

RESOLUTION ON VISA ABOLISHING

Draft 2

By the resolution on Eastern European Cooperation adopted at the 7th Congress in Lisbon 17-20th of March 2005, ECOSY called for the European Union to develop the European neighbourhood policy towards neighbouring countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Georgia and highlighted the necessity of certain mechanisms to be implemented - mobility (especially of the young people), free access to higher education, support for regional cooperation, development of the civil society.

Visa regime between EU countries and non-EU Eastern European countries is a serious obstacle for developing a good neighbourhood policy. The reasons for visa regime implementation are out-of-date and do not correspond to the reality of the modern world.

Applicants for visas have to pay money and pass through a discriminatory procedure of visa application interview, stand in the queue for hours or even days in front of Embassies and consulates, in order to get a visa to visit a relative, to travel abroad for a cultural event or to meet friends and partners.

Since the procedures are not transparent and very often executed according to a personal approach, applicants can never be certain if the visa will be granted. That causes major financial loss if the preparations for travelling e.g. for delegations are concluded before the decision, which might also be negative.

Such a situation cannot be acceptable in perspective of developing a good neighbourhood policy and creating equal opportunities for all. Visa regime excludes young people from European processes.

We acknowledge that mobility of young people is a vital contribution to intercultural understanding. Such understanding becomes even more important in the globalised economies and multicultural societies of Europe and the right for education is one of the basic rights for self-realisation and inclusion in social processes.

WE AS YOUNG EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS GATHERED IN WERFTPFUHL 14-21 OF AUGUST CALL UPON THE EU INSTITUTIONS, THE MEMBER STATES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF EUROPE TO MAKE CERTAIN EFFORTS TO INCREASE AND PROMOTE THE MOBILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE. AND VISA ABOLISHING CAN BECOME ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES IN THIS DIRECTION.

We believe in a united Europe which is above all a political and social community to which creation and participation all European inhabitants no matter if from EU, applicant or neighbourhood country should have full access to.

We therefore demand to abolish visas for all people, regardless of their origin to make Europe safer, more democratic and social.