

PRESS RELEASE



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YOUTH FORUM WELCOMES COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR COMMON OBJECTIVES

The Communication with common objectives on young people's voluntary activities and greater understanding of young people that was adopted by the College of Commissioners on 30 April, was very much welcomed by the European Youth Forum. The communication takes into consideration several of the Youth Forum's proposals from the consultation with the Commission held on 20 February and it also includes a number of recommendations brought forward by young people at the Irish Presidency Youth Ministerial Conference in Ennis, Ireland on 4-7 March.

"We are very happy to see that the Commission proposals to a large extent reflect the views of the European Youth Forum, developed in our policy paper from November 2003 and articulated in the consultation in February," said Giacomo Filibeck, President of the Youth Forum. "Still, the Youth Forum had hoped that the Commission would have gone even further in some areas, proposing more legal basis for voluntary activities for young people."

Commenting on the Communication, Mr. Filibeck noted: "The Youth Forum is particularly happy with the proposal to establish a European Union Network of Youth Knowledge including representatives from youth organisations and the cross-sectoral approach to youth identifying knowledge in further priority areas than the OMC themes in order to gain greater understanding of young people."

The European Youth Forum now calls on the Council to take on board these proposals and to adopt concrete and ambitious common objectives at their meeting during the Dutch Presidency in November 2004.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The European Youth Forum is a formal partner in the Open Method of Co-ordination to be consulted on the Commission's proposals for common objectives before they are submitted to the Council for discussion.
2. At its Council of Members in Rome, 22-23 November 2003, the European Youth Forum adopted a policy paper on "Guiding Principles for Common Objectives on Voluntary activities and Greater understanding of young people" (0647-03).

The European Youth Forum is a platform of 93 youth organisations in Europe, working with the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations to promote the interests of young people. European Youth Forum, rue Joseph II straat 120, B-1000 Bruxelles - Brussel. Tel: 32-2 230 64 90. Fax: 32-2 230 21 23. E-mail: youthforum@youthforum.org www.youthforum.org