

EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT **ΕΛΛΑΔΑ** GREECE



#Synergy – 1st Digital Session of EYP Greece

European Youth Parliament Greece – EYP Greece

Academic Team of #Synergy – 1st Digital Session of EYP Greece

Resolution Booklet of

#Synergy – 1st Digital Session of EYP Greece

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By clicking on the name of the Committee Below, you will be taken to the Kialo of the proposed resolution where you can add amendments on the resolution

AFET, CULT, ECON I, ECON II, ENVI, ITRE, LIBE, TRAN

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EUROPEAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT

General Assembly Procedure

General Rules:

- Committees have the ability to use their Discord text & voice channel for communication during GA.
- Delegates should afford equal respect to all debates as if they were their own.
- A delegate will act as the committee placard and the chair as the Direct Response placard.
- The wish to speak is indicated through the "Raise hand" function on Zoom by the delegate that wishes to speak (acting as the Committee Placard).
- Participants will unmute themselves.
- Each committee will have one Direct Response per Debate.
- The procedure for **amendments**¹ will be taking place on Kialo. Only one amendment will be recognised per debate and it will be voted upon by the entire General Assembly via a poll on Zoom. The amendment recognised will be the one with the highest impact on Kialo.
- All delegates are encouraged to vote and refrain from abstaining unless they have a true moral conflict.
- Resolutions pass if they receive more votes in favour than against, otherwise they fail.
- The authority of the Board is absolute.

¹ An **amendment** is a suggestion to change one clause in the proposed resolution. In order to submit an amendment, the delegate must agree in principle with the resolution and only want to see one idea altered.

Procedure of the Debate on a motion for a resolution

- I. The board will read out the topic question;
- II. The delegates will have 2 minutes to view the proposed resolution, submit any final amendments on Kialo and rate the impact of the amendments they would like to see being discussed;
- **III.** The board will review the amendments and choose the one that will be debated upon based on their rated impact;
- IV. The delegate proposing the amendment will have **1 minute** to defend it;
- V. The proposing committee will have **1 minute** to respond to the suggested amendment;
- VI. The General Assembly will vote on the amendment on a poll on Zoom. If it passes, debate on the motion for a resolution will proceed with the necessary change;
- VII. A delegate from the proposing committee will have **2 minutes** to deliver the defence speech;
- **VIII.** Two delegates will be given the chance to deliver a **1-minute** position speech on the proposed resolution;
- **IX.** A delegate from the proposing committee will have **1 minute** to respond to the position speeches;
- **X.** The General Assembly will move on to open debate:
 - i. The floor will open for the delegates to deliver points (first round)
 - **ii.** A delegate from the proposing committee will have **1 minute** to address the points made
 - iii. The floor will open for the delegates to deliver points (second round)
 - iv. A delegate from the proposing committee will have 1 minute to address the points made
- **XI.** A delegate from the proposing committee will have **3 minutes** to address any final points and deliver the summation speech.
- **XII.** The General Assembly will vote on the motion for a resolution with the Chairpersons collecting the votes on their committee Discord text channel

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)

Popping Pills Without Restraint: With antimicrobial resistance causing 33,000 deaths per year in the EU and costing the EU EUR 1.5 billion in healthcare cost and productivity losses, how can the EU combat the overuse of antibiotics?

Submitted by: Oana Antonesku (RO), Selin Demir (FR), Olsi Manco (Al), Mark Markov (UK), Christos Samaltanos (GR), Ceren Nil Soylu (AZ), Vasiliki Triantafyllou (Chairperson, GR)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply alarmed that only <u>25% of countries globally</u> have implemented a national policy to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR), while less than <u>40% of countries</u> globally have launched programmes for infection prevention and control,
- B. Bearing in mind that widespread AMR could render routine surgeries, such as cesarean sections, <u>becoming too dangerous to be performed</u>,
- C. Deeply concerned that <u>last-line antimicrobial treatments such as Colistin</u> are becoming increasingly ineffective against many strains of bacteria,
- D. Acknowledging that <u>hospital and pharmaceutical waste</u> is not regulated and disposed correctly,
- E. Concerned that <u>7% of antibiotics in the European Union (EU) are taken</u> <u>without prescription</u> due to a lack of supervision and penalties for pharmacies selling them,
- F. Deeply concerned by the <u>overprescription of antibiotics</u> caused by inaccurate or empirical medical assessment,
- G. Noting with regret the <u>lack of awareness</u> among the population concerning appropriate use of antimicrobial agents, potentially leading to dangerous underdosing²,
- H. Recognizing that intensive hygiene and infection control programmes could prevent <u>20-30% of healthcare-associated infections</u>, including drug-resistance,

² <u>Underdosing</u>: Patient self-medication and noncompliance with recommended treatments occur when individuals forget to take medication, prematurely discontinue the medication as they begin to feel better, or cannot afford a full course of therapy. Self-medication almost always involves unnecessary, inadequate, and ill-timed dosing. This means that the bacteria that naturally inhabit the body are exposed to low levels of antibiotics over long periods and thus acquire several mutations, increasing their chance of resistance.

- I. Fully aware of the overuse of <u>antibiotics in livestock feed</u> for production growth purposes, affecting the environment and passing on to humans;
- 1. Invites Member States to take action in the fight against AMR, by legislating in areas such as antimicrobial over-prescription, waste management, and over-usage on livestock;
- 2. Further invites the <u>Directorate General for Research and Innovation</u> (DG RTD) to further fund research under the Horizon Programme into:
- developing up-to-date, improved, and widely accessible vaccines for infectious diseases such as pneumonia, alternative treatments for common bacterial infections more effective antimicrobial agents to be used as drugs of last resort³ (DoLR) in critical cases; Asks the European Commission to fund healthcare institutions through the Third Health Programme (3HP)⁴, to adopt appropriate disposal methods of antibiotic waste;
- 4. Encourages Member States to introduce legislation which prohibits the selling and buying of antimicrobial drugs without a certified doctor's prescription;
- 5. Further encourages the European Commission to cooperate with the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)⁵ in funding additional up-todate training for primary care physicians and assisting them in implementing new diagnostic and prescriptive framework;
- 6. Calls upon the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)⁶ to cooperate with Member States in launching media initiatives such as TV

³ Last-Resort antibiotic: A last-resort antibiotic is used to treat infections with bacteria that are resistant against the common antibiotics or, in cases of severe infections, where an effect must be ensured. Last-resort antibiotics should not be prescribed to treat simple infections in order to prevent the development of resistances. They are more often used to treat infections with multidrug-resistant bacteria.

⁴ <u>Third Health Programme</u>: The Third Health Programme (3HP) is one of the EU's Health Programmes funding projects to improve public health, prevent illness, and eliminate threats to physical and mental health in European countries. It is the main instrument that the EC uses to implement the EU Health Strategy.

⁵ European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS): UEMS is the oldest medical organisation in Europe. With a current membership consisting of 40 countries, it is the representative organisation of the National Associations of Medical Specialists in the European Union and its associated countries. UEMS represents over 1.6 million medical specialists in all the different specialties and has strong links and relations with European Institutions.

⁶ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC): ECDC is an EU agency aimed at strengthening Europe's defences against infectious diseases, with one of its main objectives being the tackling of AMR. The core functions cover a wide spectrum of activities: surveillance, epidemic intelligence, response, scientific advice, microbiology, preparedness, public health training, international relations, health communication, and the scientific journal Eurosurveillance.

advertisements, brochures, billboards, and text messages during the course of four years with the aim of raising awareness of:

- a) dangers of the use of over-the-counter antimicrobials,
- b) risks of underdosing on prescription antimicrobials,
- c) good practices on the disposal of antimicrobial waste;
- 7. Suggests that Member States implement intensive hygiene protocols and infection control programmes in healthcare institutions;
- Appeals to the European Commission to coordinate the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)⁷ to financially support agricultural corporations in the improvement of the living conditions of livestock in mass-production farms;
- 9. Requests the ECDC to resume its efforts on AMR surveillance reports on a biannual basis with the aim of increasing EU-wide monitoring.

⁷ European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF): EAGF is a fund of the European Commission supporting the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and is drawn from the EU budget. The legal basis for the common agricultural policy is established in the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union. This fund primarily finances income support for farmers and market measures, such as intervention buying, private storage aid, or exceptional market disturbance measures.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Industry, Technology and Research (ITRE)

All of the Lights: Despite attempts at deregulating the energy market, European electricity prices have been steadily increasing in the last 10 years. How can the EU better integrate renewable energy to reduce power prices in Europe?

Submitted by: Nikolas Hadjipaschalis (CY), Evagelia Moschou (GR), Vasiliki Palitzika (GR), Aliki-Evagelia Spiliotopoulou (GR), Maria-Anna Vakalopoulou (GR), Spiridoula-Iris Vasilakopoulou (GR), Eleni Chrysafi (Chairperson, GR)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the constantly increasing electricity prices,
- B. Noting with deep concern that many citizens of the European Union (EU) have <u>limited opportunities</u> to freely choose their energy suppliers,
- C. Emphasizing the need for a common legislative framework regarding renewable energy sources,
- D. Bearing in mind that fossil fuels are finite energy sources,
- E. Noting with regret that Member States <u>have not met</u> their Energy Efficiency Targets⁸ for 2020,
- F. Acknowledging that Member States are <u>ineffective at incentivising</u> enterprises to invest in renewable energy,
- G. Noting with satisfaction that <u>renewable power generation costs⁹ are</u> <u>decreasing</u> due to technological advancements,
- H. Acknowledging the <u>lack of expertise and high network costs</u> associated with the installation of the appropriate renewable energy infrastructure¹⁰,
- I. Realising that the majority of EU citizens are <u>unaware of the potentials of</u> <u>renewable energy sources</u>;

⁹ The cost of producing electric power from primary energy sources.

¹⁰ The structure that facilitates energy flow and enables the large-scale transportation of energy from producer to consumer.

⁸ Energy Efficiency: Energy efficiency is the method of using less energy to perform the same task or provide the same products and services. The EU has set energy efficiency targets for 2020 and 2030 in order to reduce primary and final energy consumption.

- 1.Endorses Member States to, in collaboration with the EU Energy Poverty Observatory¹¹, assist social groups that are at the highest risk of energy poverty by providing prepaid electricity cards¹² for them to be able to afford energy for basic purposes;
- 2.Encourages Member States to continue their supportive collaboration among them, with the ultimate aim of constructing an EU energy supergrid¹³;
- 3.Calls upon Member States to issue national action plans regarding energy interconnectivity¹⁴ of remote areas and issue reports about their status;
- 4.Supports that Member States implement indirect taxes¹⁵ on energy as opposed to direct taxes;
- 5.Encourages Member States to implement carbon dioxide emission quotas and impose fines on stakeholders that exceed them;
- 6.Recommends Member States to cooperate with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)¹⁶ to provide them with technical assistance aiming to to diversify their renewable energy sources in accordance with their local geography;
- 7.Urges Member States to collaborate with the IRENA with the aim of developing energy efficient buildings and introducing of eco-friendly devices based on renewable energy sources such as electric cars;
- 8. Invites the European Commission to collaborate with Member States with the aim of providing start-up companies with monetary incentives to mobilize a more effective use of renewable energy sources;
- 9. Encourages Member States to issue tenders whereby it invites interested parties to build and operate renewable energy power plants;

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¹¹ **EU Energy Poverty Observatory**: EU Energy Poverty Observatory is an initiative created by the European Commission to support its effort on combating energy poverty. Its role entails collecting information about the state of energy poverty in Europe, facilitating knowledge sharing, providing technical assistance regarding energy poverty and drafting innovative policies to tackle it.

¹² Prepayment energy meter system suggests that you pay for your electricity in advance using a top-up card or key to load more money onto your meter. Prepaid energy meters let you manage your energy usage efficiently and avoid building up debt for your energy usage.

¹³ **Supergrid**: A supergrid is an electrical network which crosses national borders

¹⁴ The equipment and facilities needed to safely and reliably interconnect another facility to the transmission system of the Energy Transmission Utility.

¹⁵ Taxes that can be passed on to another individual or entity. They are usually imposed on energy suppliers who then pass on the tax to the consumers.

¹⁶ **IRENA**: IRENA is an intergovernmental institution responsible for helping countries facilitate a smooth transition to sustainable energy generation.

10. Invites the European Research Council to support renewable energy research projects initiated by local communities;

11. Encourages the European Commission to launch media campaigns about the immediacy of the fossil fuel crisis and its detrimental environmental impact;

12. Suggests Member States to include environmental education lessons in their schools' curriculum throughout all years and levels of education.

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Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs I (ECON I)

Connecting SMEs for a Green Economy: With the European Commission's Green Deal prioritising the fight against climate change and striving for carbon neutrality by 2050, how can the EU better integrate SMEs in its decarbonisation policy framework?

Submitted by: Efthymios Rafail Aggelis (GR), Panagiota Gerontidou (GR), Aristotelis Giannakoulas (GR), Anastasia Giantzi (GR), Maria Gkanatsa (GR), Anna Papachristos (GR), Christiana Pikoula (GR), Anna Petrides (CY, Chairperson)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Bearing in mind that Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)¹⁷ need <u>financial support</u> to achieve their goals,
- B. Acknowledging that <u>increased bureaucracy hinders SMEs</u> from quickly applying their environment-related plans,
- C. Aware that a small percentage of SMEs use the procedure of "material flow analysis"¹⁸ which is a good way to reduce material, energy and water consumption and is going beyond improving existing processes and redesigning products and systems,
- D. Noting with deep concern that development of renewable energy sources used in the SMEs is <u>inadequate</u>,
- E. Taking into consideration the <u>increased need of SMEs for capital</u> and the lack of communication opportunities between investors and SMEs,
- F. Deeply concerned that SMEs facing financial issues are unlikely to become more energy efficient due to market monopolisation, oligopolisation and the low competitiveness,

¹⁷ Small and Medium-sized Enterprises - Small and Medium-sized Enterprises are enterprises with less than 250 employees and either annual turnover less than 50 million or an annual balance sheet total of less than 43 million.

¹⁸ <u>Material Flow Analysis</u> - Material Flow Analysis is an environmental management tool that deals with the analysis of material and energy input and output processes, resource use and stock calculations, and hotspot assessment.

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to create a Task Force for the Development of Small and Medium-sized enterprises that will:
 - a) consist of representatives from the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), <u>Executive</u> <u>Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)</u>, the European structural and Investment fund (ESIF)¹⁹ and experts on Member States,
 - b) create a competition aiming to identify innovative suggestions to reduce red tape,
 - c) reduce red-tape²⁰ bureaucracy through financial caps with regards and not limited to COVID-19's extenuating circumstances,
 - d) increase accessibility to financing opportunities by creating a task force website which will contain information on the local support measures of each region and the financial aid available for SMEs with green agendas²¹;
- 2. Requests the newly created Task Force to supervise EASME-run programs by, among others:
 - a) monitoring the LIFE²², COSME ²³and Horizon 2020 programmes
 - b) monitoring efforts to raise awareness of resource efficiency and circular-economy innovations among SMEs, under the <u>"Green Action</u> <u>Plan</u>";²⁴
- 3. Further requests that EASME incentivizes companies to research Eco-design by funding the following:
 - a) educating and providing career transition opportunities to experts in the field,
 - b) advertising eco designing by providing companies with certificated product levels issued by the EU,
 - c) awarding successful eco- conscious management;
- 4. Encourages the newly created Task Force to advise the European Commission regarding legislation to further minimise market monopolies and oligopolies by providing, *inter alia*, "life insurance" to start-ups with greener approaches for a fair amount of time beating monopolisation and protecting them from takeovers from large enterprises;

¹⁹ <u>European Structural Investment Funds</u> - European Structural Investment Funds consist of: European regional development fund, European social fund, Cohesion fund, European agricultural fund for rural development, European maritime and fisheries fund.

²⁰ **Red Tape**: excessive bureaucracy or adherence to official rules and formalities.

²¹ <u>Green Agenda</u> - Goals that are consistent with the targets of the European Green Deal

²² <u>LIFE programme</u> - The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action

²³ <u>COSME programme</u> - Europe's programme for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

²⁴ Green Action Plan - EU Action Plan which aims to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) take advantage of the opportunities offered by the transition to a green economy

- 5. Invites the DG GROW to organise communication opportunities events via the "Enterprise European Network" in the form of:
 - a) support stemming from business angels or a partner in the form of a large organisation,
 - b) provision of 'green' information and initiatives ensuring long term profits, in line with the "Task force for the development of SMEs";
- 6. Recommends that the DG GROW promotes the use of "material flow analysis" among SMEs via:
 - a) establishment of a Central Control that will encourage SMEs to employ the process, consisting of representatives from the DG GROW,
 - b) conduction of campaigns and training workshops to provide advice on the direction of the material flow analysis by EASME to economise money and raw materials;

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7. Further recommends the newly created Task Force to organise renewable energy events, to educate SMEs, promoting green research and innovation.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

No Game, No Life: With the World Health Organisation having recently recognised compulsive gaming as a mental health disorder, how can the EU harness the benefits of video games in supporting learning and developing cognitive skills while combating video gaming addiction?

Submitted by: Maryam Aslanova (AZ), Maria Fotopoulou (GR), Hajibaba Heybatov (AZ), Konstantina Karagkitsi (GR), Arina Kolesova (BY), Edor Shedu (AL), Riyad Valiyev (AZ), Eleftheria Arkadopoulou (Chairperson, GR), Teodora Stereciu (Chairperson, RO)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Acknowledging the <u>high risk</u> of gaming addiction development or relapse due to the recent social distancing measures and quarantine due to COVID-19,
- B. Concerned with both the <u>increasing number</u> of people addicted to Massively Multiplayer Online games (MMOs)²⁵ and Role-Playing Games (RPGs)²⁶,
- C. Recognising that players often use video gaming to <u>cope with the stress</u> resulting from bullying or domestic abuse,
- D. Alarmed that students addicted to video gaming tend to <u>score lower</u> on their academic tests compared to their not addicted peers,
- E. Emphasising that gamers' <u>mental health</u> can be seriously affected by excessive time spent on video games, with <u>depressive and social phobic</u> <u>symptoms</u> leading the way;
- F. Deeply concerned with compulsive gamers' inability to recognise addictive behaviour due to <u>lack of easily accessible information</u> surrounding the issue,
- G. Regretting the limited involvement of video games in Member States' educational systems, despite <u>research</u> recognising them as an effective <u>means of learning</u> and cognitive skills improvement,
- H. Deploring outdated and inaccurate <u>stereotypes</u> revolving around the characteristics of gamers such as <u>age and gender</u>;

²⁵ <u>Massively Multiplayer Online games (MMOs)</u>: Massively Multiplayer Online Games are games in which a large number of people can play simultaneously and cooperate.

²⁶ <u>Role-Playing games (RPGs)</u>: Role-Playing games allow the player to assume the identity of a character and take control over their actions.

- 1. Calls upon the European Commission to establish a Task Force comprised of video game experts, psychologists and recovered compulsive gamers;
- 2. Suggests Member States in collaboration with the newly created Task Force to create recovery programmes, possibly providing compulsive gamers with daily routines, such as "<u>The Five Step Programme</u>";
- 3. Further suggests the newly created Task Force to assist Ministries of Education of Member States in harvesting the benefits of educational video games by cooperating with gaming companies;
- 4. Encourages the <u>Directorate-General of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture</u> (<u>GD EAC</u>) to lead a media campaign in collaboration with the Member States that will utilise analogue and contemporary methods of communication;
- 5. Further encourages the newly created Task Force to help with the aforementioned media campaign against video game addiction by:
 - a) creating voice-overs for social media content,
 - b) spreading awareness on social media and government webpages,
 - c) offering webinars to schools and universities' faculty;
- 6. Invites the <u>Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)</u> to allocate funds from the <u>Development of European Video Games Fund</u> to educational institutions across Member States to develop and implement these video games in the curriculum;
- 7. Further invites the European Commission to support the Ministries of Education of Member States by providing guidelines for:
 - a) organising seminars and talks on addiction-prevention,
 - b) encouraging the participation of educational institutions in programs aiming to train educators on game-based learning, such as "<u>Games In Schools</u>";
- 8. Recommends Member States, assisted by the WHO, design audio-visual warnings similar to ads within video games about the negative impact of excessive video gaming.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs II (ECON II)

Fashion-forward: In 2020, the global fashion industry is estimated to be worth USD 1.5 trillion, with 22% of sales happening online. Amongst increasing concern over the environmental impact of the garments industry and major brands collapsing, what can be done to ensure the sustainable growth of the fashion industry?

Submitted by: Nicole Boutaki (GR), Christina Karafyllia (GR), Kate Moloney (IE), Gea Palm (EE), Polina Slizevich (BY), Madara Kivleniece (Chairperson, LV)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Alarmed by the negative environmental impacts of fashion industry, such as <u>greenhouse gas emissions</u>, <u>microplastic pollution in oceans</u>, and <u>soil degradation</u>,
- B. Deeply concerned by the fact that synthetic fibers found in <u>72% of clothes are</u> <u>non-biodegradable</u>,
- C. Bearing in mind the <u>overuse of non-renewable</u> sources like oil and fossil fuel, as well as the large quantity of water used in production of garments,
- D. Expressing its appreciation towards the work of the movement <u>"Fashion</u> <u>Revolution"</u>,
- E. Noting with regret that <u>40% of fashion companies</u> have not yet acknowledged their sustainability issues,
- F. Fully alarmed by the insufficient living wages and poor working conditions of the fashion industry workers which violate <u>United Nations Universal</u> <u>Declaration of Human Rights Article 25.1</u>,
- G. Taking into consideration the <u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u> to align the fashion industry with the <u>Sustainable Development Goals</u>,
- H. Fully aware that the <u>increased prices of sustainable clothing deem</u> them unaffordable for people with low income,
- I. Alarmed that <u>80% of all clothes</u> are either wasted in landfills or incinerated, releasing harmful chemicals into the atmosphere;
- Encourages the European Commission to formulate sustainability standards which will operate under a layered framework for fashion companies which must be assessed annually in order to avoid imposition of annual production quotas;
- 2. Asks the European Commission to collaborate with sustainable fashion nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and movements such as <u>Fashion</u> <u>Revolution</u> and <u>Clean Clothes Campaign</u> to formulate more efficient methods

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of production and use of resources which will be passed on to apparel producers to comply with the aforementioned sustainability standards;

- 3. Recommends the Member States to provide financial incentives such as tax decrease and grants to companies using biodegradable materials²⁷;
- 4. Instructs the European Social Fund²⁸ to offer financial incentives to companies for improving their supply chain further than existing, aforementioned sustainability standards;
- 5. Requests NGOs specializing in the reformation of the fashion industry to share their knowledge and to suggest policies based on their expertise;
- 6. Calls upon the European Commission to ensure that all Member States comply with strict workers' rights policies such as fair wages and safe working conditions through organizing workshops;
- 7. Suggests the European Commission to reassess the progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁹ every 6 months;
- 8. Further suggests Member States to inform its citizens about conscious consuming and affordable fashion options by holding educational workshops;
- 9. Invites the Member States to provide their municipalities with garment recycling plans and to promote the necessity of recycling through workshops.

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²⁷ **Biodegradable materials -** Biodegradable materials are materials which can be decomposed by bacteria or other natural organisms, thus not adding to the pollution as linen.

²⁸ **The European Social Fund (ESF)** is one of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), which are dedicated to improving social cohesion and economic well-being across the regions of the Union.

²⁹ **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** is a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)

Adopting a New Adoption System: Considering the number of children growing up in institutions with poor conditions, and the often long waiting time for prospective parents, how can the EU act to improve the efficiency of the adoption system of its Member States, while ensuring that the children's rights are protected?

Submitted by: Çağatay Büyükçaylı (TR), Petra Moldovan (RO), Anastasiya Shlothauer (BY), Victoria Panassevitch (BY), Maria-Lorna Szamosi (GR), Sofia Zangana (GR), Ana Clara Jaccoud (Chairperson, DE), Eclair Plashchynski (Chairperson, BY)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Taking into account the <u>lack of a homogeneous adoption regulation</u> in the EU,
- B. Concerned for the <u>inconsistency of legal procedures</u> resulting in conflicts of <u>cross-border recognition of the family status</u>,
- C. Bearing in mind that children raised in orphanages, suffer <u>delays in cognitive</u> <u>and social development</u>,
- D. Deeply regretting the inadequate healthcare, substandard nutritional provisions and badly maintained facilities at <u>orphanages</u>,
- E. Noting with regret the <u>inadequate</u> conditions at institutions, due to lack of proper financing and regulation,
- F. Alarmed by the fact that staff in institutions is often <u>lacking or</u> <u>underprepared.</u>
- G. Fully alarmed by the <u>social isolation and psychological trauma</u> experienced by the institutionalised children,
- H. Keeping in mind that due to the stress of the adoption process often lasting for <u>up to 2 years of waiting periods</u> prospective parents are often discouraged to continue with the adoption process,
- I. Deeply alarmed that <u>only 10% of the children adopted are between the ages</u> <u>of 13-17</u>,
- J. Deeply concerned by the <u>lack of accuracy</u> in data of children raised in orphanages, regarding the children's age, nationality, nutrition and education,
- K. Noting with regret that the <u>same-sex couples</u> have a significantly lower chance of adopting a child,
- L. Emphasising the <u>heavy bureaucracy and redundant procedural rules</u> involved for prospective parents to adopt,

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M. Noting with deep concern that interethnic adoptions are very rare,

- 1. Encourages the Member States to create an EU body concerning adoption processes called "European Agency for Child Adoption (EACA)" with the purpose of:
 - a) mediating the communication between the governments and prospective parents,
 - b) minimising bureaucracy of the adoption process,
 - c) supervising the institutions on their compliance with the postbureaucratic approach proposed;
- 2. Strongly encourages the Member States to further provide psychological support and preparation to the prospective parents, by establishing monthly consultations with social workers, as a requirement for the completion of the adoption procedure;
- Advises the Member States to ensure proper dietary provisions to the children living in the institutions, by taking nutritional counselling service for the meals provided to the children in institutions, <u>following the example</u> <u>of Germany</u>;
- 4. Invites the Member States to ensure the basic human rights conditions of the children living in institutions by:
 - a) providing them with sufficient financing,
 - b) implementing regular visits by social workers to assess living conditions,
 - c) cutting the funding and reallocating children from institutions in case of non-compliance with the criteria;
- 5. Further invites the Member States to ensure that the orphanages have high security and adequate facilities as well as educational, entertainment and physical activity areas;
- 6. Endorses the European Commission to ensure appropriate conditions in institutions, by creating an EU-wide certificate for the institutions with adequate facilities;
- 7. Requests the Member States to hold tests for the staff of the institutions regarding their capability of taking care of children, by setting an assessment system that is evaluating the staff in terms of:
 - a) experiences in childcare,
 - b) additional training programmes that they have attended,
 - c) face to face interviews;

- 8. Invites Member States to provide regular consultation with therapists and behavioural specialists to assist post-adoption issues with children;
- 9. Suggests the Member States to further encourage the adoption of teenagers from ages between 13 to 17 by:
 - a) promoting stories from teenagers that grew out of the adoption systems in social networks through partnerships with NGOs such as <u>Lumos</u>,
 - b) minimising the bureaucratic and legal procedures specifically for adopting a teenager;
- 10. Recommends the Member States³⁰ to supervise that same-sex couples are not being discriminated by the social workers and adoption agencies in the process of adopting a child;
- 11. Further recommends the European Commission to help improve the legal procedures concerning the adoption processes in the EU widely by:
 - a) encouraging Member States to ratify the <u>European Convention on</u> <u>the Adoption of Children</u>,
 - b) standardizing the legal approach to cross-border recognition of adoption, as to ensure the wide recognition of the family status;
 - 12. Invites institutions to prepare informative booklets, in coordination with <u>Eurochild</u> to prepare prospective parents about dealing with the struggles of adoption.

³⁰ In which adoption by same-sex couples is legalised

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)

Towards Sustainable Transport: With the revision of the EU Biofuels Directive seeing the share of renewable energy used in transport rising to at least 10 % in every Member State by 2020 but very few Member States eventually reaching that goal, how can the EU and its Member States further help the shift towards energyefficient transport?

Submitted by: Vidit Bhaskar (IN/FI), Despoina Efstratiadou (GR), Sultan Khokhar (UK), Haris Kozlica (BA), Iva Lipovtseva (RO), Mateja Bokan (Chairperson, RS)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Deeply disturbed that air quality standards are <u>exceeded in 130 cities</u> across Europe,
- B. Concerned that the global car fleet is expected to triple by 2050,
- C. Anxious that urbanisation in recent decades has resulted in a <u>lack of</u> <u>pedestrian space</u>,
- D. Observing that there is a lack of public charging facilities for electric vehicles, despite the <u>general upwards trend</u> in electric vehicle ownership,
- E. Aware that there is a <u>lack of smart traffic management systems and</u> <u>applications</u>, leading to inefficient transport systems,
- F. Deeply alarmed that air pollution contributes to <u>400,000 premature deaths</u> in Europe every year,
- G. Noting with regret that only <u>12 out of the 27 Member States</u> met their 2020 national renewable energy targets,
- H. Concerned that high levels of air pollution in European cities can have <u>detrimental impacts on economic growth</u> such as labour productivity, health expenditures and agricultural crop yields,
- Acknowledging the challenge of introducing <u>environmentally friendly</u> <u>transport methods</u> such as electric buses and cars in remote or economically depressed areas due to lower regional budgets,
- J. Pointing out the <u>lack of renewable energy</u> used to power public transport, particularly in less affluent Member States,

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- K. Noting with concern that greenhouse gas emissions from transport already account for <u>one quarter of all European emissions</u>, and are rising at a greater rate than in any other sector;
- Expresses its appreciation that the European Commission financially supports the Member States in the reconstruction of old, as well as the building of new railway corridors in Europe to decrease aeroplane usage for shorter journeys;
- Seeks Member States' Ministers of Education to cooperate with the European Environment Agency (EEA)³¹ to compose an educational booklet for young people³² in Europe, about the health benefits of using sustainable transport methods to be distributed by 2023;
- 3. Advises the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) to lead efforts for rural public transportation development in Europe by supporting the implementation of sustainable public transport, making commuting to major cities more accessible and sustainable;
- 4. Encourages the European Energy Union³³ to establish an information campaign about the environmental impacts of transport in Europe to increase awareness and recognition of the problems by 2022;
- Asks the European Commission to reimburse Member States who introduce VAT³⁴ cuts on electric vehicles and consequently see electric vehicle ownership rise to at least 20% of new cars by 2030;
- Strongly encourages Member States to make additional efforts to increase the usage of biofuels in Europe through initiatives such as the EU-India Conference on Advanced Biofuel³⁵ by 2030;
- 7. Appeals to the European Commission to approve subsidies for the energy sectors of Member States which successfully meet their renewable energy targets by 2030;

³¹ <u>European Environment Agency</u> - The European Environment Agency is an agency of the European Union which provides independent information on the environment.

³² **Young people** - A young person is someone in Secondary, Higher, or bachelor's University education.

³³ **European Energy Union** - The European Energy Union was launched in February 2015 by the European Commission with the goal to give EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive, and affordable energy.

³⁴ **Value Added Tax** - Value Added Tax is a tax which is placed on most consumer goods by national governments and is different from Member State to Member State, and is also different depending on the type of goods.

³⁵ **Biofuel** - A biofuel is a fuel which is produced from biomass, rather than a fuel produced from the geological processes involved in the production of fossil fuels.

- Recommends national governments to implement public bike-hire infrastructure, similar to the Call a Bike system in place across multiple German cities;³⁶
- 9. Suggests regional governments, with the oversight of national governments, to implement superblocks³⁷ in capital or major city areas;
- 10. Instructs regional governments to install more electric vehicle charging points around residential areas and workplaces, in proportion to their needs by 2025;
- 11. Calls upon national governments to introduce large-scale parking areas outside major cities, to decrease the number of vehicles operating within the urban boundaries, following the example of ZTL zones³⁸ in Rome;
- 12. Invites the European Commission to approve the European Central Bank to provide subsidies to vehicle manufacturers operating in Europe, who are willing to increase the electric vehicle output to at least 50% by 2030;
- 13. Further invites the European Road Transport Telematics Implementation Coordination Organisation³⁹ to develop new smart traffic management systems and applications to reduce congestion on European roads.

³⁸ Zona a Traffic Limitado (ZTL) - In Rome, ZTL zones represent areas in which private cars are strictly prohibited. These zones are based in the busy, historical central area of the city.
³⁹ European Road Transport Telematics Implementation Coordination Organisation - The

³⁶ Call a Bike - A dock less bike hire system run by Deutsche Bahn (DB) in several German cities. Developed in 1998 and in operation since 2000, Call a Bike uses a system of authentication codes to automatically lock and unlock bikes. It is currently in use in larger cities such as Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Kassel, Cologne, Munich and Stuttgart.

³⁷ **Superblock** - A superblock is an area of urban land composed of multiple city-blocks, with restricted road access to the roads within.

European Road Transport Telematics Implementation Coordination Organisation is an organisation in Europe that promotes research and sets industry standards for intelligent transportation systems.

Motion for a Resolution by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

Fighting over Gas: The discovery of substantial natural gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean has led to numerous disagreements, with Turkey being accused of repeatedly violating international law by its drilling activities. How can the EU support Greece and Cyprus in realising their energy policy in the region, whilst fostering cooperation with third countries to increase energy connectivity?

Submitted by: Danai-Christina Avdela (GR), Matej Bojić (RS), Irida Kamperoglou (GR), Satwik Kansal (UK), Ilias Kasiotakis (GR), Nefeli Revela (GR), Eda Üner (TR), Liam Downes (Chairperson, IE), Ana Reis (Chairperson, RS)

The European Youth Parliament,

- A. Stressing that Turkey is not a signatory of United Nations Convention of Law and Sea (<u>UNCLOS</u>) and, therefore, considers its drilling activities in the Mediterranean Sea to be legal,
- B. Aware that control over the natural gas fields⁴⁰ could boost the countries' economies and potentially give them a leading role in the energy market,
- C. Deeply concerned with the environmental impact of drilling activities in the Mediterranaen Sea, especially near <u>Marine Protected Areas</u> (MPA's),
- D. Profoundly concerned by the recently rising tensions between Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, partly caused by the entering of Turkish navy vessels into overlapping Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)⁴¹ claimed by both Greece and Turkey,
- E. Noting with regret the <u>potential dangers</u> that could be caused by drilling such as oil spills or gas leaks,
- F. Acknowledging that, in 2018, natural gas made up <u>21% of EU energy mix</u> and <u>40%</u> of that imported gas came from Russia,
- G. Pointing out that <u>Turkey and Libya</u> signed a Memorandum regarFurther pointing out that, in early 2020, six Eastern Mediterranean countries founded the <u>East</u> <u>Mediterranean Gas Forum</u> (EastMed Gas Forum)⁴²,

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⁴⁰ The Aphrodite, Tamar, Leviathan and Zohr gas fields

⁴¹ The <u>Exclusive Economic Zone</u> is the maritime zone defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea over which a state has special rights when it comes to the exploration and use of marine resources located within the state' EEZ.

⁴² Israel, Greece, Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine, Jordan and Italy.

- H. Alarmed by the high dependency on foreign energy sources by countries involved in the conflict⁴³,
- I. Conscious of the <u>low contribution</u> of renewable sources for Cyprus, Greece and Turkey's energy mix,
- J. Noting with regret the rising tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean sea have led to the creation of two alliances with overlapping natural gas projects,
- K. Bearing in mind the recent purchase of Russian anti-aircraft systems by Turkey and the potential risk if these are deployed on the coast,
- L. Acknowledging the discussions of the <u>European Council</u> to impose sanctions against Turkey, which is currently facing a <u>currency and debt crisis</u>;
- Proposes the <u>European Environmental Agency (EEA)</u>⁴⁴ safeguards and protects the marine environment by supervising any drilling activity conducted in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea;
- 2. Requests the countries in conflict refrain from entering the disputed body of water located within the overlapping EEZ claims, until an agreement regarding their borders has been reached;
- 3. Encourages the <u>High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security</u> <u>Policy</u>⁴⁵ to facilitate multilateral discussions between Turkey, Greece and Cyprus;
- 4. Asks the European Commission and the <u>European Energy Research Alliance</u> (EERA)⁴⁶ to increase internal energy integration with the diversification of the energy resources by:
 - a) creating a geothermal sources research program
 - b) providing competitive funding on solar and wind energy enterprises;

⁴⁵ The High Representative conducts the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security Defence policy, presides over the Foreign Affairs Council and is one of the vicepresidents of the European Commission. He ensures the consistency of the EU's external action.

⁴⁶ The European Energy Research Alliance is an energy research community in Europe. It is a membership-based, non-profit association that brings together 250 universities and public research centres in 30 countries.

⁴³ <u>Greece(71.1%)</u>, <u>Cyprus(96.2%)</u>, <u>Turkey(77.1%)</u>

⁴⁴ The European Environment Agency is an agency of the European Union, responsible to provide independent information on the environment.

- 5. Invites the <u>Directorate General for Energy</u> (DG ENER)⁴⁷ to increase energy connectivity and international collaboration by establishing an EU-wide energy forum with extended invitations for Eastern Mediterranean countries that will:
 - a) ensure that all interests are represented and that greener policies are being adopted,
 - b) promote energy connectivity projects by constructing new pipelines within the EU in close cooperation with third countries;
- 6. Asks the European Commission and the EERA to fund startup companies, which will contribute to the use and promotion of renewable energy by conducting research on the efficiency of renewable energy forms;
- 7. Recommends the European Commission further supports the CESEC by means such as but not limited to:
 - a) coordinating and funding its already proposed projects that are yet to be enacted,
 - b) encouraging the participation of third countries, such as Turkey, in these pending and future projects;
- 8. Calls upon the CESEC to:
 - a) cooperate with the DG ENER regarding the equal distribution of energy between the countries and the adoption of greener policies,
 - b) diversify projects by creating more pipelines, power lines and compressor stations;

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9. Hope for increased transparency regarding military presence in disputed waters through further communication and dialogue.