

**9th EPSU Congress  
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**Affiliates' Draft Resolutions**

**Youth unemployment – Europe cannot afford to lose a generation !**

*Submitted by the Nordic affiliates, CGIL Italy and GdG-KMSfB Austria*

		Proposed amendments	
1.	With 5.6 million unemployed people under the age of 25 in the EU, its social model is under threat. However, youth unemployment is not just a problem in the EU. Unemployment is rising everywhere in the world as governments have imposed harsh austerity measures, pushing their countries further into recession with a failing welfare system. Citizens not in employment easily become victims of social exclusion and moreover unemployment paves the way to undemocratic development. The whole of Europe is in need of a new economic direction: EPSU's vision of an alternative social Europe with high levels of employment is essential for giving the young people of today a decent future.		
2.	There is also a high level of unemployment among young people over the age of 25 who have completed medium or higher education. This group of young people is often forgotten in the European debate on youth unemployment. These young people face many of the same challenges. Furthermore, many young people with an education are compelled to emigrate due to the lack of job prospects. If this problem is not resolved, there is a major risk of a "brain drain".		
3.	Young people are hardest hit in times of recession. As newcomers to working life, the opportunities available to them to gain work experience decrease with a shrinking labour market. They are more likely		

		Proposed amendments	
	to lose their jobs, are often over-represented when competing for temporary jobs and may become the working poor, unable to sustain a minimum acceptable living standard. Internships and other unpaid jobs urgently need regulations to avoid abuse and a rising number of cheap workforce because this is not part of the solution for unemployed young people. Consequently, they are not able to establish themselves on the housing market and depend instead on being able to live with their parents. Diminishing employment opportunities and labour market deregulations are leading to a loss of welfare among our young people, now and in the future. This is a breeding ground for continued exclusion, racism and political contempt.		
4.	In order to reduce unemployment among young people, the EU has proposed a Youth Guarantee Scheme with 6 billion Euros so far being allocated to combat youth unemployment. The Youth Guarantee Scheme aims to guarantee job opportunities, intern or training placements for young people who have been out of work for at least 4 months. This is an important step in the right direction but ILO has estimated that close to 21 billion Euros will be needed to take adequate actions and combat youth unemployment throughout Europe. However, this figure only includes the 17 member states of the Eurozone. Additional actions/changes are therefore required in order to achieve a successful outcome. 1,000 billion Euros have been paid out to save banks from ruin in the current financial crisis. Our young people would only need a fraction of that amount. It is important for young people in Europe to be able		

		Proposed amendments	
	to believe in their future and the actions taken must therefore focus on the creation of new job opportunities and training programmes that will provide them with the qualifications they need in order to enter the labour market in future.		
5.	For the youngest, focus should revert to preliminary actions taken against absence from school and truancy as without a basic education, young people have little chance of progressing. School satisfaction is essential for better learning outcomes and skills. Early intervention is an opportunity to prevent social exclusion of young people.		
6.	The transition from school to working life must be as smooth as possible, for example, with the help of apprenticeship schemes. Most countries with well-functioning apprenticeship schemes have lower levels of youth unemployment as their young people are offered a quicker transition from school to working life through apprenticeship placements.		
7.	Greater investments must be made into the education, training and monitoring of young unemployed people. Good education requires long-term funding and objectives, not short-term actions using simple tools. So the 6 billion Euros so far allocated won't suffice. European funds eg Regional, Social and Cohesion funds should provide means in an unbureaucratic way to combat youth unemployment. The funding part by EU-funds should be higher if member states cannot afford it by themselves.		
8.	Fundamental rules of work shall also apply to young people: A good salary and terms of employment will give our young people an essential		

		Proposed amendments	
	basis for economic and social independence.		
	<b>Action points</b>		
9.	EPSU shall give emphasis to youth unemployment in its sectoral social dialogues with employers on the basis of the framework agreement negotiated in 2013 by the ETUC, BusinessEurope, UAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) and CEEP (European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services). The agreement urges national labour market actors, public authorities and others to take joint actions in order to make concrete progress towards increased employment among young people.		