



RESOLUTION
On European Identity and EP elections

Adopted in EPP Political Assembly September 20, 2011

1 The transition of the European Union into a real political union has been mainly accomplished with
2 the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon. We, young Europeans acknowledge
3 and welcome the changes that the Treaty of Lisbon has brought.

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5 We recognize the fundamentally new role of the European Parliament, its increased competences
6 and strengthened self-confidence. We do believe that in a democratic community, parliamentary
7 competences are the very core of political participation.

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9 According to the new role the European Parliament assumes we face a seriously new, challenging,
10 but also exciting set-up: the European Parliament assembles partially legislative rights (thus has
11 no initiative right) and has the budget right. It even has the prerogative as regards common drafts
12 with the Council of the European Union: In case of dispute, the European Parliament can vote
13 down the vote of the Council with the majority of its members and 60% of the votes cast, according
14 to Art. 314, paragraph 7, lit. d) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union. For the first
15 time the EP is proven to be able to have the last word.

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17 As regards the formation of the European Commission, the European Parliament has a prevalent
18 role to play: The President of the European Commission is elected by the European Parliament
19 with an absolute majority and under observance of the majorities in the European Parliament, see
20 in this respect Art. 17 paragraph 7, under-paragraph 1, sentence 1 of the Treaty on European
21 Union.

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23 The new legal situation after the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon thus enables the European
24 Parliament to elect the President of the Commission according to the political majority situation in
25 the EP itself and this vote requires the majority of the Members of European Parliament, a
26 requirement which is fundamentally new.

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28 European Democrat Students thus is expecting new challenges in the elections of the European
29 Parliament: holding the key competences for the election of the European Commission, the
30 European Parliament is supposed to play a vital role. Its electorate, the citizens of the member
31 states, will in parallel have a stronger say in the composition of the European Commission. It is
32 likely that a real political competition, anticipated by a real political choice, will occur. A European
33 campaign thus will become possible where the European Political Parties will have to convince
34 European voters. The last European Parliament elections were characterized by a low participation
35 rate in most of the EU countries. Our first task is to remind our EPP members to lead the EP
36 campaign on the European Identity and to invest in a strong campaign.

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38 For this framework, the European People's Party has to be prepared. European Democrat
39 Students, deriving from its history and expertise in creating innovative approaches, is ready for this
40 new challenge.

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42 European Democrat Students recognizes the following major exigencies for European Political
43 Parties:

- 44 • a European-wide campaign needs to be conducted;
- 45 • a European-wide candidate (for the position of the President of the European Commission)
46 has to be found and put forward;
- 47 • European-wide topics will be placed at the forefront;
- 48 • possible vetoes of member countries' nominations for Commissioner positions can be
49 expected by the European Parliament;
- 50 • possible coalition partners need to be identified;
- 51 • a European Identity will be more accentuated in EP election campaigns.

52 To cope with those challenges, the European People's Party must comply with the anticipated
53 changes and deviations of the 2014 elections in comparison with all those before. It is necessary to
54 be armed with the tools of success and the *know-how* of gaining majorities, not only in the national
55 Parliaments or in the Council or Commission, but furthermore and utmost, in the European
56 Parliament.

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58 The European People's Party as the biggest force in the European Parliament will have to find its
59 own language in its approach to the EPP voters. It is essential to concentrate on the merits and
60 accomplishments of the EPP leaders in Europe, but also to look to the future and explain why the
61 EPP is the best option for Europe to be governed. The policies have to differ fundamentally from
62 those of other parties. Our political family believes in freedom and human dignity, in subsidiarity
63 and the social market economy, in cultural diversity and a healthy patriotism, in strong transatlantic
64 ties, but also in our common house: Europe. In this regard, the EPP Basic Programme and the
65 Political Manifesto for the EP elections 2014 must be open and perceivable for vast parts of the
66 population; it should be a popular programme, for all people.