

Working Groups of Youth Ministers and Young People on 30 March 2006

Three joint working group sessions will take place from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. The Ministers are explicitly invited to give a three-minute statement on the topic of each working group. All other heads of delegation are invited to take an active part in the discussions. The working groups will be managed by facilitators from the "Pool of Trainers" of the European Youth Forum. For two working groups, a simultaneous interpretation will be provided in German, English and French; due to the limited space available, only the third working group will have additional interpreters for Spanish and Italian.

Working Group 1 – "Youth and Jobs" This working group will focus on measures considered as purposeful and necessary for reducing youth unemployment. Furthermore, the working group is to search for possibilities of ensuring the quality of employment for young people and of preventing problematic working conditions ("McJobs"). The group will thus try to identify what characteristics - from the young people's point of view – make the difference between good and bad jobs and describe the interdependence between jobs and the youth's perspectives in life. The discussion will focus on the following guiding questions:

- How can young people participate in policies to reduce youth unemployment and to facilitate the access of young people to the labour market?
- How can young people and public authorities cooperate in reducing youth unemployment and in facilitating the access of young people to the labour market?
- Which forms of participation are to be developed for ensuring a youth policy that is in fact cross-sectoral and coherent in this context?

Working Group 2 – "Value and Significance of informal and non-formal Learning": This working group will concentrate on the question of how informal and non-formal learning can complement formal education and how its actual recognition can be reached without risking its formalisation. The discussion will focus on the following guiding questions:

- How can young people participate in the formulation of policies to reach recognition of non-formal and informal learning?
- How can young people and public authorities cooperate in fostering the recognition of non-formal and informal learning?
- Which forms of recognition are to be developed in order to ensure a cross-sectoral and coherent youth policy in this context?

Working Group 3 – "The Future of Youth in Europe": This working group will try to identify beneficial and inhibiting factors of active participation, develop a model of active citizenship attractive to the youth and comment on how to improve the dialogue between youth organisations and the EU. The discussion will be based on the "Plan-D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate" and on the white paper "New Impetus for European Youth". The guiding questions will be:

- How can young people participate in shaping Europe's future?
- How can young people and public authorities cooperate in shaping Europe's future?
- Which forms of participation for young people are to be developed in order to allow a cross-sectoral and coherent youth policy in this context?