

**International Conference 20 to 23 October 2001
in Berlin, Germany**

Youth for Tolerance and Democracy

*Supported by the European Commission and the Federal Ministry for Family
Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany*

Summary of the results

We, the young people participating at Youth For Tolerance And Democracy, representing several youth organisations in Europe, would like to take this opportunity to express our deep concern about the ever-increasing phenomenon of xenophobia and discrimination at the dawn of the 21st century. We strongly condemn any act that offends the dignity and respect of human rights.

Depending on one's social and political environment, the potential to be xenophobic exists because discrimination results from ignorance and uncertainty. We, as European youth, stress that vigilant actions need to be taken to eradicate racism and racial intolerance. The phenomena of discrimination and xenophobia have different degrees of intensity; They vary from physical violence to discriminatory legislation to private thoughts and conversation. Bearing in mind that fundamental human rights need to be protected, we state that education, politics, and social and economical measures should focus on the enlightenment of society.

There is a need for access to formal education and modern information technology, for opportunities of transnational mobility (through exchange programs and non formal education), and for access to work places that recognize skills, competencies and qualifications. We believe that through improved personal development and citizenship, employability and self-confidence, discrimination and xenophobia would be minimised.

Youth policy should be humane and tolerant. It might consist of three words: "Involvement. Development. Peace." We work today in order that our tomorrow will be a solid and unfailing future. Consolidating moral values, exercising tolerance, solidarity and democracy, respecting human rights, sharing experiences of culture and traditions, all contribute to the success and development of tolerant attitudes and good cooperation.

In light of the traumatic and vicious attacks of September 11 in New York and previous terrorist attacks all over the world, we, as youth in Europe, express our concern and condemn terrorism. Moreover, we fear the rise of Islamophobia as a product of September 11 in our countries. The escalation of Xenophobia and intolerance should be closely monitored, and the dialogue between different religions and cultures should be encouraged.

Concrete recommendations

From October 20 to 23, we shared experiences and opinions and expressed our vision on the theme "*Youth for Tolerance and Democracy*" concerning measures on policy making, education, culture, economy, social improvement, media and all new communication.

Policy making

- We stress that all young people in the whole of Europe, not only the European Union, must have the opportunity for full participation in social and civil society on all political levels. In addition, decision making-structures should respect these differences.
- Public administration and institutions have to reflect the diversity of society, and minorities should be appropriately represented.
- We encourage the European Commission to strengthen its effort in developing European citizenship and European identity.
- We invite decision makers to visit grass roots projects in order to familiarise themselves and better understand young people.
- Open a conscious debate about the political contradiction between the European Union immigration policy and the drive to fight against racism.
- Harmonisation of refugees and immigrants' rights (which need to be modified in order to improve immigrants' status all over Europe).

Media

- common access to information
- importance of searching machines and providers
- education - how to use the Internet and other sources of information
- European Government to be more active in monitoring Internet
- Creation of information forums to follow up media and to contradict facts and statements contributing to racism and xenophobia

Economy

- Allocation of funding for youth project given at the beginning of the project
- Positive action towards encouraging companies to appreciate the assets of diversity
- Financing new organisations and organisations working on this issue

Social and culture

- Rights and respect for differences within every facet of life – gender, sexuality, religions or faiths
- Consultation between organisations- NGOs and government
- Avoid stereotypes and prejudice as a foundation for discrimination in politics and media
- Create culture clubs and artistic expression (street art, sport or games)

Education

- Language education for minorities
- Law against language discrimination
- Non-formal education must be seen as a valuable asset and receive appropriate reward
- Teacher training on diversity, gender and curriculum resources
- Carry out concrete and ongoing actions against discrimination like conferences, training, evaluation and monitoring
- Youth participating in decision-making structures in the educational system
- Equitable distribution of finances among all ethnic group in the field of education

International Conference "YOUTH for Tolerance and Democracy – a European Perspective
in the fight against racism and xenophobia" from 20 – 23 October 2001 in Berlin

Annex 2 (participants)

	Country	Participants
1	Belgium	4
2	Austria	2
3	Cyprus	1
4	Denmark	2
5	Finland	5
6	France	3
7	Germany	12
8	Great Britain	7
9	Greece	4
10	Hungary	1
11	Ireland	2
12	Iceland	3
13	Italy	6
14	Luxembourg	3
15	Malta	1
16	Netherlands	4
17	Norway	4
18	Poland	6
19	Portugal	2
20	Slovenia	3
21	Slovakia	1
22	Spain	2
23	Sweden	5
24	Azerbaijan	1
25	Bulgaria	3
26	Estonia	1
27	Latvia	2
28	Macedonia	1
29	Moldavia	2
30	Yugoslavia	2
31	Israel (observer)	3

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Annex 3 (experts)

	NAME	FAMILY NAME	ORGANISATION/IINSTITUTION
1	Dr. Christine	Bergmann	German Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
2	Anette E.	Bosscher	Board member of CEJI Brussels
3	Rainer	Ewert	Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution
4	Giacomo	Filibeck	European Youth Forum
5	Sabine	Finzi	Secretary General of EPTO
6	Dr. Peter	Fricke	Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
7	Dr.Rainer	Fromm	Journalist, Wiesbaden
8	Lissy	Gröner, MdE	European Parliament, Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists
9	Mohamed	Haji-Kella	Minorities of Europe, London
10	Prof. Helene	Haste	University of Bath, UK
11	Barbara	John	Commissioner for migration and integration in Berlin
12	Susanne	Kretschmer	BBJ SERVIS gGmbH Berlin
13	Sonja	Lahnstein	Managing Director of STEP 21, Hamburg
14	Peter	Lauritzen	Council of Europe, Directorate of Youth and Sport
15	Alana	Lentin	European University Institute, Florence
16	Pierre	Mairesse	Head of the YOUTH Unit, European Commission
17	Frank	Marx	European Commission, Youth Unit, GD EAC,
18	Dr. Edith	Niehuis, MdB	Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
19	Yael	Ohana	Council of Europe, European Youth Centre
20	Michael M	Pannwitz	Open Space Facilitator
21	Michael	Raphael	Jewish and Arab Youth Movement for Co-existence, Israel
22	Lea	Rosh	Lea Rosh Kommunikation & Medien GmbH
23	Donatella	Rostagno	European Youth Forum
24	Monika	Savier	BBJ Bruxelles s.p.r.l., Sede Italiana
25	Robin	Sclafani	CEJI Brussels

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26	Hagai	Segal	London School of Economics and Political Science
27	Sarah	Singer	Welfare Organisation of the Jewish Congregation in Germany
28	Paul	Spiegel	President of the Central Council of Jewish People in Germany
29	Joao	Vale de Almeida	European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture
30	Birgit	Van Hout	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
31	Dr. Ralf-René	Weingärtner	Youth Attaché at the Permanent Representation at EU Brussels
32	Hans-Georg	Wicke	Jugend für Europa
33	Dr. Beate	Winkler	Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia in Vienna
34	Dr. John	Wrench	University of Southern Denmark
35	Ulrike	Wisser	BBJ Bruxelles s.p.r.l.

Annex 4

Overview of the themes of the Open Space panels:

1. The Internet, racists and what can be done to limit the threat
2. The EU White Book on youth policy – discussion of the contents and objectives
3. Jokes (and the stereotypes and prejudices behind them)
4. “Schengen” – Immigration policy in the EU and (anti)racism in Europe
5. Learning in diversity as an important instrument against racism
6. Institutionalised discrimination
7. Economic policy of the EU and globalisation
8. Immigrants – an opportunity for full participation in Europe
9. Prejudices against other races
10. The role of the EU in Europe
11. Formal and informal learning – for tolerance
12. Citizens’ initiatives – what should they be – what can they achieve?
13. How do you conduct a project with youths (how do you gain their interest)?
14. Schemes to promote tolerance – bringing people together to increase knowledge
15. Limits of tolerance (what is tolerance, tolerance as an action)
16. 11th September – everyone condemns terrorist actions
17. On the world conference against racism, race discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
18. What and who is a racist?
19. What distinguishes a successful youth conference?
20. A European network project against racism funded by the EU
21. Racism and xenophobia – on the role of the media
22. The European Union and youth schemes – how can communication be improved?
23. Intercultural learning
24. What can Muslims do to improve their situation in Europe
25. “Ingredients” for a successful youth project