Resolution Booklet
Porto 2021

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS I

"Broken News: Although media pluralism has been declared a priority by the European Commission, journalists are facing increasing pressure, intimidation and judicial harassment. With investigators being physically or verbally attacked when tackling issues such as corruption and taking into account the vast differences in freedom of press in Europe, how can the EU act on improving the liberties of its journalists?"

Submitted by: Matilde Carvalho (PT), Francisco Coelho (PT), João Esteves (PT), Tomás Gaspar (PT), Panagiota Koutra (GR), Matilde Paquete (PT), Leonor Rodrigues (PT), Carolina Silva (PT), Mariana Sousa (PT), Neil Faber (Chairperson, BE)

The European Youth Parliament,

A. Taking into account that freedom of press is recognised in Art. 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights,[1]

B. Noting with concern that Europe's freedom of press is continuously being compromised,[2]

C. Alarmed by the rising anti-media rhetoric and its negative impact on journalists' investigative work,[3]

D. Noting with regret that five journalists were murdered in Europe for their work in 2017 alone,[4]

E. Disturbed that physical, online, and judicial harassment like doxxing[5], intimidation, and threats prevent journalists from properly doing their work,

F. Contemplating the link between corruption and the number of unpunished violence cases against journalists,[6]

G. Aware that harassment has negative consequences for journalists' mental and physical health, as well as their safety,[7]

H. Conscious that national legislation on libel[8] and defamation[9] is being misused, severely

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[1] Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights

[2] *"Press freedom conditions worsen in Europe: report"*, an article by Henry Galaxy for Politico, 2019

[3] *"2019 RSF Index: Has a dam burst in Europe?"*, publication by RSF, 2019

[4] *"5 media professionals killed in Europe in 2017"*, publication by the EFJ, 2017

[5] *"Fighting Words: Journalism Under Assault in Central and Eastern Europe"*, publication by Meera Selva for the Reuters institute for the Study of Journalism, 2020

[6] *"Press freedom: too many attacks go unpunished"*, a publication by Transparency International, 2013

[7] *"Journalists and harassment"*, article by K. Parker, S. Drevo, N. Cook, A. Slaughter, and E. Newman for the Dart center for journalism and trauma, 2014

[8] **Libel** refers to a piece of writing that contains bad and false things about a person.

[9] **Defamation** is the action of damaging the reputation of a person or group by saying or writing bad things about them that are not true.

harming journalism,[10]

I. Regretting the lack of supporting structures for journalists to share their received threats and breaches without having to compromise their safety,

J. Welcomes the protection of whistleblowers ensured by the recent Directive 2019/1937,[11]

K. Commending recent efforts by the EU to fund certain associations such as the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)[12] and initiatives aiming at building trust in media,[13]

L. Observing that there remains an insufficient allocation of funding to media outlets,[14]

M. Recognising that media independence is still endangered by pressures from both public and private actors on journalists' work,[15]

N. Deeply concerned with the imbalance between private and public ownership and its correlating impact on media market plurality[16];

O. Emphasising that insufficient media pluralism negatively impacts democracy by marginalising views and ideas consequently shaping public opinion,[17]

P. Concerned about the lack of transparency from certain Member States in the allocation of EU funds established for the press;[18]

Violence against Journalists

1. Calls upon the European Commission to launch an awareness campaign about the damaging effects of current anti-media rhetoric on the image and work of journalists, especially in regards to baseless allegations or fake news by politicians;

2. Urges Member States to reinforce the judicial and policiary protection of journalists on a national level;

3. Appeals to Member States to review national legislation regarding libel and defamation;

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[10] *"Greek journalist arrested on libel charges"*, a publication by the International Press Institute, 2017; *"Three Greek journalists covering migrant crisis arrested for defamation"*, a publication by RSF, 2018
[11] Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law, 2019
[12] European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) represents over 300,000 journalists across Europe, promoting and defending journalists' right to freedom of expression and information following the Art. 10 of the European convention on human rights.
[13] *"EFJ welcomes EU Media Action Plan and urges to include support for freelancers"*, publication by the EFJ, 2020
[14] *"EFJ welcomes EU Media Action Plan and urges to include support for freelancers"*, publication by the EFJ, 2020
[15] *"Journalists and harassment"*, an article by K. Parker, S. Drevo, N. Cook, A. Slaughter, and E. Newman for the Dart center for journalism and trauma, 2014
[16] **Media plurality** entails the presence of diverse voices and sources.
[17] *"European Union competencies in respect of media pluralism and media freedom"*, a report by the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom, 2013
[18] *"Bulgaria, black sheep of the European Union"*, a publication by RSF, 2020

4. Instructs the European Commission to create a platform with the aim of facilitating the compilation, processing, and dissemination of information on serious concerns about media freedom and safety of journalists;

5. Invites the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)[19] to create a specialised unit tasked with solving and investigating violence, including harassment, toward journalists;

Media Pluralism

6. Requests Member States work with the European Commission toward stronger transparency regarding media ownership by:

   a) creating a database containing the names of shareholders, beneficial owners, and editors, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)[20],

   b) making the shareholder percentage of the aforementioned stakeholders public information,

   c) publishing this information to the public, free of charge, in all Member States;

7. Encourages Members States to adapt national legislation and add to existing European competition law to prevent excessive concentration of market shares;

Transparency of Fund Allocation

8. Further requests the European Commission to allocate funding to smaller and newer media outlets and allow them to be competitive with more established sources of media;

9. Further instructs the European Commission to systematically investigate where and how press funds allocated to Member States are spent.

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[19] **Europol**, the EU's law enforcement agency, is a support centre for the law enforcement operations of the 27 EU Member States, and serves as a hub for information on criminal activities and a centre for law enforcement expertise.
[20] The **GDPR** is a regulation on data protection and privacy in the EU.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY

THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY II

"Environment Emergency: As the frequency of natural disasters such as wildfires and floods increases, some Member States are affected more than others. How can the EU and its Member States better prepare and support regions prone to such events in order to contain the effects on the environment and on citizens, while also continuing to pursue relevant climate change-related goals?"

Submitted by: Joana Carvalho Sousa Campos, Ana Luís Melo, Bárbara Monteiro, Francisco Moura, Carolina Oliveira, Carlos Manuel Paiva Saraiva, Laura Valente, Daniela Matias (Chairperson, CH)

The European Youth Parliament,

A.   Alarmed that climate change is the biggest contributor[1] to the increase of extreme weather events[2],

B.   Stressing that climate refugees[3] are becoming a pressing issue as their numbers are expected to reach 150-200 million by 2050[4] due to the increasing number of people displaced by natural disasters,

C.   Noting with regret the insufficient investment in pre-tasking[5] systems and data programmes,

D.   Aware that natural disasters have the potential to damage or destroy cultural heritage sites,

E.   Reaffirming the importance of emergency plans and protocols concerning the reduction of repercussions caused by natural disasters,[6]

F.   Observing that the estimation of assistance costs related to natural disasters will double at a rate of EUR 50 billion per year by 2030,

G.   Deeply concerned that disasters triggered by natural hazards alone cost the EU more than 90,000 lives and more than EUR 500 billion of economic losses between 1980 and 2017,[7]

H.   Reminding that according to the leader of the Flood Resilience Programme of Zurich Insurance every Euro spent on a risk reduction project can save up to 5 Euros in future rehabilitation and

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[1] "*A Clean Planet for all: A European long-term strategic vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy*", an analysis by the European Commission, 2018

[2] **Extreme weather events** take place when the weather is significantly deviating from its usual patterns.

[3] **Climate refugees** are people who are forced to flee their home region due to unexpected and long-term modifications to their local environment.

[4] *"Global warming could create 150 million climate refugees" by 2050*", an article by John Vidal, 2009

[5] **Pre-tasking** causes satellites to capture readings of events to provide response agencies with instantaneous data which reduces the collection and response time.

[6] "*Disaster and Emergency Planning for Preparedness, Response and Recovery*", article by David Alexander, 2015

[7] "*European Disaster Risk Management*", an article by the European Commission, 2021

control costs,[8]

I. Emphasising that between 2017 and 2035 the Copernicus Programme[9] is expected to generate between EUR 67 billion and 131 billion in benefits, which outnumber the cost of the programme by a factor of 10 to 20[10];

Prevention and Preparedness

1. Recommends the European Commission to reconsiders the budget allocated to natural disasters by providing more funds to prevention efforts;

2. Strongly recommends Member States to implement stricter regulations on emergency plans and civil protection protocols;

3. Urges Member States to increase the number of strategic land cleanings carried out in wooded areas and their surroundings;

4. Requests the European Commission to assist Member States in creating a higher number of qualitative pre-tasking programmes and projects;

5. Reminds the European Commission to improve the equipment used by RescEU[11];

6. Asks Member States to include topics on natural disasters in their national school curricula;

Aid and Support

7. Calls upon the European Commission to improve the EU Civil Protection Mechanism[12] through the implementation of rehabilitation and compensation measures focusing on housing, food, and psychological and medical help;

8. Strongly urges the European Commission to improve the EU Civil Protection Mechanisms through the creation of an overseeing committee for the management of a fairer distribution of resources;

9. Suggests Member States collaborate with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as the Human Rights Watch[13], in providing support nets to ease the lives of climate refugees;

Sustainability

10. Encourages Member States to subsidise companies who apply sustainable practices and to penalise those who do not;

11. Endorses Member States to take actions towards a sustainable and eco-friendly future, such as, but not limited to:

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[8] "*'Risk data hub' to enhance EU resilience to climate hazards*", an article by Frédéric Simon for Euroactiv, 2018
[9] **Copernicus** is an European programme responsible for Earth Observation and which provides necessary information and data for emergency responses to natural disasters, for prevention and preparedness as well as for relief and recovery.
[10] "*What is Copernicus?*", an article by the the European Union Earth Observation programme
[11] The **RescEU** establishes a new European reserve of resources which includes a fleet of firefighting planes.
[12] The **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** is an EU institution whose aim is to support governments in regard to prevention and preparedness, and to strengthen cooperation between the EU and its Member States.
[13] Human Rights Watch is an international non-governmental organisation which conducts research and advocacy on human rights.

      a)   providing citizens with financial aid to help them transition to clean energy sources,

      b)   subsidising clean energy providers;

12. Appeals to Member States to invest in the construction of disaster proof architecture in disaster-prone regions.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS II

"Out of sight, out of mind: With insufficient healthcare, and overcrowded and unsafe facilities, correctional systems are continuously violating human rights of inmates. How can the EU ensure a just and sufficient living for those in custody in all Member States?"

Submitted by: Maria Alves, Rafael Babo, Rui Costa, António Cruz, Matilde Faro, Marta Gil, Anastasia Ioannou, Sofia Pires, Rita Quinta, Matilde Lopes (Chairperson, PT)

The European Youth Parliament,

A.   Alarmed that most prisons are focusing on punishment as opposed to rehabilitation,

B.   Bearing in mind Art. 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights,

C.   Deeply concerned by the inadequate and outdated state of European prison facilities,[1]

D.   Taking into account that overcrowding has reached 140% in Member States' prisons,[2]

E.   Taking into consideration the lack of accessibility for prisoners with special needs,[3]

F.   Observing that prisoners are denied access to basic hygienic conditions,

G.   Recognising the insufficiency of supplies, for instance food and hygiene products, available to inmates,[4]

H.   Fully alarmed by the recurrent mistreatment of prisoners by staff,[5]

I.   Noting with concern the lack of adequate training for prison guards,

J.   Gravely concerned by the connection between lower numbers of prison staff and increased rates of violent crime and abuse of power,[6]

K.   Deeply regretting that medical facilities in prisons are often unsuitable for the needs of inmates,[7]

L.   Regretting the lack of qualified medical staff to provide proper treatment for convicts,

M.   Concerned by the lack of psychiatric patient beds available for inmates,

N.   Deploring the high rate of infectious diseases like tuberculosis in prisons,

O.   Having examined that substance abuse is widespread among prisoners,[8]

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[1] *"Prison Conditions in the Member States: selected European standards and best practices"* by the European Parliament, 2017

[2] *"Prison in Europe: overview and trends"* by Alessandro Maculan, Daniela Ronco and Francesca Vianello, 2013

[3] *"Case of D:G: v. Poland"* case report by the European Court of Human Rights, 2013

[4] *"Prisons are "in no way equipped" to deal with COVID-19"* an article by The Lancelot, 2020

[5] *"Prison in Europe: overview and trends"* by Alessandro Maculan, Daniela Ronco and Francesca Vianello, 2013

[6] *"Prisons: why are they in such a state?"* article for BBC News by Danny Shaw, 2018

[7] *"Prison in Europe: overview and trends"* by Alessandro Maculan, Daniela Ronco and Francesca Vianello, 2013

[8] *"Status report on prison health in the WHO European Region"* a report by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, 2019

P. Fully aware of the low nutritional value of prison meals;[9]

Correctional Facilities

1. Urges the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) to carry out more thourough routine evaluations of prison conditions to assess medical facilities, hygiene, diet, and accessibility;
2. Encourages Member States to provide the necessary equipment and facilities to prisoners with disabilities;
3. Invites Member States to create stricter criteria for hiring prison staff;
4. Reminds Member States to execute regular performance checks on prison staff;
5. Calls upon the European Commission to create a suggested minimum guard-inmate ratio;
6. Recommends Member States to increase personnel numbers in prisons, particularly experts in the medical department;
7. Appeals to Member States to offer training on staff-inmate relationships;
8. Suggests Member States allocate greater financial support to prison services;

Prevention and Rehabilitation

9. Further encourages Member States to decriminalise personal drug consumption, following the example of Portugal;[10]
10. Authorises the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities (EFTC) to coordinate support groups inside prisons such as Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous;
11. Further invites Member States to provide prisoners with rehabilitation opportunities such as employment, leisure activities, and education;
12. Proposes Member States promote outdoor activities for prisoners;

Prisoner's Health

13. Strongly recommends Member States to include drug-free rooms in all prisons;
14. Affirms Member States to provide inmates with classes on health and infectious diseases;
15. Asks Member States to provide inmates with questionnaires regarding food, hygiene, health, and well-being to map out and better take into account their opinions regarding these aspects;
16. Solemnly affirms Member States to adapt their prison meals in correctional facilities to be sufficiently nutritious and catered to different dietary needs.

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[9] *"Nutrition" a report by the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe*
[10] *"Drug decriminalization in Portugal: Learning from a Health and Human-Centered Approach" an article by The Drug Policy Aliance, 2018*

"You Gotta Nourish to Flourish: With increasing rates of mental disorders amongst
18-25 year-olds in Europe and the resulting ranking of suicide as one of the leading
causes of death in young adults, how can the EU provide its young citizens with better
prevention and support regarding mental health issues?"

Submitted by: Margarida Alves, Tiago Alves, Alice Ferreira, Inês Ferreira, Tiago
                   Freitas, Sofia Romão, André Silva, Carlota Mendes Martins
                   (Chairperson, PT)

The European Youth Parliament,

A. Concerned that inadequate early intervention in education facilities across Member States
    is deteriorating young people's mental health,[1]

B. Bearing in mind that mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression, are among
    the most common illnesses affecting children and adolescents in Europe,[2]

C. Recognising the social stigma[3] associated with mental health disorders, such as the refusal
    to acknowledge them as legitimate illnesses,

D. Noting that social stigma further encourages social exclusion of mentally ill individuals,[4]

E. Emphasising that depression and suicidal behaviour have also been associated with long
    periods of isolation,[5]

F. Deeply regretting the discrepancies in mental health care services across Member States
    attributed to socio-economic variations,

G. Observing inadequate investment results in the overburdening of available mental health
    care services, such as clinician availability,[6]

H. Alarmed that the high cost of treatment and the personal biases of mental health
    professionals create barriers in accessing mental health care services,

I. Noting with regret the current absence of an effective EU-level framework regarding
    mental health;[7]

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[1] *"Early intervention in youth mental health: progress and future directions"*, by McGorry & Mei

[2] *"Child and adolescent mental health"*, by the World Health Organisation (WHO)

[3] **Stigma** related to mental disorders happens when a person defines and sees another in a negative way due
to their illness rather than who they are as an individual.

[4] *"Do we take mental health seriously?"*, by DebatingEurope

[5] *"What is the prevalence of social isolation in Europe?"*, by NoIsolation

[6] *"Healthcare expenditure statistics"*, by Eurostat

[7] **The EU Framework on mental health and well-being** aimed to strengthen knowledge, evidence,
and best practice sharing in mental health and also to develop mental health promotion and prevention and
early intervention programmes and was in place until 2018, not being replaced by another plan of action.

Education

1. Invites Member States to use the Third Health Programme Fund to increase the number of mental health professionals in the education sector;
2. Suggests Member States establish student support groups in their education systems;
3. Requests Member States to introduce a training system to qualify professionals in the education sector in recognising and addressing early mental health symptoms in students;
4. Encourages Member States to restructure timetables to reduce students' workloads;
5. Further encourages Member States to increase the teacher-student ratio in educational settings;
6. Further suggests Member States implement well-being activities and mental health classes in national school curricula addressing the impact, consequences, and treatments of mental disorders;
7. Further invites Member States to establish safe rooms for students in all educational facilities;
8. Urges Member States to develop chaperone programmes for new students and students with trauma;

Stigma, Isolation and Social Exclusion

9. Further recommends the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to develop campaigns featuring public figures with mental health disorders;
10. Calls upon the European Commission to introduce a programme addressing social exclusion in rural and isolated areas through the European Solidarity Corps[8];
11. Recommends the Regional Office for Europe of the WHO to establish regional mental health facilities in isolated areas;

Healthcare Systems

12. Further requests the European Commission to establish a development fund for mental health services aiming to ensure the standardisation of healthcare systems across Member States regarding facilities, professionals, and rehabilitation programmes;
13. Strongly recommends Member States to implement free mental healthcare for lower income and marginalised individuals;
14. Asks Member States to implement a mental healthcare reporting mechanism in healthcare institutions and workplaces for instances of abuse, mistreatment, and discrimination;
15. Invites Member States to subsidise psychotherapy in their national healthcare systems;
16. Strongly encourages the European Commission to adopt a framework similar to the WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health EU[9].

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[8] The **European Solidarity Corps** brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn, and develop.

[9] The **WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health EU** seeks to ensure universal health coverage, involving access to affordable and quality mental healthcare in twelve countries to more than 100 million people. It also aims at advancing policies and scale-up quality interventions and services for people with mental health conditions.

"Travelling towards a sustainable future: In 2017, 27% of total EU-28 greenhouse gas emissions came from the transport sector, constituting a 7.9% increase compared to transport-related emissions from 2013. How should the EU ensure the continuous development of sustainable transportation infrastructure as part of its mission to reach the goals set out in the 2011 White Paper on Mobility and Transport?"

Submitted by: Francisco Simões, João Pedro Salgado, Leonardo Barros Carvalho, Margarida Marques, Mariana Costa, Marta Rafaela Barros Costa, Rita Araújo Lopes, Rita Macedo, Bernardo Seca Monteiro (Chairperson, PT)

The European Youth Parliament,

A.   Noting with regret the insufficient accessibility and availability of public transportation across the EU,

B.   Pointing out the lack of a standard transport infrastructure throughout all Member States,

C.   Alarmed that passenger traffic and freight transport activity are projected to increase by 34% and 40% respectively by 2030,[1]

D.   Taking into account that while some Member States prioritise upgrading and maintaining existing infrastructure, others still need to develop or expand their transport network,[2]

E.   Concerned by the current deficient state of European railways,

F.   Referring to the Interoperability Directive regarding unifications of the EU rail system,[3]

G.   Bearing in mind the socio-economic differences within Member States, leading to discrepancies in development efforts towards sustainable transport infrastructure,

H.   Noting the demand to improve several renewable energy sources to ensure the existence of a sustainable option for different means of transportation,

I.   Emphasising the need for decreased mobility in the day-to-day lives of Europeans,

J.   Confident that modern technology will continue to play a significant role in the transportation sector,

K.   Recognising the current high cost of renewable energy options such as electric cars, green hydrogen, and biofuels,

L.   Fully alarmed by the high number of individuals that still need to use private transport in

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[1] *"Transport 2050: The major challenges, the key measures"* by the European Commission, 2011
[2] *"Transport in the European Union - Current Trends and Issues"* by the European Commission, 2019
[3] The **Interoperability Directive** sets out the conditions to be met to achieve interoperability within the EU rail system. These conditions concern the design, construction, placing in service, upgrading, renewal, operation and maintenance of the parts of this system.

European urban areas,

M. Acknowledging that investments in public transportation alone will not be able to reduce CO_2 emissions without a subsequent decrease in private transport,

N. Taking into consideration that having fixed routes in public transport is an insufficient way to plan travel routes,

O. Keeping in mind that newer technology such as batteries for electric vehicles require further development to compete with older and more pollutant technologies,

P. Noting the lack of awareness in Europe regarding the urgency of the development of sustainable infrastructure and the reduction in mobility to achieve CO_2 emission goals;

Sustainable Infrastructure

1. Recommends Member States to tackle the low accessibility and availability of public transportation by:

   a) allocating more resources to the transportation of students to and from educational institutions,

   b) focusing on increasing the number of locations covered by public transport,

   c) optimising and updating public transport routes regularly depending on the ever-changing needs of EU citizens,

   d) granting free public transport wherever feasible;

2. Invites the European Commission to identify and harmonise the discrepancies in transport network levels of Member States;

3. Encourages Member States to invest in the management of the already existing railways in Europe;

4. Designates the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI)[4] to fund in-depth research to identify the different capabilities of Member States in the transport sector and improve them;

5. Suggests Member States raise awareness of the need to reduce mobility and develop sustainable infrastructure;

Energy Transition

6. Strongly urges the Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centres (EUREC)[5] to conduct research on the production of sustainable energy sources and their suitability for different types of transport;

7. Further suggests Member States increase the availability and competitiveness of green fuels in cooperation with private companies by 2030;

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[4] **The European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI)** aims at boosting long-term economic growth and competitiveness in the EU. It utilises public funding to mobilise private investments for various projects carried out in the EU.

[5] **The European Renewable Energy Research Centres (EUREC)** is the voice of renewable energy research in Europe, representing European Research Centres active in renewable energy.

8. Calls upon the European Commission to subsidise companies which provide their workers with low emission vehicles;

9. Further recommends Member States to increase taxation in vehicles with combustion engines whilst creating incentives for electric vehicles;

10. Urges the European Commission to promote the introduction of Adblue[6] in every Member State;

Urban Planning

11. Asks Member States to regulate urban planning on a local level by:

    a) focusing on building cities up whilst evenly spreading essential services,

    b) encouraging online work to reduce commuting,

    c) introduce traffic lanes dedicated to public transport;

12. Proposes Member States to promote free green options, such as sharing bikes and rides;

13. Further invites Member States to place fees on the use of private transport in urban areas and impose speed limits on the most crowded areas in their metropolitan areas;

14. Authorises the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)[7] to invest in the implementation of GPS technology in public transport to find better routes to further cater to people's needs.

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[6] **AdBlue** is a liquid used to reduce the nitrous oxide emissions of diesel engines and is made up of a mixture of urea and deionized water that is sprayed into the exhaust system.
[7] The **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** focuses its investments on several key priority areas such as innovation and research, and the low-carbon economy.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION BY
THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS III

"**The modern war on drugs:** With globalisation and technological innovation driving and facilitating drug market developments, how can the EU and its Member States adapt legislation and law enforcement in order to minimise the dangers posed to its citizens by trafficking, organised crime, and addiction?"

Submitted by: Theodor Anagnostou, David Coelho, Mariana Barbosa Gonçalves, Alice Lameira, Filipa Luz, Rita Figueira Soares Moura, Carolina Santos, Anna Crisp (Chairperson, DK)

The European Youth Parliament,

A. Alarmed that Europeans are spending EUR 30 billion on illicit drugs a year,[1]

B. Taking into consideration that 6,100 Europeans die from overdose every year and another 1,700 pass from related causes,[2]

C. Regretting the possibility of peer pressure, self-medication, academic pressure, and social media influencing teenagers' decisions regarding drugs,

D. Deeply concerned that 65% of criminal groups involved in drug trade simultaneously engage in other forms of crime,[3]

E. Acknowledging that drug-related deaths in Europe are predicted to be be much higher due under-reporting in some countries,[4]

F. Bearing in mind that trafficking methods and routes are changing fast and new drugs are spreading quicker and more effectively than ever,[5]

G. Appreciating projects such as the EUMonitoring Drugs Project[6] and its inclusion of the EU Neighbourhood Policy[7] which encompasses cooperation with non-EU countries and Member States,

H. Aware of the discrepancies between national legal systems amongst Member States concerning drug-related crimes,

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[1] *"New report highlights wide-ranging impacts of EU drug markets on health and security"*, an article by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019

[2] *"Borders and Security, the European Union Explained"*, a report by the European Commission, 2014

[3] *"How Illegal Drugs sustain Organised Crime in Europe"*, a report by Europol and Business Fundamentals, 2017

[4] *"Borders and Security, the European Union Explained"*, a report by the European Commission, 2014

[5] *"Borders and Security, the European Union Explained"*, a report by the European Commission, 2014

[6] *"EU4MD: Making the link between drug-related problems and security and health threats in the European Union and neighbourhood countries"*, by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

[7] **The European Neighbourhood Policy Area** involves the countries on the EU's Eastern and Southern borders.

I. Recognising that Portugal's decriminalisation strategy has successfully decreased drug addiction,

J. Noting with regret the diverse range of drugs in circulation in European drug markets,[8]

K. Seriously concerned that social and economic disadvantages are linked to a higher risk of potential substance abuse,[9]

L. Stressing that substance abuse and addiction are chronic, and compulsive disorders that require adequate respect, treatment availability, and rehabilitation,

M. Acknowledging the impact drug abuse can have on the ability of the substance consumer to maintain social and economic stability;[10]

Drug-related Crime

1. Recommends Member States to legalise the consumption of cannabis throughout the EU;
2. Suggests Member States to decriminalise the consumption of illegal drugs using the Portugese model;[11]
3. Urges the European Commission to issue guidelines for Member States' law enforcement regarding drug-related crimes;
4. Supports continued and further cooperation regarding EU border control within the EU Neighbourhood Policy area;

Drug Addiction

5. Asks Member States to subsidise the establishment of affordable rehabilitation programmes;
6. Reminds Member States to provide targeted rehabilitation and drug consumption rooms for citizens living in disadvantaged areas;
7. Proposes Member States provide reintegration programmes with professional training for people recovering from substance abuse and addiction;
8. Further recommends the amendment of the European Alliance on Drugs campaign to include further awareness of the impact of social stigma on drug addiction;
9. Further encourages Member States to include the families of substance abusers in their national social care programmes;
10.   Endorses the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) [12]to further financial support in studying substance use and addiction.

Health

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[8] "*New report highlights wide-ranging impacts of EU drug markets on health and security*", an article by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2019

[9] *"Health and Social Responses to Drug Problems"*, a report by the EMCDDA, 2017

[10] *"Health and Social Responses to Drug Problems"*, a report by the EMCDDA, 2017

[11] **The Portugese model** involves the decriminalisation of the possession and use of small amounts of illegal substances.

[12] **The European Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)** is a specialised EU agency that focuses on providing Member States with a factual overview of European drug problems and a solid evidence based to support the drug-debate.
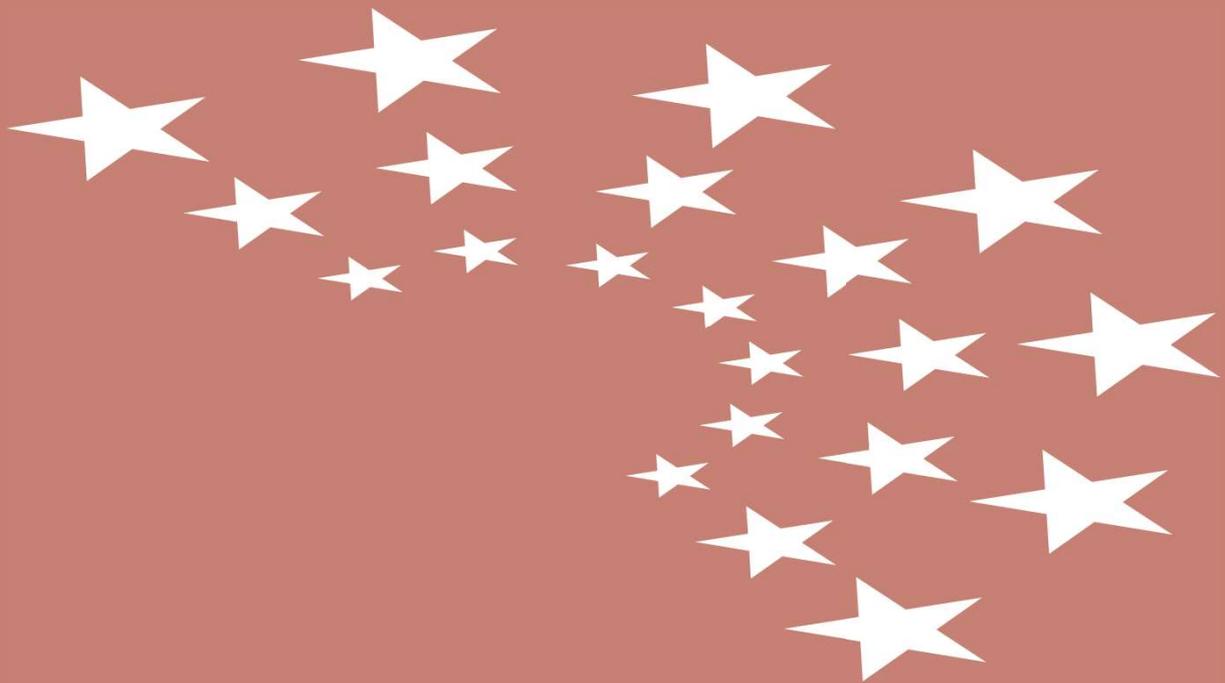
11.   Requests the EU Health Programme to allocate funds for:
        a. The creation of safe drug consumption facilities and centres,
        b. The establishment of free testing facilities for blood-borne diseases;
12.   Calls upon the EMCDDA to establish an accessible website providing comprehensive information on the negative effects of drug use and guidance for using drugs safely;
13.   Encourages Member States to develop inclusive drug and addiction educational programmes for their national curricula in collaboration with countries of the EU Neighbourhood Policy.

INSTITUTO PORTUGUÊS
DO **DESPORTO**
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EUROPEAN **YOUTH** PARLIAMENT
PORTUGAL