



AP/Carte-J (2014) PV33 prov

## **Partial Agreement<sup>1</sup> on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card**

**33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Co-ordination  
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg**

**Tuesday, 11 November 2014**

### ***REPORT***

The 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Co-ordination of the Partial Agreement (PA) on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card took place on 11 November 2014 in Strasbourg in the framework of the statutory bodies of the youth sector. The list of participants appears in Appendix II.

#### **Item 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting by Jean-Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation**

J.-C. Bas welcomed the Board of Co-ordination as a newly nominated Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, and congratulated the new Board with its recent election in June 2014. He stressed a big potential for the development of the European Youth Cards and of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility. There was a new impetus for the youth in the Council of Europe, one should build on this impetus. It was very important to put opportunities together for the sake of effectiveness and visibility: for example, to use big Council of Europe and Youth Department's events to organise the events of the Partial Agreement in conjunction with them (World Forum for Democracy, Committee of Ministers Chairmanships, etc.). The Director noted that the secretariat team was fully committed to this work and willing to explore all synergies within the youth sector, the Department, the Council of Europe and other partners.

#### **Item 2. Adoption of the agenda (item introduced by the Secretariat)**

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<sup>1</sup> Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland

Agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix I.

**Item 3. Election of the Chair (from the side of EYCA) and Vice-Chair (from the side of the Partial Agreement)<sup>2</sup>; decision on the extension of their mandate till next elections in Autumn 2016**

The Board has elected unanimously Jarkko Lehtikainen, EYCA's President, as the Board's Chair and Jorge Orlando Queiros, representative of Portugal, as its Vice-Chair for a two-year term of office till next elections in Autumn 2016.

**Item 4. Exchange of views with the new Head of Youth Department, Antje Rothmund**

Antje took her new duties officially on 1 October 2014. Before her previous functions as Head of the Council of Europe Belgrade Office, she had worked over 20 years in the youth sector. At a certain moment she was responsible for the Solidarity Fund - a joint project with Interrail. As a new Head of Youth Department, Antje saw her task in finding complementarity between its various divisions and programmes.

The Vice-Chair said that the PA was more and more recognised in the Council of Europe (inclusion in CM Chairmanship programmes, for ex.) due to the fact that the PA has managed to deliver and adapt. What could the Board of Co-ordination do more for the Partial Agreement?

Antje saw several ways in which the Board could be helpful for the PA and the youth card: (1) help contact and convince governments' of PA's non-member states, especially those who were close to joining (ex. Bulgaria); (2) involve politicians more actively, invite them to the events of the Partial Agreement, of EYCA, of national youth card organisations; this is in particular important for members of the national delegations to PACE and to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, (3) involve also middle management in the ministries into these events too. In general, the Council of Europe was in a responsive position and much depended on requests from member states.

As regards the PA programme of activities, she believed that a Symposium on obstacles to mobility could be interesting: some obstacles have disappeared since the Partial Agreement was created, new obstacles have arisen, in particular for young people not residing in the European Union.

**Item 5. Developments in the Partial Agreement, including the expansion strategy, since the last meeting of the Board of Co-ordination<sup>3</sup> - oral report by the Secretariat**

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<sup>2</sup> *reference documents:* Committee of Ministers **Resolution ResAP(2003)1** on instituting a Partial Agreement on the Youth card for the purpose of promoting and facilitating youth mobility in Europe; **Resolution CM/Res(2011)24** on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods

<sup>3</sup> The report of the 32nd meeting of the Board of Co-ordination was adopted at the end of the Autumn 2013 statutory bodies' meetings and is available under reference **AP/Carte-J(2013)PV32**

### ***1. Statutory developments:***

**On 18 June 2014 at their 1203<sup>rd</sup> meeting**, the Ministers' Deputies have appointed the new 8 member States to sit on the Board of Co-ordination of the PA for 2014-2015: Armenia, Austria, BiH, Malta, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia were nominated for a second term. The following member states finished their mandate in the Board of Co-ordination: Azerbaijan, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland.

### ***2. Staff developments:***

No staff changes in the Partial Agreement. The new Head of Youth Department, Antje Rothmund, and the new Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Jean-Christophe Bas, were nominated in 2014.

EYCA's major staff change – the departure of Director, Bob Forsyth, for health reasons, had a consequence on the 2014 programme: a promotional seminar in Strasbourg for the Permanent Representatives on 4 July 2014 had to be cancelled and it was difficult to follow on the commitments of another member state (Azerbaijan) and its youth card organisation to host a PA Seminar during its CM chairmanship.

### ***3. Provision of information on the subject of the Youth Card to political decision-makers***

On 17 February 2014 an EYCA–PA visit to Ankara took place to meet several General Directors (international co-operation; projects; youth) of the Ministry of Youth and Sport; unfortunately several elections in the country and changes in staff impeded the developments.

On 24 March 2014 a working dinner was organized by the PA-EYCA and hosted by the Hungarian Youth Card in Budapest during the meetings of the statutory bodies. CDEJ representatives of all PA member states were brought together and presented with an up-dated vision and programme of the PA. Questions-answers session took place. It was also an opportunity for networking between the governments and national Youth Card organisations.

The Secretariat continued efforts to link member states' CM Chairmanships<sup>4</sup> to the PA programme of activities: this was successful for the Andorran and Austrian chairmanships, unfortunately did not work out with Azerbaijan. Proposals were made for the Bosnian and Cypriote Chairmanships.

The Secretariat was holding discussions with the Belgian authorities on whether they would wish to join the PA's programme for their Chairmanship.

### ***4. Co-operation with various Council of Europe bodies and other organisations***

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#### **Next Chairmanships:**

Belgium: 13 November 2014-May 2015

Bosnia and Herzegovina: May-November 2015

Bulgaria: November 2015-May 2016

Estonia: May-November 2016

Cyprus: November 2016 - May 2017

The Vice-Chair noted that co-operation between the PA and EYCA opens even further mutually beneficial perspectives, including reaching out to non-organised youth and reaching out beyond Europe.

EYCA has been successful in obtaining observer status with the CDEJ and the Advisory Council. It is an active partner in the NHSM.

The PA-EYCA has actively participated in the **CDEJ** and **JC** thematic debate on young people's employability in Europe. On that occasion, promotion sessions on European youth cards were conducted for a number of countries non-members of the PA.

The PA is invited each year to a meeting with the Pompidou Group's Expert Group on a Prize for young people for projects on combatting drug addiction. This is also an occasion to promote the youth card and the PA. One might think of developing this co-operation a step further: how to link youth cards to the activities of the Pompidou Group (and more generally to fight against drug addiction)?

The PA is now an active member of the European Platform on Learning Mobility (which since this year has transited from being a German government's initiative to the Council of Europe EC-COE Partnership).

EURAIL: was interested in re-starting co-operation with international partners, EYCA, PA/CoE (a possible "Mobility Fund"). The Board asked whether the Council of Europe had criteria for participation of such organisations and whether there should be a list of the Partial Agreement's needs/demands in this respect.

The Slovak representative stressed that all partnerships should be in line with the Council of Europe values and priorities

The Vice-Chair asked how to deal with a misconception about a commercial nature of the youth card. J.C.Bas advised to work very hard to promote the "civil engagement" image of the card and thus move away from the image of the "discount" card. EYCA's Secretariat specified that EYCA changed from market-penetration statistics to the measurements of youth cards quality and of young people well-being.

Another issue was how to address the needs of under-served communities.

### ***5. Expansion strategy:***

During the last statutory meetings the Mexican delegation voiced interest in developing ties with Europe and in the PA, as Mexico has already a youth card.

This year no new accession took place, though several countries<sup>5</sup> mentioned their potential interest. One of the strategies is to invite relevant decision-makers to participate in various PA and EYCA events. Nonetheless, it should be mentioned that the PA lacks necessary financial resources to conduct promotional visits to non-member states.

The vice-Chair informed the Board that Portuguese - Ibero-American co-operation on youth cards developed, slowly but surely. He hoped that countries like Mexico will be inspired to join the Partial Agreement. EYCA's Director said that OIJ, an inter-American youth organization will launch a card in 2015 and had a 2 year agreement with EYCA, and then maybe bilateral agreements between EYCA and individual Latin American countries might follow. OIJ is also an observer to the EYCA's Management Board. The vice-Chair suggested inviting OIJ as a guest to one of the meetings of the PA Board of Co-ordination.

**Item 6. Developments in the European Youth Card Association since the last meeting of the Board of Co-ordination – oral report by EYCA's Director and President**

EYCA's last General Assembly which took place in Zagreb, Croatia, May 2014 adopted EYCA's Vision, Mission and Values. The General Assembly also elected a new Governing Board consisting of 11 members.

**EYCA's Vision** is: "A Europe where all young people are mobile and active."

**EYCA's Mission** is: "Member organisations work together to stimulate more young people to be socially, culturally, educationally and economically mobile by: delivering quality European Youth Card services and contributing to better policy on youth mobility and active citizenship".

**EYCA's Values:** youth-oriented; inclusive, sustainable, accountable, entrepreneurial.

The Director and President mentioned specifically the PA Seminar on "Better Mobility for young people with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds" which took place in Vienna early May 2014 and was the first Seminar organized in the framework of the 2014-2015 new PA's programme of activities. According to the participants, the event was a success. It gave rise to a report, to a Best Practice Brochure and new positive practices of youth card organisations. The representatives of governments found it also very useful.

**Item 7. Budget and Programme of Activities of the Partial Agreement for 2014-2015 (reference document AP/Carte-J(2013)1) and 2016-2017 (a preliminary exchange of views)**

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<sup>5</sup>Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Tunisia, Turkey

The PA work programme for 2014-2015 was adopted by the Board of Co-ordination at its last meeting in October 2013 is based on a broader notion of mobility as a social navigation capacity which can be titled both “Mobility in the Mind” and “Inclusive Youth Mobility”.<sup>6</sup>

**1. The Seminar “Inclusive Youth Mobility: better mobility opportunities for young people with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds”,** 6-7 May 2014, Vienna, Austria, (*reference document: Seminar report AP/Carte(2014)1*), EYCA’s Good Practice Series (GPS) on Inclusive Mobility (*AP/Carte(2014)2*) launched the revised work programme of the Partial Agreement which was more focused on the needs of policy- and decision-makers. [*Add a link to the report*].  
**The Board of Co-ordination took note of the report.**

**2. The Seminar** on “Inclusive on-line engagement of young people in Europe”, 11 November 2014, Strasbourg, has an advantage of an important number of PA and CDEJ members taking part in it, as well as some Permanent Representations. One might consider the possibility of organizing one of the PA’s Seminars in that format (on the eve of the Board of Co-ordination and statutory bodies meetings).

**3. EPLM presentation<sup>7</sup>:** unfortunately no one from the Partnership was available for the meeting.

#### **4. 2015 programme of activities:**

Several countries were interested in hosting a Seminar in 2015, such as BiH, Portugal, Malta, and the Azerbaijan Youth Card. If other member states were interested to host a PA activity in their country, preferably on the theme from the list below, they should inform so the Secretariat as soon as possible.

There was an intention to follow the precedent of the promotional Seminar for the PRs, which took place in 2013 and was a big success (23 diplomats took part from 18 delegations), this initiative was strongly praised and encouraged by the CDEJ Bureau and the CDEJ itself, and very much by the current Chair of the Joint Council.

Themes selected by the Board of Co-ordination for 2014-2015 were the following<sup>8</sup>: : though of course the PA should stay open to the challenges or priorities the Committee of Ministers or the Secretary general could put before the whole organization.

#### **An academic perspective:**

“Youth Mobility definitions” (this theme is tackled at the **EPLM**).

“Developing better policy on youth mobility” is actually a generic applying to **all Seminars**.

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<sup>6</sup> At first it was hoped to produce 8 seminars for the biennium (approx. 4 per year), but budgetary constraints prompted a more realistic solution: 6 events per biennium (approx. 3 per year), plus a promotional Seminar in Strasbourg for the PRs and possibly a working/networking dinner in Budapest during the statutory meetings.

<sup>7</sup> *Documents distributed for information:* EPLM Presentation AP/Carte(2014)3; EPLM Position Paper AP/Carte(2014)4; report of the EPLM Steering Group, 21-22 May 2014, Bonn AP/Carte(2014)5

<sup>8</sup> page 7 of the doc. AP/Carte –J (2013)1

“Understanding the impact of youth mobility on young people and on society”  
 “Building evidence and knowledge about youth mobility”

**A practical perspective:**

“Supporting Governments to engage young people to develop mobility solutions” (Portugal, 2015)  
 “Inclusion of all young people in mobility opportunities” (Austria,Vienna, 2014)  
 “Youth mobility and brain drain” (BiH, 2015)  
 “European youth mobility within a global context”

**5. Budget:<sup>9</sup>**

The current budget for 2014 was 69.300€. The budget for 2015 was expected to stay the same as regards the amount of member states’ contributions. Nonetheless, according to the decision of the Secretary General, an inflation/salarial adjustment in 2015 will equal 2.1%. That means that further 300€ will be cut from the PO budget.

The budget is split in the following way:

Administrative Arrangement for EYCA:	39 000€
Staff (25% of a B3 post + a pension contribution):	20 500€ (17.600€+2.600€+300€)
Obligatory contribution to the OB <sup>10</sup> :	7000€
Overheads (printing, postage):	500€
Official journeys:	2300€

The Board of Coordination noted that the Partial Agreement’s budget was indeed insufficient to conduct both an active promotion of the Partial Agreement among the non-members, and a more intensive programme of activities. The enlargement of membership could help to increase the budget but not significantly unless it is a big country. It should also be taken into account that a state’s accession is a sovereign decision of that state and is not under the Secretariat’s control.

One of possible solutions would be to create a special account, which could receive voluntary contributions from member states and donations/contributions (EURAIL, etc.). Its advantage is also the fact that it is not limited in duration and the money should not be obligatorily spent in one budgetary year. The Secretariat asked whether there was a possibility to put 1 cent per card (1 cent/card – 5mln cards – 5 mln cents = 50.000€) to such a special account.

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<sup>9</sup> Some background of the Partial Agreement’s creation is important for the understanding of its budgetary functioning. At the origin, the Partial Agreement on the Youth Card (1991) was created in order to assist, specifically financially, the development of a European network of youth cards. This aim has been fully reached and today EYCA is a strong, representative and sustainable association. After this initial period, since 2003 EYCA was tasked with the implementation of the Partial Agreement’s programme in line with the priorities of the CoE youth sector (through an administrative grant to EYCA). Following impetus by the current Secretary General to review the Council of Europe structures, the PA Board of Co-ordination decided end of 2012 to orient the PA work more to the expectations and needs of the member governments. Since then, the PA implements its programme in co-operation with EYCA (EYCA continues to receive an administrative grant). But, in contradiction with the situation, the budget has decreased due to the withdrawal of 3 member countries.

<sup>10</sup> Ordinary Budget of the Council of Europe

The Secretariat was asked to explore various possibilities and propose options to the Board of Co-ordination.

### ***6. Priorities for 2016 programme of activities***

Priorities for 2016-2017 of the Partial Agreement should be discussed at a future Board's meeting following the statutory bodies' orientations on overall priorities of the youth sector for 2016-2017 to be discussed on 13-15 April 2015 in Budapest.

The Vice-Chair noted that the priorities of the PA correspond to the priorities of the youth sector and the Council of Europe as a whole.

Suggestions were made for possible themes for 2016: Effects of new social participation; and Access of young people to their rights.

### **Item 8. Any other business**

None.

### **Item 9. Date and place of the next meetings**

Informal working dinner in the framework of the Spring meetings of the youth sector statutory bodies (Budapest, 13-15 April 2015)

34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Co-ordination: **the Board of Co-ordination decided to have its meetings twice a year in correlation with the meetings of the statutory bodies of the youth sector.** This measure will not lead to supplementary costs but will reinforce coherence of work and proactivity of the Board. Thus the next meeting of the Board of Coordination will take place in Budapest on 13-15 April 2015.



## APPENDIX I

### Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Co-ordination Tuesday, 11 November 2014

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting by Jean-Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation
2. Adoption of the agenda (item introduced by the Secretariat)
3. Election of the Chair (from the side of EYCA) and Vice-Chair (from the side of PA) for the term of 2014 – 2015; decision on the extension of their mandate till next elections in Autumn 2016
4. Exchange of views with the new Head of Youth Department, Antje Rothemund
5. Developments in the Partial Agreement, including the expansion strategy, since the last meeting of the Board of Co-ordination<sup>11</sup> – oral report by the Secretariat
6. Developments in the European Youth Card Association since the last meeting of the Board of Co-ordination – oral report by EYCA Director and EYCA President
7. Budget and Programme of Activities of the Partial Agreement for 2014-2015 (*reference document AP/Carte-J(2013)I*)

#### 2014:

7.1 Report on the Seminar “Inclusive Youth Mobility: better mobility opportunities for young people with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds”, 6-7 May 2014, Vienna, Austria, by EYCA Director (*reference document: AP/Carte(2014)I*) (Proposed action: to take note of the report). For information: EYCA’s Good Practice Series (GPS) on Inclusive Mobility (*AP/Carte(2014)2*)

7.2 European Platform on Learning Mobility (EPLM) – briefing and up-date (*documents for information: EPLM Presentation AP/Carte(2014)3; EPLM Position Paper AP/Carte(2014)4; report of the EPLM Steering Group, 21-22 May 2014, Bonn AP/Carte(2014)5*)

#### 2015:

Up-date on the budget and programme of activities for 2015 on the basis of the document *AP/Carte-J(2013)I* and an exchange of views on future funding of the Partial Agreement and the priorities for 2016

8. Any other business
9. Date and place of the next meetings

Informal working dinner in the framework of the Spring meetings of the youth sector statutory bodies (Budapest, 13-15 April 2015)

34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Co-ordination in the framework of the Autumn meetings of the youth sector statutory bodies (Strasbourg, 16-18 November 2015)

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<sup>11</sup> The report of the 32nd meeting of the Board of Co-ordination was adopted at the end of the Autumn 2013 statutory bodies’ meetings and is available under reference *AP/Carte-J(2013)PV32*

**APPENDIX II**

**Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card**

**33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Co-ordination  
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg**

**Tuesday, 11 November 2014**

**List of participants**

**Governmental representatives / Représentants gouvernementaux**

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Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, Director

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