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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH

Brussels and Strasbourg,
26th March 2014

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Joint Statement of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum Budapest, 26 March 2014

Bearing in mind the European Convention on Human Rights, and recalling the prerequisite of its ratification, and thus compliance, for becoming a Member state of the Council of Europe,

Referring to the decision of the Committee of Ministers (1195th meeting – 19 and 20 March 2014, Item 1.7) of the Council of Europe, and particularly underlining the strict adherence to international law principle;

Further recalling the necessity stated by the Committee of Ministers for a peaceful negotiation on the outcomes of the crisis, avoiding further escalation of the crisis;

Reiterating Anne Brasseur's, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's, call on the essential and continuous communication with the parties implied in the crisis;

Firmly awaiting the results of the 3-days Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe visit to Ukraine,

Reaffirming the statement of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe made on the 13th March condemning the use of any military forces,

Sending its support to the youth organisations in Ukraine through this difficult time and encouraging them to continue promoting peace and dialogue between all the parties concerned;

Alarmed by the position of youth in the crisis, based on the observations and recommendations of the National Youth Policy Review of Ukraine, in 2013, the Advisory Council and the European Youth Forum commit to taking immediate and mid-term action in the following areas:

1. In light of the increasing mistrust between different groups and the difficulty to have an objective and neutral perspective on the conditions of young people in Ukraine, the Advisory Council on Youth calls for a delegation of young people to an operational visit to all affected regions and report its findings directly to the

Committee of Ministers.

- a. For the delegation of such a visit we foresee members of the Advisory Council on Youth, members of the European Youth Forum, Youth Researchers, and cordially invite representations of the National Youth Council of Russia (NYCR) and the Ukrainian Youth Forum (UYF), other national youth councils from relevant countries and other relevant institutions/organisations related to youth and peacebuilding.
 - b. All main regions involved should receive the same attention and should be visited.
 - c. The outcome should be an evaluation of the current situation of young people and a concrete proposal on measures to improve their status taking into account the views of all parties involved, to be used:
 - i. For future evaluation and planning of the Framework Programme on co-operation with Ukraine and other affected countries in the field of Youth Policy, for 2014-2015, 2016-2017.
 - ii. For future decisions on funding - from European Programmes and in particular the European Youth Foundation - of projects in Ukraine and affected populations.
 - iii. For initiatives and future projects of the Council of Europe, and other organisations, where a comprehensive youth perspective can be included.
2. The Advisory Council of Youth and the European Youth Forum acknowledge the increasingly contrasting views of young people across Europe.
- a. We call upon increased resources for intercultural dialogue between young people.
 - b. In particular we encourage discussions among people to bridge the ideological gaps among young people.
 - c. In this respect we call upon the European Youth Foundation, other youth funding and support bodies and also the framework agreements between the Council of Europe with both the Russian Federation and Ukraine to channel its resources towards this dialogue.

We welcome the peaceful approaches taken by young people to resolve the crisis and encourage further peaceful dialogue and conflict resolution.

Signed on behalf of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum.



Paulo Pinheiro
Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth



Peter Matjašič
President of the European Youth Forum