

Vienna Summit Declaration

**“New Growth and Jobs for Europe”**

The EPP Summit in Vienna finds Europe in a decisive moment. Over the next year important **national elections** for several EPP member parties will take place. These will culminate in the **European Parliament elections 2014**, which are crucial for the future of Europe. Many citizens in Europe are still suffering from the long-term consequences of the crisis and are facing significant challenges. Among these, tackling **youth unemployment** is a top priority for Europe today. Structural problems increasingly threaten sustainable development in Europe. All over Europe we see the need to stimulate growth in order to ensure Europe’s vital **global competitiveness** and create **new jobs**.

**Regions** play an important role in creating new growth and jobs in Europe. There is clear evidence that regional and local development is crucial for a successful growth agenda. We welcome the new design of EU regional policy as the European economic-promotion policy which will create demand-driven support for **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** and **industry**. Our SMEs are the backbone of the European economy. We need to enhance their innovative capacity as well as support even closer cooperation between industry and SMEs and between enterprises and research centres in general. To ensure that European SMEs have access to financing to develop their activities, we support the creation of a **banking union** according to the decisions of the European Council in June 2012. This is in the interest of taxpayers and businesses in Europe.

We, the political family of the European People’s Party, have to make sure that the right legal framework for SMEs is put in place. We will further **reduce red tape and bureaucracy** in order to **unleash the capacity of our businesses**. Especially young entrepreneurs have to be encouraged and enabled in order to successfully start up their own companies.

Sustainable investment differs starkly from irresponsible deficit spending at the cost of the next generation. The debts of today are the taxes of tomorrow. **Debt consolidation efforts** must be a priority for a strong European economy. The tax and contribution ratio is generally high in Europe. Therefore the focus must be based on the mechanisms of a sustainable social market economy and a healthy euro.

New growth will only be possible through higher productivity and better **education** for the next generation. Thus we encourage the Member States to explore ways to better coordinate between their education systems and the labour markets’ needs. **Dual vocational education and training** are successfully implemented in some EU countries to fight youth unemployment. The key to tackling youth unemployment is to enable our enterprises to create new and sustainable jobs and to ensure that our young people are fit for the labour market. We also need better investment in **research and innovation**, as those will be the decisive, competitive fields of tomorrow’s global economy.

Europe’s competitiveness also faces challenges from demographic developments. This puts heavy burdens on our social systems and will in the long run endanger the European model of the social market economy. The EPP encourages the Member States to take ambitious and sustainable measures enabling young people to combine their family and work life and support their **families** in their needs.

We, the leaders of the EPP member parties, emphasise our belief that our values hold true when a smart, sustainable and inclusive policy approach is implemented for the well-being of the citizens.