



## YEPP Paper on Globalisation

*Adopted in Council Meeting, Turku (Finland), 15 May 2004*

### **A world of opportunities**

#### **1. Defining globalisation**

The debates on globalisation are many. And at the very centre of the discussions are different interpretations of the expression. Defining globalisation is therefore a highly political exercise. With this paper we, the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP), want to present our view.

It is said that the Arab translation of globalisation means "*global inclusivity*". Here lies much of our interpretation as well. YEPP believes that globalisation is a process that comes naturally as a result of increasingly broader interrelations and, hence also stronger interdependence, between nations and people all over the world. Globalisation is however more than just a Man made incident. Globalisation is an intended and politically wanted development, where we more and more realize the common interests and goods to be achieved if we manage to make this process inclusive.

Globalisation is without doubt driven by forces coming out of trade and economically related activities cross borders and continents. Likewise it was with the establishment of our today "natural" communities, such as our cities and even our national states. Our communities are results of such interests binding people together into prosperous and protected entities. This wouldn't happen if other units and patterns of relations were challenged. This is not to be understood in such a way that globalisation is about the fulfilment of international companies. No, globalisation is a steered development motivated by the fundamental search for better life. That's what politics is about. Constantly trying to improve communities wherein people can enjoy their freedoms.

YEPP with its member organisations from all over Europe are everywhere representatives of the fundamental belief that people pursuing their best interests, and doing so in respect of others, that is a force for good. It is what every society relies upon. Without the striving individual no society can sustain or be made better.

Globalisation must therefore be about ensuring more freedom and opportunities for all people. This makes globalisation a process of inclusivity and not exclusion. It is nations coming together realizing that providing for more freedom to relate and interact cross

borders will make a better world. Such a development will revile suppression and prevent isolation. It will simply tighten the room to maintain injustice in our world.

Globalisation must be endorsed and managed through a sharing of responsibility between local, national and international authorities. Because alongside the freedoms of the individual comes the duties of governments to protect and promote these human rights. Our global community is first of all based on the universal human rights. Globalisation must be about promoting and ensuring these rights. Counter globalisation are protectionism and isolation. These ideas must be abandoned if true globalisation is to be realized.

## **2. Global management**

Poverty is the greatest scare of our time and it needs to be fought down wherever it exists. Recognising that more than a billion people are living in absolute poverty, living on less than a euro a day, makes it impossible to say that globalisation have succeeded. Being scary enough this poverty that can be found globally, in regions and in different countries does not describe globalisation. Even within country disparities are some times so enormous that blaming poverty on globalisation is like shooting the messenger for the bad message. Indeed poverty is the very essence of what globalisation should resolve.

In order to make globalisation something more than just a description of the global state of affairs, we need to establish a suitable management for the common good we're seeking. That is to further develop our global community where human rights and freedoms can be enjoyed by the many and not only the few. And several measures have been taken the last decades. Moving from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century global leaders gathered in the special UN General Assembly session in September 2000. There they anonymously adopted the Millennium Declaration wherein one can find the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These are a set of time bound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. The MDGs are followed by a whole new framework to measure progress towards the aim of their realization by 2015.

YEPP therefore believes in a true global management seeking to promote globalisation where it is needed. Key institutions are already in place with the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). But their governing should be reformed in several ways according to their different tasks. First of all these institutions need to be more democratic, especially with regards to the true participation and influence by developing countries.

To achieve a globalisation for all there is a need for establishing a true global partnership where the developed countries (OECD) live up to their commitments of opening up markets, cancelling more debts and increasing development aid (ODA). On their part the developing countries must continue to improve their governance, fight harder against corruption and respect human rights.

Even if it is clear that rich, industrialised countries have less corruption than poor, developing countries it is also obvious that big scale corruption has both its bidders and its recipients. Transparency International's "Bribe Payers Index" shows that many of the biggest bidders of corruption globally are companies based in OECD-countries. Especially

Extractive Industries are exposed to corruption. To prevent globalisation from helping out on money laundering and hence also big scale corruption there is a need for commitment also from industrialised countries. Both government authorities and private sector must do more to bring about greater transparency and specially designed mechanisms to fight and prevent corruption and money laundering. Here the new UN Convention on anti-corruption and the EU Directive against use of financial systems to laundering money can become important tools. The same goes for the UN "Global Compact" promoting Social Corporate Responsibility (CSR) and the OECD guidelines for multinational companies.

Realising that the strongest drivers for globalisation is international trade and international communication, gaining access to better Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and more international political co-operation we must promote these forces. YEPP therefore strongly support the further development of a comprehensive, multilateral regulation of trade through WTO. YEPP also calls for further efforts to be made in facilitation the true integration and participation of least developed countries (LDCs) in international trade. One important effort is to cut all export subsidies in order to secure a free and fair competition on the global market.

Likewise more must be spent on research and development of ICT and YEPP urges for measures to ensure that new technology is made available for developing countries. Here targeted assistance from OECD countries is needed. The capacity of new ICTs to reduce many traditional obstacles, especially those of time and distance, obviously could benefit millions of people in all corners of the world. National governments in co-operation with private sector must do more to allow broader access to modern ICTs both in developed and developing countries. Here better public education and investment in infrastructure are key instruments.

### **3. The responsibilities of nations**

The concept of a national state has by many been destined because of globalisation. And it is true that national governments do face challenges in our increasingly interdependent world. It still rests however upon the national governments to ensure its citizens their fundamental human rights and freedoms. Without functioning states people soon get captivated in vicious circles of deficiency and chaos. Failed states still leave millions of people abandoned today. Such countries have also shown to be havens for terrorist and other criminals. The order of our global community relies upon the well functioning of national governments.

It is the same for all societies. What starts with the need for personal responsibility at a local level is also demanding nations to act responsible and in solidarity at a global level. Our global community simply cannot persist if there are no division of labour and responsibilities. Therefore as much as YEPP supports the reasoning based on subsidiarity and solidarity to promote supranational bodies to better influence global phenomenon's, we also support the strengthening of governments in nations where lack of proper governance leaves people without protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

The building of government capacity in developing countries should therefore be at the very centre of attention for development co-operation. Rather than operating instead of

weak governments we must assist them to enter the driver's seat of their own country's development. To achieve this all foreign donors should demand national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) to be made by the developing countries themselves. Further more, to strengthen national ownership all donors should gather their recourses in basket funds, or even better giving budgetary support. Providing funds for larger sector programs through this kind of support, instead of spreading the assistance into different donor-driven and donor-controlled projects, will help out a lot for governments trying to manage their country.

#### **4. The role of Europe**

Based up on the experience of decades, yes, even centuries of war and conflict European leaders created a project of a common European market to create such integration that war would become impossible. The European Union (EU) is a result of the pursuit for, if not global so at least internationally, common goods. These are goods out of range for the individual member states without the community. Seeking together made these countries stronger. The very same logic has further developed the EU into being the largest and most efficient regional community in the world. After the enlargement on 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004 Europe gained 80 million new citizens. Being now a common market of 450 million people, the EU has gained a size and strength that makes it a true global power.

The European Union has shown its ability to deliver. Now it is time to set out a more prominent role in shaping our global community. Globalisation gives us a world of opportunities. Still challenges such as poverty, terrorism, war and environmental disasters poses threats that needs to be addressed. These are first of all Man-made problems, so solutions should be within our reach. With approximately 40 000 European diplomats in service all over the world, a new armed rapid reaction capacity being established and the fulfilment of the aim at practising a true Common Security and Foreign Policy (CSFP) the EU should be able to become an even more efficient actor in global politics.

In the history of global development we are all contributors. Our input promotes either a negative or a positive direction. It is YEPP's goal that the EU becomes more aware of its ability to move even global development. YEPP calls upon the EU Commission and all the member states to undertake a systematic review of all policies to ensure coherence with the fight against poverty and the promotion of global sustainable development.

#### **5. Maintaining diversity**

Through globalisation the variety and magnitude of cultural impulses have increased. At the same time many small or economically weak societies may come under pressure. Such societies that lack sustainable markets for their own cultural products may loose way for the aggressive promotion of more commercial and mainstream expressions and products. More attention should be brought to prevent the wash out of important parts of our global, creative diversity. Hence more should be done to assist the development of national cultural policies and proper cultural infrastructure.

Cultural rights are part of our universal human rights. Recognising the fundamental role of culture in all people's identity and development maintaining and promoting cultural diversity must be respected. Through globalisation we seek to promote freedom and

opportunities for all people. It is only natural that we ensure cultural diversity to bolster and not diminish.

## **6. YEPP's Action Points for Globalisation:**

*We the representatives of the YEPP want to;*

- 1. Define globalisation as steered and politically wanted development that offers every individual the possibility to search for a better life.*
- 2. Stress that the purpose of globalisation is to promote the universal human rights,*
- 3. Stress that globalisation may be a tool to further strengthen freedom and human rights in order to give more opportunities for all people.*
- 4. See poverty being fought down wherever it exists as it is the greatest scares of our time.*
- 5. Believe that the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization are key institutions for better global management but that they need to be more efficient, democratic and transparent.*
- 6. Strongly support the further development of a comprehensive, multilateral regulation of trade through WTO.*
- 7. Call upon the European Union and other OECD countries to cut all export subsidy arrangements, especially on agricultural products, in order to secure a free and fair competition on the global market.*
- 8. Urge for measures to ensure that new Information and Communication Technologies are made available for developing countries.*
- 9. Support the strengthening of democratic governments in nations where lack of proper governance leaves people without protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.*
- 10. See stronger commitment to the development of democracy and civil society in undemocratic regimes*
- 11. Call upon the EU commission and all the member states to undertake a systematic review of all policies to ensure coherence with the fight against poverty and the promotion of global sustainable development.*
- 12. See stronger efforts in preservation and promotion of cultural diversity through assisting the development of national cultural policies and proper cultural infrastructure in small and financially weak cultural societies.*

*13. Call upon further discussion on globalisation focusing especially on the possibilities of the phenomenon, and express our wish that the opinions on globalisation would be expressed only by non-violent methods.*