



Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) et Démocrates Européens au Parlement européen  
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats in the European Parliament  
Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) und europäischer Demokraten im Europäischen Parlament

Réseau des jeunes membres - Young Members Network - Netzwerk der jungen Abgeordneten

under the chairmanship of Vito Bonsignore, Vice-President of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament

Toulouse, 11 September 2008

## *FINAL STATEMENT*

### **Young Parliamentarians ask the European Union to maintain a common line in addressing the Georgian-Russian conflict**

At the 3rd Conference, held in Toulouse from 11-13 September 2008, the young politicians of the EPP-ED Young Members Network will address the future of European industry in a globalised context as well as the role of the European Union in international security.

The recent upheavals in the Caucasus and the disproportionate Russian reaction in Georgia have reminded the citizens of the European Union what is at stake in times of war on the European continent.

The conclusions we, young political leaders from the European centre-right, have drawn are clear: the European Union needs to be a strong force and a united political actor that can influence and shape the future of this continent.

We salute the unity displayed by the European Heads of State and Government at the European Council. We support clear and concrete European commitments on the ground and the appeal to Russia to respect national sovereignty of neighboring countries. We will continue to urge Russia to choose cooperation instead of confrontation.

On the significant date of September 11th, we affirm that to be unified, Europe should overcome petty national interests. In the midst of this crisis, a common foreign and security policy and an energy policy are crucial for the wellbeing of European citizens.

We young parliamentarians believe that to guarantee democracy, the parliamentary level has to be deepened through greater cooperation between national and European Parliament. Also, it is necessary to bring challenging issues for the future of Europe, such as a common foreign and security policy and a common energy policy, to national debate with a view to have a common vision of the centre-right ideas. Ultimately, we want our politics to reflect the added value of centre-right political ideas for European citizens.