

## **Karl-Heinz Florenz, MEP, and Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas welcome youth delegation in Brussels**

Delegates of PRO EUROPE's Youth Eco-Parliament® overhand White Book to Commissioner Dimas

Brussels, 26 May 2005 - Karl-Heinz Florenz, chairman of the EP Environmental Committee, co-hosting with Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas welcome delegates of PRO EUROPE's Youth Eco-Parliament® from six Green Dot countries at a reception in the European Parliament on 31 May at 6.30 p.m. HRH Prince Laurent of Belgium participate in the event in his function as the President of the Royal Institute for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Promotion of Clean Technologies as well as Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission.

Karl-Heinz Florenz had being presented the White Paper at the 2nd International PRO EUROPE Congress in Berlin in September 2004. "The extraordinary commitment of the students outside school shows that young people in Europe are concerned about the environment and are looking for solutions beyond their national borders", said Florenz. Impressed by their dedication Mr Florenz and Mr Dimas invited a delegation of the Youth Eco-Parliament® to visit Brussels and present their project on a European level.

At the event representatives of the Youth Eco-Parliament® will present the White Paper on the Environment that they put together in the context of the project. In this paper, the adolescents put forward resolutions and action proposals which they wish to see examined by top European politicians.

Tailored to the structure of the 6th Environmental Action Programme of the European Commission "Environment 2010, our future, our choice", the White Paper covers five themes: air, food, water, energy and waste, all looked at in close relation to the young people's daily lives.

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. Created on the initiative of PRO EUROPE, in partnership with the School and Nature Network, the Youth Eco-Parliament® is an environmental education programme which brought together nearly 3.000 adolescents - aged 14 to 16 - from 10 European countries. The aim of this educational programme is to enable young people to act alongside adults for the protection of the environment. "In this exemplary international joint venture," says Bernard Hérodin, President of PRO EUROPE, "the youngsters showed that they are thinking about their environment on an international scale. PRO EUROPE provided them with a platform and allowed them to have their say and to draw up a joint international White Paper through a democratic procedure - an excellent achievement."

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