

Resolution Nr. 3 adopted at the EPP Congress, Rotterdam (The Netherlands),
31st May – 1st June 2022

Rebuilding Transatlantic Relations through Building Relationships: YEPP calls for an EU-US Youth and Academic Exchange

Recognising that

- While the transatlantic friendship has been strong and well regarded amongst the people of both global powers, these past years have brought challenges to the forefront and led to an increasing distance between the youth in the United States and in the European Union;
- Populism, political short-sightedness and a narrowing focus on national interests endangers transatlantic cooperation;
- Innovation, prosperity and peace can only be found if we work together as a global community; we need to combine our brightest minds and ideas to face the future;
- This can only be achieved through individual freedom, by relying on free markets, by building a state which cares for its people, per the subsidiary principle, and by striving for excellence;
- The transatlantic partnership between the United States of America and the European Union, embodying the aforementioned values, lies at the heart of this global cooperation architecture;

Acknowledging that

- The building block for strong and sustainable transatlantic cooperation is empathic relationships between current and future leaders;
- Strengthening the transatlantic partnership means building strong relationships between future decision-makers and leaders from the United States and from Europe;
- Exchange programmes encourage young people to get to know the country or countries of their transatlantic counterparts by living, working and studying across the Atlantic;
- Exchange programmes foster understanding for difference as well as common ground and help people to collaborate, thus being able to experience first-hand the realities, narratives and way of life of the other region;
- Exchange programmes open spaces for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and innovation;
- Traveling, housing and tuition expenses are prohibitive for many people from the US as well as from the European Union;

- Exchange programmes provide more people the opportunity to experience their partner country or countries and further enlarge the scope of US-EU relationships;

YEPP calls on

- The European Commission and Member States for the establishment of an Academic and Youth exchange programme modelled after the EU's successful ERASMUS exchange programme;
- The institutions of the European Union and its Member States to explore different avenues with potential donors, stakeholders and sponsoring institutions with the aim of moving towards the establishment of such a programme.