

As Europe faces new challenges in light of the difficulties of multiculturalism, a greater focus on the cultural issues and values of the European Union is needed. There is an ever-growing need for a stable and high quality educational system. In addition, the need to secure the cultural integrity and identity of the citizens of Europe is becoming more evident every day. Moreover, information exchange has become a tool of great importance, thus the protection of unbiased informational platforms is crucial.

Therefore,

THE CONGRESS:

1. AFFIRMS that the common identity of Europe is an unbreakable spirit enshrined by the Cultural Resolution of the Congress of Europe in 1948.
2. BEARS in mind the endless effort undertaken by our predecessors in order to implement the European dream.
3. REAFFIRMS the strong belief that only strong coordination among the European nations can ensure our continuous well-being and position in the world.
4. STRESSES the importance of the common European cultural heritage, while equally emphasising the great significance of safeguarding national cultural heritage as well.
5. ESTABLISHES a common European framework of cultural inclusion that strengthens multilingualism and multiculturalism.
6. RECOGNISES the increasing role played by the European Union as a normative power on the global stage.
7. REACTS to essentially anti-European developments such as increasing amounts of inaccurate information, rising inequality and political divide.
8. REAFFIRMS and promotes the core and basic principles of the European Union as laid down in the Treaties as well as in the European Convention on Human Rights.
9. BASES its work on equality, regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity – or political ideology.



#### A. Education

10. UNDERLINES the important role the European Union plays in the everyday lives of its citizens.
11. STATES the need for the unification of the European Union education system from as early as primary school education, right throughout secondary school, up until university.
12. ACCEPTS the sovereignty of Member States regarding issues concerning the national education systems, but, that said,
13. URGES Member States to further their cooperation in the area of education in order to establish a solid ground for sharing good practices as well as exchanging views on possible improvements to be achieved. A key step in this direction is the full reciprocal recognition of national diplomas across all Member States of the European Union.
14. PROPOSES the establishment in all Member States of project-based courses that provide education on:
  - (I) European culture and liberal values for young children, in order to deepen and consolidate the European project;
  - (II) Safe and responsible IT usage for children;
  - (III) Soft skills (such as communication, presentation, debate and public-speaking skills), incorporated in the formal method of education in order to increase employability for youngsters.
15. SUGGESTS an increase of mobility funds for long-term secondary school exchanges, which should be based on cooperation with the civil society in this sector. Projects such as Erasmus+ have been a successful mean to increase opportunities for cultural exchanges which contribute to (re)build a European sense of belonging and to create a new and fairer Europe.
16. PROPOSES the setting up of funds for cross-border training-programmes for school teachers in order for them to have the possibility to gather pan-European experience that they can pass on to their pupils.
17. ENCOURAGES an increased harmonization of school curricula, for example by means of a funded further dispersion of the European Baccalaureate.



## **B. Cultural Heritage and Cultural Diversity**

18. STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that a cultural inclusion policy among Member States be created in order to enhance linguistic and cultural diversity, whilst striking a balance between national and European identities which facilitates multiculturalism. The policy should include the following points:

- (I) Preserving the culture and each of its facets of every autochthonous, national minority and ethnic group in order to ensure cultural diversity within each Member State of the EU.
- (II) Encouraging cultural exchanges and facilitate dialogue between minorities and majorities, by allocating additional financial assistance and promoting intercultural and educational diversity.
- (III) Strengthening social cohesion by engaging expats and temporary residents of every Member State of the European Union by organising civic initiatives with short-term subsidised language courses.

19. SUGGESTS the creation of programmes that would engage more young people (under the age of 25) to visit cultural institutions, such as art galleries or museums, in order to ensure that they have the possibility of getting to know the different cultural elements of each Member State and thus coming to have a better idea of what European cultural heritage consists of.

20. PROPOSES EU-sponsored class-trips to the European Parliament in Brussels and/or Strasbourg to foster the European identity and the longevity of the latter.

## **C. Information Exchange**

21. STRESSES the importance of unbiased information exchange and the possibility of all citizens of the European Union to be able to gain proper and transparent knowledge on all the actions taken at European Union level.

22. RECOMMENDS the creation of a 'European Union Information Agency' to encourage independent media, the development of legal protection of journalists, and to assure that every European citizen is entitled to access unbiased European news. The tasks of the European Union Information Agency (EUIA) will include:

- (I) To research and promote the rights of every European citizen to receive accurate information about European politics, current affairs and events in the European institutions.



(II) To conduct research on the existing legal protection of journalists on the level of the European Union.

(III) To assist and provide recommendations on current issues concerning the quality of information distribution.

(IV) To initiate, organize, produce and distribute information in the 24 official languages of the Member States on the cultural, political and socio-economic aspects of the European Union.

(V) To encourage the production of news in clear and comprehensible language, accessible to everyone.

(VI) To develop a method to identify and reward reliable and unbiased information channels.

*The content of this publication does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the authors.*

