



## **RESOLUTION BOOKLET**

Vantaa 2021 - 27th National Session of EYP Finland



### **Table of Contents**

Programme of the General Assembly	2
Procedure of the General Assembly	3
General Assembly Placards	5
Times and Procedures	7
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)	8
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)	10
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)	13
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protecti II (IMCO II)	ion <b>17</b>
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment. Public Health and Food Saf (ENVI)	ety <b>21</b>
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affa (LIBE)	airs <b>25</b>
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO I)	ا <b>29</b>
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development (DEVE)	32
Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)	36



### **Programme of the General Assembly**

09:30	Introduction to the General Assembly
10:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)
10:45	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)
11:30	Lunch Break
12:30	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
	(EMPL)
13:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer
	Protection II (IMCO II)
14:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment. Public Health
	and Food Safety (ENVI)
14:45	Break
15:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and
	Home Affairs (LIBE)
16:00	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer
	Protection I (IMCO I)
16:45	Dinner Break
17:30	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Development (DEVE)
18:15	Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy
	(ITRE)

All times in the programme follow Eastern European Summer Time (EEST).



### **Procedure of the General Assembly**

#### **General rules**

- Committees have the ability to use their Discord text and voice channels for communication during the General Assembly.
- All delegates are encouraged to vote and refrain from abstaining unless faced with a genuine moral conflict.
- In order to pass, the Resolution needs to collect an **absolute majority**, i.e., **50%+1 of the votes**.
- Only the Chairperson may raise the different committee placards (explained below) by selecting the appropriate reaction on Zoom.
- The authority of the Board is absolute.

### **Opening of the GA**

#### **1.** Reading of the topic by the Board (1 minute)

During this stage, the Board announces the Committee of which the topic will be discussed and then proceeds to read the topic title.

#### 2. Silent reading of the Resolution (2 minutes)

All members of the General Assembly (GA) read the operative clauses for themselves.

### **Speeches**

#### **a. Defence Speech by the Proposing Committee** (3 minutes)

During this time, one member of the proposing committee will deliver a speech presenting the resolution to the General Assembly, during which the rationale, approach and contents of the resolution are explained in an effort to convince the General Assembly as to why the solutions proposed are both feasible and necessary. As a result, the speech should focus primarily on explaining the reasoning and the context of its proposals, rather than simply defending it to the General Assembly.



#### **b.** Position Speeches by two Delegates (2 x 1.5 minutes)

The Position Speeches can be given by Delegates of any committee, except the one proposing the Resolution. The Position Speech is supposed to present a disagreement and a different approach to the Resolution. The Speech is meant to present a personal opinion that **thoroughly disagrees** with the proposed resolution, placing special emphasis on the **aims and reasoning** of the resolution and goal behind this critique. It **should not pick out any individual clauses**, except as examples of a more general rationale. Rather, it should be used when a delegate **fundamentally disagrees with the aim, direction and content** of the resolution. Additionally, it should be more **factual** than emotional. In particular, the Position Speech needs to **highlight the flaws** in the approach of the committee and **outline an alternative direction** for solutions.

#### c. Response to Position Speeches by the Proposing Committee (2 minutes)

In this speech, a Delegate from the proposing committee responds to the two Position Speeches outlined above. It is important to address the concerns of the Position Speech, explaining why the Resolution is still valid and useful, despite any attacks.

#### **d. Points of Open Debate** (3.5 minutes total per round, for 3-5 points)

During the Open Debate, any delegate from a committee -aside from the proposing one-may ask their Chairperson to raise their committee placard and make a comment on the Resolution. The Open Debate aims to facilitate a discussion on the Resolution, so Delegates are encouraged to **propose additional solutions** and enrich the debate, rather than simply asking for clarifications or details.

In order to contribute meaningfully to the discussion of the Resolution, a point of debate needs to have the following three characteristics:

- **Relevant:** the point needs to be connected to a specific idea of the Resolution, rather than multiple. In particular, a point of Debate should **only cover one idea at a time**.
- **Constructive:** the point needs to aim to improve the discussion around the Resolution, as well as the Resolution itself. Instead of simply asking a question that the Proposing Committee may not have considered, try to **suggest an answer** to this question, or an alternative solution that can be considered.



Reasoned: you need to explain your reasoning when offering a point of Open Debate. After
agreeing or disagreeing with something, try to explain why.

#### e. Response to Points of Open Debate (1.5 minutes per round)

In this speech, a Delegate from the proposing committee responds to the points raised by the General Assembly during the round of Debate. It is strongly suggested to respond to all the points raised, as this will present the preparation and knowledge of the committee in a more positive light. Often, it is useful to **take notes of the points raised** during the Open Debate, in order to accurately answer all of them without forgetting any.

#### f. Summation of Debates and Summation Speech (3 minutes)

The summation speech will consist of two main parts delivered by one or two members of the proposing committee. The first part of this speech will answer the questions of the last round of open debates and **summarise the debate**. Afterwards, the delegate(s) will use the rest of their time as their last opportunity of the committee to use all their rhetorical energy and skill to **convince the General Assembly to vote for their resolution**; thus, this speech can be more emotional than rational, primarily aiming to convince other delegates to vote in favour.

### **Voting Procedure**

After the conclusion of all the speeches on a Resolution, the Chairpersons will collect the votes of their Delegates on their committee channel. The Chairpersons will submit the vote of their committee on GA Statistics.

**Announcing The Votes:** After the voting procedure is concluded, the Board announces whether the resolution has passed or failed. In order to pass, the Resolution needs to collect an **absolute majority**, i.e., **50%+1 of the votes**.

### **General Assembly Placards**

#### a. Committee Placard: Chairperson uses the Raise Hand Feature.

For each committee, <u>only the Chairperson</u> will be able to use their 'Raise Hand' feature on Zoom, which will function as the Committee Placard. The delegates together with the Chairperson must

EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT SUOMI FINLAND

decide beforehand who will be making points, as well as their order, in case there are multiple Delegates wishing to make a point.

#### b. Direct Response (2x per debate): Chairperson uses the 'Yes' reaction.

Once per debate, each committee (including the one proposing) has the ability to immediately reply to the point that was made directly before, especially in terms of the content of the point. Therefore, if a Chairperson uses the 'Yes' reaction, the Board will immediately recognise the Direct Response of their committee. If two or more committees request a Direct Response, the Board will decide which committee to recognise at its discretion.

Keep in mind, being relevant is not enough here; we need a point that directly replies to the previous one. For example, we have:

**Point:** 'How will you fund this programme?'

**Direct Response (Wrong):** 'Yes, also, how will you make sure the programme will be effective?'

This Direct Response is **not successful** because, although it is related to the previous point, it **does not answer** the point. Instead, you could try the following:

**Point:** 'How will you fund this programme?'

**Direct Response (Correct!):** 'This programme could actually be funded using the XYZ programme!'

#### c. Point of Personal Privilege: Chairperson uses the 'Thumbs up' reaction.

This placard may be raised by a Chairperson if one of their delegates requests to repeat a point that was inaudible.

Please note that the Point of Personal Privilege may not be used to ask clarifications on a point, only to ask the repetition of a point that was not fully heard. If necessary, you will be able to ask for translations and clarifications in the relevant Discord channel.

#### d. Point of Order: Chairperson unmutes and says 'Point of Order'.

This placard may be raised by a Chairperson, if at any instance a committee feels that the Board has not followed appropriate parliamentary procedure. Ultimately, the authority of the Board is absolute.



### **Times and Procedures**

- Reading of the topic by the Board (1 minute)
- Silent reading of the Resolution (2 minutes)
- Defence Speech by the Proposing Committee (3 minutes)
- **Position Speeches by Delegates** (3 minutes = 2x1.5 minutes)
- Response to Position Speeches by the Proposing Committee (2 minutes)
- Three to Four Rounds of Open Debate with responses by the Proposing Committee (20 minutes = 4x3.5 minutes + 3x1.5 minutes for Response)
- Response to the last round of debate and Summation Speech by the Proposing Committee (3 minutes)
- Voting Procedure (5 minutes)



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND DEFENCE (SEDE)

**The EU as a global player:** With the ongoing dialogue regarding Europe's dependence on the U.S. for defence and the need to develop a higher degree of 'European sovereignty', how can the EU increase its strategic autonomy with the cooperation of Member States and allies?

Submitted by: Elaine Byman (FI), Akın Çetinbağ (TR), Leo Huang (FI), Amelie Pistner (DE), Simay Tunckilic (TR), Frederik Reiff (DE, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

The EU's defence strategy, relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and consequently relations with the EU's allies are in flux as the Union changes direction towards more strategic autonomy. Recent defence initiatives outline what the EU aims to achieve with increasing strategic autonomy, namely being able to react to security threats without having to rely on the US. On the other hand, EU allies and some EU leaders <u>are sceptical</u> about the implications of strategic autonomy on NATO due to the possibility of undermining the diplomatic relations within NATO.

The European Youth Parliament aims for a resilient EU to face and adapt to new security and defence challenges. Whilst we believe that cooperation within NATO is essential to the security of the EU, our aim is strengthening military cooperation within Member States, maximising the efficiency of spending on defence and research. Consequently, we aim for an inclusive security and defence strategy that takes into account the conflicting views of Member States.

#### **Because**

- It is our priority to keep the citizens of Europe safe and secure,
- Different <u>geopolitical locations</u> of Member States render it beneficial to cooperate within NATO,



- Increasing the interoperability of European militaries through <u>standardisation</u> is of significant importance for increased cooperation,
- We believe that the <u>financial benefits</u> of defence standardisation would advance the European Defence efforts,
- Military research and development <u>benefits civilian technology</u>;

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Urges Member States to increase spending on joint research and development of military technologies;
- 2. Asks the European Commission to direct a part of European Defence Fund<sup>1</sup> for supporting the purchase of collectively used military equipment, following the example of the European Air Transport Command<sup>2</sup>;
- 3. Calls for Member States to increase the number of joint exercises, training, and missions under the Common Foreign and Security Policy<sup>3</sup>;
- 4. Encourages the European Defence Agency<sup>4</sup> to collect information from Member States to:
  - a) identify the priorities of the EU security policy,
  - b) form a clear and common objective, based on information collected;
- 5. Recommends the European Defence Agency to foster military-specific data collection and data exchange between the national militaries to increase crisis resilience;
- 6. Invites Member States to strengthen relations with NATO by showing more involvement in NATO missions.

<sup>1</sup> The **European Defence Fund (EDF)** is operated by the European External Action Service and the European Defence Agency and allocates EU funds directly to collaborative defence projects and research.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The **European Air Transport Command (EATC)** was established between sevenMember States, outside of EU structures and operates the military transport fleets of seven EU Member States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)** is the framework where the foreign policy of the EU is coordinated, defined and implemented.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The **European Defence Agency (EDA)** operates EU defence initiatives, coordinates capability development and defence cooperation projects between Member States and promotes research and development. The EDA also initiates and runs training and exercises for the soldiers and supports CSDP missions.



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM (TRAN)

**Ready, set, travel!** Thanks to global vaccination campaigns, many European economies that depend greatly on tourism are eager to welcome foreigners again. Taking into consideration the impact of overtourism on the environment and culture of local communities, what steps should the EU take in order to reactivate tourism-dependent economies in a sustainable and responsible way?

Submitted by: Minh Anh Doan (DE), Hilla Kauppinen (FI), Ceyda Kilinc (TR), Lucia Scotto Di Apollonia (NL), Altan Tekgul (TR), Lauri Valola (FI), Guillermo Tenney Díaz (ES/AD, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

Overtourism leads to a <u>degraded tourist experience</u> and has <u>negative implications for</u> <u>the environment</u> and on <u>local communities</u> 'quality of life. These implications include increased noise and particle pollution as well as excessive services demand, the latter leading to <u>expensive housing prices</u> and <u>saturation of public services</u>. Furthermore, tourism-dependent businesses are facing financial struggles due to <u>competition with international corporations</u>.

The European Youth Parliament aims to secure the interests of all stakeholders, including businesses, tourists, and locals, as well as to promote sustainable and responsible travel. For that purpose, we aim to reduce overcrowding in tourism destinations, solve housing issues, improve infrastructure and services in Member States, and increase the demand for less visited destinations across Europe.

#### **Because**

- We believe that the tourism industry should respect the environmental standards,
- It is necessary to improve tourist experience through relieving excessive demand,



- Respecting the local surroundings during touristic activities is a high priority of the EU,
- Keeping <u>housing costs</u> at a reasonable standard is an essential part of locals' life security,
- Maintaining infrastructure in adequate conditions, while sufficing both the local residents' and tourists' demand, contributes to the goals of sustainability,
- Ensuring fair competition is vital for the EU,
- We believe that local tourism businesses should be able to compete with international corporations;

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Recommends local governments to promote local businesses in tourism destinations to ensure their competitiveness with international businesses;
- 2. Urges tourists to stay at accommodations that operate sustainably;
- 3. Requests the European Commission to initiate strategies similar to the EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification Project<sup>5</sup> within the EU to avoid certain communities from being exclusively dependent on tourism;
- 4. Asks Member States to further establish official nature reserves in vacation destinations;
- 5. Calls upon the European Investment Bank (<u>EIB</u>)<sup>6</sup> to financially support public transportation in more visited destinations for maintaining its functionality and enabling it to sustain temporarily higher carrying capacities<sup>7</sup>;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> **The EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification Project** is financed by the European Union through its FPI Partnership Instrument. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to stronger EU-GCC relations by supporting the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries ongoing process of economic diversification away from the hydrocarbon sector.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is owned by the EU Member States. It focuses on the areas of climate, environment, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), development, cohesion, and infrastructure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> **Carrying capacity** is the maximum population size of a biological species that can be sustained by that specific environment, given the food, habitat, water, and other resources available.



- 6. Asks local governments to implement measures prioritising residents' housing needs over tourists, taking into consideration the specific characteristics of each destination;
- 7. Asks Member States to cooperate with the European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA)<sup>8</sup> to:
  - a) advertise less visited areas,
  - b) promote aforementioned areas during low season,
  - c) make areas more appealing through activities and events conducted in cooperation with locals;
- 8. Urges the Directorate-General of Mobility and Transport (<u>DG MOVE</u>) to support Member States' efforts in the development of transportation to less-travelled areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA) organise activities ranging from European Union policy affairs to destination matters, including promotion of selected destinations.



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (EMPL)

**Level working field:** In light of the great reliance of European farmers on non-European migrant labour, with an estimated 405,000 immigrant workers in Italy's agricultural sector alone, the 2014 Seasonal Workers Directive aims to guarantee their fair treatment. Considering that a large number of these workers enter the European labour market without proper documentation, thus being vulnerable to exploitation by their employers and by criminal organisations, what measures can the EU take to further support its migrant agricultural workers?

Submitted by: Nane Alikhanyan (AM), Beris Bajrović (BA), Izet Mata (AL), Emeliina Vilo (FI), Amela Zogu (AL), Johann Davies (DE, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

As of today, non-EU workers in the European agricultural sector face discrimination and exploitation in terms of <u>payment</u>, as well as <u>working and living conditions</u>, and their rights are not being respected to the same extent as national workers'. Although the <u>Seasonal Workers Directive</u> by the EU aims to ensure equal rights and fair treatment for all migrant workers, it has failed to achieve this mission, as its flaws provide employers with the <u>incentive to exploit undocumented non-EU workers</u>. Migrant seasonal workers often do not claim their rights, as they are often <u>dismissed</u> in the case of filing a complaint, sometimes forcing them into an illegal search for a secure income. Furthermore, exploited workers face many other challenges, among them being exposed to physical and sexual violence, and the inability to understand their rights besides work contracts due to <u>language barriers</u>.

The European Youth Parliament aims to ensure a safe workspace for every employee. Additionally, employees should get paid humanely according to the amount and quality of the work they perform and that the living conditions of all migrant workers are improved. Workers should be able to express their concerns

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> As defined by the **International Labour Organization** (<u>ILO</u>), a United Nations agency tasked with setting international standards regarding employment



if their working conditions are not in accordance with the health and safety regulations of the EU. Moreover, we aim to ensure that non-national employees do not work more hours than is stated within the EU's labour law<sup>10</sup>.

#### **Because**

- We believe in the principle that equal work should be rewarded with equal pay, as stated in <a href="Article 23">Article 23</a> (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- We also agree with the <u>Article 23 (1)</u> stating that workers must always have the right to choose, change, and terminate their employment,
- Physical wellbeing and health, adequate housing, and sanitary facilities are a human right as stated in <u>Article 25</u> of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- We believe that every worker has the right to feel safe at their place of employment,
- It is crucial that workers are able to negotiate with employers and file complaints in the case of exploitation and abuse;

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Calls upon Member States to affirm the contribution of seasonal workers to their economies;
- 2. Reminds Member States to fully transpose the Seasonal Workers Directive into their respective national law and consequently enforce it;
- 3. Further reminds Member States of <u>Article 6(b)</u> of Directive 2003/88/EC stating that the average working hours per seven-day week should not exceed 48 hours;
- 4. Calls upon the Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs (DG EMPL)<sup>11</sup> to amend the Seasonal Workers Directive by:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>Directive 2003/88/EC</u> concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time defines the minimum conditions under which workers in the EU can be treated and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> **Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion** (<u>DG EMPL</u>) is the department of the European Commission tasked with developing and enforcing EU law regarding employment



- a) stating that working hours for seasonal agricultural workers should be reduced from the aforementioned average 48 hours per week to 35 hours per week;
- b) granting irregular seasonal workers the legal avenue of regularising their residency and employment status without risking legal prosecution <u>as was done in Italy in 2020</u>,
- 5. Urges DG EMPL to amend the Seasonal Workers Directive in order to:
  - a) centralise its enforcement under the mandate of the European Labour Agency (ELA)<sup>12</sup>,
  - b) require the ELA to carry out annual, country-wide inspections of each farm;
- 6. Urges the ELA to fulfill its extended mandate by employing more inspectors to reduce the timeframe between inspections of farms;
- 7. Appeals to the ELA to include in regulations on inspections of farms:
  - a) a clause requiring each inspection to be carried out by multiple inspectors, who must be fully satisfied with the absence of any violation of the law before the farm is assessed to be in compliance with the law,
  - b) a particular focus on potential sexual harassment and abuse of seasonal workers,
  - c) a clause requiring inspectors to undergo training to identify cases of sexual harassment and abuse,
  - d) a possibility to utilise technologies such as satellite imagery and drone footage for the purpose of detecting and preventing suspected illegal activity;
- 8. Calls upon DG EMPL to propose a directive aligning prison sentences for gangmasters who exploit migrant workers with those for human traffickers as stated in Directive 2011/36/EU;<sup>13</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> **The European Labour Authority** (ELA) is an EU agency currently tasked with coordinating EU law on labour mobility

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>Directive 2011/36/EU</u> on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims is the EU's legal framework for the prosecution of human traffickers



- 9. Encourages EU farmers to comply with the definition<sup>14</sup> for humane payment of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for migrant seasonal workers;
- 10. Calls upon DG EMPL to introduce an EU-wide definition and labelling system to mark ethically harvested agricultural products;
- 11. Recommends DG EMPL to implement media campaigns in public spaces and on social media to raise awareness regarding ethically harvested agricultural products and encourage consumers to purchase such products;
- 12. Encourages Member States to fund and implement training programmes for seasonal workers who are employed or going to be employed on their respective territory;
- 13. Suggests the European Commission increases the subsidies for EU farmers within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The ILO <u>definition</u> of a humane payment states that a worker should be able to afford a minimum living standard with said payment and are a "just and equitable" reward for the worker's labour

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> **Common Agricultural Policy** (<u>CAP</u>) is the EU's framework for agricultural standards and subsidies for farms



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER SAFETY II (IMCO II)

**Knock knock, who's there?** The second Payment Services Directive (PSD2), introduced in 2018, has facilitated financial management for users of open banking systems and increased the popularity of such information-sharing formats. Considering the privacy and security concerns regarding third-party access to financial data, what measures should the EU take to ensure consumer safety whilst promoting innovation in banking technology?

Submitted by: Selin Kılınç (TR), Sofia Diaz Montiel (IT), Arnav Sathe (FI), Ozan Poşluk (TR), Melisa Çavuş (TR, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

Recently, open banking<sup>16</sup> has been the center of heated debates due to its impact on various aspects of our lives and of the interaction among stakeholders within the market. Problems such as a <u>lack of confidence</u> in open banking, <u>mistrust</u>, and <u>data breaches</u> are highly substantial and require the attention of regulators since some clients and banks are hesitant to carry out their financial activities online. To convince more clients, open banking developers will need to find the right **balance between innovation and security in banking systems**.

The European Youth Parliament wishes to provide a safe, secure, and easily accessible Open Banking platform for all residents within the EU by ensuring equal accessibility independently of geographic and demographic disparities. We aim to increase consumer confidence in online Application Programming

Open Banking systems, often referred to as 'open bank data,' is a banking practice that allows third-party financial service providers to access consumer and transaction data through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). Such data sharing practices take place with the consent of consumers.



Interfaces (APIs)<sup>17</sup> by facilitating proper consultation from FinTech<sup>18</sup> companies. Moreover, we advocate that APIs provide all customers with a safe and secure experience, with necessary safeguards in place to eliminate harmful threats and data breaches.

#### **Because**

- Open Banking will promote economic development and sustainability, with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG8)<sup>19</sup> of the <u>United Nations 2030</u>
   Agenda,
- Every EU citizen should have the right of accessing sustainable banking services that set long-term social and environmental objectives for the system and for society,
- Open bank data has a systematic impact on individual financial management as well as the data security and customer services of financial institutions,
- Open banking will facilitate account management and decision-making by allowing clients to have a <u>better understanding</u> of their financial situation,
- Open banking initiatives <u>foster innovation</u> in the development of both FinTech<sup>20</sup> companies and secure online payment methods,
- We value data transparency for its ability to strengthen the security of online payment services,
- Money laundering is a <u>serious threat</u> that distorts competition and the way stakeholders operate in the market,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> <u>Application Programming Interfaces</u> are software systems that enable the creation of applications, operating with the data and features of other services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Financial Technology (FinTech) means the integration of technological developments to the financial world.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> **SDG 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> <u>Financial Technology</u> (**FinTech**) means the integration of technological developments to the financial world.



Open banking platforms will promote <u>competition</u> within the industry and work as
a tool to prevent market monopolisation<sup>21</sup> and monopsony of corporate
companies;<sup>22</sup>

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Encourages the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) Digitalisation & BIM Committee<sup>23</sup> to adopt an inclusive approach to the digital transition of the banking sector by using its financial resources for:
  - a) installing digital devices in local banks that allow clients to use online banking services,
  - b) investing in online banking facilities to improve the user interface and customer experience;
- 2. Urges Member States to promote open banking platforms through strategic partnerships and digital signage practices in regions with limited access to online services<sup>24</sup>;
- 3. Asks the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO)<sup>25</sup> and the Financial Services Committee (FSC)<sup>26</sup> to enhance the security of online payment platforms by:
  - a) using biometrics and cryptographic chains to protect user accounts,
  - b) discarding outdated login options, such as the traditional 'username and password' methods,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> **Market monopolisation** refers to a situation where a single company dominates the market by holding greater shares that cannot be threatened by competition.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Monopsony is an imperfect market condition where there is only a single buyer in the market, overpowering small enterprises.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> **EFCA**'s mission is to promote the European engineering consultancy industry on a European level and to represent it to the European institutions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Examples of such countries include Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Malta.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> ECSO is the privileged partner of the European Commission for the implementation of the Cybersecurity Public-Private Partnership.

The FSC is composed of high-level representatives of the Member States and the European Commission (DG FISMA - Directorate-general for financial stability, financial services, and capital markets union). It works on cross-sectoral strategic reflection and provides strategic advice for internal and external affairs.



- c) collaborating with secondary institutions such as the European SafeOnline Initiative<sup>27</sup> to strengthen the security layers of digital banking platforms;
- 4. Recommends that banks and other financial institutions adopt corporate social responsibility (CSR)<sup>28</sup> policies and public social balance sheets<sup>29</sup> emphasising the legal, ethical, and commercial reasons behind main executed transactions;
- 5. Designates the European Banking & Financial Services Training Association (EBTN)<sup>30</sup> to provide clients with educational material on financial practices, security, and data transparency;
- 6. Invites financial institutions operating within the EU to prevent money laundering through open bank data by specifying the types of taxes that make up the frictional cost<sup>31</sup> in official bills;
- 7. Calls upon the Ministries of Economic Affairs of Member States to ensure fair competition in the open bank data market by:
  - a) regulating the profit margins<sup>32</sup> of companies implementing open bank data,
  - b) protecting the free market choice of customers;
- 8. Requests the European Commission Directorate-General on Economic and Financial Affairs (DG-ECFIN)<sup>33</sup> to implement new regulations supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through subsidies for the creation of open banking projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The main focus of the <u>European SafeOnline Initiative</u> is the improvement of media literacy levels of children and young people through the extensive media literacy education of their parents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Corporate social responsibility is a business model where companies hold themselves accountable for their interactions with stakeholders on social matters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> The <u>social balance sheets</u> are the reports on a company's employment situation and the vocational training they are provided with.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> **EBTN** focuses on vocational training in the financial industry and on creating an international network of banking institutions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> <u>Frictional cost</u> is the total direct and indirect costs associated with the execution of a financial transaction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> **Profit margin** is a profitability ratio of assessing to which degree a business activity makes money.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> <u>DG ECFIN</u> conducts economic forecasts as well as business and consumer surveys to underpin economic policy in the EU.



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY (ENVI)

**Tech Trash:** With less than 40% of electronics waste being recycled, the EU is the world's second largest producer of electronics waste per capita, contributing to global pollution and climate change. Keeping in mind the importance of an environmentally friendly electronics industry for the EU's goal of climate neutrality, what steps can the EU take to promote sustainable production and consumption of electronics?

Submitted by: Kaan Aydın (TR), Mauricio Buendía (ES), Duru Kazancı (TR), Radek Václavík (CZ), Iva Veljović (RS), Tomas Winegar (FI, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

Aiming to increase their profit, technology and electronics companies systematically push customers to upgrade their devices on a regular basis. They often resort to unsustainable industry practices such as planned obsolescence<sup>34</sup> and bad repairability,<sup>35</sup> thus leading to the production of an estimated 12 megatons of e-waste<sup>36</sup> annually across Europe including harmful toxic materials that are often mismanaged or not disposed properly.

The European Youth Parliament aims to reduce the amount of e-waste in Europe by incentivising the reutilisation of electronic devices and establishing electronics recycling as an affordable and accessible solution for producers and consumers. We wish to increase the usage of recycled materials in technological production and enhance recycling facilities. Finally, we aim to combat exploitative labour practices in informal e-waste disposal by supporting second-hand markets and repair stores.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> **Planned obsolescence** is the practise of purposely designing flaws in products in order to get existing customers to buy new devices.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> **Repairability** is the ability to fix devices when they break.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> **E-waste** is waste originating from electrical devices.



#### **Because**

- We believe in protecting natural environments from the harmful pollution of e-waste,
- We maintain that Europe should prioritise fully utilising recyclable materials over consuming new resources,
- We are in alignment with the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development
   Goals<sup>37</sup> of climate change and responsible production and consumption,
- Sustainable e-waste management represents a major step towards the circular model<sup>38</sup> for the electronics industry envisioned by the <u>European Green Deal</u>,<sup>39</sup>
- We stand against the exploitation of workers in informal e-waste disposal;

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to create EU-wide media campaigns promoting sustainable consumer behaviour in electronics products by:
  - a) encouraging customers to continue using their electronic devices up to their functional lifespan,
  - b) increasing awareness among European citizens regarding the environmental and health impacts of e-waste,
  - c) highlighting the functionality and benefits of second-hand markets,
  - d) educating consumers about their rights regarding second-hand markets and the already existing quality guarantees;
- 2. Appeals to the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (<u>DG CONNECT</u>)<sup>40</sup> to require smartphone manufacturers operating in the European market to provide extended service agreements guaranteeing security

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> **United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals** are goals set by the United Nations for sustainable development aimed to be reached by 2030.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> **Circular economy** is an approach to economic development which focuses on keeping products and materials in use, before resorting to extracting new raw materials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> **The European Green Deal** is a set of initiatives set out by the European commission with the end goal of reaching a climate neutral EU by 2050.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> The Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) is the Directorate-General of the European Commission responsible for developing policies regarding digital agenda.



updates for a minimum of four years following the commercial release of the device;

- 3. Directs the DG CONNECT to require companies to allow running alternative software after support ends;
- 4. Asks the Directorate-General for Environment (<u>DG ENV</u>)<sup>41</sup> to establish a system assessing the environmental impact of electronics companies and their products that will:
  - a) inform consumers about the predicted lifetime and recyclability of products as well as the potential presence of toxic materials in their disposal,
  - b) include a cap and trade system<sup>42</sup> evaluating companies based on their product ratings and volumes,
  - c) require companies to hold permits under the above-mentioned system when producing products below a set benchmark of environmental friendliness;
- 5. Suggests that Member States incentivise electronics producers to make their products more durable and easily repairable by returning a percentage of value added tax (VAT) collected on products sold in second-hand markets to original device manufacturers;
- 6. Further suggests that Member States support the repair of devices by reducing the VAT rate on repair parts;
- 7. Asks the European Environmental Bureau<sup>43</sup> to provide consulting to ICT businesses transitioning to circular production models;
- 8. Designates the European Investment Bank<sup>44</sup> to support the competitiveness of recycled materials by subsidising companies that sell recycled products at competitive prices;

<sup>41</sup> The **Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)** is the Directorate-General of the European Commission responsible for developing policies related to environmental protection and preservation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> **A cap and trade system** is a system where a certain amount of permits to produce waste are available and distributed between companies in a sector, after which more environmentally friendly companies can sell their permits to less environmentally friendly companies, providing a financial incentive for environmental friendliness.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> **The European Environmental Bureau** is a collective of non-governmental organizations that works to benefit the environment by providing expertise on environmental issues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> **The European Investment Bank** is a financial entity of the EU which supports projects that work towards EU policy objectives.



- 9. Invites Horizon Europe<sup>45</sup> to promote the sustainable management of e-waste by providing financial support for:
  - a) research into innovative recycling technologies and methods,
  - b) e-waste treatment facilities;
- 10. Instructs the DG ENVI to enhance regulations on the management of e-waste by:
  - a) funding non-governmental organisations (NGOs) tracking illegal e-waste exports through the LIFE programme, 46
  - b) investigating the illegal e-waste transfer within exports of second-hand devices,
  - c) requiring exporters to provide additional documentation of the exact destination and purpose of export in the context of the above-mentioned investigations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> **Horizon Europe** is a research and innovation fund setup by the European Commission to tackle climate change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> **The LIFE programme** is a program which funds research in the areas of climate change and environmental protection.



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE)

**Stay Home But Not Safe:** Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cases of domestic violence increased by 32% in France, and the usage of hotlines for domestic abuse in Spain rose by 18% within a month. Recognising the potential effects of lockdown and other restrictions on the European population, how can the EU eradicate domestic violence and safeguard the physical and mental health of its citizens?

Submitted by: Gabriela Gârdan (RO), Ilgın Irmak Güzel (TR), Tsimafei Housa (BY), Greis Hoxha (AL), Oona Isoahde (FI), Kim Saaristo (FI), İrem Yılmaz (TR), Çağatay Büyükçaylı (TR, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

Due to lockdown measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, reports of domestic violence<sup>47</sup> across the EU have <u>increased substantially</u>, often <u>overwhelming</u> shelter and counselling staff due to the limited funding and resources for support services.<sup>48</sup> Given that some Member States such as <u>Hungary</u>, <u>Bulgaria</u>, <u>and Poland</u> have distanced themselves from the Istanbul Convention<sup>49</sup>, with further debates on withdrawing from the Convention, it is implied that the perpetrators will be encouraged to pursue violent acts towards their partners, not facing deterrent consequences. Victims of domestic violence are challenged by the limited relevant knowledge among essential workers, the lack of awareness in the general population, and the social stigma<sup>50</sup> on domestic violence that may prevent them from seeking help.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> <u>Domestic violence</u> describes violent or abusive behaviour directed by one family or household member against another that can range from a relative to a partner.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> <u>Support services</u> are distinct provisions made to comfort people who are exposed to domestic violence such as accommodation, crisis support, legal advice, psychological counselling, outreach, case advocacy and economic empowerment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> <u>Istanbul Convention</u> is a human rights treaty to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> <u>Stigma</u> is an attribute that conveys stereotypes regarding one's skin colour, body size, gender, or other specific characteristic.



The European Youth Parliament aims to prevent domestic violence by introducing a comprehensive legal framework to target perpetrators and abusers. We aim to safeguard the victims' physical and mental well-being by enhancing and expanding support networks. Finally, we wish to raise awareness about the factors and signs of domestic violence as well as increase the availability of support services during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Because**

- We firmly believe in the right to <u>live in security</u>, <u>peace</u>, <u>and dignity</u> as elaborated in the right to adequate housing by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (<u>CESCR</u>)<sup>51</sup>,
- We believe that the European society is mostly unaware of different types of domestic violence and abuse, as well as the impacts of the abuse on victims and witnesses such as children,
- We are concerned that classes on religion might provoke stereotypical images among students, partly justifying patriarchy<sup>52</sup>, thus domestic violence to be acceptable,
- We believe that women should be <u>financially independent</u> to be able to take a stand against domestic violence,
- We endorse that all Member States should have a systematic response plan for helping victims of domestic violence especially in extreme situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic,
- The lack of data imposes challenges in developing new policies and <u>updating the</u> <u>score for violence</u>;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (**CESCR**) is the body of 18 independent experts that monitor the implementation of human rights in the Member States of the United Nations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> **Patriarchy** is the observance of male dominance in a society and its impacts on gender-based values.



#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Requests <u>European Neighbourhood Watch Association (EUNWA)</u><sup>53</sup> to follow up with victims of domestic violence by developing and enforcing monitoring schemes, following the Irish example of Operation Faoiseamh<sup>54</sup>;
- 2. Asks the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (<u>DG JUST</u>)<sup>55</sup> to launch an application that will allow victims to anonymously alert the police in case of any violence or abuse, following <u>Spain's example (ALERTCOPS app)</u><sup>56</sup>;
- 3. Encourages EUNWA and its local branches in every Member State to report cases of domestic violence or abuse to the local police in addition to identifying their foreshadowing signs, as similarly executed in the Czech Republic<sup>57</sup>;
- 4. Calls upon Member States in collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as the European Women's Lobby (<u>EWL</u>)<sup>58</sup> to establish and fund a financial aid program that will loosen the financially dependent relationship between the victim and abuser, following the idea of <u>Finland's Kela<sup>59</sup></u>;
- 5. Encourages Member States to guarantee the recognition of victims by following <a href="France's example">France's example</a> and including the use of safewords in institutions such as pharmacies and delivery services;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> **Neighbourhood Watch** is an organised group of civilians devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within a region.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> **Operation Faoiseamh** is a scheme where the Irish police contacted anyone who had received a domestic callout over the previous 2 years to check in and remind them that support was available.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> The **Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)** develops and carries out the Commission's policies on justice, consumer rights and gender equality to vindicate and strengthen the rights of people living in the EU.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> The **ALERTCOPS App** is an application used for people who cannot call the police in emergency situations, sending a notification about the crisis and the location of the victim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> The Czech Republic adapted the UK's '<u>Bright Sky</u>' app and trained delivery personnel from delivery companies in recognising signs of domestic violence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> **EWL** is the largest European umbrella network of women's associations representing a total of 2000 organisations that bring together the women's movement in Europe to influence institutions and the general public.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> **Kela** is the social insurance institution of Finland that provides financial support and shelter to victims of domestic violence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Inspired by Spain, France implemented a similar **nationwide scheme** that offers the use of code words to victims who can seek help from professionals without exposing themselves to the public.



- 6. Encourages the European Commission to financially support shelters and their staff members through the dedicated budget in the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025;
- 7. Further requests Member States to provide victims, witnesses, and staff with mandatory support services such as counselling sessions on different approaches towards domestic violence;
- 8. Urges all Member States ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention;
- 9. Suggests all Member States to discourage perpetrators of domestic violence by:
  - a) entirely removing fines as a form of punishment,
  - b) increasing the length of imprisonment for convicted perpetrators;
- 10. Invites Member States' Ministries of Education, Sport and Youth and corresponding NGOs, such as <u>Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)</u><sup>61</sup>, to implement education programmes on healthy communication and relationship in and outside of schools for all EU citizens with the help of psychologists and therapists;
- 11. Urges the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to improve the administrative data collection on intimate partner violence, rape, and femicides<sup>62</sup> by conducting research campaigns.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> **WAVE** is a formal network of NGOs working to combat violence against women and promoting human rights.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> **Femicide** is the crime of killing a woman or women, usually occurring in intimate relationships.



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION I (IMCO I)

Not every shade of green is as green: As the consumer demand for a more sustainable industry is on the rise, companies are playing into the market and wrongly advertising certain products as sustainable, a term coined as 'greenwashing.'

Greenwashing brings a false sense of progress and security and misleads consumers trying to buy sustainable products. With the fashion industry being the second biggest polluter worldwide, how can the EU ensure truthful advertising and valuable change being made in the industry?

Submitted by: Rebekka Barry (FI), Ana Llupa (AL), Matilda Westerlund(FI), Heleen Vanagt (BE/NL, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

While an increasing number of consumers are trying to make more environmentally conscious decisions, thus increasing the demand for sustainable products, 42% of companies surveyed by the European Commission over-represent the sustainability of their practices and engage in 'greenwashing'<sup>63</sup>. Through greenwashing, companies take advantage of consumers' sustainability concerns to increase their profits. In this manner, companies are undermining the long-term sustainability of the fashion industry, which is currently the second-largest polluter worldwide.

The European Youth Parliament aims to empower consumers in their sustainable practices by increasing the availability of factual information about the sustainability of companies and their products as well as raising awareness about greenwashing. We also wish to strengthen legislation that restricts greenwashing practices and penalises misleading advertisements of sustainability.

<sup>63</sup> **Greenwashing** is an advertisement method in which companies provide false, misleading, deceptive or vague language to come across as more sustainable than the reality proves.



#### **Because**

- We believe consumers are an important stakeholder in the sustainability of the fashion industry,
- We consider advertisement a crucial factor affecting consumer behaviour,
- We are concerned about the negative environmental implications of greenwashing,
- We believe companies practicing greenwashing have a strong impact on the environment;

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Requests the European Securities and Market Authority<sup>64</sup> (ESMA) to support the implementation of the <u>Directive 2006/114</u> concerning misleading and comparative advertisement within Member States;
- 2. Suggests the ESMA to provide clear definitions for terms<sup>65</sup> commonly used in greenwashing as well as a definition on sustainability for ensuring further coherent regulation;
- 3. Invites the Directorate General for Justice and Consumers<sup>66</sup> (<u>DG JUST</u>) to create an EU-verified label indicating the sustainability in the fashion industry in accordance with the aforementioned definition provided by ESMA;
- 4. Welcomes the Consumer Protection Cooperation Network<sup>67</sup> (CPC) to publish an easily accessible annual reports on the sustainability of brands in accordance with ESMA's definition;
- 5. Encourages the DG JUST to raise awareness about the aforementioned new sustainability label through media campaigns;
- 6. Urges the ESMA to fine companies incorporating greenwashing practices in the form of vague wording and lack of background information;

<sup>64</sup> The **European Securities and Market Authority** (**ESMA**) is an independent EU authority gathering all national market authorities which execute and regulate EU law.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Certain terms such as eco-friendly, environmentally friendly and natural have no set definition, but are used often to bring a green narrative across.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> The European Commission's **Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers** is responsible for EU policy on justice, consumer rights and gender equality.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> The **Consumer Protection Cooperation Network** (**CPC**) is a network of national authorities, enforcing consumer laws, in order to protect consumers shopping across borders.



- 7. Encourages fashion companies to disclose annual reports on the state of sustainability within the company;
- 8. Requests the European Commission to address the issue of greenwashing on an international level by cooperating with non-EU Member States;
- 9. Invites the <u>European Investment Bank</u> to provide financial assistance to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) raising awareness about greenwashing through media campaigns and seminars.



## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT (DEVE)

This time for Africa: Despite Africa currently facing escalating issues due to global warming and pollution, the continent's natural resources have the potential to support sustainable infrastructure projects as well as producing clean energy in the long run. What stance should the EU take towards aiding climate change mitigation and sustainable development in African countries?

Submitted by: Riya Kathpalia, Milla Linnervuo (FI), Enni Oja (FI), Joel Topulli (AL), Ege Yılmaz (TR), Iva Petrešević (RS, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

Global warming and pollution have <u>detrimental effects</u> on the whole world, specifically on Africa being a developing continent. While clean energy production and usage <u>may combat these problems</u>, difficulties in its implementation are forcing African countries to use fossil-generated energy despite their natural energy resources. With Africa's efforts as sustainable development challenged by environmental, demographic, and infrastructural problems, the EU's partnership with the African Union is crucial to addressing these issues.

The European Youth Parliament aims to secure sustainable solutions for Africa's infrastructural, demographic, and environmental problems. Moreover, we aim to support Africa in replacing conventional energy sources with renewable and sustainable ones, while developing technologies that will ease the transition and support in Africa utilise its natural resources.

#### Because

 Replacing conventional energy sources with renewable ones is <u>crucial</u> to halting the effects of global warming, such as food insecurity, population displacement, and water stress,<sup>68</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> **Water stress** is a situation in which the demand for water supplies exceeds the available amount of clear, usable water at a given time, further causing pollution, ecosystem damage, and deterioration of fresh water resources.



- Securing access to electricity, clean water, and improved means of transportation is crucial to the efficient use of natural resources,
- The EU has a duty to support the African Union (AU)<sup>69</sup> in fulfilling the needs of its growing population,
- Hiring a local workforce contributes to the ethical use of resources as well as the development of the local community,
- With a satisfactory level of education about sustainability and ecological methods among the general population, the future of Africa will have a greener and less polluted environment,

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Encourages the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (<u>DG ECHO</u>)<sup>70</sup> to keep providing humanitarian aid to the regions in need, such as <u>Burkina Faso and northern Cameroon</u>, following the example of their <u>previous efforts</u>;
- 2. Further encourages the DG ECHO to provide the AU with pharmaceutical aid to combat illnesses caused by the effects of global warming and other environmental issues, such as <u>malaria</u>, <u>tuberculosis</u>, and <u>malnutrition</u>;
- 3. Invites the Directorate-General for International Partnership (<u>DG INTPA</u>)<sup>71</sup> to collaborate with the AU in designing infrastructure projects for the utilisation of Africa's <u>natural resources</u> by:
  - a) designating a group of energy experts to support African governments in the management of energy resources, developing new technologies and infrastructural plans based on Africa's <u>natural resources</u>,

<sup>69</sup> **The African Union (AU)** is a continental body launched in 2002, which consists of 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> **The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations** (DG ECHO) aims to preserve lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and dignity of populations affected by natural disasters and man-made crises.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> **The Directorate-General for International Partnerships** (DG INTPA) is responsible for formulating the EU's international partnership and development policy, with the goal of reducing poverty, ensuring sustainable development, and promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world.



- b) supporting the risk assessment and minimisation efforts regarding the impact of climate change;
- 4. Suggests that the European Investment Bank (<u>EIB</u>)<sup>72</sup> develop funding programmes for supporting clean and renewable energy projects in Africa;
- 5. Further suggests that the EIB promote the recruitment and involvement of locals in the workforce of the above-mentioned programmes implementing renewable energy projects;
- 6. Calls upon the DG INTPA to collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) engaged in Africa's environmental development, such as the Green Belt Movement, on creating policy and infrastructure proposals for the adoption of clean and renewable forms of energy;
- 7. Urges the <u>International Renewable Energy Agency</u><sup>74</sup> to propose a fair and collaborative allocation of natural resources within the African continent with a focus on:
  - a) evaluating the needs and available resources of each country,
  - b) following the relevant expertise and policy proposals on renewable energy with the support of the Renewables Readiness Assessment;<sup>75</sup>
- 8. Proposes that the EU continue its collaboration with the AU towards the goals of the Paris Agreement<sup>76</sup> by supporting the <u>actions already taken</u> by African countries in this direction, including low-carbon solutions and new markets;
- 9. Directs Member States and the AU to educate people about social and environmental problems by expanding the subjects of phenomenal<sup>77</sup> and infrastructural studies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** is the lending arm of the European Union, which provides finance and expertise for sustainable investment projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> **The Green Belt Movement** is one of the leading NGOs working for environmental protection in Africa.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an intergovernmental organisation that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> **The Renewables Readiness Assessment** is a comprehensive tool designed and refined by IRENA for assessing the suitability of conditions in different countries for the development and deployment of renewable energy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> **The Paris Agreement** is a legally binding international treaty on climate change, adopted by 196 parties, and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> **Phenomenological studies** explore what people experienced and focus on their experience of a phenomena.



# MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (ITRE)

**Smart and sustainable:** The European Commission has promoted the implementation of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in energy systems, aiming to improve their efficiency and sustainability. Considering the increased popularity of many ICT applications such as 'smart energy grids' and 'smart cities,' how can the EU securely develop and utilise digital technologies to improve the sustainability of its energy systems?

Submitted by: Joana Dietrich (DE), Nesara Fejzo (AL), Riona Fida (AL), Alisa Hasa (AL), Konsta Kiirikki (FI), Mikko Xu (FI), Naira Čamdžić (BA, Chairperson)

#### **Context Statement**

Energy production processes in Europe currently account for <u>78 per cent</u> of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, further contributing to the already-deteriorating state of climate change. With the integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)<sup>78</sup> into its energy systems, the EU hopes to <u>halve</u> greenhouse gas<sup>79</sup> emissions by 2030. Currently, the desired integration of ICT into energy systems is complicated by their energy consumption, lack of cybersecurity,<sup>80</sup> financial challenge, and legislative mismatches within the EU and across Member States.

The European Youth Parliament aims to expand the implementation of ICT through smart energy grids<sup>81</sup> and smart cities<sup>82</sup> in order to reach an efficient, digitally secure, and sustainable energy system. Furthermore, we wish to work towards the EU's climate goals by improving international cooperation, updating the legal frameworks, and supporting the adjustment to renewable energy sources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** can be defined as an electronic medium for creating, storing, manipulating, receiving, and sending information from one place to another.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> **Greenhouse gases** are compound gases that trap heat and longwave radiation in the atmosphere.

<sup>80</sup> Cybersecurity is the protection of computer systems and networks from any malicious attacks.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> **Smart energy grids** refer to electricity grid networks enabling a two-way flow of electricity and data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> **Smart cities** use ICT and data analysis to optimise city functions and increase efficiency in environmentally sound ways.



#### **Because**

- We consider renewable energy sources an important tool for achieving the EU's
   2030 climate change goals,
- European energy systems need to become more eco-friendly and efficient by lowering emissions,
- We need to minimise the risk of cyber-attacks and improve the cybersecurity of the EU's power systems, 83
- Further cross-border cooperation will help Member States exchange innovative ideas and useful practices as well as develop a shared approach to ICT systems;

#### The European Youth Parliament, to achieve these aims,

- 1. Calls upon the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA)<sup>84</sup> to enhance the cybersecurity of ICT programmes within digitised power systems through:
  - a) the regular assessment of cybersecurity capabilities and dissemination of best practices,
  - b) the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)<sup>85</sup> systems for the detection of security threats, privacy breaches, and abnormalities;
- 2. Requests that the Directorate-General for Communications Network, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)<sup>86</sup> allocates more funding towards Member States for enhancing the cybersecurity of their digitalised energy systems;
- 3. Instructs Member States to enhance their examination of trends in energy usage by implementing energy usage designs<sup>87</sup> and monitoring systems<sup>88</sup>;

<sup>83</sup> A Power System is a network which consists of generation, distribution, and transmission of energy.

The EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) is the body dedicated to achieving a high common level of cybersecurity across Europe, contributing to EU cyber policy, using cybersecurity certification to enhance the trustworthiness of ICT, and cooperating with Member States and EU institutions to face future cyber challenges.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>85</sup> **Artificial Intelligence** is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> The Directorate-General for Communications Network, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) is a department working under the European Commission, developing and carrying out the Commission's policies on the digital economy and society.

<sup>87</sup> Energy usage designs monitor the energy usage at different time slots and compare the energy usage with past data, thus providing details about the daily energy usage and helpful instructions to manage the future energy consumption.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> **Energy monitoring solutions** are the act of collecting real-time or interval energy data, leading to an efficient management of building resource consumption.



- 4. Asks the Directorate-General on Energy (<u>DG ENER</u>)<sup>89</sup> to support active companies and stakeholders on the AI forecasting<sup>90</sup> of trends in the energy market through:
  - a) developing programmes that detect and analyse changes in energy demand,
  - b) investing in accurate models predicting potential energy requirement issues;
- 5. Recommends the European Commission to develop a goal of a 30% increase in the deployment of smart cities and smart energy grids as part of the <u>Digitalisation of Energy Action plan</u><sup>91</sup> by 2030;
- 6. Invites the European Commission to cooperate with Members States in subsidising businesses to incorporate ICT tools in energy systems;
- 7. Welcomes the DG ENER to support ICT-based solutions for the transition to renewable energy sources by:
  - a) funding programmes in Member States for the installation of renewable energy systems,
  - b) subsidising climate-friendly ICT-based energy systems,
  - c) sharing best practices for the installation of the above-mentioned technology through EU-wide computational models;<sup>92</sup>
- 8. Urges the DG ENER to introduce stricter policies requiring environmentally friendly practices in the manufacturing of energy-related ICT;
- 9. Directs the DG ENER to enhance cross-border cooperation in the field of smart cities and grid solutions by:
  - a) facilitating the parallel development of ICT legislation in Member States via biennial meetings with the Council of the EU and ICT professionals,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> **The Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER**) is a department working under the European Commission, continuously making improvements in sustainable and secure energy systems in Europe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> **AI forecasting** uses Artificial Intelligence to process data and predict its future value through looking at its unique trend.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> The **Digitalisation of Energy Action plan** is a European Commission plan set to promote a competitive market for digital energy services that ensures data privacy and sovereignty as well as supports investment in digital energy infrastructure

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> **Computational models** use artificial intelligence to find suitable sites for renewable energy production.



- b) initiating discussions between Member States on original ideas in the digitalised power sector through biannual expert meetings,
- c) supporting collaborative ICT research projects across the EU;
- 10. Designates the European Commission to facilitate the peer-to-peer sharing<sup>93</sup> of energy produced through renewable sources in ICT-based neighbourhoods<sup>94</sup> by allocating the necessary technological support and management systems.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> **Peer-to-peer energy sharing** allows users to share their local energy resources based on an agreed cost-sharing mechanism.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> **ICT neighbourhoods** are residential neighbourhoods with digitally inter-connected energy systems.

## **SPONSORS OF VNS21**



William Thurings stiftelse



Stiftelsen Emilie och Rudolf
Gesellius fond
för filantropiska och kulturella ändamål