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CELAC – EU YOUTH DAYS: DECENT EMPLOYMENT QUITO DECLARATION 9th – 11th April 2015

We, the youth, have rights and Employment is one of the fundamental rights that we have. We are the present and not only the future. Therefore we seek more effective employment solutions now.

There can be no further decisions on youth without youth, hence, the necessity to come together to discuss the common issue of decent youth employment.

We recognize the inclusion of youth in this Heads of State and Government Summit and it is our desire that this meeting constitutes the beginning of a long-lasting cooperation between CELAC and the EU Youth in this framework.

The youth employment crisis is affecting youth all over the world. The unemployment rate in the European Union is around 22.8%¹ and 13.7%² in Latin America. To lift young people out of poverty, stimulate economic growth and to achieve sustainable development we must invest in the potential and creativity of young people.

We consider quality employment as a cornerstone to a life of realization and autonomy of individuals and their communities with social justice and security, and without income discrimination or any other inequalities.

The role of the state is to guarantee and promote decent employment for youth according to the different development models. This has to take into account regional diversities promoting social justice, and respecting the rights mentioned in the ILO convention. This must also be confirmed in the Post 2015 Agenda.

For the reasons mentioned above, the youth from both regions in the first meeting of the CELAC-EU Youth Days in Quito, held on the 9th to 11th April 2015, agreed to call on governments to action on the following:

- Youth employment policies must be implemented effectively. Youth stakeholders including unions, employers and civil society must play a key role in the design, implementation and monitoring of youth employment policies. These policies should address especially women and more vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, we recommend the strengthening of bodies and mechanisms that guarantee youth participation.

- We recommend the development of active education policies that foster full citizenship, as well as the transition into the labour market.

¹ According to EUROSTAT, 2013.

² According to ILO. 2013.



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- We recognize that labour mobility is an important issue for young people. However, mobility should not be forced. Therefore, we recommend decreasing existing legal and administrative barriers in order to improve migration conditions, the recognition of qualifications across borders, equal access to all social benefits and labour conditions, and transferability of pension benefits.
- We call for the development of skills through education that empower young people to be part of change, innovation and social entrepreneurship.
- We demand articulated policies that give support and incentives to youth entrepreneurship, including but not limited to programmes that create and facilitate credit, finance and ease the bureaucratic process acknowledging that entrepreneurship should not be misused.
- We demand strategic support to cooperatives, especially those involving youth toward their role as contributors of economic and social activity. This should include funding, training on cooperative management and the incorporation of the cooperative production as one of the criteria of public procurement.
- Internship is a personal and professional development strategy that should not replace employment. Interns need to be paid, covered with social and labour rights and should lead to full employment.
- We demand a legal framework that secures a percentage of young people when hiring both in the public and private sectors. Thereby creating balance in the labour market with a special emphasis on more vulnerable groups.

The European Youth Forum, the Latin America Youth Forum and the Caribbean Regional Youth Council, with the support of the EU-LAC Foundation looks forward to continued collaboration, and follow-up of the implementation of these recommendations. Furthermore, we commit to work on other areas of interest for the youth of our regions.



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