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EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES
ITALIA ITALY

RESOLUTION BOOKLET

E.Y.P. ITALY



II G. A. DAY

LIVRET DES RÉSOLUTIONS





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The General Assembly is chaired by the members of the Presidential Board:
L'Assemblée Générale est animée par les membres du Bureau de Présidence:

Joshua Giovanni HONEYCUTT
President of the 2nd General Assembly Day
Président de la II^e Journée d'Assemblée Générale

Tiziano MILAN
Vice-president
Vice-président

Mariasole MASCHIO
Vice-president
Vice-présidente





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PROGRAMME

28th of February:

9:00-10:00 Opening ceremony

10:00-10:45 Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

10:45-11:30 Committee on Civil Liberties and Home Affairs (LIBE)

11:30-12:10 Coffee - break

12:10-12:55 Committee on Industry, Research and Energy I (ITRE I)

12:55-13:40 Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)

13:40-14:40 Lunch

14:40-15:25 Committee on Industry, Research and Energy II (ITRE II)

15:25-16:10 Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

16:10-16:40 Coffee - break

16:40-17:40 Closing ceremony and prize-giving





PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General rules

The wish to speak is indicated by raising the committee placard

The authority of the board is absolute

Procedure and time settings

Presenting of the motion for the resolution (operative clauses, friendly amendments)

3 minutes to defend the motion for the resolution

3 minutes to attack the motion for the resolution

1 minute to respond to the attack speech

Points of information

General debate:

1 minute per question

2 minutes to answer the round of debate 7 questions

3 minutes to sum-up the debate

Voting procedure

Announcing the votes

Friendly amendment

Last minute modifications of a resolution in order to improve it. Amendments are to be handed in on a specific form (distributed to the chairs) two resolutions before the resolution in question.

Point of information

Request for a brief explanation of the meaning of specific words and abbreviations.

Note that translations are not points of information.

Point of personal privilege

Request for a delegate to repeat a point that was inaudible.





Point of order

A delegate feels that the board has not properly followed parliamentary procedure.

The placard is used by chairpersons after a request from a delegate.

Direct response

Once per debate, each committee may use the Direct Response sign. Should a committee member raise the Committee Placard and the “Direct Response” sign, the board recognises them immediately.

The direct response sign is used to contribute to the point made directly beforehand.





MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

With The latest PISA scores paint an interesting picture. While confirming that Europe has beacons of excellence, such as Finland, and rewarding the policies which promote inclusive education, they still point to the wide gaps that exist between the best performing education systems within Europe and the best performing schools within single countries. Taking into account the numerous limitations of standardized testing, how should the European Union act with regards to harmonizing its educational systems and the possibility of adopting a common framework?

Submitted by: Alina Andries, Veronica Baldi, Elena Baldo, Chiara Buzzi, Alice Leone, Manuel Madia, Anna Martin, Tommaso Piccolo, Alice Romano, Giulia Soccio, Davide Zuliani (Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Affirming that meritocracy stems from the sum of values that lead to excellence without distinction of any kind, such as race, gender, sexual orientation, nationality or social class,
- B. Considering it necessary to lavish the gap among the Member States in terms of school education harmonizing the architecture of their educational systems and improving its quality,
- C. Contemplating the multitude of differences between MS in terms of economy, culture and educational system,
- D. Believing in the fact that it is important that a student should have much more time to choose his/her scholastic future, in particular in which school subjects he/she wants to specialize,
- E. Sharing the educational system proposed by France and Spain where there is a unification of the secondary school levels,
- F. Reflecting on the school time-table of Finland, the first member state in the rank of OECD-PISA (*Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development – Programme for International Student Assessment*) 2012,
- G. Evaluating the relevance of fostering critical, individual and independent thinking at school and thus outside the educational environment with a view to question, oppose and curtail the mass-society trivialization and the counter-productive consequences thus deriving from this,
- H. Knowing the importance of English as a communicative language, fundamental in a European contest,
- I. Considering the role fulfilled by the project “CLIL (*Content and Language Integrated Learning*) for Europe”





in the MS since it:

- i. consists of non-frontal lessons thereby focusing on and fostering all competences and cognitive skills,
 - ii. promotes a greater mastery of English, essential for the interaction among people at a European level,
- J. Taking into account:
- i. the provisions of some MS, as the Italian protocol 5922 of the *Ministry for the Instruction, the University and the Research* (MIUR), about the issue of heavy schoolbags and related physical problems,
 - ii. the *Editouch* project, in way of support of less advanced schools of the EU to earn innovative ones in working with ICT (*Information and Communication Technology*) means and consequent organization,
- K. Appreciating the model of relationship between students and teachers related to North European countries like Finland and Sweden, to create an advantageous school framework apt to facilitate good learning,
- L. Examining:
- i. the importance of the role covered in the school by people like pedagogues and psychologists,
 - ii. a Eurydice research made in 2007 which shows the attendance of teachers who help students with their learning;
1. Encourages the creation of a European educational system in which there is more meritocracy, through the exemption or the reduction of scholastic taxes, based on the scholastic income of all students;
 2. Establishes for the MS competences and knowledge purposes about school programmes equal for each school, so that the itinerary to reach these purposes can be even adapted to the micro cosmos and the needs of each school;
 3. Promotes an educational path in which competences and knowledge follow a parallel development, so that students will be able to apply their knowledge using their competences to work out a solution for each situation;
 4. Requires MS to reorganize the scholastic system in:
 - a) five years of elementary school,
 - b) five years of first-degree secondary school, with the same programmes for all institutes,
 - c) three years of specialized school, chosen by the students on the basis of their own skills and awareness acquired during their school career;
 5. Proposes extracurricular courses to:
 - a) allow students to increase possible fields of interest,
 - b) address students to a responsible choice for their future;





6. Pulls the MS for reshaping the school time-table in order to have fifty minutes of lesson and a break of ten minutes for each school hour to improve students' attention span during their didactic activity;
7. Considers it necessary to carry out interactive lessons aimed at the development of the student in the area of the competences and skills indispensable to live and work consciously in modern society;
8. Invites the MS to increase CLIL activity in all first-degree secondary schools, so that students can develop team-work skills using a language different from their mother tongue;
9. Proposes the MS to introduce and spread tablets in all schools in order to reduce weight and costs of schoolbooks, supporting in particular:
 - a) the extension, during the passage from paper to interactive means, of books loan to all schools and education levels,
 - b) the extension of loan to tablets, adding the possibility of a low cost ransom for interested families;
10. Considers necessary the insertion of refresher courses for teachers so that they will be able to aid and support students in solving their learning problems;
11. Encourages the MS in student-teacher meeting, considering it necessary to make students aware of their own school aptitude and potentiality for an efficient scholastic yield;
12. Urges EU governments to introduce the professional figure of pedagogues and psychologists in schools to help the students:
 - a) in their relationship with teachers, classmates and schoolmates,
 - b) in their future choices about school and occupation.





MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HOME AFFAIRS

Josè Manel Barroso, head of the European Commission, told reporters while touring Lampedusa, where the overturning of a fishing boat off the island caused 300 deaths. The events of the Arab Spring have produced a growth in the migratory flows to the Mediterranean coasts and an aggravation of the immigration crisis. Taking into account Europe's confusing mosaic of laws, how should a common asylum and immigration policy be shaped and implemented?

Submitted by: Bobbera Emanuele, Castenetto Arianna, Marchesan Davide, Mauro Gregory, Prelli Massimiliano, Sfriso Stefano, Sioni Francesco, Tosone Daniel, Greta Bressan (Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Fully agreeing with the thought-provoking words used by J.M. Barroso, Head of the European Commission, when he referred to the capsizing of a fishing vessel off Lampedusa which caused the tragic deaths of 300 illegal immigrants, “The European Union cannot accept that thousands of people die at its borders”,
- B. Sadly aware that the protests and civil wars as a result of the Arab Spring have produced tremendous increase in migratory flows to the developed countries of the Mediterranean region and this has added greatly to an immigration crisis,
- C. Notwithstanding the fact that the peoples of Europe, whether natives or immigrants, are becoming more and more mobile and globalised, and the whole international community in spite of the cultural, religious and linguistic diversity should be perceived as one,
- D. Referring to article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which states that “Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution” due to political reasons,
- E. Quoting article 22 of UDHR “Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to Social Security through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his/her dignity and the free development of his/her personality”,
- F. Acknowledging the increasing fear of the richer European countries of being invaded by immigrants:
 - i. fear of losing one’s national identity,
 - ii. fear of losing jobs in a period of economic crisis ,





- iii. fear of unsustainable social, medical, educational services,
 - iv. fear of potential terrorist attacks by foreigners,
- G. Bearing in mind article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of Europe (CFRE), which declares “Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited”,
- H. Noting that Immigrants are distributed unevenly in Europe, oscillating from 44% in Luxembourg to 2% in Hungary,
- I. Realizing that the face of Europe is rapidly changing due to the increased mobility of all its citizens and recognizing that there is an ambivalent attitude towards immigrants in most European countries (France, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom, Italy) in view of the current economic crisis;
1. Appeals to the youth, parents, teachers, workers and the elderly to share the same indignation, so that action is taken to ensure that this never happens again;
 2. Asks both national and EU policymakers to rethink and improve a common policy on immigration and asylum pursuing the following criteria:
 - a) establishing strong partnerships with the North African States of Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya,
 - b) offering to Southern Mediterranean countries real and credible incentives and support for labour migration, visa facilitation and migrants’ rights,
 - c) promoting a constructive dialogue with third countries in view of a Euro-Mediterranean zone able to compete with the booming economies of Asia and South America (Brazil & Mexico) for labour, skills and talent;
 3. Invites all European Governments to deal with the problem of immigration on a strategic, integrated, long-term planning basis, and not as an emergency-driven action, collectively recognizing:
 - a) the leading role of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in the open dialogue for Migration, Mobility and Security with countries outside Europe,
 - b) EU international agreements such as the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) as the framework for cooperation and satisfactory relations with developing countries,
 - c) a “Roadmap to Mobility”, listing the steps and the division of responsibilities between the EEAS, the Member States and the North African countries,
 - d) the crucial role of EU Embassies abroad to assist developing countries in their effort to improve the political, economic and educational conditions for a peaceful and happy future for all,
 - e) the need to better serve a more mixed population (both native born or immigrant) adopting sound





policies of Education, Health, Employment and Social support;

4. Calls Member States to do their best to protect the lives of the political refugees:
 - a) to check if asylum seekers are really persecuted for their religious, political beliefs,
 - b) to spot fraudulent applicants such as potential terrorists or serious criminals,
 - c) to employ refugees in the same reception centres to help as interpreters and facilitators or trainers for vocational jobs,
 - d) to develop literacy programs in refugee camps in the language of their host nation to secure future jobs,
 - e) alternatively, to provide literacy programs in the refugees' native language to promote the reintegration of refugees back into their home country,
 - f) to monitor the yearly number of refugees (335,000 in 2013) and to accept as many as a nation can welcome;

5. Deplores the phenomenon of human traffickers and urges all police and security forces and governments:
 - a) to fight against illegal immigration with a “zero tolerance” for human trafficking,
 - b) to introduce more severe legislation with heavy fines and long prison sentences for such criminals,
 - c) to safely repatriate migrants whose documents are not valid,
 - d) to increase border surveillance and combined border management,
 - e) to share resources and intelligence among states to guarantee national security and individual protection;

6. Urgently requests that all Member States take the following actions:
 - a) regular meetings with Ministers for Home Affairs to find a more balanced and satisfactory Immigration Policy (taking inspiration from Australia),
 - b) language courses for immigrants to integrate them in the host country,
 - c) relocation and integration of new immigrants where their working expertise is needed,
 - d) cultural events to inform public opinion on the positive value of immigrants who contribute to the well-being and economy of the host country,
 - e) a fair and reasonable policy of immigration to control the influx of immigrants for the benefit of all,
 - f) more effective screening by National Intelligence Services and the sharing of these activities with a centralized database to stop potential terrorists;

7. Strongly reaffirms the principle of non-discrimination among Member States fostering the following guidelines for a more harmonious and sustainable Immigration Policy:
 - a) an easy-to-use website with clear rules on how to migrate over agreed by all Member States,
 - b) a point-based system, based on criteria such as age, language proficiency, education level, skill level, to check if one is eligible to migrate,





- c) region-based migration, according to which the migrant is expected to move to where required and successfully integrate into the local community,
 - d) a quota system, by which each country accepts a fixed number of skilled immigrants each year, to be able to guarantee a life of work and dignity,
 - e) ID documents containing biological information (fingerprints, DNA) released to all new entries to prevent the wide-spread phenomenon of illegal immigration;
8. Proposes the setting up of a European Institute for Immigrants' Distribution with a Director appointed by the EU Parliament on a 5-year-term with the following responsibilities:
- a) to deal with all Immigration matters, Political refugees as well as Economic immigrants, relieving single governments from the stress of ineffective immigration management,
 - b) to coordinate the demand for and offer of work in a more professional way, with translation services, a computer data base and access to better intelligence,
 - c) to employ more human resources willing to relocate in the territory of Europe avoiding the phenomena of over and underpopulation and guaranteeing equal opportunities, prosperity and integration to all newcomers,
 - d) to hold monthly meetings of this Committee with all Heads of States to inform about outcomes,
 - e) to raise adequate fundings from all Member States to tackle this crucial issue with a sense of urgency;
9. Addresses all political institutions, social movements, humanitarian associations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations to share in the belief that all Europe's residents have freely chosen Europe as their homeland, regardless of their birthplace, to fulfill their expectations and to live together as one, which means:
- a) to consider Immigrants as citizens who want to integrate in the host country mastering the language and participating in the democratic lifestyle,
 - b) to compliment their cultural, social and political contribution to community life,
 - c) to appreciate the immigrants' added value to the workforce of the host country,
 - d) to regard Immigrants as individuals who want to live peacefully in the local community respecting the same fundamental rights and duties (justice, solidarity, equality, dignity, freedom, citizenship),
 - e) to look for mutual understanding and patient resolution of interpersonal and social conflicts,
 - f) to think of THEM and US as WE, all immigrants once upon a time, all "Peoples of Europe", all working for peace, harmony and prosperity.



MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY I

Shale gas has risen from 1.4% of the US gas market in 2000 to some 30% in 2013. The ‘shale gas revolution’ is spreading worldwide at a rapid pace, reshaping global gas prices and trade patterns, and it has been greeted by some as the answer the energy dependence crisis. Shale gas burning emits 50% less CO₂ than petrol and is a much more economical choice, but there are drawbacks: its extracting releases methane, it can pollute water reservoirs and has proven to cause earth tremors. How should the European Union act towards its own shale gas basins, maintaining a balance between sustainable energy initiatives and public health?

Submitted by: Airinei Isabella, Donà Francesca, Faggian Edoardo, Martorelli Edoardo, Micaglio Francesco, Mioni Enrico, Piccione Enrico, Camilla Contorni (Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into consideration that this new source of energy is rapidly spreading in the USA from 1.4% in 2000 to some 30% in 2013,
- B. Aware of the growing interest in the use of these gases shown by some Member States of the European Union such as Poland, Romania, Austria, the United Kingdom,
- C. Aware of the fact that Member States such as Bulgaria, France, Holland, the Czech Republic and Luxembourg have implemented various measures against the extraction of shale gas and the method of fracking, particularly:
 - i. law n° 3690 of 13th July 2011 passed by the French Parliament which prohibits soil fracturing,
 - ii. the law proposal in Germany in 2012 by Angela Merkel that prevents the implementation of the practice of fracking in water rich areas,
- D. Concerned the financial support to this practice, and subsequent utilization, by the European "research and development" sector,
- E. Understanding the negative effects of extraction and exploitation of shale gas, in accordance with the report drawn up by the EEA, such as:
 - i. the use of chemical substances which have been proved to be harmful to the environment and to humans,
 - ii. the irreversible pollution of aquifers,



- iii. the release of particular substances such as the "salt brine" that helps the formation of bacteria which in turn cause an irreparable and gradual desertification of the territory,
 - iv. the great impact of extraction on the greenhouse effect,
 - v. the radioactive trend of soil,
 - vi. the possibility of radon issue, a highly carcinogenic substance,
- F. In accordance with the report released on 11th February 2013 by the EEA, which shows that the European territory is not suitable for the practice of fracking because of:
- i. the high presence of water bodies in Northern Europe,
 - ii. the high number of areas subject to frequent seismic activity,
 - iii. the many landscaped and wooded areas protected by EU national and international organs,
 - iv. the wealth of archaeological and artistic treasures of inestimable value,
- G. Noting that the economic interest of the United States of America has stimulated the extraction of shale gas as a result of the exponential growth of the price of oil in order to stop this increase, and this being the only point in favor of the production of these gases:
- i. denotes that the extraction becomes uneconomic when the price of oil falls below \$ 70 / barrel, as shown in the JRC report,
- H. Believing that shale gas reserves will last for another twenty-nine years, in accordance with the International Energy Agency tables updated to 2013,
- I. Taking into consideration that the shale gas production, according to the report drawn up by Price Waterhouse Coopers in 2011, the shale gas production by 2035 could reach 12% of the world production of electricity and lower the price of oil below the minimum threshold:
- i. since the prolonged use of shale gas would adversely affect the renewable energy market,
- J. Taking into consideration an in-depth research, that it request an adequate financing, about the environmental impact caused by the use of new energy sources in the European soil;
1. Invites Member States to carefully assess on the basis of specific prior knowledge the consequences of shale gas extraction in relation to the morphological structure of the territory and the population density;
 2. Asks the states that have already implemented measures against shale gas and fracking to publicise the reasons for their choices in this way:
 - a) through the publication of official documents,
 - b) integrating them with relevant scientific research,
 - c) making this information available also in non-European countries;
 3. Calls the European Commission to decentralise the funding allocated to gas extraction redirecting them to the search for new methods of extraction that have less environmental impact;
 4. Urges Member States to suspend the mining and processing of shale gas, considering their great impact on the environment, such as:
 - a) the use of chemicals harmful to humans
 - b) the pollution of aquifers,
 - c) the possible start of irreversible processes of desertification,
 - d) radioactive contamination,





- e) contamination by radon;
5. Urges Member States to suspend the mining and processing of shale gas taking into account the serious effects which could lead to damaging:
 - a) aquifers, subject to possible contamination of nitrogen and methane,
 - b) the territory, with the possible increase in seismic activity,
 - c) many wooded areas protected by national and international institutions,
 - d) the archaeological sites of inestimable value;
 6. Invites Member states to become aware that the production of shale gas is uneconomic when the price of oil falls below the minimum threshold;
 7. Taking into consideration that it is inappropriate to focus only on shale gas because its autonomy is limited in time;
 8. Invites Member States to invest more on the renewable energy market and to become aware that the European Union is not suitable to apply the practice of fracking in his own land.





MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Proposals for solutions to face the increase in the number of Members of European Parliament (MEPs) belonging to Eurosceptic parties due to a lack of representation within the European institutions. The “democratic deficit” can be curbed by introducing a direct election of the President of the European Commission.

Submitted by: Vittoria Battocletti, Chiara Canciani, Margherita Criveller, Giuseppe Lavanga, Hyun Joon Lee, Caterina Marcatti, Mattia Pozzebon, Filippo Schininà, Arianna Magli (Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Noting with concern the general feeling of distrust towards the actions of the EU:
 - i. according to the weekly news magazine ‘The Economist’, 25% of the MEPs in the next elections will come from Eurosceptic parties such as the ‘Northern League’, the ‘Five Star Movement’, the ‘National Front’, the ‘UK Independence Party’,
- B. Observing the growing support of citizens who want to reclaim the sovereignty of Member States:
 - i. obstruction of the sovereignty transfer to European institutions by Eurosceptic parties,
 - ii. Eurosceptic feelings first arose when the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community (EEC), was signed,
- C. Having studied that, according to Article 17² of the Treaties of the European Union (TEU), the European Commission is the only institution that has the power to propose a new law, unless the treaties say otherwise,
- D. Considering the Treaty of Lisbon, that fostered a wider participation in the decision-making process,
- E. Bearing in mind the outbreak of the financial crisis in 2008,
- F. Having examined a 2% decrease in the number of votes at the elections to the European Union in 2009 compared to the previous elections,
- G. Further noting the growing interest in establishing a direct election of the President of the European Commission shown by most European populations and from important public figures such as Wolfgang Schäuble, Martin Schulz and Giorgio Rossetti,
- H. Disturbed by the reduction of public expenditure and thus the introduction of an austerity policy,
- I. Alarmed by the 10% decrease in the faith in European institutions (“La Repubblica”);





1. Calls upon the European Parliament (EP) to consider the proposal by Martin Schulz, the current President of the EP, to have a direct election of the President of the European Commission, which can be done by carrying out a procedure to revise the treaties in accordance with Article 48 of the Treaties of the European Union:
 - a) it is hoped that the EP will be entrusted with a pool of experts from the Member States to study and identify an electoral system that can guarantee political stability as well as protect minorities;
2. Recommends the establishment of a forum:
 - a) whose representatives come from the parliaments of every single Member States,
 - b) whose function is to create an exchange network of information and proposals between the EP and the European Council;
3. Considers it necessary to modify the composition of the European Council:
 - a) by dividing it into three sections according to the size of the Member States, also in order to safeguard the smaller countries, as suggested by Philippe C. Schmitter in his book “How to Democratize the European Union.. and why Bother?”;
4. Further recommends the substitution of the President of the Council of the European Union as proposed by P. C. Schmitter in “How to Democratize the European Union.. and why Bother?” in order to protect the minorities:
 - a) introduction of three representatives who each come from the constituencies stated above,
 - b) extension of the term from six to twelve months;
5. Expresses its hope that treaties incorporating a plurality of thoughts on collective and moral subjects, such as same-sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia, in line with what has been established by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union will be signed in the near future;
6. Invites the EU to find solutions to the economic crisis via a banking union as an answer to the functioning of the real economy:
 - a) promoting economic solidarity in the form of a fiscal union and an appeal to a specific European public fund,
 - b) developing further investments also through loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB);
7. Endorses the execution of the redistribution of wealth throughout the Member States by applying the principle of economic solidarity;
8. Calls for an appointment of the President of the European Central Bank (ECB) with the validation of the





European Parliament (EP), by modifying the treaties according to Article 48 of the TEU, in order that the citizens' economic efforts would not be seen as an imposition by an external body;

9. Draws attention to the necessity of adopting an obligatory official language also to stimulate the development of a feeling of European identity;
10. Encourages more information and awareness campaigns by the media about the role and the advantages of the EU through, for example, a common television network in English;
11. Urges a strengthening of intercultural exchanges between Member States by means of educational and working projects;
12. Expresses its hope of strengthening the protection of minorities not just at a national level, but also at a local level by preserving cultural, linguistic, ethnic and religious differences.





MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY II

"If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

(Albert Einstein)

On April the 2nd 2013, President Obama announced a broad new research initiative, known as BRAIN, to map and understand the human brain, asking the Congress a \$100 million financing in 2014. The programme has raised substantial criticism, for, unlike the Genome Project, not having clear objectives and well-defined criteria for success. Taking a cue from this example, how should the European Union consider ground-breaking and risky research and how should it balance the distribution of funds for competitive and non-competitive research areas?

Submitted by: Caterina Benevoli, Maria Cossi, Costanza Gulli, Gaia Lisi, Camilla Marcucci, Chiara Massarotto, Anna Sardo, Emma Scandolo, Emanuele Ballarin (Chairperson), Giorgia Tenani (Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Having examined the political, social and economic situations as well as the legislations and the research area of the European Union (EU),
- B. Aware that the aim of Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative is:
 - i. developing ways of helping people suffering from neurological and psychiatric disorders through analyses of the brain functions both in health and disease conditions
 - ii. reducing language barriers through technological advances on how computers interface with human thought,
- C. Stressing on Obama's decision to direct his Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues to explore the ethical, legal and societal implications raised by the BRAIN Initiative and other research regarding neuroscience,





- D. Conscious that the Human Genome Project (HGP) was an international research effort to sequence and map all of the genes, together known as the genome, of members of *Homo sapiens*,
- E. Keeping in mind, that “Community action shall be directed towards improving public health, preventing human illness and diseases, and obviating sources of danger to human health” (Article 152 of the Treaty of Nice),
- F. Concerned that the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is appealing to the National Institute of Health (NIH) to change the leadership committee of the BRAIN Initiative, which is dominated by animal experimenters, and include scientists who are engaging in the human-based research,
- G. Considering the Article 163 of the Treaty of Nice, which refers to:
- i. the strengthening of the scientific and technological bases of the Member States in order to fulfil a European level of research
 - ii. the development of the competitiveness, the industry and the promotion of research activities,
- H. Further noting that the Treaty of Nice also refers to the encouragement of the technological development of high quality, and of the cooperation between research centres of different countries,
- I. Taking into account that the European Research Area (ERA) affirms that open national-level competition is essential for obtaining maximum value from public money invested in research and also promotes:
- i. an internationally-competitive level of performance
 - ii. institutional funding decisions based on the quality of research organisations and their outputs,
- J. Further considering that the European Research Council (ERC) was created to balance the distribution of funds and to encourage high-risk and high-reward research,
- K. Noting with satisfaction that the European Union is planning to create a programme called Horizon 2020 -effective from 2014 to 2020- which aims at investing in development through a European collaboration of different agencies,
- L. Deeply conscious that some research facilities are complex and expensive, requiring international cooperation for their construction and functioning, while others are naturally global in scope as they respond to global challenges and/or require the combined skills and efforts of the world's best scientists,
- M. Bearing in mind that until 2013 research in EU was mainly regulated and funded by three separated programmes:
- i. 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)
 - ii. the innovation-related part of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)
 - iii. the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT),
- N. Noting that the EU is planning to invest 3% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in research and development as declared in the Horizon 2020 strategy,
- O. Deeply alarmed by the fact that the European Union has increased the amount of money addressed to research by 50% between 1995 and 2008, contrary to other extra-European countries where the total research investment has risen by a really higher percentage, with a maximum of 855% in China,





- P. Noting with concern that from 1995 to 2008 the percentage of expenditure addressed to research and development decreased of 5%;
1. Invites the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to blend ERA and ERC in a single body called European Body for Research (EBR) in order to:
 - a) put aside the amount of money received by the European commission so that it could be addressed to financing other research,
 - b) speed the approval of research and its funding,
 - c) simplify the cooperation between scientists and research areas;
 2. Calls to put into operation a commission of researchers and experts in economy of a European level working for EBR that, like the Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, examines the possible consequences of ground-breaking and risky research such as the BRAIN Initiative;
 3. Resolves that the scientists who take part in this commission have to be appointed through competitive exams so that they are chosen according to merit, thus favoring competitiveness;
 4. Ratifies awards, consisting of financing the purchase of new equipment, to the best European researchers chosen by EBR every four years;
 5. Declares that research approved by EBR should bring:
 - a) technological and scientific innovation,
 - b) economical profit through the promotion of research as a means to create sellable products,
 - c) tangible results useful for the whole society;
 6. Establishes that EBR should verify the skills of the team of scientists working on the project before approving it;
 7. Draws attention to the independence of EBR from any political party or private company;
 8. Asserts that clearness of goals is necessary to guarantee a successful research;
 9. Encourages the institution of a European research fund in which the Member States should pay in an amount of money calculated on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
 10. Considers it necessary that the source of the allocations of funds must be well-defined for the entire duration





of the research;

11. Proclaims that “Nature.com” will be the official channel to publish information concerning all research in progress and/or in programme, specifying the purpose and the achieved outcomes of each study, in order to avoid misunderstanding and disinformation among research areas;
12. Further invites each Member State to continue the investment in research and to promote the competitiveness between different research areas in order to increase the level of innovation and technological development in the European Union;
13. Calls upon research areas to verify clearness of goals and intentions regarding research in progress and/or in programme;
14. Establishes that EBR should modify the duration of research and possibly interrupt it in case the results are not the expected ones;
15. Further endorses the development of competitiveness among different research areas in order to:
 - a) promote the innovation of research,
 - b) achieve high levels;
16. Affirms that competitiveness should not influence the relationships among national and international research areas nor limit their communication;
17. Considers it necessary not to develop research that might:
 - a) compromise human health,
 - b) pollute the environment,
 - c) ill-treat animals;
18. Recommends the governments of the members of the Council of Europe to implement this resolution.





MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Between legalisation, decriminalisation and prohibition: Despite Marijuana's UN classification as a narcotic drug, the control measures adopted by EU Member States vary greatly. How should the EU position itself in the debate over citizens' protection versus the infringement of personal rights?

Submitted by: Arianna Simonut, Francesca Lacava, Vittorio Facchin, Alberto Truccolo, Samuele Segato, Sebastiano Vianello, Micol Vadori, Biancamaria Sersante, Laura Riccio Cobucci, Gianfranco Antonio Pittini (Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Believing that cannabis consumption is not more dangerous than that of alcohol or cigarettes and that, in any case, the use of substances which alter the state of awareness of individuals should be condemned,
- B. Considering that the use of drugs and alcohol is responsible for a large number of car accidents and a high number of casualties, especially among young people,
- C. Acknowledging that the link between cannabis consumption and neurological diseases, like Alzheimer and dementia, is controversial and not wholly accepted by the medical community yet,
- D. Bearing in mind that the present situation is slowing down medical studies on the therapeutic treatment of a variety of diseases and that legalizing cannabis could enhance research on illnesses like cancer, glaucoma and depression,
- E. Recognising that cultivation of cannabis for personal use remains uncontrolled,
- F. Noting that a large number of people are unaware of the risks but also of the possible positive applications of drugs,
- G. Deeply concerned by the fact that criminals involved in its commerce can easily alter its quality in favour of profits and regardless of the health of its consumers,
- H. Taking into consideration the recent experience of Colorado, where cannabis has been legalized and made available to industries,





- I. Aware of the problems caused by partial legalization of cannabis only in some of the Member States,
 1. Urges The European Parliament to create specific funds for medical research thus helping the scientific community to come to sure and unambiguous answers on the possible damages of a non-therapeutic use of cannabis;
 2. Invites Member States to provide campaigns regarding the physical and psychological collateral effects of cannabis, with a comparison between these effects and those of alcohol and cigarettes;
 3. Invites Member States to create a net of researchers, and provide them with adequate funds, to investigate on the positive effects of cannabis on specific diseases;
 4. Asks Member States to find a common behaviour towards the cultivation of cannabis for personal use;
 5. Invites Member States to organise awareness campaigns on the use and effects of drugs, also against prejudices, to favour a correct knowledge of its medical uses as well;
 6. Proposes the introduction of a common law shared by all Member States, providing higher penalties for drug dealers, with specific aggravations according to the damages caused to consumers' health by the goods sold;
 7. Asks the Member States to investigate the potential of cannabis for industrial use, allowing its cultivation for the production of plastic, paper and bio-fuel;
 8. Invites Member States to find a common agreement on the legal sale of cannabis under determined conditions, thus avoiding the problems of drug tourism towards those countries where the sale of cannabis is presently allowed or tolerated.

