEC;
8. Supports the EREEC and ECO in increasing the transparency of their respective assessments on resource efficient and economically competent cluster models.

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<sup>43</sup> The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for environmental and climate action; it was called upon to support the circular business models under the GAP.

<sup>44</sup> The Green Action Plan is a series of objectives for SMEs set by the Commission with a long-term vision of a resource-efficient and low carbon economy; its primary approach is turning environmental challenges into business opportunities.

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## Motion for a Resolution by The Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety II

### Promoting green European cities: Following the 7th Environmental Action Programme to 2020 and steps towards a green urbanisation, how can the EU and its Member States ensure sustainable development of its growing urban hubs?

Submitted by: Vanessa Olivia Ackermann (DE), Hagen Engels (DE), Phillip Girvan (DE), Lukas Harkotte (DE), Cecilia Heil (DE), Felix Heilmann (DE), Celina Hollmichel (DE), Max Lange (DE), Jannicke Martin (DE), Adam Vymazal (CZ), Gustaf Westin (SE, Chairperson)

#### The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Concerned by the fact that noise, air, and water pollution caused by human activity negatively affects health and life standards in urban areas,
- B. Deeply regretting the lack of sufficient common criteria for sustainability in urban areas in the EU,
- C. Further recognising a lack of pan-European cooperation between local authorities on measures and experiences in the field of urban sustainability,
- D. Regretting the lack of information among local authorities concerning funding for sustainability projects and measures,
- E. Recognising a lack of incentives for local authorities to become sustainable,
- F. Noting with deep concern that many European cities do not utilise a sustainable way of waste treatment and recycling,
- G. Observing that the decrease of green areas and increase of pollution in cities leads to a loss of biodiversity,
- H. Noting with regret that due to construction, a vast amount of buildings in the EU are not able to make optimal use of energy and resources,
- I. Having studied that despite existing programs such as CIVITAS<sup>45</sup> or PILOT<sup>46</sup>, there is a lack of efficient, comfortable, and reliable means of sustainable transport such as public transport, bikeways or walkways,
- J. Further noting that EU citizens face a lack of information concerning their possibilities to contribute to sustainable development,
- K. Aware of the fact that the potential of technological innovation in the range of urban sustainability is not adequately employed as it is often not profitable;

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<sup>45</sup> An initiative by the EU to implement sustainable, clean, and energy efficient transport measures in European cities.

<sup>46</sup> A European project with the aim of demonstrating the preparation of sustainable transport plans for European cities.

1. Requests the European Commission in cooperation with NGOs to introduce a set of sustainability criteria concerning the economical, ecological, and social impact of urbanisation in order to make measuring and comparing the sustainability of different cities easier;
2. Invites local authorities to increase Europe-wide cooperation through:
  - a) locally organised conventions on green urbanisation and technology,
  - b) exchange platforms on sustainable urbanisation and technology such as the Urban Development Network,<sup>47</sup> as mentioned in the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme<sup>48</sup>;
3. Reminds local actors of possibilities to access existing funds and other financial support such as the European Investment Bank,<sup>49</sup> the European Regional Development Fund,<sup>50</sup> and the Life+ Programme;<sup>51</sup>
4. Further requests the Commission to introduce certificates to cities fulfilling certain criteria concerning fields such as sustainable transport, waste treatment, and biodiversity;
5. Calls for harmonisation of European cities' waste treatment systems by the Commission through:
  - a) assessing and determining the most suitable way of separating and treating waste,
  - b) applying the determined system in all cities in the EU in cooperation with local governments;
6. Urges local authorities and EU citizens to improve cities' biodiversity performance by increasing the amount of green areas such as parks and green roofs;
7. Asks local authorities to act as role models in energy efficient housing by applying eco-friendly measures in public buildings such as schools, city halls, and hospitals;
8. Encourages Member States to make further use of existing programmes such as CIVITAS or PILOT, thus investing more into sustainable transportation whilst keeping in mind unique traffic situation of cities;
9. Calls upon the Commission to raise awareness among the population concerning the benefits of a sustainable lifestyle by:
  - a) organising interactive information projects such as the Earth Hour,<sup>52</sup>
  - b) providing free educational material especially for educational institutions;
10. Recommends that Member States support scientific institutions conducting research in innovation and sustainable technologies by:
  - a) transferring knowledge internationally,
  - b) providing financial aid.

<sup>47</sup> A conference of approximately 250 city managers and urban stakeholders that took place in Brussels in October 2014.

<sup>48</sup> The EU's most important piece of legislation concerning environment, guiding the EU's environmental policies until 2020.

<sup>49</sup> The EU's international financial institution and the world's largest international public lending institution.

<sup>50</sup> A fund allocated by the EU to strengthen cohesion in the EU.

<sup>51</sup> The EU's funding programme for projects related to the environment.

<sup>52</sup> An annual event in which individuals and households are encouraged to turn off all lights and electronic devices for one hour.

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Kommission in Deutschland*



NATIONAL SELECTION CONFERENCE OF  
THE EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT  
IN GERMANY

PASSAU, 28th OF MAY - 2nd OF JUNE 2015



EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES  
DEUTSCHLAND GERMANY

Anlage 4.2.  
**Preparation Kit**



# Academic Preparation Kit

Passau'15  
National Selection Conference  
of EYP Germany

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# The European Council

Let's start with the European Council: It consists of the heads of state or government and the President of the European Commission. The president of the European Council is elected for 2.5 years and is currently Donald Tusk from Poland, who must report to the European Parliament after each meeting. 4 times a year they all meet in Brussels, in order to discuss the general goals of the next year.

The general direction of the EU laws is decided upon.

It therefore does not really propose legislations - for example, in their last meeting this march they decided on general directions for an Energy Union in the EU and external relations with Russia and Ukraine, among other topics. The legislative initiative lies in the...

## Links for further information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPMvDKW5qm0> – How it works: European laws

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APqIcseL\\_B8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APqIcseL_B8) – EU Institutions explained in 5 Minutes

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqpYwmKi\\_Pk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqpYwmKi_Pk) – Everything you need to know - how the European Union works

[http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm) - The official page of the European Union, containing lots of important information

# The European Commission

The European Commission is the only institution empowered to initiate legislation. Nevertheless, also the European Parliament, as well as member states and citizens (> 100.000 citizens from at least seven different EU countries) can ask the European Commission to submit a proposal.

After listening to all sides the law gets then drafted in the European Commission

Consisting of 28 Commissioners of every member country, the European Commission furthermore manages the EU-budget and allocates the funding, enforces EU law together with the Court of Justice and represents the EU internationally. But the European Commission also has its limitations – they are not allowed to command troops, raise taxes or decide on foreign policies, as this is under the power of national legislation.

The commissioners are supported by their “Directorate Generals”, which are divided into different areas, such as administration, law, economists or translators. Current president of the European Commission is Jean Claude Juncker.

# The Council of the European Union

But we already had... No, wait – the European Council and the Council of the European Union are two different institutions. To make it even more puzzling: it is also not the Council of Europe – this is not an EU institution at all...

The law gets voted on in the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament

Let's stop the confusion and get started: The Council of the European Union consists of the ministers of every Member State, therefore it is also referred to as the "Council of Ministers". It is not presided by a person, but by a state that rotates every six months. Currently this is Latvia.

They have quite a lot to do - under their main tasks you find: passing the EU laws jointly with the European Parliament, approving the EU budget, coordinating the broad economic policies of the EU member countries, signing agreements between the EU and other countries, developing the EU's foreign and defence policies and the coordination of cooperation between courts and police forces of member countries.

## Did you know...

... that there are 23 official languages in the EU and the debates of the European Parliament are translated into all of them?

... that the European Union received the "Nobel Peace Prize" in 2012?

... that 8 % of the total sheep population of the European Union lives in Wales?

... that the European Union is the largest economy in the world ?

# The European Parliament

Sounds familiar? The namesake of our European Youth Parliament consists of 751 members, directly elected by the EU's citizens every 5 years. They gather into different fractions according to their political stand. Since the last election in 2014, the European People's Party (Centre-Right) has the most seats, followed by the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (Centre-Left). President of the European Parliament is Martin Schulz from Germany.

The European Parliament works closely together with the European Commission, as they both have a say on the EU budget and jointly have to decide on EU laws. Furthermore, they scrutinise other EU institutions, in order to ensure that they are working democratically. Well, this was basically the European Union in a nutshell – but of course there is far more to know and much more interesting stuff about it – wanna check it out?

# The European Youth Parliament

And now...

A look behind the scenes of our beloved “European Youth Parliament”! As you know now how the “real” European Union works, you might also be interested in the structure behind the EYP as a non-governmental, international organisation:

First of all – the EYP was founded in 1987 in Fontainebleau on a kitchen table (here is the whole story: <https://vimeo.com/98537570>). Since this memorable day the EYP evolved to an organisation with:

- 39 member countries (so 11 more than the EU!)
- 783 days of events - statistically you will encounter at least two EYP events in one day.
- 1452 resolutions made by the heated minds of the delegates.
- Almost 500 events. Crazy, right?
- 2.400 active supporters - some 100 of them in EYP DE.
- And, most important: 28.294 participants

Of course, an international organisation of this size also needs an organisational structure – here you see how it works.

## Governing Body - the European representation of the EYP:

At the international level, the European Youth Parliament is governed by an international Board. The Governing Body is elected annually by the members of the National Committees and by the participants of the International Sessions. It is mainly responsible for Human Resources, ensuring the educational value of EYP and establishing a strategy for the EYP as a whole. The GB is composed of six elected members, four of which are elected by the National Committees and two by the EYP alumni.

## The Board of National Committees - Your national representation:

The Board of National Committees (BNC) is the assembly of National Committees (NCs) and thus acts as the voice of NCs. The BNC gathers twice a year in Berlin to meet, and are otherwise active through a mailing list, online votes, and various working groups. It has full co-decision powers with the GB, meaning that any policy proposals made by the GB must be approved by the BNC. The BNC can also take the initiative and make proposals and recommendations to the GB. Besides decision making, the BNC acts as a platform for the National Committees to share knowledge and know-how. The work of the BNC is facilitated by a BNC Board, which is elected by the National Committees once a year.

## The National Committees - you may want to become part of it!

The National Committees are the heart and soul of the EYP. More than 2.400 young volunteers are active in the currently 39 organisations that form the EYP network.

An important part of their work is to select the delegation that will represent their country at the International Sessions and other EYP events. To this end, the National Committees organise a selection process, often including several regional and national sessions every year.

But the National Committees do much more: They organise International Forums, outreach programmes, promote international EYP activities like the European Youth Polls and run training programmes for their alumni.

Wait, why do we do all of this? I think we can all agree on one point: It is totally worth the efforts taken by every participant, isn't it?

# Position Papers

In Passau, your committee will be dealing with a relevant and current political topic. For the discussions to be as interesting and constructive as possible, it is important that you sufficiently research your committee topic before arriving at the session.

As you have surely already noted, all of the topics are complex insofar as they include different aspects and perspectives that should be considered. In order to summarise your initial research on the topic and present your first ideas, you are expected to write a position paper. An anonymised version of all position papers on your topic will be sent to your committee after completion. Please follow these steps to writing your position paper:

## Step 1

The first step is gaining an overview of your topic by reading the topic overview prepared by your chairperson. You will find a list of useful links at the end of the overviews, all of which you should read through. However, your research should go beyond the links provided in the overview. The following

homepages might be a good starting point for your individual research:

- The gateway to the European Union: <http://europa.eu/>
- Summaries of EU legislation: [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index_en.htm)
- A collection of current news on the EU: <http://euobserver.com/>
- An independent media network concerning EU issues: <http://www.euractiv.com/>
- Departments and services of the European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds_en.htm)

## Step 2

After your initial research, you should now have a more concrete idea what your committee topic includes. You can jot down the conflicts you find most important and begin to think about what your own opinion on the topic is, especially bearing in mind your preparation.

## Step 3

Once you have gained a good understanding of what the main points within your topics are and formed your own opinion on the topic, you can start writing your position paper. It should be about half a page to one page long and answer the following questions:

**Question 1:** What is the main conflict within the topic and which questions does the current public discussion revolve around?

**Question 2:** What is your own opinion on the topic? Which measures should or should in no case be taken by the EU; what are your ideas for a solution to the problem?

Frameworks such as PROGRESS and the European platform against social exclusion exist to equalise opportunities towards cohesive and capable societies, how can the EU and its Member States further reduce poverty and discrimination?

BY JOSÉ EDUARDO FEIO (PT)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

Closing Conference of the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_8lo6sFKH6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8lo6sFKH6s)

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Inequality is present in societies in different aspects. Not recognising citizens' basic rights and denial of equal treatment are all aspects of discrimination. Poverty is also linked to inequality in terms of access to resources either on an absolute level (absolute poverty) or related to levels of income in relation to other members of the country (relative poverty). In 2013, one out of four European Union (EU) citizens, 122.6 million people, were at risk of poverty or social exclusion <sup>1</sup>.

Article 9 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>2</sup> (TFEU) states that “in defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union” shall take into consideration aspects such as “the fight against social exclusion”. Article 10 introduces the “aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation”. The aforementioned articles of the TFEU outline both equality/non-discrimination and social inclusion as key principles guiding the EU in its actions.

A 2010 report<sup>3</sup> by the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet) states the importance of addressing poverty and discrimination as different sides of the same coin. Consequently, as both matters are interconnected and can positively or negatively influence one another, they should not be treated separately. Therefore, the report concludes that only by tackling both issues together they can be solved effectively.

In February this year, nearly 24 million people were estimated to be unemployed in the EU. <sup>4</sup>Moreover, the number of employed people at risk of poverty or already living in a state of poverty, has steadily increased;<sup>5</sup> intensifying concerns about in-work poverty. The in-work poverty indicator currently used by the Eurostat is defined as the share of employed people who have an income below the risk-of-poverty threshold which is set at 60% of the national median income. In 2013 this value was 8.9% leading to conclude that poverty is becoming more than just a question of

<sup>1</sup> EurActive, <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/social-europe-jobs/eurostat-one-out-four-eu-citizens-risk-poverty-309749>

<sup>2</sup> EUR-Lex, [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT)

<sup>3</sup> Equinet, <http://www.equineteurope.org/Addressing-Poverty-and>

<sup>4</sup> Eurostat, [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics)

<sup>5</sup> European Parliamentary Research Service, <http://epthinktank.eu/2014/08/13/in-work-poverty-in-the-eu/>

employment.

The amount of people whose earnings do not suffice to partake in ordinary economic, social and cultural life, known as relative poverty, is on the rise thus increasing the inequality in the income distribution in the EU. The lack of access to basic necessities for survival, known as absolute poverty, is more of an issue in the developing countries while relative poverty is a widespread matter in many European countries<sup>6</sup>. A prominent example of relative poverty in Europe is the rise of fuel poverty which means that an increasing number of European families are not able to provide adequate heating in their household due to financial constraints.

At the same time, discrimination is still a major issue in the EU. Specific groups of people such as the Roma people,<sup>7</sup> people with disabilities,<sup>8</sup> the LGBT community,<sup>9</sup> and the Muslim community<sup>10</sup> still suffer from high levels of discrimination. This does not only have negative consequences on an individual level but also influences the extent to which those communities can actively participate in their societies.

Discrimination based on sex and more specifically gender gap discrimination<sup>11</sup> is an illustrative example where the connection between discrimination of a certain group of people and their economic status is clear. In the EU women receive on average about 16% less salary per hour than men.<sup>12</sup>

With the Europe 2020 goals and the investment framework of the European Regional Policy<sup>13</sup> the EU aims at reduce the number of unemployed people as well as people at the risk of poverty and social exclusion. Frameworks such as Progress<sup>14</sup> and the European platform against social exclusion<sup>15</sup> have been created in coordination with the Member States to tackle the aforementioned issues.

It is important that the Member States assist the EU in carrying out actions in the area of reducing poverty and discrimination. A good example is the creation of national equality bodies<sup>16</sup> responsible for promoting equality and tackling discrimination by implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial and ethnic origin defined in Directive 2000/43/EC.<sup>17</sup> While the list of created frameworks, programmes and goals are increasing, the issues are still apparent.

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6 The European Anti-Poverty Network,

7 Spiegel Online International, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/europe-failing-to-protect-roma-from-discrimination-and-poverty-a-942057.html>

8 Debating Europe, <http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2014/06/26/how-can-the-eu-better-guarantee-the-rights-of-people-with-disabilities/#.VUhuBJMyjES>

9 Euronews, <http://www.euronews.com/2013/05/17/eu-poll-reveals-levels-of-violent-homophobia/>

10 Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/articles/news/2012/04/muslims-discriminated-against-demonstrating-their-faith/>

11 European Commission Directorate-General for Justice, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-pay-gap/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/gender-pay-gap/index_en.htm)

12 European Commission Directorate-General for Justice, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender\\_pay\\_gap/140319\\_gpg\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/gender_pay_gap/140319_gpg_en.pdf)

13 European Commission, [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)

14 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=327>

15 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=961>

16 Equinet, <http://www.equineteurope.org/-Equality-bodies->

17 EUR-Lex, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1430090356522&uri=URISERV:l33114>

- The **European Commission (EC)** and within it the **Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs (DG EMPL)** and Inclusion and the **Directorate General on Justice (DG JUST)** play an essential role in supporting the Member States in tackling the issues of social exclusion, poverty and discrimination. They take direct action to tackle these issues on the EU level by providing financial help and support to actors on a national level. Moreover, national actors promote cooperation between, and support the actions of, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO).
- **National Governments** also play a crucial role by creating national programs to tackle discrimination and poverty as well as by implementing legislation according to EU directives such as the EU's Racial Equality Directive.
- Networks such as the **European Anti-Poverty Network** and the **European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)** provide EU institutions, Member States and the general society with important information and expert opinion on the issues of discrimination, social exclusion and poverty.
- NGOs such as **Amnesty International** and the **European Agency for Fundamental Rights** work to provide opinion, raise awareness, and provide assistance to victims of social exclusion related issues such as poverty and discrimination.

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

With the Europe 2020 goal of tackling social exclusion and poverty, many instruments have been established such as the European platform against poverty and social exclusion and the agenda for new skills and jobs. Besides being responsible for the aforementioned platform the DG EMPL also possesses many tools to tackle social protection and social inclusion such as the Social Investment package,<sup>18</sup> the Social Protection Committee<sup>19</sup> and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, there are a number of funds available for both public and private organisations for projects related to employment, social affairs and social inclusion<sup>21</sup> such as the European Social Fund.<sup>22</sup>

The proposal for a Council Directive of 2 July 2008 on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation<sup>23</sup> aimed at completing the legal framework of the EU. This legal framework previously consisted of the Directive 2000/43/EC on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, the Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between women and men in the access to and supply of goods and services,<sup>24</sup> and the Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.<sup>25</sup>

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18 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1044&langId=en>

19 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=758&langId=en>

20 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1137&langId=en>

21 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=86&langId=en>

22 European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp>

23 EUR-Lex, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1430091980281&uri=URISERV:em0008>

24 EUR-Lex, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1430092764248&uri=URISERV:c10935>

25 EUR-Lex, [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1430093288873&uri=URISERV:c10823](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1430093288873&uri=URISERV:c10823)

With the implementation of the Racial Equality Directive and the Equal Treatment Directive the Member States were required to establish organisations promoting equality and tackle discrimination related issues. However, those organisations were only obliged to take action with race related issues. Some of them expanded to tackling other types of discrimination as well, while a number of issues are still dealt by NGO's, trade unions, and other organisations.<sup>26</sup>

The aforementioned 2010 Equinet report stated that the lack of connections made between poverty and discrimination in the actions of the organisations promoting equality can be a barrier for future developments in these areas. It was stated that only by addressing the problem of social exclusion together with poverty and discrimination could one aim at effectively tackling such issues. While most organisations promoting equality still do not have a mandate that includes the ground of social-economic status, the same report underlined the importance of legislation at an European Union level to allow them to address the link between poverty and discrimination as well as cases of multiple discrimination.

Currently, when it comes to tackling discrimination, the EU focuses on six different matters: racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, and gender. The DG JUST's department takes action to raise awareness of citizens' rights and the benefits of diversity, to support intermediary actors and the development of policies regarding equality. Moreover, the DG JUST is also supported by an EC created network of experts composed of different European Networks in the field of anti-discrimination.

Overall, many tools and mechanisms are created in order to take action, but also to support the Member States in their efforts to fight social exclusion, poverty and discrimination with the aim of building a more inclusive and cohesive European society. Despite all the effort, 126.6 million people in risk of poverty and social exclusion. Moreover, the Europe 2020 has been criticised for focusing heavily on financial aspects rather than on the more social related issues. Most tools that are in place in the different organisations promoting equality still tackle discrimination and poverty as two completely separate issues. It is necessary to find a more effective and innovative solution to the many issues related to discrimination and poverty that are threatening the cohesion and prosperity of the EU's social structure.

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26 European Commission Directorate-General for Justice, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/help/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/help/index_en.htm)

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

The European Union explained publication on the Regional Policy: [http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/fliplibook/en/regional\\_policy\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/fliplibook/en/regional_policy_en.pdf)

Speech by László Andor, Member of EC in charge of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the 3rd Annual Convention of the EU Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion: <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=1083711>

European Union Fact Sheet on the fight against poverty, social exclusion and discrimination: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/displayFtu.html?ftuId=FTU\\_5.10.9.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/displayFtu.html?ftuId=FTU_5.10.9.html)

Debating Europe's article on "Is the European Crisis leading to greater racism in the workplace?": [http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2014/11/24/have-you-ever-encountered-discrimination-at-work-or-in-school/#.VSk3JhPF\\_NA](http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2014/11/24/have-you-ever-encountered-discrimination-at-work-or-in-school/#.VSk3JhPF_NA)

Oxfam International's article on "The true cost of austerity and inequality in Europe: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/cautionary-tale>

RT's article on "Quarter of Europeans face poverty - Eurostat": <http://rt.com/news/poverty-eurostat-italy-eu-911/>

Inequality Watch's article on "Poverty in Europe: the current situation": <http://inequalitywatch.eu/spip.php?article99&lang=en>

Debating Europe's article on "How can the European Union end poverty and exclusion in the Roma Community?": [http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2014/01/07/eu-push-inclusion-roma-people/#.VSk2FxPF\\_NA](http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2014/01/07/eu-push-inclusion-roma-people/#.VSk2FxPF_NA)

Inclusion Europe's article on "Combating Social Exclusion and Poverty": <http://www.inclusion-europe.org/en/policies/social-inclusion>

EurActive's article on "It's time for EU institutions to take measures to combat xenophobia and discrimination": <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/migrations/its-time-eu-institutions-take-measures-combat-xenophobia-and-discrimination>

Equal Times' article opinion article on "Trade Unions must do more to tackle racial discrimination in Europe's job market": <http://www.equaltimes.org/trade-unions-must-do-more-to?lang=en>

# EMPL II

The European Blue Card has been unsuccessful in attracting the intended volume of high skilled labour, how can the EU and its Member States reshape their framework for legal migration in order to fill labour shortages?

BY DAVID PLAHL (DE)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB7U7Mt8Elg>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

The European Union (EU) Blue Card was introduced by the Council of the European Union in 2009. It allows high-skilled workers from non-EU countries to work and live in any Member State, except for Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom, who are excluded from the framework. Overall basis for the project is Article 63 of the Treaty of Rome established in 1957, which allows the EU to adopt measures on immigration policy concerning the conditions of entry, residence and standards on procedures for the issues by Member States. The objective of the Blue Card is to attract skilled workers from abroad to fill out shortages on the labour markets. Therefore the Council Directive 2009/50/EC, which introduced the framework, outlines minimum standards binding for all participating Member States concerning the issuing of the Blue Card, the validity, but also the withdrawal of the card. The Directive itself is a binding legal act of the EU, outlining certain goals or standards which have to be met by the Member States but where they are free to choose the way to achieve them (e.g. achieving them by changing a national law).

To receive the Blue Card, one has to be a non-EU citizen and fulfil a certain set of criteria. This is a higher education qualification of minimum three years or a higher professional qualification of at least five years, a work contract or a binding job offer, a valid travel document and a health insurance. Once granted by the national authorities, the Blue Card is valid for two to five years and guarantees its holder certain rights, especially towards the issuing Member State. These include the permission to work within the country and the possibility to do so anywhere in the EU after two years. The free movement within this state including entry and departure, equal treatment, which entails access to the target country's social security system and income-related pensions or vocational training.

The Member States have certain liberties when issuing the Blue Cards. Hence, the countries have the right to decide upon the amount of cards and define their duration. The Member States can refuse the applicant if there is an evident threat for public security.

While considering the EU Blue Card policy, it is important to bear in mind the following facts on labour shortage. In Germany, two-thirds of the handicraft businesses are struggling to recruit enough skilled workers and overall there is a shortage of 30.000 skilled workers in this sector.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/a507bf12-b40c-11e2-ace9-00144feabdc0,Authorised=false.html?\\_i\\_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2Fa507bf12-b40c-11e2-ace9-00144feabdc0.html%3Fsiteedition%3Duk&siteedition=uk&\\_i\\_referer=#axzz3YLLWlguf](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/a507bf12-b40c-11e2-ace9-00144feabdc0,Authorised=false.html?_i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2Fa507bf12-b40c-11e2-ace9-00144feabdc0.html%3Fsiteedition%3Duk&siteedition=uk&_i_referer=#axzz3YLLWlguf)

The labour shortage of the EU's information technology sector is estimated to be 700.000 this year.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the birth rates in most Member States are declining and consequently the overall workforce in the EU will decline as well.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the shortage of skilled workers will become even more important in the future and the EU and its Member States still have to find effective ways to combat these labour shortages, with the Blue Card being one initiative to do so.

The not directly binding nature of the Blue Card is one of the main obstacles for its effective functioning. Some Member States actively incorporate the Directive rules to the national legislation, whereas other Member States chose to neglect the Blue Card policy. Interestingly, in 2012 the Netherlands issued 5.514 work permits through their national framework next to one single Blue Card.<sup>4</sup> This proves that there is no unified position within the EU in regards to this question, as some Member States use the European policy on immigration and others - the national policy.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

Both immigration policy, as part of the area of freedom, security, and justice, and employment policy are shared competences between the EU and its **Member States**. In the field of immigration, Member States can only exercise their competence if the EU has not done so, while in the field of employment policy the EU only coordinates the Member States' policies. Therefore, the **national governments** shape the political dimension of the issue in the EU.

Main decision-making body is the **Council of the European Union** in its two configurations Justice and Home Affairs Council and Council for Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs respectively. In each configuration, the responsible ministers of the Member States discuss proposals of the **European Commission (EC)** and in cooperation with the **European Parliament** further formulate the EU's policies in the two areas.

The development of policy in the two fields is handled by the **EC's Directorate-General (DG) for Migration and Home Affairs** and **DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** or in the responsible ministries of the Member States. The DGs function similarly to the national ministries. Headed by a director general and under one of the commissioners, the civil servants of the DGs meet with academics and interest groups to produce policies and ensure its implementation.

Besides the national governments and the EU institutions, **NGOs** also play an important role in the issue as they bring in the opinions of civil society and business. National and pan-European labour unions and business associations, like the **European Trade Union Confederation** or **Business Europe**, representing employees and employers respectively, are especially concerned about the employment policy. However, with the drastic labour shortages they start focusing additionally on the immigration policy. At the same time, there are NGOs, like the **European Council on Refugees and Exiles**, that advocate for migrants' rights and work with national and European wide immigration policies.

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2 [www.euractiv.com/migrations/eu-urged-address-paradox-high-un-news-528328](http://www.euractiv.com/migrations/eu-urged-address-paradox-high-un-news-528328)

3 [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/14/world/europe/germany-fights-population-drop.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/14/world/europe/germany-fights-population-drop.html?_r=1)

4 p.4 [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/documents/com/com\\_com%282014%290287\\_/com\\_com%282014%290287\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/com/com_com%282014%290287_/com_com%282014%290287_en.pdf)

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

Apart from the Blue Card, the EU has several other programmes on employment and legal migration. One of the EU's programmes on employment is the Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). It is a financial instrument to promote high level of quality and sustainable employment, guarantee adequate and decent social protection, combat social exclusion and poverty and to improve working conditions. EaSI unites three EU programmes: European Employment Services (EURES) promotes job mobility across the EU, PROGRESS supports modernization of employment and social policies, and Progress Microfinance facilitates access to social entrepreneurship.

The most prominent current programmes dealing with employment are the three flagship initiatives: 'Youth on the move', 'An agenda for new skills and jobs' and the 'European platform against poverty and social exclusion', as part of the Europe 2020 strategy. Europe 2020 is a 10-year strategy of the EC, with five headline goals and seven flagship initiatives, aiming on advancing EU's economy. While 'Youth on the move' functions to improve the employment rate of young people and to give students and trainees the chance to gain experience in other Member States,<sup>5</sup> the objective of the 'Agenda for new skills and jobs' is to give a new impulse to labour market reforms in order to ensure that people have the right skills for future jobs, to create new jobs and to overhaul the EU employment policy.<sup>6</sup> The 'European platform against poverty and social exclusion' aims to reduce the level of poverty and social exclusion by 20 million people until 2020 by strengthening work at all levels.<sup>7</sup>

In addition, legal migration is a part of the agenda of the current presidency trio of the Council of the EU, consisting of Italy, Latvia, and Luxembourg. They promote mobility agreements with countries of the Maghreb and the Middle East, to foster cooperation with the home countries of migrants and to expand school and university exchanges, while seeing legal migration as a tool to boost EU's economy.

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5 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=950&langId=en>

6 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=958&langId=en>

7 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=961&langId=en>

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation explained: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&langId=en>

Europe 2020 employment and social affairs initiatives explained: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=956>

Europe 2020 programme website: [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

Report of the European Parliament about the implementation of the EU Blue Card: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014\\_2019/documents/com/com\\_com\(2014\)0287\\_/com\\_com\(2014\)0287\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/documents/com/com_com(2014)0287_/com_com(2014)0287_en.pdf)

Council Directive 2009/50/EC introducing the EU Blue Card: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0050&from=EN>

Article of Europe's World, 'How Europe could tackle its growing skills shortage': <http://europesworld.org/2013/06/01/how-europe-could-tackle-its-growing-skills-shortage/#.VTvQlM7jalU>

Article of EurActiv 'EU urged to address paradox of high unemployment and skills shortage': <http://www.euractiv.com/migrations/eu-urged-address-paradox-high-un-news-528328>

Article of the Financial Times, 'Germany grapples with skilled labour shortage': <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/a507bf12-b40c-11e2-ace9-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3YLLwlguf>

Article of the New York Times, 'Germany fights population drop': <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/14/world/europe/germany-fights-population-drop.html>

The Biodiversity Strategy 2020 is aiming to restore 15% of the EU's degraded ecosystems in a time of stagnating economic growth, how can the EU and its Member States promote the establishment of Green Infrastructure to ensure an efficient use of its natural resources?

BY REBECCA KIISKI (FI)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

Finding solutions for Europe's degrading ecosystems: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMIUglBligl&feature=youtu.be>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

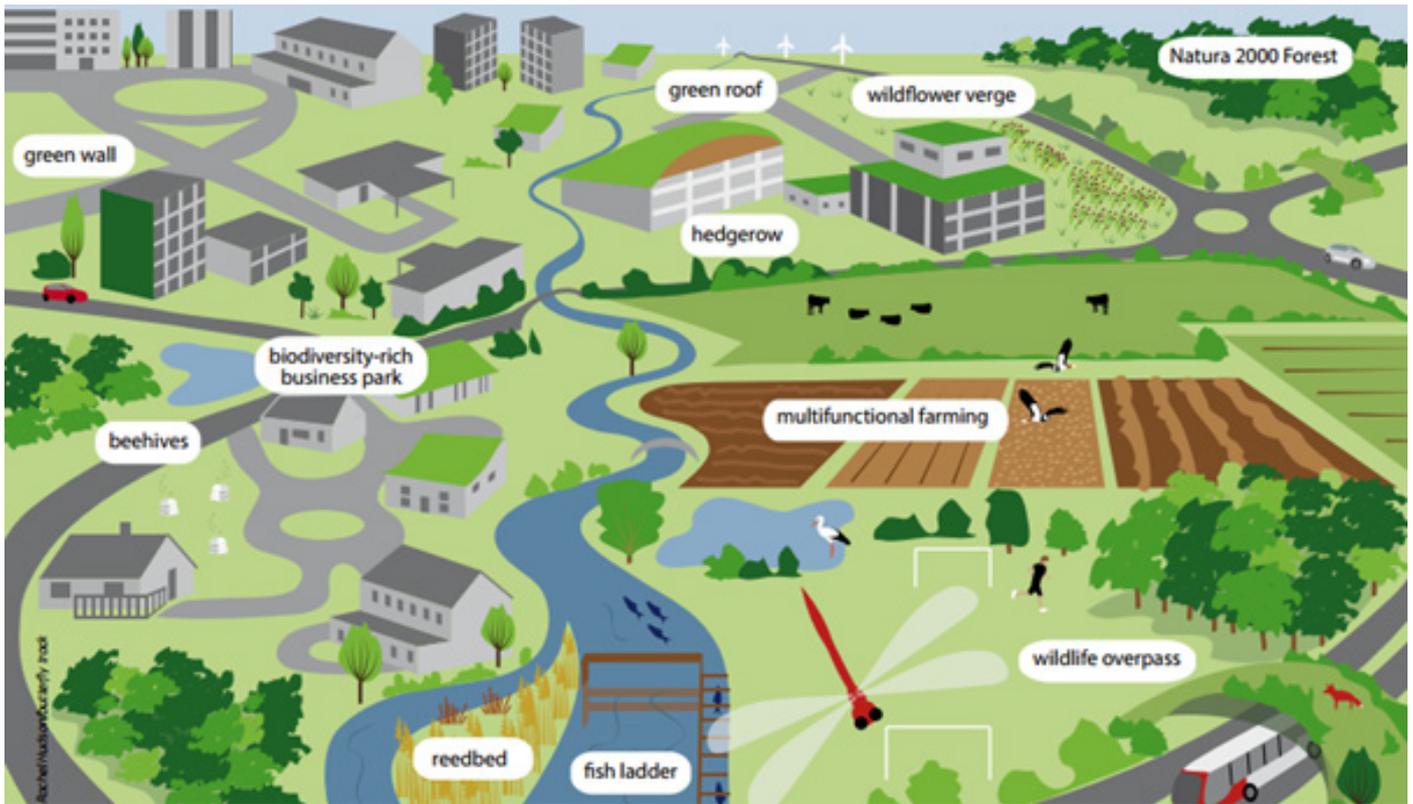
Human societies depend on the products of nature, such as water, clean air, food or plant pollination. However, the value of these commodities is often overlooked. With an increasing population and urbanisation, Europe's ecosystems become more and more fragmented and degraded due to urban sprawl, building of infrastructure and different uses of land. This has a significant effect not only on biodiversity, but also on the resources ecosystems can provide.

Biodiversity itself covers the diversity of species' and the environment, genetic variation and ecology. The European Union (EU) is now aiming to tackle these degrading ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity through the effective use and implementation of Green Infrastructure (GI). With the Biodiversity Strategy, the EU aims to decelerate the loss of its biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems by 2020. The second target of the strategy states GI as one of the main components of reaching the goal. For this, the European Commission (EC) has developed strategy of 'Green Infrastructure — Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital' to "promote the deployment of Green Infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas".

GI can be defined as natural and semi-natural spatial structures designed to protect biodiversity. This protection is crucial as ecosystems provide essential services and goods, such as clean air or water. The use of GI aims to strengthen, if not restore, ecosystems in both urban and rural environments. Common GI seen in urban environments include green rooftops and walls. These can be used to harness rainwater, improve the quality of air, and have also be used as a substitute for air conditioning in buildings. Other examples of GI include beehives, constructed wetlands and wildlife corridors in rural environments. For instance, in the Netherlands, GI is being used to develop the National Ecological Network (NEN), a coherent network of natural areas and ecological corridors. Currently, the NEN has planned almost 20 000 hectares of ecological corridors to be established in the Netherlands by 2018.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/green-infrastructure-and-territorial-cohesion>

Figure 1: Examples of Green Infrastructure in urban and rural environments



For the environment, GI offers many benefits (also presented in Figure 2), such as clean water, lowering the amount of carbon dioxide, increasing pollination and rainwater retention. For animals, ecological corridors can be built between fragmented ecosystems to increase biodiversity within species. GI can also be used as carbon storage, to prevent flooding and to mitigate climate change. For society, it offers recreation and greener cities to enjoy.

Figure 2: Benefits of Green Infrastructure



## RELEVANT ACTORS

**The European Union:** The EU supports GI financially by providing information (for example through the European Environment Agency (EEA)) and the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Commission also has the power to initiate legislation. However, currently no legislation targeted specifically at GI has been put into place on an EU level.

**Member States:** Member States and their national governments play a role through their own legislation, strategies and projects concerning the conservation of biodiversity and the use of GI. Cities and towns can strongly impact GI through urban planning and projects. Some countries, such as the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, France, the Netherlands and Slovakia are already actively planning GI on a national level.

**Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO):** NGO's, such as Greenpeace and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), work to support the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems around the world ranging from local projects in small ecosystems such as creeks or rivers to projects of international dimension. They play a role in raising awareness, gathering and providing information as well as influencing decision makers and citizens. With the protection of biodiversity and natural resources, NGO's can be rather influential. The WWF for example participates in many conventions, agreements and treaties to provide advice, information and concrete actions that can be taken.

**Local community initiatives:** Citizens and communities themselves can initiate projects and ideas aimed to promote and protect biodiversity and GI also at local level. These initiatives can range from restoring a degraded local park, deciding to raise awareness of endangered species to cleaning waste from a riverside ecosystem.

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

GI projects can and are implemented at local, regional, national, EU and transnational level. The EU's Green Infrastructure Strategy: Published in 2013 by the EC, the strategy aims to promote the use and implementation of Green Infrastructure in the EU. The Strategy's four main elements are:

- promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. The use of GI could offer many benefits for other policy areas of the EU, such as climate change, agriculture and the environment.
- supporting EU-level GI projects. Many ecosystems, such as mountain ranges and rivers can extend beyond national borders and are difficult to coordinate on a national level. The strategy looks at EU-level GI projects to tackle such areas.
- improving access to finance for GI projects. Many EU funds, such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and Cohesion Funds, are targeted also at GI. However, private investments still remain relatively small as GI projects can seem risky, making them unattractive for investments.
- improving information and promoting innovation.

Natura 2000: Natura 2000 is a main part of the EU's nature and biodiversity policy, which combines a network of protected natural areas in the EU and is often described to be at the core of GI. GI can be used for example to connect and protect the biodiversity of these areas. Currently, Natura 2000 represents the largest practical action taken in the EU to decelerate the loss of Europe's biodiversity. In total, Natura 2000 areas cover almost a 20% of Europe.

Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES): MAES calls for Member States to map and assess the state of their ecosystems and their services to improve their knowledge and support the restoration of ecosystems and their services. MAES is seen to have a crucial role in supporting the Biodiversity Strategy and helping the EU and its Member States' policy making by providing vital information and update on the state of their ecosystems and natural capital.

EU level legislation: At EU level, a lot of legislation promotes the use of GI, such as the Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment directives. However, no EU level legislation or framework has been created directly targeted at GI.

EU financial support: GI projects can be financed through the EU's Regional Policy's ERDF, ESF and the Cohesion Fund as well as other financial instruments. The LIFE programme, EU's financial instrument to support environmental projects, also supports the funding of GI. For example, financial support of 700 000 € was given for the restoration of a 3 kilometre stretch of the Danube river through the LIFE+ programme. The EC and the European Investment Bank have also created a new financial instrument called the Natural Capital Financial Facility (NCFF). NCFF will provide loans and investments to private and public entities to support projects aiming to conserve natural capital, including GI. Funding will be available during the NCFF's three-year pilot period (2015-2017).

National legislation: Several Member States have implemented their own national legislation related to GI. Examples of this include the city of Copenhagen with requirements for green roofs and the Dutch Government's National Ecological Network.<sup>2</sup>

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

The EU Biodiversity Strategy: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/brochures/2020%20Biod%20brochure%20final%20lowres.pdf>

Video on what biodiversity is: <https://vimeo.com/33683059>

Video presenting the importance of Green Infrastructure and examples used in European cities: <http://www.tvlink.org/mediadetails.php?key=dccba5fad56721ede710&title=Green+infrastructure+%E2%80%93+Building+blocks+of+modern+life&titleleft=Environment>

“Building Green Infrastructure for Europe” by the European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/docs/green\\_infrastructure\\_broc.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/docs/green_infrastructure_broc.pdf)

A downloadable report on “Green Infrastructure and its integration into policies”:  
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/green-infrastructure-and-territorial-cohesion>

The benefits of Natura 2000: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/financing/docs/Economic%20Benefits%20Factsheet.pdf>

A document by the EC on the Natural Capital Financial Facility: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/financial\\_instruments/documents/ncff\\_leaflet.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/financial_instruments/documents/ncff_leaflet.pdf)

“How cities are using nature to cut pollution” article by the Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2012/aug/23/how-cities-nature-cut-pollution>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/green-infrastructure-and-territorial-cohesion>

Promoting green European cities: Following the 7th Environment Action Programme to 2020 and steps towards green urbanisation, how can the EU and its Member States ensure sustainable development of its growing urban hubs?

BY GUSTAF WESTIN (SE)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

Västra Hamnen in Malmö, Sweden - Europe's first carbon neutral neighbourhood  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yZYXSSWnsg>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

The cities of the EU are currently home to more than 75%<sup>1</sup> of its total population, a number that is expected to rise to 80% by 2020. Urban areas provide our citizens with better job opportunities, more education opportunities, a bigger cultural scene as well as a greater selection of both goods and services. However, as our cities have grown, so have the related environmental problems. Densely populated areas cause problems such as noise, water pollution and air pollution, and these problems have to be dealt with in order to keep our cities clean, healthy and competitive.

Cities are often centres of economic activity in the EU's Member States, and consequently vital to the continued competitiveness of the EU's economy. Urban development, both social, economical and environmental, is a central aspect in the EU's Regional Policy. Objectives for the 2014-2020 period of the Regional Policy include directly targeting urban areas with investments, as well as improving cooperation between cities. An integrated approach to challenges in urban areas, in which all aspects of urban development is considered, is seen as an important part of achieving the Europe 2020 strategy of "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". This is said to ensure a high quality of life for all EU citizens, as well as a sustainable and competitive economy.

Air pollution tends to be a problem in densely populated areas, and generally originates from the burning of fossil fuels, either in transportation, industry, households or in power generation. It can also originate from certain chemical processes in some industries as well as waste treatment. Extreme air pollution can have serious effects on human health, ranging from breathing problems to premature death. Similarly, water pollution can pose a big threat to human health as well. Clean drinking water is vital for citizens' well-being. However, some areas' water supply frequently fails to meet acceptable standards. In urban areas, water pollution often originates from insufficient waste management or from urban industries. The solution rests in reducing the amount of pollutants used, as well as properly disposing or recycling waste before they contaminate water sources. Another problem that has become apparent in recent years is that of noise pollution emanating from rail, road and air traffic, construction, industry or certain recreational activities.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/urban-development>

Too much noise can cause a number of different health issues such as problems with concentration and hearing, and it is estimated that around 40% of the total population of the EU is exposed to unhealthy levels of noise.<sup>2</sup>

For a city to be sustainable, it needs to be planned in a way that minimises energy use. Streets and roads need to be designed to improve the flow of traffic, and residential and commercial areas need to be placed within a comfortable distance from each other, encouraging modes of transportation such as public transportation, cycling or walking. Car-free zones and car pools are other ways of dealing with traffic problems. Supporting the use and development of engines running on alternatives to fossil fuels could be one way of reducing traffic related problems. Alternative technologies, which are at different stages of research, provide additional possibilities for reducing the environmental impact of transportation. Hybrid, electrical or cars fuelled by biogas are some possibilities, as well as research and development of new, more efficient and greener types of engines. Our reliance on fossil fuels for energy is high and many advocate an increased usage of more environmentally friendly alternatives like solar, wind and geothermal energy. Making buildings energy efficient is important component when building new, as well as retrofitting old buildings to meet new environmental standards. For example, this could mean minimising the required amount of energy for cooling and heating by using good insulation and innovative use of glass and air flow. Also important are green areas like parks, inner courtyards with vegetation, green roofs or even urban farms. These are important, not only for recreation and social activities, but also for a number of environmental services like air purification and improving biodiversity.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

**Citizens of the Member States** have a stake in how cities are designed and have a large interest in keeping the cities healthy, pleasant, and free from pollution. Many emphasise public involvement in city planning and environmental decision-making as an important part of making our cities sustainable. This can be achieved by, for example, giving the public access to information or giving the citizens an opportunity to comment on proposals. Citizens also contribute to pollution through energy inefficient housing as well as the use of environmentally unfriendly transportation, and need to be made aware of environmentally friendly living and transportation practices.

In an EU context, environment is a shared competence, meaning that **Member States** have the right to act independently as long as any legislation implemented does not contradict existing EU legislation. Concerning urban development, this means the EU can adopt binding legislation such as minimum standards, help facilitate cooperation between cities and regions and offer financial support to different environmental projects. The European Commission is the body responsible for drafting the Union's environmental policies, as well as making sure they are implemented properly.

**Independent non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** working with urban development or things related, such as the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU) or think tanks like 'Super Sustainable' also have much to offer. Firstly, they often possess a lot of expertise, and can sometimes act consultatively, advising legislators concerning proposed legislation. They can also be a channel for citizens to voice their concerns, for example through campaigning or other ways of influencing decision makers. Some NGOs have also been known to monitor progress and implementation of certain types of legislation.

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<sup>2</sup> European Environment Agency (EEA): <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/noise/intro>

Within Member States, national governments can influence national legislation concerning city planning. However, **authorities such as municipalities, counties or city councils** are usually the authorities responsible for city planning on a local level, for example the drawing of land use plans and building plans for new districts. They can also influence local industries or companies, for example by Green Public Procurement, the practice by public authorities to always choose green products and services.

**Businesses active within the EU** sometimes contribute to pollution of air and water, for example by releasing chemicals directly into cities' water supply, or burning certain chemicals or fossil fuels in industrial processes and consequently contributing to air pollution in cities. Companies play a crucial role in implementing measures easing the environmental impact of their operations.

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The EU's environmental policies include several pieces of legislation concerning sustainable urban development. The 7th Environmental Action Programme (EAP) is the EU's main tool in shaping its environmental policies until 2020. One of its big priorities is addressing environmental problems and pollution in the EU urban areas. EAP priorities include making sure that a majority of EU cities implement policies regarding sustainable urban development in areas such as public transport, urban biodiversity and energy efficiency by 2020. The Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment is the European Commission's strategy to make the Union's urban areas more environmentally friendly. It aims to help implement existing EU legislation by supporting local authorities and encouraging them to take a more integrated approach to tackling urban environmental problems. Measures in the strategy include trainings for local officials, facilitating the exchange of ideas and solutions between cities and supporting research on urban issues. Funding for environmental projects are available from a number of different sources, perhaps most significant of which being the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund. An example of a project receiving funding from the Cohesion Fund was the modernisation of the heating supply networks in the Lithuanian city of Kaunas in 2007.<sup>3</sup> Another possibility is the LIFE+ Programme, a program financially supporting environmental and nature conservation projects. The Aarhus Convention was adopted in 1998, and was created to ensure citizens had the right to participate in urban planning and development. The three main objectives of the convention consist in making sure the public has access to information concerning urban development, ensuring the public has the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process and giving the public access to judicial resources in the case of someone violating an environmental law or regulation.

Other measures and include the CIVITAS Initiative, an initiative co-financed by the EU and coordinated by local authorities that promotes greener modes of transportation in cities. The initiative aims to introduce and test different traffic solutions in different cities in Europe, and has contributed to introducing a number of different measures, including different kinds of parking, strategies to make public transport more environmentally friendly, and many more<sup>4</sup>. European Green Capital Award is an award given annually to a city based on its level of sustainability, initiated by the European Commission. The first city to be awarded was Stockholm in 2010, and has since been awarded to cities like Copenhagen and Hamburg. The award is meant to recognise cities making an effort to improve their urban environments, and create an incentive for cities to do so.

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3 INTERREG IIIC: [http://www.cleanvehicle.eu/fileadmin/downloads/Czech\\_Republic/Financing%2Bsustainable%2Benergy\\_7.pdf](http://www.cleanvehicle.eu/fileadmin/downloads/Czech_Republic/Financing%2Bsustainable%2Benergy_7.pdf)

4 CIVITAS Initiative - <http://www.civitas-initiative.org/display-all-projects>

A city quite famous for being sustainable is the southern German city of Freiburg, especially with its district Vauban, which strongly promotes environmentally friendly practices. Buildings in Vauban are often lined with solar panels, car-free zones are common and the district is designed to make transportation by foot or bicycle as simple and convenient as possible.

## USEFUL LINKS AND RESEARCH

EU pamphlet on sustainable urban environments -

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/urban/cities\\_of\\_the\\_future.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/urban/cities_of_the_future.pdf)

A summary of the 7th EAP - <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/>

The website of the European Environment Agency (EEA) -

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes>

“Is this the greenest city in the world?”. The Guardian -

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/mar/23/freiburg.germany.greenest.city>

“12 essential aspects of green cities” -

<https://bpmchat.wordpress.com/2013/10/09/12-essential-aspects-of-green-cities-by-paul-hewins/>

Siemens Green City Index - <http://www.siemens.com/entry/cc/en/greencityindex.htm>

European Sustainable Cities Platform - <http://www.sustainablecities.eu/>

In light of the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives of Smart, Sustainable and Innovative Growth, how can the EU and its Member States ensure an eco- friendly development of entrepreneurship?

BY TERESA ARTJOKI (FI)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yk589wn3BFY>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) constitute as the backbone of the European economy, playing a leading role in the creation of wealth and in research and development. Under the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives<sup>1</sup>, the European Union (EU) outlines strategic innovation as key for its future economic growth, as well as tackling climate change. The important status of SMEs in the European economy signifies that striving for a more resource efficient, green and competitive economy will greatly impact SMEs individually. This raises the question of how can we promote ecological sustainability in entrepreneurship despite the additional cost and burden this creates to entrepreneurs. Conversely, the general economic growth of the EU is affected by the performance of its enterprises in their respective industry. Thus whilst both the competitiveness and eco-friendliness of SMEs are important, sustainable growth implies that one can not be achieved at the sake of the other.

EU's Regional Policy<sup>2</sup> provides the necessary investment framework for the strategy of smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Cohesion Policy aims at supporting to overall harmonious development of Member States and their regions, namely primarily at creating jobs and raising productivity by making regions and SMEs more competitive. It also stresses environmental integration, which in respect to SMEs has two approaches. The first one is 'horizontal' approach, or 'environmental mainstreaming', which aims for environmental sustainability across different thematic objectives. This approach seeks to find sustainable solutions, which also has other beneficial outcomes. For instance, an efficient usage of resources is eco-friendly, but also can reduce production costs of SMEs. The second is 'vertical' approach, which sets environmental concerns as its primary focus, despite possible economic costs. For example, whilst investing in basic environmental infrastructure might help SMEs to meet the requirements of EU environmental policies on i.e. waste management, the lack of short-term profits makes it a difficult investment for smaller entrepreneurs.

These two approaches illustrate the two sides of environmental sustainability from the point of view of entrepreneurs. Some sustainable choices bear additional financial benefits, as seen with the horizontal approach. In contrast, some investments bring no additional benefits to producers, and thus are not as attractive. Even if investment in green infrastructure could act as a necessary foundation for attracting further green investments, additional expenses and thus rising prices on

1 <https://www.bka.gv.at/site/7762/default.aspx>

2 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/priorities](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/priorities)

the market puts the competitiveness of SMEs at risk.

Innovative green retail outlets, alternative energy companies, organic farmers and other similar enterprises procuring resources and selling their products locally have a tendency to register as SMEs, with strong ties to their regional community and environment. Thus, the importance of location is a major determinant for enhancing business potential and unleashing regional competitiveness. Clusters, which are entities of a particular industry that, due to their proximity, stimulate each others' innovative activity, productive efficiency, and competitiveness, i.e. car production in Wolfsburg, computer software in Silicon Valley, financial services in London. These clusters of companies, suppliers, service providers and associated institutions of a particular industry aim at exploiting local strengths to be able to respond in a eco-friendly manner to market opportunities. The concept of knowledge economy is where human capital (i.e. education, innovation) are greatly valued as productive assets. Thus, the centralisation of both skills and resources offered by clusters creates ideal conditions for SMEs to be resource efficient and innovative, generating smart growth.

Yet regional disparities between Member States do not always allow this to happen. Cohesion Policy sets out thematic objectives<sup>3</sup> focusing on settling these disparities through i.e. increasing labour mobility, improving network infrastructure, and investing in education. SMEs need access to necessary external resources, such as technology, qualified human capital, and knowledge. In this regard, SMEs working locally are tied to the opportunities and limitations drawn by the resources accessible to them in their particular region, to which Cohesion Policy can make a difference.

On a bigger scale, global competitiveness of the EU strongly relies on SMEs. There is a long way to go between sustainable development, at its best achieved on a regional level, and the EU's overall competitiveness which encompasses a variety of different entities. Thus, there is a need for instruments which foster innovative and sustainable growth on a regional, national, and EU-level with the aims of developing more world-class clusters in the EU. Ultimately, the smart, sustainable, and innovative growth of the EU as a whole strongly comes down to some of the smallest entrepreneurs of its Member States.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

**European Commission (EC):** As the executive body of the EU, the EC is responsible for proposing legislation and implementing decisions. It proposed the Europe 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth and strives towards these objectives with i.e. Regional Policy, the European Regional Development Fund, the Green Action Plan and the LIFE Programme.

**Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):** Enterprises are categorised by their size over e.g. the number of people employed, turnover or balance sheet total. 99% of all European businesses are categorised as SMEs, equating to over 20 million enterprises. SMEs employ 250 people at maximum, and can have an annual turnover of up to 50 million euro.<sup>4</sup>

**European Resource Efficiency Excellence Center:** To be set up in 2015 under the Green Action Plan (GAP), the Center will advise and assist SMEs in improving their research efficiency individually and through clusters. It will be a direct reference point on the effectiveness of different types of resource efficiency, and thus advance the sharing of skills and knowledge on the topic across different EU regions.

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3 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/priorities](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/priorities)

4 [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme\\_definition/sme\\_user\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/files/sme_definition/sme_user_guide_en.pdf)

**The European Cluster Observatory:** A single access point for statistical information and analysis on the structure and efficiency of clusters. The GAP stresses its task to be analysing the competence of clusters, based on which further actions can be taken under COSME 2016, which is an EU programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs. Again, the European Cluster Observatory also works as a reference point of resource efficiency, but in the context of clusters specifically.

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The Green Action Plan published by the EC in 2014 sets a series of objectives for SMEs within a long-term vision of a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy. Its goal is to turn environmental challenges into business opportunities, similarly to the aforementioned ‘horizontal approach’ of the Cohesion Policy. The GAP aims to increase resource efficiency by promoting innovation through knowledge sharing.

With regard to resource efficiency, the GAP calls for the establishment of a European Resource Efficiency Excellence Center to evaluate and advise SMEs wishing to enhance their efficiency. The European Regional Development Fund<sup>5</sup>, one of the 3 main funds of the European Regional Policy, will also support SMEs’ competitiveness by improving regional energy efficiency and usage of energy resources. In terms of innovation, circular economy business models are highly encouraged by the LIFE programme<sup>6</sup> in the GAP. A circular economy emerges when materials gone to waste are recycled almost entirely back into production. However, the GAP does not offer concrete measures as to how such models could be created. Partly the difficulty of establishing a green circular production chain is the lack of investment at the end of the production line; turning waste into resources again currently doesn’t have a significant industry around it.

The GAP also expresses an objective of increasing resource efficiency through the development of its clusters. The European Cluster Observatory is in charge of analysing concentrations of competent eco-industries and cross-regional cluster trends. COSME 2016 is planned to then build upon the analysis of the Observatory, and to identify best practices with regards to developing circular business models amongst clusters. This should provide an overall better understanding on the green business potential of clusters, but practical solutions by the GAP as to how to promote and support the development of this potential remain vague.

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5 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/erdf/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/)

6 <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/>

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

The European Environment and Cohesion Policy - [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/cohesion\\_policy\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/cohesion_policy_en.htm)

Commission Staff Working Document - Regional Policy Contributing to Smart Growth in Europe - [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/smart\\_growth/annex\\_comm2010\\_553.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/smart_growth/annex_comm2010_553.pdf)

EU business - Green Action Plan for SMEs - <http://www.eubusiness.com/topics/sme/green-action/>

Enterprise Europe Network - How green are European enterprises? - <http://www.brusselsnetwork.be/eu-regulations-m/1521-how-green-are-european-smes.html>

Green Econet - How can SMEs get into a circular economy? - <http://greeneconet.eu/how-can-smes-get-circular-economy>

# ITRE II

Facing an everpressing need for secure and affordable energy supply as well as ambitious emission reduction targets, how can the EU further promote sustainable energy production and its equitable usage across all Member States?

*BY LIV COLLEL (DE)*

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpNFWKlXoME>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

The topical issue of climate change and the need for a more sustainable lifestyle, economy and politics has been on the agenda of the European Union (EU) for quite a while. A broad range of measures has been adopted and agreements have been made. The EU's different institutional bodies and Member States as well as economic and social actors are constantly struggling and negotiating to make the EU more sustainable and more competitive at the same time.

The most important issue at hand is the support and further development of renewable energy production. In 2012, 14.1% of energy in the EU came from renewable sources, a 6% increase compared to 2005.<sup>1</sup> In the 2020/2030 targets (see below), the EU has already set up guidelines for the development of sustainable energy production in the EU. However, much remains to be done and Member States differ in their approaches towards green energy production - e.g. concerning nuclear energy.

For the EU, its citizens and its economy, energy security is crucial. As the EU imports more than half of its energy vectors, it is not only dependent on other countries for its energy, but also spends more than € 1 billion a day on importing energy. Thus, sustainability in terms of energy does not only refer to environmental issues, but also entails economic and diplomatic aspects. A sustainable energy production for the EU implies that this production takes place within the borders of the EU, that it is met by an efficient transnational infrastructure (technologically as well as politically) and that it does not cause further emissions. Also, this production should feature renewable energy sources to as large an extent as possible.

Another aspect of the problem is efficiency. The EU has to become energy efficient in order to rely on its own energy production and export renewable energy to other countries in the future. Member States must cooperate efficiently in terms of construction and maintenance of both legal frameworks and technical infrastructure to become more sustainable. In the legal frameworks that have been adopted most recently, the Commission has taken on a leading role in coordinating and directing the EU's energy transition. This facilitates the process but also implies that Member States have to cease considerable parts of their decisive power to the Commission.

<sup>1</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/renewable-energy>

Also, it forces EU companies to meet tough efficiency standards. Moreover, the question of citizens' participation remains unresolved - growing consciousness and ever faster technological developments empower citizens to not only monitor their consumption efficiently, but also to produce their own electricity and even sell it, calling for substantial changes in the EU's energy grid. This issue has largely remained unsettled, as well as the efficient integration of storage technology into the energy grid.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

- **European Commission:** In coordination with the European Parliament and the Council, the Commission drafts and amends future EU legislation that the Parliament discusses and finally votes on. In terms of energy, the Commission, represented by the Commissioner on Climate and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, is an important policy maker and largely shapes the EU's vision on its future energy supply. It has been the key instigator of the project of the Energy Union (see below) and will in the future be the main actor in coordinating the processes leading towards its realisation. It is important to notice that energy is a shared competence between the Commission and EU Member States, meaning that both EU bodies and Member States can establish binding legislation in this field. However, Member States may only act in case the EU has not acted yet or has decided not to act at all.
- **Member States:** As the level of consumption as well as the energy mix and infrastructure differ between countries, naturally national governments also have very different priorities - depending on geographical, economical and social factors. Each Member State has to meet different requirements when trying to fulfil the Europe 2020/2030 targets. Steps towards those targets were laid down in the individual National Action Plans that each government is responsible to realise.
- **Supplier States:** The EU imports 53% of its energy from third countries - mostly oil and gas, but also coal and uranium<sup>2</sup>. The EU's most important trading partners in terms of energy are Norway, Russia, and the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. In order to ensure energy security, the EU is working on diversifying its range of supplier states and producing more energy within its own borders - most projects focus on the Black Sea and the Caucasus region. With the Energy Community, the EU has already set up a working group in order to facilitate and coordinate this project in unison with the respective countries.
- **Transit States:** Apart from third countries that actively supply the EU with energy, there are also some states that are important for the EU's energy supply in terms of transport - most importantly, Ukraine and Turkey. Ukraine already hosts the EU's most important gas pipeline connected with Russia.
- **Private Sector:** Small as well as larger companies are affected by EU standards concerning energy efficiency and consumption - the Energy Efficiency Directive, for example, obliges enterprises to review their energy consumption in detail and assess the scope of possible energy savings. Compliance with ever-increasing standards is often costly and may affect the competitiveness. Thus, especially industrial companies often protest against harsher EU norms and standards, claiming they hinder economic growth. On the other hand, private companies are important in terms of innovation and research as well as behavioural changes of energy consumption.

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2 [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Energy\\_production\\_and\\_imports#Imports](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Energy_production_and_imports#Imports)

- **EU citizens:** EU citizens are affected by EU measures and standards to a large extent. When it comes to energy, citizens' importance has two sides to it. Firstly, EU citizens are key consumers of energy, they decide about the energy they consume and where they buy it. Secondly, EU citizens can become producers of their own energy or take over the administration of their energy grid as in some communities in Germany (e.g. in Schönau in the South of Germany or in Berlin). The question is how to efficiently incorporate citizens' initiatives in the overall framework of EU policies (see more on suggestions about this in below).

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

In 2010, the Member States agreed on the 2020 targets, one of which is of climate change and energy sustainability. The EU is supposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% (if possible 30%), increase energy efficiency by 20% and cover 20% of its energy consumption by renewable energy in 2020.

In order to implement these targets, several legislative and political measures have been put into place, most importantly the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive. Both focus on implementing the 2020/2030 targets on a more concrete level.

The Renewable Energy Directive sets up different targets for each Member State (ranging from 10% of renewables in Malta to 49% in Sweden) in order to reach the set goals. These individual targets are addressed by individual national renewable energy action plans and accompanied by progress reports that the European Commission publishes every two years. Also, this directive sets up cooperation measures that include Member States as well as neighbouring states of the EU. The importance of decentralised renewable energy production is recognised and different renewable energy technologies are mentioned and endorsed.

The Energy Efficiency Directive focuses on three different levels of action: the public and the private sector as well as the individual consumers. It obliges energy distributors and sales retailers to increase efficiency by 1.5% each year, reinforces efficiency in the public sector and in governmental buildings and calls for measures that enable the consumers to monitor their individual consumption and increase efficiency, e.g. by smart metering. An issue yet to be addressed is energy storage technologies and its potential for the EU.

Another important legislative measure is the European Energy Security Strategy (EESS). It was established in 2014 and entails a combination of short- and long-term measures in order to increase energy security within the EU. In the long run, the EESS strives to increase energy efficiency in accordance with the Europe 2020/2030 goals, increase energy production within the EU, diversify suppliers and supply routes, make the EU speak with one voice in matters of external energy policy, strengthen emergency and solidarity measures between different Member States and protect as well as complete critical infrastructure.

All of these measures are supposed to act within the 2030 framework for Climate and Energy that was passed in 2014. This framework elaborates on the aforementioned 2020 targets and sets them to a 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to the level of 1990), an increase of 27% in renewable energy usage and an increase of efficiency of 30% compared to the level of efficiency in 1990. It also states that a new governance system shall be developed by the Council that will be based on the system of national action plans.

This system, however, has not been presented yet. Also, the 2030 framework outlines the EU's position in the upcoming climate conference that is to take place in Paris in December 2015. This climate conference will have the task to adopt a new international agreement on actions for climate change.

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

Fact sheet of the EC on the Energy Union:

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-15-4485\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4485_en.htm)

EU's position for Paris 2015: [http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/future/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/future/index_en.htm)

First part of the German documentary on the citizens' energy initiative of Schönau, "The Schönau feeling" (the rest of the film can be found on Youtube): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KvICC4SRmk>

Article by SPIEGEL International on Berlin initiative to buy the city's energy grid: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/an-unlikely-effort-to-buy-the-berlin-power-grid-a-886426.html>

Article on the EU's recent progress in terms of renewable energy: <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/europes-renewable-energy-deployment-sub-optimal-report-says-311435>

The Energy Community's web page:

[https://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC\\_HOME](https://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME)

The official EU's web site on the topic of energy:

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en>

Web page of the INOGATE programme:

<http://www.inogate.org/>

Web dossier of the German Heinrich Böll Stiftung on Europe's energy policies and transition:

<http://eu.boell.org/en/categories/energy>

With only 4 percent of displaced Syrian persons granted refuge in the EU and Member States having repeatedly failed to comply with the regulations of the Common European Asylum System, how can the EU further support asylum seekers from the Middle East and North African region?

BY ELLA GLENZ (DE)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

EASO (European Asylum Support Office) Corporate Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=246&v=hjmBAh5Lr8M>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

In 2013, the number of refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers has exceeded the mark of 50 million people worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Especially the aftermath situation of the Arab spring revolts that started in 2010 and their impact on political stability, economic welfare, and social cohesion in countries of the Middle East and North African region (MENA) like Syria or Libya have led to widespread migration flows. In consequence, the number of asylum applications received by the Member States of the European Union (EU) in 2013 has increased by 80% compared to the same period three years before.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, most of the asylum claims remain unsuccessful<sup>3</sup> with the result of making applicants return to their home countries by force.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

Dealing with EU asylum policies, one can point out two major parties involved. Firstly, **refugees**, be it a Syrian doctor or a person that can neither read nor write, are fleeing persecution or serious harm in their home countries. Reasons for their distress must be related to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or to the fact of being member in a certain social group, when their local authorities cannot warrant adequate protection. Secondly, asylum seekers are persons submitting a request for refugee status which is not approved unless the responsible Member State decides that they qualify as such.<sup>4</sup>

Secondly, the **Member States** retain a large degree of sovereignty concerning the conditions and benefits that asylum seekers receive. In the last couple of years, the economic situation in some of the most affected border states, such as Spain, Italy and Greece, has had a significant impact on the capacity and readiness to accept migrants. In particular, protection systems were strengthened including stricter border controls and a frequent use of detention as well as imposing penalties

1 <http://www.unhcr.org/53a155bc6.html>

2 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-11-197\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-11-197_en.htm)

3 <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>

4 <http://www.ecre.org/refugees/refugees/refugees-in-the-eu.html>

for illegal entry. Above all, xenophobia and intolerance have brought about several incidents of discrimination and violence.<sup>5</sup>

In order to harmonize and facilitate the treatment of people seeking asylum on EU territory, the Member States introduced first steps in the 1990s to encourage acting in solidarity and sharing common responsibilities. Since then, these guidelines being part of the legal complex of the **Common European Asylum System (CEAS)** have been discussed and reviewed in more than 13 years of negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.<sup>6</sup> Finally, in 2013, profound amendments have been adopted aiming at establishing more effective guarantees for asylum applicants.

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The CEAS consists of several EU directives that should enter into force in July 2015.<sup>7</sup> For instance, the Asylum Procedures Directive<sup>8</sup> is responsible for the unification of the asylum process throughout the EU. It aims at achieving fairer, quicker and more effective asylum decisions providing an appropriate protection for people with special needs, unaccompanied minors, and victims of torture.

Furthermore, the Receptions Conditions Directive<sup>9</sup> specifies the material conditions refugees should receive when entering the EU. This contains mainly food and housing in centres of first assistance where new arrivals are normally not supposed to spend more than 48 hours. In reality, the majority of refugees often cannot even get a place to sleep in these basic and mostly overcrowded reception centres and are often detained for months waiting for progress in their application procedure.

The Dublin III Regulation<sup>10</sup>, approved in June 2013, is the cornerstone of the so called Dublin System, which includes the Dublin Regulation and the EURODAC Regulation<sup>11</sup> that ensures the establishment and use of an EU wide fingerprinting database for unauthorised entrants in the EU. Together they shall help identify which country in particular is responsible for the individual asylum application depending on in which Member State the fingerprints of an asylum seeker were stored and its claim was lodged first. Main purpose of the regulation is to prevent applicants from submitting multiple asylum claims in different Member States.

Then again, this procedure puts excessive pressure on the border areas of the EU territory where the majority of refuge seeking people arrive. In consequence, transfers of people to their “entrance country” and resulting separation of families were controversially discussed in cases of states that are often least able to offer applicants adequate assistance and protection. In 2011, the European Court of Human Rights delivered a judgement on the claim of a young Afghan that should not have been sent back from Belgium to Greece where he faced inhuman treatment and detention.<sup>12</sup>

Moreover, the Qualification Directive<sup>13</sup> is supposed to determine whether the person in question

5 <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e48e726.html>

6 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index_en.htm)

7 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20130607IPR11389/html/Parliament-gives-green-light-to-the-new-European-asylum-system>

8 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/common-procedures/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/common-procedures/index_en.htm)

9 [ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/reception-conditions/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/reception-conditions/index_en.htm)

10 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/examination-of-applicants/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/examination-of-applicants/index_en.htm)

11 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/identification-of-applicants/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/identification-of-applicants/index_en.htm)

12 <https://euobserver.com/justice/31681>

may qualify as a refugee or, on a smaller scale, for a subsidiary protection status. Both statuses grant certain rights such as a resident permit, access to the labour market and healthcare. However, problems often emerge from putting the CEAS into practice, especially with regards to the individual implementation in the Member States. As it is not legally possible to apply for asylum from outside the EU, the most common way to reach EU territory is crossing the Mediterranean Sea by boat. Regrettably, criminal networks of smugglers financially profit from the refugees' emergency situations, and physical mistreatment and derelict, unseaworthy, and overcrowded vessels are typical. In a recent incident, several hundred people drowned just off the Libyan coast when their boat capsized.<sup>14</sup>

Apart from the CEAS, several funds and joint operations are supposed to assist those countries that often feel left alone with a relative high influx of asylum seekers. For example, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)<sup>15</sup> was established to promote an efficient management of migration flows as well as the Refugee Fund<sup>16</sup> especially provides for emergency measures to address sudden arrivals of a large number of refugees. Furthermore, the EU border-control agency Frontex initiated the new maritime operation Triton, which is safeguarding the Italian coast and highly dependant on technical equipment provided by the Member States, but with a significantly smaller budget than its predecessor Mare Nostrum.<sup>17</sup>

With a special reference to the EU Regional Policy, supporting job creation, economic growth, and sustainable development as well as fighting poverty and social exclusion is often related to enhanced investments.<sup>18</sup> Especially the reality of illegal migration decisively affects the social, economic and cultural structures of Member States and their regional cooperation. Then again, within the next few years asylum policies will increasingly determine the shape of the EU not only within its borders, but also from the outside.

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14 <http://time.com/3827862/eu-mediterranean-refugees-europe-libya-italy-lampedusa-migrants-asylum-seekers/>

15 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index_en.htm)

16 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index_en.htm)

17 <http://ecre.org/component/content/article/70-weekly-bulletin-articles/855-operation-mare-nostrum-to-end-frontex-triton-operation-will-not-ensure-rescue-at-sea-of-migrants-in-international-waters.html>

18 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/)

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

European Commission. Migration and Home Affairs: Common European Asylum System: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/index_en.htm)

European Commission. Migration and Home Affairs: Global Approach to Migration and Mobility: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/international-affairs/global-approach-to-migration/index_en.htm)

European Asylum Support Office (EASO): <https://easo.europa.eu/about-us/what-is-easo/>  
European Commission. A common European Asylum System brochure: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/index\\_en.htm#0801262489da9f79/c\\_](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/index_en.htm#0801262489da9f79/c_)

European Commission. Migration and asylum brochure: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/index\\_en.htm#080126248aec4767/c\\_](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/index_en.htm#080126248aec4767/c_)

European Commission. Borders and security brochure: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/index\\_en.htm#080126248aec476a/c\\_](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/index_en.htm#080126248aec476a/c_)

European Commission. EU Regional Policy: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/)

## OTHER WEBSITES

Asylum Information Database: <http://www.asylumineurope.org/>

European Council on Refugees and Exiles: <http://ecre.org/refugees/refugees/refugees-in-the-eu.html>

Asylum Aid. The Asylum Process made simple: <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/the-asylum-process-made-simple/#Types>

UNHCR – The UN Refugee Agency: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e48e0fa7f.html>

ILGA Europe: [http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/issues/asylum\\_in\\_europe](http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/issues/asylum_in_europe)

## GRAPHS

BBC News. Graphics – Europe's asylum seekers: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24636868>

BBC News. Why is EU struggling with migrants and asylum?: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>

EU Commission. Asylum applications in the EU28: [http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fdgs%2Fhome-affairs%2Fe-library%2Fdocs%2Finfographics%2Fasylum%2Finfographic\\_asylum\\_en.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGm2s\\_G5AxH\\_MCOVr\\_6Jtx9Mw-DLw](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fec.europa.eu%2Fdgs%2Fhome-affairs%2Fe-library%2Fdocs%2Finfographics%2Fasylum%2Finfographic_asylum_en.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNGm2s_G5AxH_MCOVr_6Jtx9Mw-DLw)

Eurostat. Asylum statistics: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_statistics#Decisions\\_on\\_asylum\\_applications](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics#Decisions_on_asylum_applications)

## VIDEOS

European Union Home Affairs: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_statistics#Decisions\\_on\\_asylum\\_applications](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics#Decisions_on_asylum_applications)

Italy struggles to deal with migrant influx: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum\\_statistics#Decisions\\_on\\_asylum\\_applications](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_statistics#Decisions_on_asylum_applications)

Towards a common EU asylum system (2012): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1gkg26pSkA>

Following the 2011 White Paper on 'Roadmap to single European transport area' and keeping in mind the excessive level of pollution caused by transportation, how can the EU and its Member States further guarantee regional development towards sustainable transport networks?

BY DAVID SOLER CRESPO (ES)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkgfyGlzIWM>

## CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

Unconnected regions or undeveloped infrastructure causing bottlenecks and congestion in urban areas is hindering the development of the old continent. Today 71% of overall transport carbon emissions come from road emissions and 74% of the commuting in the European Union (EU) happens by car<sup>1</sup>, mainly used for short distances and in rural areas. The next most dominant means of transport is aviation with an 8%, causing congestion on road and air pollution which account for a loss of about 1% of Europe's GDP every year (Ibid.). Furthermore, 96% of the transport sector is driven by oil-based fuel, while carbon emissions are recommended to be reduced by 80% to keep the climate change within safe limits.<sup>2</sup> Finally, many regions such as Extremadura in Spain, the Sud-Est region in Romania and the Thessalia region in Greece<sup>3</sup> are excluded from the European market due to underdeveloped infrastructures. The current situation shows that connections between countries are still not fully developed and converged. Nevertheless, one successful example of the transport policy in Europe is the Oresund bridge between Copenhagen and Malmö, that has led to an increased traffic of 200%<sup>4</sup>, benefiting local and economical development.

The EU faces many challenges in the near future in the field of transport. Europe's infrastructure is at different stages of development between the West and the East. The poor conditions of some roads and railways hinder the possibilities of increasing trade between countries. Furthermore transport depends on fossil fuel for a 96% of its energy needs, a source of energy which is becoming scarcer, is volatile in its prices and it releases a huge amount of carbon emissions which contravenes with the objective of reducing climate change to 2°C (Ibid.). Focusing on new means of energy for transport whilst looking forward for economic growth through a connected European Transport is one of the main current challenges. However, congestion is also a big problem both in roads and skies that cannot be forgotten. Passenger and freight traffic is constantly increasing, restraining the objective of a quicker and efficient transport system. Economic and environmental interests often stand in opposition making it difficult to take efficient decisions towards development.

1 [http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/en/transport\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/en/transport_en.pdf)

2 [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-11-197\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-11-197_en.htm)

3 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/6th\\_report/rci\\_2013\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/6th_report/rci_2013_report_final.pdf)

4 [http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/en/transport\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/flipbook/en/transport_en.pdf)

Is the EU willing to take measures which can affect to immediate economic results in favour of the environment? Does the EU have enough power to ensure these measures take place in big energy and transport companies? Is the EU capable of implementing high economically costly measures to benefit a more sustainable transport?

In the 21st Century the transport system has to be efficient, sustainable and inclusive. Tackling these problems efficiently is vital for Europe's economic growth and it presents a major challenge for the objective of an ever closer union.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

**Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE)** is the department of the European Commission (EC) which is responsible for developing and implementing European policies in the transport field. The DG MOVE presented the White Paper 'Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area' in 2011. The White Paper defines the policy agenda and goals in the field of transport for the next decade and is the strategic vision of the EC for the future of the EU transport system. It includes 40 initiatives aimed at cutting carbon emission by 60% in 2050, increasing mobility, reducing barriers, and fostering employment through Europe.<sup>5</sup>

**Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy:** Transport is one of the eleven theme objectives for the European Regional Policy. Enhancing accessibility is of key importance to strengthening regional economies and achieving cohesion and competitiveness. It is financed through the EU Structural and Cohesion Fund, which are the financial instruments of EU's Regional Policy.<sup>6</sup>

**European Agencies:** There are several European agencies, which are very important for the development of a European transport system. There are executive agencies, which help the EC to manage EU programmes and decentralised agencies which help in technical and scientific tasks as well as in cooperation between national governments and the EU.<sup>7</sup> Some of these are centred specifically in a concrete mode of transport whilst others focus more on innovation and competitiveness. These are:

- The **European Maritime Safety Agency** was founded after the Prestige disaster and provides technical assistance to Member States in maritime safety and in order to reduce pollution from ships.
- The **European Aviation Safety Agency** has the mission to promote high security standards and to protect the environmental impact of airplanes. It is responsible for allowing the use of electronic devices for the whole flight duration and for granting certificates of aviation to new aircrafts.
- The **European Railway Agency** was set up to connect Europe by an integrated railway area and works on areas such as to achieve interoperability and a common framework for railway security.
- The **Innovation & Networks Executive Agency** is the successor of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency. It focuses on the implementation of high-quality infrastructures and a close working between telecommunications, transport, and energy through the Connecting Europe Facility that finances projects that fill missing links and promote green transport.

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5 [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/2011\\_white\\_paper\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/2011_white_paper_en.htm)

6 [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/glossary/structural\\_cohesion\\_fund\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/glossary/structural_cohesion_fund_en.htm)

7 [http://europa.eu/about-eu/agencies/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/agencies/index_en.htm)

**National Governments:** Member States have an important role in implementing transport measures taken by the EU. Transport is a shared competence so each Member State can further adopt legally binding acts in order to promote sustainability and growth. For instance, there are initiatives such as investment into hybrid bus technology in London<sup>8</sup> or plans to close Paris's city centre to traffic to reduce congestion and carbon emissions.<sup>9</sup>

**Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO):** NGOs have an active role in the transport field by influencing national governments and the European Union towards environmentally friendly measures and sustainability. An example is Transport & Environment, an EU-wide NGO, whose mission is to advance transport policy based on sustainable development<sup>10</sup>. Their main aim is to force polluters, not society, pay for pollution.

## CURRENT MEASURES IN PLACE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

The European Union guides its action on transport following the White Paper 2011 for a European Transport System. This document includes 40 concrete initiatives to improve the transport system across Europe in the next decade. The initiatives are divided into four categories: an efficient and integrated mobility system, innovating for the future: technology and behaviour, modern infrastructure and smart funding and finally the external dimension. Some concrete initiatives are the vehicle labelling for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and fuel efficiency, a technology roadmap, passengers' rights and the completion of a single European sky. Furthermore, it also includes the objective of cutting by 60% pollution and energy dependence, having no fuelled cars in cities by 2050, as well as shifting 50% medium distance intercity transport from road to rail and waterborne transport.

In addition, the Draft Horizon 2020 includes a Work Programme for Transport for 2014-2015. The objective of this programme called "Smart, green, integrated transport" is to achieve a resource-efficient, environmentally-friendly and safe European transport system. This objective is addressed under three Call for Proposals which are: Mobility for Growth; Green Vehicles and Small Business and Fast Track Innovation for Transport.

## USEFUL LINKS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

The Transport, Research and Innovation Portal gives an insight of the research done both at a European and national level: <http://www.transport-research.info/web/>

The theme objective of Energy and Transport inside the Regional Policy: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/themes/transport-energy/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/themes/transport-energy/)

Visual and explanatory document of the White Paper adopted by the European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/doc/2011\\_white\\_paper/white-paper-illustrated-brochure\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/strategies/doc/2011_white_paper/white-paper-illustrated-brochure_en.pdf)

Transport 2050: The major challenges, the key measures: [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-11-197\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-11-197_en.htm)

Dynamic maps that show the planned Trans-European Transport Network corridors: <http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/tentec/tentec-portal/main.jsp>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/03/us-eu-transportation-electric-cars-idUSKBN0L71I720150203>

Draft Horizon Work Programme 2014-2015 in the area of Transport: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/work-programmes/smart\\_green\\_and\\_integrated\\_transport\\_draft\\_work\\_programme.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/pdf/work-programmes/smart_green_and_integrated_transport_draft_work_programme.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none)

8 [http://www.clean-fleets.eu/fileadmin/New\\_Bus\\_for\\_London\\_Case\\_Study\\_for\\_Clean\\_Fleets\\_-\\_final.pdf](http://www.clean-fleets.eu/fileadmin/New_Bus_for_London_Case_Study_for_Clean_Fleets_-_final.pdf)

9 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11278215/Paris-mayor-announces-plan-to-limit-cars-in-city-centre.html>

10 <http://www.transportenvironment.org/about-us>

Desertification and degradation of marine and forest ecosystems remain a serious threat to our planet in the European Year of Development 2015, how can the EU improve its aid programmes and regional diplomacy to effectively promote biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources?

BY MEADBH COSTELLO (IE)

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

ReCom Foreign Aid and Environmental Challenges  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QsTbKrckEo>

## INTRODUCTION

2015 is a pivotal year for development. Not only is it the European Year to focus on the European Union's (EU) external action and Europe's role in the world, but 2015 has also been designated the target year for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The urgency of these environmental concerns has prompted a reflection on the relationship between the environment and the economy and the role of environmental sustainability in aid and regional diplomacy in post-2015 development strategies.

Aid programmes and regional diplomacy are important in promoting sustainable development. Together the EU and its Member States remain the world's biggest aid donor; in 2013 they provided more than half of the global official development assistance to developing countries amounting to €56.5 billion<sup>1</sup>. Not only is the EU an important player in Official Development Assistance, it also is a net importer of materials, biomass and energy which places an important responsibility on its external policy to fulfil these environmental objectives, particularly in relation to the EU's dependence on dwindling resources. With regards to the EU's external relations, it is able to use mechanisms such as policy dialogue, international negotiations and environmental protection to advance its objectives in relation to biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Not only is the EU an important actor on global cooperation by supporting the drafting of multilateral agreements on the environment and through its membership to organisations such as the United Nations and G20, environmental concerns have become a priority in the EU's relations with third countries. For example, one of the most important regions for the success of EU's global approach to biodiversity is its cooperation with its neighbours including its accession countries. For example, through the European Neighbourhood Policy the EU promotes common environmental and energy policies with these countries including the sustainable management of resources and the limitation of unsustainable development through the development of administrative structures and the prioritising of sector specific investments. The EU has also entered into strategic partnership with industrialised and developing countries, for example through bilateral agreements with Asian countries the EU has used loans financed by the European Investment Bank to develop these countries environmental management capacity such as the introduction of environmental

<sup>1</sup> <https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/content/about-2015>

institutions and research and development.

## RELEVANT ACTORS

The EU is unique among donors as it operates in a dual capacity in regards to development assistance. In contrast to multilateral organisations that exclusively receive transfers from its members, the EU is a donor in its own right with its own resources and budgetary authority.

Development policy is a shared competence between the EU and its Member States. Therefore bilateral development policies co-exist with community policies managed by the European Commission (EC). However, in recent years Member States have been attempting to develop a common vision and to increase coordination of policies so as to achieve the MDGs and achieve the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness.<sup>2</sup> The Declaration, complemented by the Accra Agenda for Action, is a joint declaration of OECD countries to harmonies and thus increase the effectiveness of foreign aid.

**The European Commission:** The EC provides direct donor support to developing countries and plays a coordinating role with the other institutions and Member States. The EC is the largest provider of Official Development Assistance within the EU and its funded through the EU budget (Community Budget) and the European Development Fund. The EU has specific competencies for fostering debate on development within the EU and promoting coordination, complementarities and coherence between the Member States. Specifically, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development is responsible for designing a European development policy and thematic policies, and delivering aid throughout the world.

**European External Action Service (EEAS):** Created by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the EEAS is the EU's diplomatic service headed by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs. The EEAS is responsible for the implementation, operation and delivery of development aid.

**Developing Countries:** As recipients of aid and valuable trade partners, developing countries are essential partners for ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity, particularly as less developed economies transition to middle income economies. It is important to note that developing countries face different challenges, for example landlocked developing countries may face different challenges to small island developing countries.

**Member States:** Member States contribute to the EU's aid efforts through direct monetary contributions to the European Development Fund. On a regional level, the European Development focuses on supporting regional economic integration, peace and security and natural resources. Member States are also capable of entering into their own bilateral agreements and implementing their own initiatives with developing countries that are independent of the European Development Fund and other EU financing.

**European Investment Bank (EIB):** The EIB borrows money on the capital markets and lends it at low interest rates to projects that improve infrastructure, energy supply or environmental standards both inside the EU and in developing countries. The EIB's actions in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific states are governed by the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. Similarly, relations with the Mediterranean region are governed by the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership.

2 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/34428351.pdf>

**Policy Coherence for Development:** Through policy coherence for development, the EU seeks to take account of development objectives in all of its policies that are likely to affect developing countries. It aims at minimising contradictions and building synergies between different EU policies to benefit developing countries and increases the effectiveness of development cooperation.

**European Consensus on Development (EDC) 2005:** The EU's common vision to development cooperation was formalised by the EDC agreed in 2005 by the EU Heads of States and governments, the European Parliament and the Commission. Under the EDC, Member States and the Commission are committed to poverty reduction and the pursuit of the MDGs as the primary objective of EU development cooperation, and to act under the principle of complementarity. The consensus also clarified the Commission's role in ensuring policy coherence, promoting development best practices, facilitating coordination and harmonisation, promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance.

**Cotonou 2000-2020 African, Caribbean and Pacific-EU Partnership Agreement:** Cotonou establishes the principle of mainstreaming environmental sustainability into all areas of cooperation between the country groups.

**The EU Green Diplomacy Network (GDN):** The EU GDN is a flexible, informal and innovative tool that works towards a better integration of the EU environmental policies into external relations practices. The GDN uses the EU Member State and Commission's extensive diplomatic networks to provide an effective means of gathering and exchanging information.

**EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020:** In May 2011, the EC adopted a new strategy that lays down the framework for EU action for the following ten years with the aim of meeting the EU 2020 headline target; halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. Under this initiative, the EU will take measures that may include demand/supply measures to reduce the biodiversity impacts of EU consumption patterns, particularly for resources. The EC will also enhance the role of biodiversity in trade policy and trade talks with external parties. The EC will also work with Member States and key stakeholders to eliminate harmful subsidies and provide positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.<sup>3</sup>

**UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020:** The CBD Strategic Plan outlines 20 headline targets (Aichi Targets), organised under five strategic goals that are meant to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressure on biodiversity, safeguard biodiversity at all levels, enhance the benefits of biodiversity, and provide capacity building. The parties agreed to at least halve the rate of loss of natural habitats, restore at least 15% of degraded areas, and make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs. Parties also agreed to substantially increase the level of financial resources to support the CBD.

**The EU Biodiversity for Life (B4Life):** B4Life is a flagship initiative for 2014-2020 designed to help the poorest countries protect ecosystems, combat wildlife crime and develop green economies. B4Life focuses on three priority areas: promoting good governance of natural resources, securing healthy ecosystems for food security, and developing nature-based solutions towards a green economy.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-593\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-593_en.htm)

The EU Strategy in the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources: This strategy creates a framework for action aiming to reduce the burden on the environment from the production and consumption of natural resources without penalising economic development.

## **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

Through aid initiatives and regional diplomacy the EU has become an important political and economic partner to countries and regions across the world and it must now consider how best to help foster a sustainable economic development in these partner countries. In regards to aid, the EU must consider how best to introduce to ensure the protection of biodiversity and natural resources in a context of transitioning economies. In regards to regional diplomacy, the EU must consider how best to integrate the protection of biodiversity and the protection of natural resources into a wide variety of policies. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development provide two upcoming opportunities for the EU to have input in the post-2015 global agenda for sustainable development.

Commission Communication: A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/com-2015-44-final-5-2-2015\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/com-2015-44-final-5-2-2015_en.pdf)

European Commission Press Release “New EU initiative to protect biodiversity and fight animal wildlife crime” [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-14-593\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-593_en.htm)

EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (In particular the Introduction and Target Six) [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/factsheets/biodiversity\\_2020/2020%20Biodiversity%20Factsheet\\_EN.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/pubs/pdf/factsheets/biodiversity_2020/2020%20Biodiversity%20Factsheet_EN.pdf)

European Commission Website: Biodiversity and Global Biodiversity: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/international/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/international/index_en.htm)

Europa “The European Year for Development: Everyone’s Year” <https://europa.eu/eyd2015/en/content/about-2015>

Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations “EU and FAO step up action against desertification in Africa” <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/261498/icode/>

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