

BM67 – BAKU

8c-ix



Internal motion

Resolution

Amendment

1 Title__European students applaud the rejection of tuition fees in Finland

Point of the agenda_____8c_____

Proposed by:_____SAMOK and SYL_____

Seconded by:_____EC, NSO, SFS, ISO, LSVb, DSF, LSA, EÜL, FZS, ANOSR, KSU, VSS-UNES-USU, NUS UK, UNEF, VVS, FAGE, FAIRe, CREUP, CSC, SURS, SSU, SKONUS, NUIS, POFEN, UDU, NSUM, SUS, FEF_____

Text:

2 The 67th Board Meeting of the European Students' Union (ESU) is relieved
3 after having received the good news concerning the rejection of tuition fees
4 for non-EU/EEA students in Finland. ESU considers the decision to be very
5 wise and ESU stresses the need for Finland to remain a free education
6 model both in Europe and globally. ESU, representing over 15 million
7 students from 39 European countries, reminds that tuition fees bear
8 several negative effects on the quality of higher education.

9 These include grave problems for especially smaller, non-metropolitan
10 higher education institutions in the provision of international environments
11 for their students, resulting in unequal opportunities for
12 internationalisation at home for domestic non-mobile students as well a
13 narrower scope of nationalities being able to enroll; damage to the national
14 economy; and an overall deteriorating effect on the internationalisation of
15 higher education. Internationalisation is one of the key elements of quality
16 higher education. International students are a valuable part of the higher
17 education community as well as the wider society, and they contribute to
18 the future labour market and the economy of all European countries.

19 The Government proposal to introduce tuition fees, which was circulated
20 for stakeholder comments in November 2014, met fierce criticism from
21 both higher education students and staff, whilst the attitudes of higher
22 education institutions were mixed.

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24 ESU calls for the adherence of the principle of free education by all relevant
25 political parties in the future. Free education is the key component of an
26 equal and accessible higher education system and the principle should be
27 upheld and honoured in the upcoming Government negotiations in April
28 2015.

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

(for use of board meeting chair only!)