

## First European Conference on Civic Service and Youth

Rome, 28-29 November 2003

### CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON CIVIC SERVICE AND YOUTH

The representatives of the EU Member States, acceding countries, and the European Commission met in Rome upon invitation of the Italian Presidency, for the first Conference on Civic Service and Youth.

At the end of the debate, the President of the Conference, Minister Giovanardi, drew the following conclusions:

#### I.

- *Underlines* the fact that this is the first European conference on civic service and youth,
- *Recognizes* the various forms and traditions of civic service, aiming at active citizenship solidarity, and social development,
- *Notes* a growing interest in developing voluntary civic services and sharing experiences at European level,
- *Acknowledges* the role and engagement of young people in civic service,
- *Bears in mind* that voluntary activities are one of the priorities of the European Commission's White Paper on Youth "A New Impetus for European Youth",
- *Takes into account* the Resolution of the Council of Youth Ministers regarding the framework of European cooperation in the youth field of 27 June 2002<sup>1</sup>, where the Council identifies general objectives for voluntary activities,
- *Refers* to the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 July 2001 on mobility<sup>2</sup> within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers and to the recommended measures therein which specifically concern volunteers,
- *Points out* the importance of the EU YOUTH programme and its European Voluntary Service (EVS) for the exchange of young volunteers,

---

<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, Meeting within the Council of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European cooperation in the youth field (2002/C 168/02)

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of 10 July 2001 on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers (2001/613/CE)

- *Underlines*, within the draft treaty establishing a European Constitution, the Proposal for the creation of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps open to young Europeans,

- *Recognises* the role and contributions of non-governmental organisations active in the field of either youth work or voluntary service.

## II.

### *Believes that*

- the cooperation among civic services needs to be further discussed, followed up and monitored in the framework of the Youth Open Method of Coordination,
- there is considerable scope for transnational cooperation and exchange of volunteers in a variety of domains (e.g. social inclusion, human needs, children and youth, sports, information, heritage protection, culture and arts, environment, civil protection, etc.) in order to enhance the European dimension of their citizenship,
- the recognition of the civic service experience of young people needs to be ensured.

### *Advises upon*

- A systematic and regular exchange of information and good practices and a strengthened cooperation between civic services and youth policy,
- A reinforced participation of young people in civic services in order to strengthen their citizenship and sense of solidarity,
- An enhanced co-operation among the Member States, acceding countries and the European Commission in the field of civic services for young people.
- An achievable joint meeting of all agencies involved in the Youth Programme with all national civic service bodies, in the spring of 2004.