

# 50<sup>th</sup> International Session of the European Youth Parliament Bari 2005

## Committee Topics for Discussion

\* Please note all references to the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe refer to the version as agreed by the Heads of State and Government on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2004 .

1)

### **AFCO1 - Committee on Constitutional Affairs 1**

*"The roots of the European continent are to be found not just in the Greek and Roman, but also in the Christian heritage"*

*(Pope John Paul II)*

Considering the deletion of religious references from the Constitutional Treaty, is Christianity a foundation of the modern European Union and should this have been mentioned in the Constitutional Treaty?

2)

### **AFCO2 - Committee on Constitutional Affairs 2**

*'Non and a nee'*

After two negative referenda, what is next for the EU? Should the Treaty be renegotiated or is it the signal for the end of this project?

3)

### **AFET1- Committee on Foreign Affairs 1**

*"The world has opened its eyes to a new day where the East, the West, Europe and Islam will move towards union rather than confrontation. It's a big gift to the world."*

*(Abdullah Gul, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005)*

Now that negotiations have begun with Turkey, what are the hurdles on the road to their accession and how should the current EU Member States resolve these issues?

4)

### **AFET2 - Committee on Foreign Affairs 2**

*"The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs shall conduct the Union's common foreign and security policy"*

*(Article I-28)*

Should the European Union be aiming at a common Foreign Policy and is a "Union Minister" the best way to achieve this aim?

5)

### **EMPL - Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**

*"Reconnecting Europe to its citizens by delivering solutions to the challenges they face"*

*(José Manuel Barosso, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005)*

Given the alleged competing "social models" as regards social security, labour market policies, health insurance and pensions, is a common European model desirable or feasible? How does the Constitutional Treaty address this and what measures can the EU take?

6)

**ECON - Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**

*Contested Rebates, the cost of Enlargement and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy: The Union's Budget for 2007-2013.*

How can the EU come to a satisfactory compromise that balances these competing demands?

7)

**ENVI - Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**

*"The Union shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth [...] and a high level of protection an improvement of the quality of the environment".*

*(Article I-3, Objectives of the Union)*

What contribution can the EU make to ensure that economic growth and protection of the environment are well balanced e.g. in terms of Environment Management Strategies?

8)

**LIBE - Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

*"When they try to divide our people or weaken our resolve, we will not be divided and our resolve will hold firm".*

*(Tony Blair, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005)*

After the recent tragic attacks in London and Bali, terrorism proves yet again to be one of our biggest modern challenges. How can the EU effectively react to this ongoing threat and balance the inherent tensions in the 'area of freedom, security and justice'?

9)

**ITRE1 - Committee on Industry, Research and Energy 1**

*"The Union policy on energy shall aim to ensure security of energy supply"*

*(Article III-256).*

As Europe moves towards a shortage of oil and gas, what action can and should the EU take in order to maintain security of energy supply to all the Union in the future?

10)

**DROI - Committee on Human Rights**

*"Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected."*

*(Article II-61- Human dignity, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the Union)*

'All different – all equal!?' Racism, xenophobia and discrimination in today's Europe: How can the fight against racism and discrimination be lead more effectively and in what way can European institutions contribute to this fight?

11)

**FINP - Committee on Policy challenges and budgetary means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013**

*Challenging what the future holds.*

What are the most important problems and questions on which the European Union must deliver a convincing reply in the coming years in order to strengthen its position as an internationally recognised organisation?

12)

**JURI - Committee on Legal Affairs**

*"Every national of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall be additional to national citizenship and shall not replace it."*

*(Article I-10, Citizenship of the Union)*

How can the notion of European Citizenship foster a greater sense of European identity amongst the "peoples of Europe"? Should European institutions be striving towards creating a deeper meaning for European citizenship?

13)

**DEVE - Committee on Development**

*In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests. It shall contribute to (...) free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights (...)*

*(Article I-3 Objectives of the Union)*

How successful are these aims of promoting free and fair trade and the eradication of poverty presently achieved by the EU? How should the EU act in the future to ensure poverty is made a matter of history?

14)

**ITRE2 - Committee on Industry, Research and Energy 2**

*The new start for the Lisbon Agenda: the role of technological development and high tech research in improving innovation and competitiveness*

What measures should European governments and European institutions take to foster and encourage Europe's capacities in high-tech research and technology, for example in the area of telecommunications?

15)

**CULT - Committee on Culture and Education**

*"It [the Union] shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced".*

*(Article I-3, Objectives of the Union)*

Member States are at present using their right to subsidise cultural products in the name of linguistic and/or cultural diversity. Is this a necessary protection of diversity or a distortion of the principle of equal access to the market?