



Toulouse, 11 September 2008

Young centre- right Parliamentarians discuss future of common European Foreign Policy

Today and tomorrow, 35 centre-right members of the European Parliament and parliaments in the 27 Member States will meet in Toulouse to discuss future European challenges, especially in the field of a common foreign and security policy.

Valdis Dombrovskis MEP (EPP-ED, Latvia) and Andreas Schwab MEP (EPP-ED, Germany), co-ordinators of the Young Members Network, aim at concluding the two-day meeting with a text stressing the need for Europe to speak with one voice in foreign affair and security matters.

Andreas Schwab said: "The recent upheaval in the Caucasus has shown how unprepared Europe still is in the face of international political crises. If Georgia taught us one thing it is that the European Member States still have a long way to go to move from focusing on national concerns to shared European goals. Common objectives in the field of foreign policy start with a mutual understanding of the issues that play at national levels and with a good network. The meeting in Toulouse will help us achieve these goals."

Valdis Dombrovskis said: "As young parliamentarians, we affirm that to be unified, we should develop a common vision on the challenges that lie ahead. We should debate European challenges, such as a common foreign and security policy and a common energy policy, at a national level. Ultimately, we want our politics to reflect the added value of centre-right political ideas for European citizens."

A series of high-level speakers will participate in the meetings in Toulouse which will cover a wide range of topics: among participants are Brice Hortefeux, French Minister for Immigration, Alain Lamassoure MEP, National Secretary of the UMP, and Christine de Veyrac, MEP, (EPP-ED, Toulouse, FR).

Note to editors:

The EPP-ED Young Members Network groups EPP-ED Members of the European Parliament and Members of national parliaments belonging to EPP-ED sister parties under the age of 36. The aim of the network is to meet on a regular basis to discuss future policy challenges, thus establishing a common EPP-ED vision at all political levels.

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