

12 young delegates from six countries hand over a White Paper on the Environment to leading European politicians

EP President Borrell, Environment Commissioner Dimas and MEP Florenz appreciate the young people's commitment

Brussels, 1 June 2005 – Yesterday, European Parliament President Josep Borrell, Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas and the Chairman of the European Parliament's Environment Committee, Karl-Heinz Florenz, welcomed delegates of PRO EUROPE's Youth Eco-Parliament® from six Green Dot countries at a reception in the European Parliament. Other guests at the event, which took place under the official patronage of President Borrell, include HRH Prince Laurent of Belgium in his role as the President of the Royal Institute for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Promotion of Clean Technologies, as well as numerous Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission.

At the reception President Borrell, Commissioner Dimas and MEP Florenz officially received the White Paper on the Environment which was written by almost 3000 young students from ten European countries in the context of their participation in the Youth Eco-Parliament®. The handover ceremony followed an invitation given by Karl-Heinz Florenz when he first received the White Paper at the 2nd International PRO EUROPE Congress in Berlin in September 2004. "I was so impressed by the youngsters' dedication and the quality of their work that I decided to invite a delegation of the Youth Eco-Parliament to visit Brussels and present their project on a European level", explained Mr. Florenz.

In their speeches, Commissioner Dimas and President Borrell, both welcomed the initiative and the commitment of the young participants and encouraged them to continue their engagement for the environment. "To see young people understanding and accepting the challenge to fight for the protection of the environment and sustainable development is very encouraging. It is yet another proof for the European Parliament and its Environment Committee that we should not stop our activities and put further work in this issue", commented Mr. Borrell.

In their White Paper, the young people put forward resolutions and proposals for action which they wish to see examined by European politicians. It has been tailored to the structure of the European Commission's 6th Environmental Action Programme, "Environment 2010, our future, our choice".

"After the success of the first Youth Eco-Parliament, we decided to continue with this educational programme. In 2006, youngsters will collectively write open letters addressed to decision makers on sustainable development issues" said PRO EUROPE President, Bernard Herodin.

Created on the initiative of PRO EUROPE, in partnership with the *Ecole et Nature* Network, the Youth Eco-Parliament® is an environmental education programme. PRO EUROPE is the umbrella organisation for European packaging and packaging waste recovery and recycling schemes which use the "Green Dot" trademark as a financing symbol. The aim of this educational programme is to enable young people to act alongside adults for the protection of the environment.

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