



RESOLUTION ON MINORITIES

Basic values of YEPP consider that every person is unique, irreplaceable and free by nature. The protection of human rights is inseparably linked with the protection of the rights of minorities. Crimes involving genocide and ethnic cleansing, attacks against the civilian population in conflicts, fanaticism, xenophobia and violation of minority rights are condemned. YEPP is convinced that human rights must be respected everywhere in every case.

YEPP believes that:

- Minorities have human rights like all the other citizens and the European minorities are equal citizens of our Union.
- Equality means elimination of any discrimination against minorities and recognition of their diversity.
- Freedom of religion is very important. Every human being has the right to practice his or her own religion and this must not be a cause for the obstruction of religious communities.
- All citizens, majority and minorities alike, should act constructively in the pursuit of their interests and all have responsibility to respect diversity within their society.
- More needs to be done to ensure the proper participation and influence of minorities in the EU as well as on the national and local level.

YEPP calls for:

- A European Guide to the rights and principles concerning minorities and their social, economic and cultural life.
- The creation of a special unit in the European Parliament with the responsibility to monitor the respect for human rights not only in the member states but also in the third countries
- Collaboration with institutions and NGOs in order to help minorities, whose social and economic standards often lag far behind the rest of our societies.
- Improving the way educational systems promote and maintain the cultural diversity of our societies, and help integration of minorities to the social and economic life.
- The application of the existing Framework Convention For the Protection of National Minorities and The European Charter For Regional or Minority Languages
- More education aimed at increasing the level of understanding amongst the majority in society concerning the minorities.

Adopted at Council Meeting, Rhodes (Greece), 31 July 2004