

# BM66 – VIENNA

## 7b13



Internal motion

**Resolution**

Amendment

Title: Democracy is the core value of the EU – remember to vote!

Point of the agenda: 7b.

Proposed by: EC, SYL, LSA, ANOSR

Seconded by: SAMOK, VVS, LA FAGE, USI, NSO, CREUP, ISO, EÜL, SFS, SKRVVS, LSS, SRVS, SSU, FAIRe

Text:

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1 The European Students' Union (ESU) believes that democracy is one of the  
2 core values of the European Union (EU) and appeals to all EU citizens,  
3 especially young people, to vote in the European Parliament (EP) elections  
4 held in all the 28 EU member states during the four-day election period  
5 from 22 to 25 May 2014.

6 In recent years, the education sector has been an object for harmful cuts in  
7 many European countries, due to the economic crisis and austerity  
8 measures. Higher education funding remains a competency of member  
9 states. Still, ESU stands for an education that is publicly funded and equally  
10 accessible. It should campaign for all the next elected members of the EP to  
11 support its vision. Some EU countries have tried to introduce tuition fees  
12 for national as well as international students, not only forgetting the public  
13 responsibility for education, but also the international students' significant  
14 impact on the quality of higher education in the European Higher Education  
15 Area (EHEA). During the next mandate MEPs' should prioritize and pay  
16 attention to measures to reduce inequality rising from tuition fees between  
17 EU and non-EU/EEA students, as well as to reform residence permit  
18 regulations for third country nationals.

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19 According to Eurostat, youth unemployment rate reached 23.4% this year  
20 in the EU, in some member states it was even above 50%, and many of the  
21 unemployed youth were graduates. Graduate unemployment is one of the  
22 major setbacks to Europe's economic growth and well-being, which must  
23 be dealt with by the next parliament.

24 ESU states that the civil society's voice is important both during the  
25 elections and afterwards, therefore, the European student and youth  
26 organisations' work must be supported in the EU budget with operational  
27 and project grants. ESU acknowledges that the funding for the ERASMUS+  
28 programme rose significantly in the new budget period, but it is not enough  
29 to cover mobility among higher education students. Furthermore, ESU  
30 states that the newly implemented loan scheme for Master's students  
31 should be critically evaluated and take into account the students' needs  
32 and experience to ensure full equality in higher education. It is crucial that  
33 the European Students' Union will be one of the key partners in this  
34 process.

35 The EU was founded on equality, liberty and democracy, and therefore, its  
36 decisions should be transparent and involving - students have to be equal  
37 partners in the decision-making process.

38 ESU appeals to all young people in Europe to raise their voices and vote  
39 responsibly in the European Parliament elections, taking into consideration  
40 that every vote shapes our future Europe and education.

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Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)