

Young European Legislators Network

Statement of intents

1. The undersigned under-40 MPs elected to national legislatures of the Member States of the European Union and to the European Parliament,

whereas

2. the scope and gravity of the current **economic slowdown** differs from country to country, it is nonetheless affecting all Member States and the European Union as a whole, and seriously damaging the fabric of society;
3. **youth unemployment** is one of the most serious consequences of the economic crisis; it is therefore incumbent on policy-makers elected at national and European level to come up with urgent and effective solutions that hold out the prospect of a **return to growth and prosperity** to citizens and, in particular, to young people, who are the drivers in a discerning forward-looking society;
4. over a series of meetings, young European parliamentarians belonging to diverse political families and affiliated to different political parties have jointly expressed their intention to **take into their hands control of the destiny of their generation** and **significantly advance youth policies in Europe**;

considering that

5. to achieve this ambition, we need to **invest in the project of European integration** and **build a network of constant and targeted cooperation to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, promote the best practices** adopted by our respective countries and ensure **the coherent coordination of public policies**;
6. **it is important that the institutions of the Member States and of the European Union** and, in particular, the European Commission **recognize** the network as an interlocutor that is broadly representative of young European citizens and that they include it in their decision-making processes, especially in connection with the Structured European Dialogue and the framing of policies for young people in Europe;

declare that

7. **an interparliamentary European network of under-40 MPs** (Young European Legislators Network) has been set up with a view to:
- i. **promoting the integration of a flexible and secure European labour market** through the creation of a single employment contract valid for all countries and offering increasing guarantees, through the reinforcement of the European Employment Services that offers worker mobility and through the adequate protection in the event of temporary unemployment; ;
 - ii. stimulating the **implementation and strengthening of the European Youth Guarantee to combat youth unemployment**, laying particular emphasis on the selection of the best practices of the various Member States, and supporting the proposal to make the Youth Guarantee a structural part of the European Union budget and endow it with adequate resources;
 - iii. consolidating and strengthening the **Erasmus+** programme and, in particular, the **European Voluntary Service** to foster a shared sense of European identity and disseminate the fundamental values of the European Union worldwide;
 - iv. **countering the mismatch between supply and demand in the European labour market** by encouraging the study of science subjects and promoting non-university vocational projects, also with reference to immigration policies;
 - v. **promoting growth by harnessing the benefits of the digital era**, by activating programmes for IT training and creating a digital single market that provides for the free exchange of information and personal data while ensuring uniform protection and the full harmonization of laws relating to privacy and the security of information systems;
 - vi. identifying coherent strategies that balance sustainability and the **consolidation of public finances** with direct measures that reverse the recessionary trend, **boost growth** and are based on a unified drive by Member States and EU institutions to improve the quality of public spending, which will entail devolving an increasing share of resources

to investment in research, innovation and the building of human capital to bolster the overall productivity and competitiveness of European economies;

- vii. **increasing environmental protection** through the consistent coordination of national and EU activities in the energy sector, and by encouraging investment in the development of technologies that can boost the energy efficiency of production processes and enhance the competitiveness of companies;
8. the network takes an **inclusive approach**: with particular reference to the European Youth Forum, it will consult and cooperate as much as possible with political and civil organizations that stand for the interests of young people in Europe, including those that act for underrepresented groups;
9. the **members of the network** will meet every six months either at the national parliament of a Member State or at the European Parliament to define strategies and objectives;
10. the network will realize its objectives through **parliamentary and legislative action that is coordinated** by its members using the communication tools of young people and institutions such as the **European Structured Dialogue**, as well as through the **promotion of events, conferences and seminars** to raise public awareness of relevant issues;
11. **to ensure a consistent, accurate and smooth exchange of information**, a regularly updated database of all the MPs in the network shall be compiled and distributed; each legislative assembly has an appointee who acts as the network's point of contact and is charged with overseeing its proper functioning.

Rome, 23 March 2015