



Statutes 6th YEPP Congress 2007

Final

Definition and Purposes

Article 0 - Origin

Youth organisations of member parties of the European People's Party (EPP), the former European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) and the European Democrat Union (EDU) join together in the "Youth of the European People's Party" (YEPP). First YEPP Congress, Brussels, 31st of January to February 2nd, 1997.

Article 1 - Name

YEPP is an independent European youth platform of the Christian Democrat and Conservative and like-minded political youth organizations from Europe.
The Organization is called "Youth of the European People's Party", abbreviated as "YEPP".

Article 2 – Relationship to the European People's Party

YEPP shares the basic values and principles of EPP and therefore claims the status of the youth organisation of this organisation. Nevertheless, YEPP is independent from the EPP in all decisions.

Article 3 - Purposes

YEPP as a federation of national and regional party-political youth organisations has the following key functions:

- a) to convene the member organisations and further develop their relations, and the inclusion of prospects from different states and regions of Europe, in order to gain political and organisational strength on the European arena;
- b) to encourage and promote youth participation within and towards political parties affiliated with our ideas;
- c) to contribute to continuous renewal of our mother party (the EPP) and its respective national and regional member parties;
- d) to help strengthen those movements and organisations which are facing a rough political situation;

- e) to develop a general political debate, to develop clear political strategies and to take own initiatives promoting our ideas in society;
- f) to contribute to a better knowledge of the process of co-operation and integration in Europe;
- g) to develop contacts with like-minded youth movements of other continents, in particular of America, Africa, and Asia as well as helping to include the participation of minority youths living in Europe;
- h) to participate, by representing the views of YEPP, in the work of EPP; and further encourage youth representation within all EPP member parties;
- i) to ensure representation in different platforms and co-ordination structures of youth in Europe deemed as relevant, and to encourage its member organisations to do the same at their respective level;
- j) to support and promote basic European values and democracy building.

Membership

Article 4 – Full Membership

YEPP members are European party political youth organisations who subscribe and act according to the Basic Values and Principles and the statutes of YEPP.

Article 5 – Membership Fee

The membership fee for full members is decided by the Council.
Membership fees payable by observers are fixed at the same level as those charged to members with the lowest voting rights.

Article 6 – Membership Process and Status

Observers are those organisations who share the principles of YEPP and who want to be informed about and participate in the activities of YEPP without voting rights.

Youth organizations of Christian Democrat, and Conservative Parties across Europe may apply to become an observer, if they have participated at least 3 times at a YEPP Council or Congress upon invitation of YEPP. The decision to extend an invitation is taken by the Board. With an absolute majority vote the Council may force the Board to extend an invitation. The decision to grant observer status to an applicant organization is taken by the Council. The board issues a recommendation based on a thorough analysis of the applicant organization (its values, statutes, practical work and relevance) and its activities within YEPP. Organizations applying for observer status must have a mother party that has received more than 3% of the votes in the last national elections or is represented in its current national parliament or was in the previously elected one.

All youth organisations must apply for a temporary observer status before they can become full members of YEPP. The period as observer must last at least 6 months. Observers may apply for a full membership after a period of at least 6 months and after they have participated at least in three Council meetings. The decision to grant full membership is taken by the Congress. The board issues a recommendation based on a thorough analysis.

Article 7 – Associated Membership

An organisation which subscribes to the basic values and principles of YEPP but can not fulfil the criteria as according to Art. 1 of the statutes of YEPP can be granted a status of “associated partner” of YEPP.

The procedure is the same as the procedure in the case of observer.

Article 8 - Exclusion

The Council may decide to exclude an observer or full member if:

- the youth organization no longer fulfils the preconditions of its status or is no longer contributing to YEPP activities
- the youth organization does not exist any more
- the mother party does not exist any more
- the youth organization or mother party changes its platform
- the youth organization has not participated in the YEPP activities over a period of two years,
- the youth organization has not paid the membership fee in the last year.

The decision becomes effective after respective majority votes at two consecutive Council meetings. If no membership fee has been paid over a period of two years and a respective warning letter to the organisation has remained unanswered for two months, the exclusion becomes automatically effective without the requirement of a formal decision. The Council may also take a similar decision to end the status of associated partnership.

The procedure is the same as the procedure in the case of membership.

Article 9 – YEPP representation in EPP organs

YEPP shares the basic values and principles of our mother party the EPP. YEPP is granted the status of recognised youth association of EPP, together with EDS as the student association, EPP Women as the women’s association, EUCDW as the workers union and the SME Union as the employers union and EPP Seniors as the senior’s association.

YEPP will be represented in EPP by its own, rightful representatives, either by the entitlement of elected position in YEPP or by individual appointment for a given task. Any such appointment can only be made by a rightful authority in YEPP.

Article 10 – Groups and meetings

Within YEPP member organisations can form groups and /or hold co-ordination meetings as long as they do not compete with the unity of YEPP.

Organization, Seat and Duration

Article 11

- a. The seat of YEPP corresponds to the seat of the EPP and is the place of the General Secretariat where YEPP. It is currently fixed at Rue du Commerce 10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium. A decision to change the headquarters to any other place in Brussels should be taken by the Board.
- b. The organisation is registered as an international non-profit association according to Belgian law.
- c. The association is incorporated for an indefinite duration.
- d. For economical and administrative reasons, YEPP can by decision of its Council decide to choose other suitable locations and solutions for its office than the one of the EPP.

Statutory Organs

Article 12 – Organs

Statutory Organs of YEPP are as follows (in ranking order):

- The Congress,
- The Council,
- The Board.

Article 13 - The Congress

A) The Congress is the supreme organ and takes place at least every two years. The Congress will convene on decision of the Council. The Council decides on the location, time, agenda, languages, and the rules of procedure of the Congress. The Congress can only take decisions when it has been convened according to the statutes and a quorum of 50% plus one of the delegates has been reached.

B) The Congress elects the Board and two Financial Auditors, taking into account the need for a balanced representation. The Congress will decide on the political guidelines and the working plan of YEPP and on statutory amendments. The Congress will decide upon recommendation of the Board with a two thirds majority of the statutory delegates on the acceptance of new full members. The Congress can further decide on all matters, which it recognises as falling within its competence.

C) Congress delegates are:

- the YEPP Board members without voting rights concerning membership questions, statutes and elections;
- the delegates of the member organisations.

D) The number of votes is composed according to the following criteria:

- one basic vote for each organisation;

(additional votes)

- number of members per organisation:

above 50.000 members: 1 vote
above 100.000 members: 2 votes
above 150.000 members: 3 votes

-result of the mother party at the last national election:

above 5%: 1 vote
above 10%: 2 votes
above 20%: 3 votes
above 30%: 4 votes

- absolute number of votes for the mother party at the last national election:

above 250.000 votes: 1 vote
above 1.000.000 votes: 2 votes
above 2.000.000 votes: 3 votes
above 5.000.000 votes: 4 votes
above 10.000.000 votes: 5 votes
above 15.000.000 votes: 6 votes
above 20.000.000 votes and more: 7 votes

Organisations from countries below 1.000.000 inhabitants shall have a maximum of two votes.

Organisations from countries below 5.000.000 inhabitants shall have a maximum of five votes.

E) The number of votes of each member organisations is stated by the Board on the proposal of the Secretary General before every Congress. The relevant day is the same day three months before the start of the Congress. If a member organisation does not agree with the amount of its votes, it can make an appeal to the Congress. Casting a vote demands the presence of the delegate.

F) Decisions are taken in principle with the absolute majority of the votes. Changes of the statutes are taken by a three fourth majority.

G) The electoral rules are fixed in the rules of procedure for the Congress.

Article 14 - The Council

A) The Council is the supreme organ of YEPP between two Congresses. The YEPP Council can propose decisions to the Congress and is the key responsible in between two Congresses. The Council shall meet at least three times a year, but in any case must meet twice a year.

B) Members of the Council are:

-the members of the Board;
-one representative of each member organisation with one vote;
-one representative of each observer organisation without voting right.

C)Tasks of the Council are:

-formulation of political standpoints;
-decision on the granting of observer status;
-decision on the end of membership / observer status;
-recommendations to the Congress on the acceptance of new members;
-election of Board members/Financial Auditors in the case of vacancies;
-approval of the budget for the forthcoming year and the adoption of the financial report for the previous year.

D) The Council can only take decisions when a quorum of 50% plus one of its members is reached.

If the quota is not reached, the Council should proceed normally with the agenda and vote for it. The Board should bring the whole agenda for a ratification as a top priority issue in the next Council reaching the quota.”

E) One of the Council meetings in the year between the Congresses is the Chairmen’s Conference.

Article 15- The Board

A) The Board is responsible for the daily work of YEPP, within the framework of guidelines adopted by the Congress and the Council. The Board may share its internal work and responsibilities as it desires and shall meet at least four times a year.

B) Member of the Board are:

- the President;
- the First Vice-President;
- the Secretary General;
- the Deputy Secretary General;
- the Treasurer;
- nine Vice-Presidents.

C) Tasks of the Board are:

- implementation of the decisions of the Council and the Congress;
- representation of YEPP towards other institutions and organisations;
- preparation of the Council meetings;
- recommendations to the Council and the Congress concerning the acceptance and exclusion of members and observers;
- guarantee the continuity of the working of the organisation.

D) The Board can only take decisions when a quorum of 50% plus one of its members is reached.

E) Candidates to the Board must be under the age of 35 years at the date of the election. Every country can have two representatives at most in the Board and every organisation can be represented by only one person at most in the Board. The mandates of the Board members who have not attended at least half of the meetings of the Board in the twelve months following their election become automatically vacant.

Authorities

Article 16 - The President

The President represents YEPP internally and externally. The President chairs the Congress, the Chairmen’s Conference, the Council and the Board. The First Vice-President deputises for the President in the President’s absence.

To safeguard the independency of the organization, the position of YEPP President is not compatible with an employed profession by the EPP Party or EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament.

Additional deputising follows the line of elections to the board, or by what is appropriate in relation to internal division of tasks within the board.

Article 17 - The Secretary General / The Executive Officer

The Secretary General supervises the management of the daily business and executes the decisions taken by the authorities. The Secretary General and the Treasurer are responsible for

the correct administration and use of the budget. The Deputy Secretary General assists the Secretary General.

The executive officer is employed by the Board upon a common proposal of the President and the Secretary General.

Finances

Article 18 - Financial management and control

A) The Board is responsible to the Council for the finances of YEPP. The financial year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31 of every year.

B) The Secretary General supervising the Executive Officer, and in consultation with the Board, establish the annual budget (projected income and expenditure) and the preliminary accounts of YEPP and submit these to the Council for final approval. The budget should be adopted by the Council before the financial year begins.

C) The Secretary General supervising the Executive Officer, and in consultation with the Board, establish the annual account - final income, expenditure and total balance - and submit these to the Council, together with the report of the financial auditors, for a final approval. The annual account should be approved by the Council no later than the end of March in the subsequent financial year.

D) The Secretary General to every meeting of the Council on the current financial situation, stating the following:

- Status according to budget.
- Amounts of membership fee that should have been received from all member organisations
- Amounts of membership fee that has been received from all member organisations

E) The Board controls the spending of the financial means. To operationally execute this role a Treasurer of the board is appointed to monitor the financial administration. The Treasurer should also help identify new resources and improved ways of managing YEPP's finances.

F) In addition to Financial Auditors elected by the Congress and the supervisory role of the Treasurer and the Board, YEPP shall, according to the laws applying to the seat of the organisation, use professional external audit in establishing its financial results.

Article 19 - The Financial Auditors

The two Financial Auditors will be elected by the Congress with a non-renewable mandate. They verify the accounts of YEPP and present an annual report to the Council. The Financial Auditors cannot be members of the Board.

Article 20 - Payment of the Membership Fee

Without prejudice to any other measures which may be decided upon by the Council, those members whose fees remain outstanding for a year, will have their right to vote at Congress and Council meetings suspended. The organisation cannot regain its status without a favourable decision of the Council and after having paid the arrears of membership fees outstanding.

Various

Article 21

The working language is English.

Article 22

YEPP can dissolve itself by a three fourth majority of the member organisations at a Congress.

Article 23

The statutes take effect immediately once the Congress is opened. Statutory amendments take effect immediately after their adoption.