

## Youth Unemployment

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Warsaw, Poland on 1 to 3 December 2016:

### Having regard to:

- the resolution “Youth Unemployment” adopted at the 2012 ALDE Party Congress in Dublin, Ireland.

### Notes that:

- there is widespread youth unemployment within Europe, with overall over two times higher youth unemployment than unemployment in the general population. The youth unemployment rate is over 47.7% and 43.2%<sup>[1]</sup> according to Eurostat in Greece and Spain respectively and less than 6.9% in Germany;
- the EU-28 youth unemployment rate averages around 18.6% <sup>[2]</sup> according to Eurostat, with highly skilled young people seeking opportunities outside of Europe;
- the recession has hit young people the hardest, especially those without proper vocational education or those who are unable to compete due to discrimination or limitations;
- the European Commission has called on Member States to draw up national plans to combat youth unemployment;
- European government investments are currently being proposed to create state sponsored jobs for young people;
- SMEs are the prime source of jobs, and national, regional and local authorities have the power to facilitate business start ups, new social enterprises and business sustainability.

### Considers that:

- achieving employment for young people is a critical element in poverty eradication and sustainable development for future generations;
- experience of the working life and the access to the labour market will motivate more young people to educate themselves;
- on average, young people are not well represented in the membership of labour unions or political parties. Therefore these organisations are falling behind in prioritising intergenerational solidarity;
- not being in employment, education or training is demotivating for the individual as well as demoralising for society, as one has no outlook on change in such situation, and unemployment at a young age is a predictor for unemployment and welfare dependence later in life;

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- labour mobility as well as supply and demand are the essential ingredients that make up the European labour market;
- pan-European internship possibilities are lacking, while these are an excellent incentive to improve employee mobility throughout the Union.

### Highlights that:

- the recession and record youth unemployment in some European countries threaten the long-term future of the whole continent;
- industry must work with third level educational centres to ensure that young people graduate with the necessary technical qualifications in a world of rapidly changing technologies;
- multilingualism is vital to unlock the opportunities available to young people throughout the Union;
- the current young generation is the best educated and highest skilled young generation ever;
- specific groups are under particular hardship based on discrimination and social exclusion, such as LGBTQ's, refugees, immigrants, ethnic minorities, disabled and socially disadvantaged young people. A more diverse and inclusive labour market is more creative, agile and resilient;
- education should be acknowledged to job market demands and labour market policies should encourage new jobs to be created under proper conditions;
- current employment policies to combat youth unemployment, foremost the youth guarantee, is not producing the intended results;
- the creation of new jobs is key to combating youth unemployment, and that the essential role of young people as actors in job creation is often underestimated.

### Urgently calls on:

- the EU and the Member States to focus on the problem of youth unemployment and the broad differences within Europe, to seek a solution to this pressing issue;
- Member states to focus and advocate on a European level for the removal of barriers; seeing to actions such as the mutual recognition of vocational and academic degrees, changing priority rules, apprenticeships, reformed employment services and better support in the transition; facilitate and support young people's talent and entrepreneurial skills; for entry on the job market by removing protectionist policies and supporting a single European Job Market;
- the EU to back the creation of more pan-European internship possibilities by connecting young people all over Europe and offering them new opportunities, through a system similar to what Erasmus has been for education opportunities;

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- the Member States and EU to advocate for the sharing of best practices on how to integrate young immigrants and refugees into the European labour market, furthering a view of the refugee crisis as an opportunity in the making, and call for more coordination on how the education system needs to reflect the change in the European population. Recognising degrees from outside of the EU calls for better and shared instruments for validating the degrees of incoming labourers to the EU labour market;
- the Member States and EU to advocate for a flexible labour market with lower thresholds, which are essential for creating both job mobility and job security;
- the Member States and EU to advocate for the creation of networks of start-up entrepreneurs and young chambers of commerce to be consulted when the European agenda on employment and entrepreneurship is set;
- the European institutions to designate more high risk funding to young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial networks in connection to academic institutions;
- the EU to examine why the youth guarantee is not producing the intended results and on basis of this consider what would be a better tool to combat youth unemployment;
- the EU to boost the Small Business Act for Europe and insist that national governments fully implement the framework by 2020, and ensure that – where relevant - subnational governments do their part.

[1] Eurostat. August 2016. "Unemployment statistics". [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics)

[2] Eurostat. August 2016. "Unemployment statistics". [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Unemployment_statistics)

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