

Bonn, 22th June 2007

Proposal to make youth events more sustainable

As national youth councils of the Team Presidency countries, the National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS), the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) and the German National Committee for international Youth Work (DNK), we would like to thank the German Presidency for the opportunity of today's meeting which enables youth representatives to discuss the follow-up with representatives of the Team Presidency and the European Commission.

We see this meeting as an opportunity to develop common answers to the question how to make future youth events on the European level more sustainable. In order to achieve this aim, we propose to fully use the potential of youth organisations under the umbrella of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and, in regard to the Presidency Youth Events, especially the potential of the national youth council (NYC) of the Presidency. The YFJ and NYCs are special partners regarding the participation of young people from inside and (up until now) outside of youth organisations in the context of structured dialogue.

From our point of view the following steps should be taken, among others, to use the potential of youth organisations better and more efficiently to make European youth events more sustainable and youth participation on the European level more coherent on a continuous basis. We suggest

- to involve the NYCs of the Presidencies and the YFJ from the very beginning in the organisation of the Presidency Youth Events and to ensure that they are represented in whatever structures are established for organising the event. This means that youth representatives should be involved in deciding the themes, the target group and the programme of the event;
- to let NYCs select the participants of European youth events (as it was the case for the Rome Youth Summit);
- to always inform the prospective youth event participants in advance about the demands put forward by the previous youth event;
- start any future youth event with an evaluation of what has been done by policy-makers, youth organisations and other actors on different political levels to meet the demands of the previous youth event (or at least to react to these demands);
- that the participants of the upcoming youth events update and change the existing Youth Action Plan instead of "rediscovering America" during every Presidency;
- to engage in a common effort to "translate" the Youth Action Plan into concrete steps which respect the political division of competences while involving all political levels and sectors that are necessary in order to make young peoples' demands reality.