

Youth Involved in EU Environmental Politics

1st European Youth Eco-Parliament and 2nd International PRO EUROPE Congress: young people submit White Paper for the Environment to Euro MPs

Brussels, September 16, 2004. About 2,700 youngsters from ten European countries have intensively studied the sustainability of our eco-system and formulated their demands towards the political decision makers. About 120 of these 13-15-year-olds meet for the 1st European Youth Eco-Parliament in Berlin on September 22 to 23, to pass their parliamentary eco resolutions and to submit these in the form of a white paper to the Euro MP and chairman of the EP Environmental Committee, Karl-Heinz Florenz. "The impressive commitment of these students outside school shows that young people in Europe are concerned about the environment and are looking for solution beyond their national borders. We take this very seriously and we will take an intensive interest in their analyses and demands," Florenz promises.

The 1st European Youth Eco-Parliament was initiated by PRO EUROPE, the umbrella organisation of the 24 self-help organisations of industry, of which 22 use the Green Dot. "In this exemplary international joint venture," says Hans-Peter Repnik, 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."

PRO EUROPE Congress with 600 worldwide experts

The official submission of the European White Paper on the Environment to Karl-Heinz Florenz has been scheduled to take place during the 2nd International PRO EUROPE Congress, from September 23 to 24 in Berlin, under the patronage of the former Czech President Vaclav Havel. Running under the motto "Green Dot 2004 – Recycling Benefits for Future Generations", about 600 international experts from the worlds of politics, industry, science

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and the media as well as from various professional associations will be discussing sustainable ways to use natural resources and ensure their continued existence for future generations. Speakers will include Brice Lalonde, former French Minister of the Environment, Timo Mäkelä, Head of the General Environmental Directorate of the EU Commission, Claudia Fénérol, member of the OECD Environmental Directorate and Rainer Baake, State Secretary at the Federal Environment Ministry.

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