

JOINT PRESS RELEASE



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Youth Rights on the table of the European Youth Forum's Council of Members

During the European Youth Forum's Council of Members (COMEM) that took place on November 13-14 in Torino, Italy the delegates of more than 90 youth organisations gathered to discuss the youth rights in Europe and shape the future activity of the platform.

Hosted by the City of Torino, European Youth Capital of 2010, the Regione Piemonte and FNG - Forum Nazionale Giovani, the European Youth Forum COMEM took place at the Politecnico of Torino. Policy Papers on Youth Perspective on e-society and on Youth commitment to promote peace and non-violence were adopted and a solidarity fund for Youth Work Development will be initiated to support youth organisations in Europe.

Youth Rights, Your Rights

The event opened with a public plenary session on the theme of **"Defending Youth Rights in Europe!"**. The debate featured many important personalities. *"Young people should be able to build a future with a long-term vision,"* stressed **Giorgia Meloni, Italian Minister for Youth**, in her intervention, *"to overcome the crisis that sees us as youth in the first line. Transforming it into a age of solidarity."*

*"From today on and during all 2010, FNG will join the efforts of the European Youth Forum in the promotion of youth rights in Italy and Europe" said **Antonio De Napoli, President of Forum Nazionale Giovani**. "Our commitment, also connected to the initiatives of Torino European Youth Capital 2010, will be especially focused in ensuring more youth participation in decision-making processes at local level."*

As from 1 December 2009, with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty for the first time there will be a legal recognition of the 'contribution of the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe', as stated in the art. 165 of the Lisbon Text. *"The provision will expand dramatically the legal base of European Youth Policies, seen as key support to the action of European integration, enhancing also the process towards a better recognition of youth rights in Europe"* affirmed **Tine Radinja, President of the European Youth Forum**.

Youth Perspectives

During this productive meeting, the delegates of the European Youth Forum decided upon several other important themes that will be on the agenda of the platform in the coming months: a Policy Paper on e-society exploring the main new challenges, needs and opportunities, especially for young people; a Policy Paper on a further youth commitment to promote peace and non-violence. Also, a fund to support Youth Work Development in Europe was put in place, to strengthen the cooperation between the members and provide concrete aid to youth organisations in Europe.

Youth rights: a crucial theme for young people in Europe

On Saturday 14 November, the city of Torino, host of the European Youth Forum COMEM organised a round table open to the media on the project cooperation between the 3 European Youth Capitals (Rotterdam 2009, Torino 2010 and Antwerp 2011). During the event, Antwerpen, Belgium was awarded the title of European Youth Capital 2011.

"From Torino to Europe: it's time for Youth Rights! The European Youth Forum is very happy of being hosted by Torino, European Youth Capital 2010. Next year our focus will be on the promotion of a Convention on the Rights of Young People in Europe, to be adopted by the Council of Europe," concluded **Tine Radinja** after a very successful meeting.

Notes to the editors:

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is an independent, democratic, youth-led platform made up of 99 National Youth Councils and international youth NGOs from across Europe, that works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations towards the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. For more information, visit www.youthforum.org

The Forum Nazionale Giovani is the only National Youth Platform in Italy. It gathers 44 National Youth Organisations with the aim of providing a space of dialogue and sharing of experience in order to help the process of building National Youth Policies in Italy and ensure the participation of young people to the decision-making processes at different levels. www.forumnazionalegiovani.it

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