

Resolution Nr. 4 adopted at the EPP Congress, Rotterdam (The Netherlands),

31st May – 1st June 2022

A forceful, immediate initiative for a united, free and democratic world via a new trade agreement

Recognising that:

- Free trade is a guarantor of economic advancement worldwide, while trade policy has long since become part of strategic foreign policy;
- China has established a new Pacific free trade area under its leadership that underlines its ambition to move forward as a global leader, especially through economic and technological aspects;
- This new Pacific free trade agreement creates realities that will be hard to counteract in only a couple of years, with the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for procurement being only one example of how trade dynamics are shaping the global realities of the future;
- The production of goods marketed in Europe is mainly located outside European territory, which makes the European Union dependent on developments, and more vulnerable to distortions, in the global supply chain;
- The European Commission reviewed and readjusted its strategy for European trade policy in early 2021;
- The European People's Party in June 2021 published its comprehensive position paper '*For a Powerful, Targeted EU Global Trade Policy*';

Acknowledging that:

- There is nothing more at stake than the question of who sets the standards in global trade — and thus in the global economic order;
- The European Union should develop its industrial potential through the green and digital transitions in order to achieve strategic autonomy in various areas and to reach climate and development goals — while boosting production capacity, generating new jobs in Europe and enhancing the export of goods and services;

- The European Union, as the world's largest single market, should act according to its responsibility and leverage its economic might in shaping global trade;
- Human rights, occupational health and safety or consumer protection standards — but also the EU's climate targets — can only develop their full effectiveness if we succeed in convincing other regions of the world to do the same without losing their competitive economic capacity;
- The responsibility is therefore paramount to act quickly and decisively;

YEPP calls:

- On the European Commission to make implementation of the new trade policy a top priority, especially in initiating new — and renewed — agreements with transatlantic and global allies;
- On the European Commission and the heads of European Member States for a fresh European initiative designed to forcefully counter the new Pacific free trade area under Chinese leadership and to unite democratic forces in a free and sustainable economic area;
- On the European Commission and Member States to foster reindustrialisation through the green and energy transitions: to make Europe less reliant on global production and supply chains and to increase the level of export of European products to external markets through the new trade policy;
- For developing and implementing a concrete initiative based first and foremost on common environmental and social standards and thus underlining the European Union's aspiration to remain a standard-setting political and economic leader.