



Young Parliamentarians want the European Union to maintain a common line in addressing the Georgian-Russian conflict. Valdis Dombrovskis MEP and Andreas Schwab MEP

On the second day of the 3rd Conference of the EPP-ED Young Members Network in Toulouse, the young politicians addressed the future of the European economy in a globalised context as well as the role of the European Union in international security.

Valdis Dombrovskis MEP (EPP-ED, Latvia) and Andreas Schwab MEP (EPP-ED, Germany), Co-ordinators of the Young Members Network, pointed out that the Georgian-Russian conflict serves as a reminder to the EU of the need to maintain a common line in international conflicts.

Andreas Schwab said: "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 neighbouring countries. We will continue to urge Russia to choose cooperation instead of confrontation."

Valdis Dombrovskis said: "As young parliamentarians, we affirm that to be unified, Europe should overcome petty national interests and 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, not only at a European, but also at a national level. To guarantee democracy, the parliamentary level has to be deepened through greater cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament."

Tonight, the participants of the Toulouse meeting will adopt a text stressing the need for Europe to speak with one voice in foreign affairs and security matters.

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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.