

## For a more social Europe

### Expectations of the German EU presidency 2007

#### Content



#### Europe with us and for us - demands of the young

The European unification project has progressed farther than anticipated by most at its founding. Many hard won attainments have become a mere matter of course. The longest period of peace in the middle of Europe is among these attainments. At the same time expectations towards the European Union are increasing. Young people feel badly informed and excluded from the decision-making processes. It is time to make Europe a future-oriented project once more. Germany can contribute vitally to this during its presidency in the first half-year of 2007.

#### Demands towards the German presidency

We call upon the German government to make the following goals a priority while they hold the presidency of the Council of the European Union:

##### 1. The European Union needs a constitution - continuing the constitutional process

To master the challenges the future holds, the EU has to have the capacity to act and have the trust of its citizens. Therefore the European constitution is indispensable with institutional reforms, transparent procedures and a clear allocation of responsibilities. Only thus can the democratic legitimation be strengthened and the citizen's trust be won. We demand of the German presidency to put itself out for a continuation of the constitutional process or to look for ways to secure core elements of the constitutional treaty. The results of the discussion within the framework of "Plan D" should be considered. A progress of the question of the European constitution will be decisive for the success of the German presidency.

##### 2. For diversity and respect - equal opportunities and social integration for all young people

Young people in Europe need a social perspective. Therefore unemployment amongst youths has to be fought perceptively across Europe. The social exclusion of young people in socially and economically difficult situations, with migrational background, in structurally and economically underdeveloped regions and thus prone to an exodus and in disadvantaged urban areas have to be rigorously confronted.

Therefore we call upon the German presidency to put social integration of youths on the agenda of youth policy of the EU and to promote an effective amelioration of social inclusion of youths through integrated

#### Imprint

##### Publisher

Deutscher Bundesjugendring e.V.  
Mühlendamm 3  
10178 Berlin

Fon: \*49 (0) 30/400 404 - 00

Fax: \*49 (0) 30/400 404 - 22

E-Mail: [info@dbjr.de](mailto:info@dbjr.de)

Website: [www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)

Daniel Grein (responsible)

Photos: DNK

November 2006



and cross-sectoral policies. This includes putting into effect the goals mentioned in the European Pact for Youth (e.g. measures for employment and qualification, lowering the dropout rates, increasing secondary education).

### **3. Ameliorate the participation of young people in European issues**

More offers to participate and create European issues have to be implemented for young people. Youth work with a focus on Europe should be supported increasingly on the local level, instead of big events, smaller and easier accessible projects should be supported. Europe should not exclusively be the topic of a small interested group. True participation needs continuous work and firm structures. We demand of the German presidency to reverse the trend to support project work at the expense of the work of youth organisations. Long-term democratic education should not have to compete with shortterm media- and project work.

An important place of participation is the world of employment. We demand the creation of opportunities of operational co-determination for young workers and trainees in all European countries, analogical to the German way of electing youth and trainee representatives. In addition the federal government should commit itself to the creation of European youth- and trainee committees, comparable to the basis of the EU directive of 1994 on the creation of European worker's councils.

Furthermore the German EU presidency should put itself out for the following issues:

### **4. Take up issues of the future for youths**

For the future of our continent issues like the generational balance, a sustainable economical policy, as well as a balanced social policy play an important role. We demand of the German presidency to take up these questions and to initiate the discussion with the young generation in particular.

### **5. Discuss intensively about the sense, benefits and costs of European solutions**

We live in a globally connected world in which the facilities of individual states to influence and create solutions to transborder problems are no longer sufficient. European regulations secure the capacity to act where the member states alone would be too small. Other problems however are best solved at the local level by the member states. We demand the German presidency to initiate an active discussion on which chances, what benefits and costs are tied to the Europeanisation of certain issues. The discussion should be as neutral as possible and open for any results.

### **6. More transparency of practises and decision-making processes in the EU**

To this day too many processes in the EU are of little transparency or take place in camera. Thus we demand the German presidency to make more transparency a core issue.

*Approved with one abstention on the 27th/28th of October 2006 at the 79th general assembly in Berlin.*