



## Youth on the Move: Boosting Educational Opportunities, Cooperation and Youth Employability in Europe

**“Finding a job is what millions of young Europeans are most concerned about. Youth on the Move will create new momentum at EU and national level to improve support for young people so that they can find a job, make a living and pursue their own plans.”**

- László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, September 2010

**“The aim is to enhance the performance and international attractiveness of Europe's higher education institutions and raise the overall quality of all levels of education and training in the EU, combining both excellence and equity, by promoting student mobility and trainees' mobility, and improve the employment situation of young people.”**

- Europe 2020 Strategy, March 2010

The Silken Hotel  
**Brussels**

9<sup>th</sup> November 2010

*Organised by*



Centre for  
Parliamentary  
Studies



*“An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in youth policy and education quality and standards in Europe”*

“The measures we are presenting today are aimed at raising the quality of education and training in Europe so that our young people are properly equipped for today's job market. We want to reduce the number of early school leavers and increase the share of young people in tertiary education so that they reach their full potential. The EU needs even more young people who are highly skilled, knowledgeable and innovative if it is to prosper in the future.”

**- Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner responsible for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, September 2010**

“Promoting the social and professional integration of young women and men is an essential component to reach the objectives of Europe's Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs, at the same time as promoting personal fulfilment, social cohesion and active citizenship.”

**- Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), November 2009**

## Abstract and Programme

According to latest EU figures, “Five million young Europeans are looking for a job. Many of them will miss opportunities because they lack the right qualifications or experience”. In response, the European Commission recently launched **Youth on the Move**, a new flagship initiative aimed at helping young people to “gain the knowledge, skills and experience they need to make their first job a reality”.

Over the years, despite some notable developments at EU levels and the introduction of effective mechanisms such as the open method for coordination, there still remain many challenges ahead to reduce the high numbers of young people not participating in education, training or employment. The economic downturn in 2008 also exerted an additional negative impact on young people, the long term impact of which will be difficult to reverse.

Recognising that education is by far the most important determinant of social and economic mobility, in order to prevent early school leaving, further active investment in education and training systems at EU and national levels is needed to encourage young people to be more actively engaged in the whole education and training cycle. Key to this process is enhancing the openness and relevance of the educational system in Europe in a way that not only appeals to young people but also meets the needs of the European labour market – furthermore, bringing young people into the labour market will require an integrated and holistic approach through guidance, counselling and apprenticeships.

As the EU seeks to deliver its **Europe 2020 Strategy**, this International Symposium will look at how we can build on current EU actions and existing educational cooperation initiatives, such as the *Erasmus* programme, through a wider framework that encourages more young people to participate in the full education cycle. The achievement of such a goal will empower young people to grasp better training and employment opportunities, encourage greater social cohesion and help to safeguard the future economic well-being within the European Union.

The *Centre for Parliamentary Studies* welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders. The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate.



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010**  
**The Silken Hotel, Brussels**

- 09:00**      *Registration and Morning Refreshments*
- 10:00**      **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Mr. Tine Radinja, President, European Youth Forum (confirmed)**
- 10:10**      **Delegate Introductions**
- 10:20**      **Session One:**  
**European Higher Education Institutions in a Global Context –**  
**Enhancing Performance and Attractiveness**
- Modernising Performance – Towards New Types of Benchmarking and Educational Outcomes
  - Lessons Learned and Some Good Practices
  - Recommendations for Future Actions
- Speaker:**  
**Mr. Jan Pakulski, Head of Unit, Cooperation and International Programmes, DG Education and Culture, European Commission (confirmed)**
- 10:45**      **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:15**      *Morning Coffee Break*
- 11:35**      **Session Two:**  
**Improving the Quality of Education and Training in Europe**
- Openness and Relevance of Educational Systems
  - Towards Effective National Qualification Networks
  - Educational Outcomes vs. Market Needs
  - Educational Guidance, Counselling and Apprenticeships
- Speaker:**  
**Mr. Jens Bjornavold, Senior Expert - Brussels Office, European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) (confirmed)**
- 12:00**      **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30**      *Networking Lunch*



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**13:30**

**Session Three:**

**University Education and the Labour Market – Improving the Employability of Young People in Europe**

- Promoting Entrepreneurship of Young Professionals – Towards New Types of Mobility Programmes in Europe
- Towards a Youth Employment Network – Roles of National Governments and Social Partners
- Schemes for Youth Employment Mobility in Europe – Some Good Practices
- Recommendations for Future Actions

**Speaker:**

**Ms. Emilie Turunen MEP, Vice Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament (confirmed)**

**13:55**

**Third Round of Discussions**

**14:25**

***Afternoon Coffee Break***

**14:45**

**Session Four:**

**Promoting Student Mobility in Europe**

- Linking European Mobility with International Mobility, Research and University Programmes – Opportunities and Future Scenarios

**Speaker:**

**Mr. Georges Bingen, Head of Unit, People Programme, Marie-Curie Actions, DG Education and Culture, European Commission (confirmed)**

**15:10**

**Fourth Round of Discussions**

**15:40**

**Chair's Summary and Closing Remarks**

**15:50**

***Networking Reception and Refreshments***

**16:30**

**Symposium Close**