

Resolution booklet



*Final European
Student Parliament
Copenhagen, Denmark
20 - 22 June 2014*

A project by:

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

08:30 – 08:40 Opening of the parliamentary debate

08:40 – 10:40 Debates (committees 1, 2 & 3)

- **Future mobility – New approaches in the city**
- **Demography in the city**
- **City. Climate. Change.**

10:40 – 11:00 Refreshments

11:00 – 11:10 Welcome by Prof Klaus Bock, ESOF 2014 champion

11:10 – 12:30 Debates (committees 4 & 5)

- **Join in and be part – Civil participation in the city**
- **Resources in the city: skyfarming & urban gardening**

12:30 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 14:20 Debates (committees 6 & 7)

- **Energy efficient houses and flats**
- **Smart city: life in an urban network**

14:20 – 14:30 Handover of resolutions to Dr Jan Marco Müller, European Commission

Committees and experts

1. Future mobility – New approaches in the city

Mobility has many facets. How do we want to move along in the future? Is the e-car really the solution or is the concept „car“ already out of date? Which ways of locomotion and hence which transport routes will have priority in future urban planning? Is the mobile workplace really a concept for tomorrow?

Expert: Prof Malene Freudendahl-Pedersen, University of Roskilde, Denmark

2. Demography in the city

Demographic developments affect urban regions. Which changes lie ahead of us? Will the inhabitants be older or younger in the cities – or will it remain as it is? Do we need workforce from abroad or are there not even sufficient jobs for our own inhabitants? How does our society deal with such developments? How can we arrange our life together in the future?

Expert: Prof Wolfgang Lutz, IIASA/Vienna Institute of Demography (VID), Austria

3. City. Climate. Change.

The impacts of the climate change affect cities in a particular way due to their high density of population. Cities need to focus on the consequences of flooding, heat waves and thunderstorms. The collaboration of different protagonists is necessary to be able to face the climatic changes. Which measures are required to be able to respond to the consequences of the changed climate? Do we need to alter our cities? What do need to consider when planning cities in future? Which part do open spaces play? And who needs to be involved in urban planning?

Expert: Dr Jörgen Olofsson, Lund University, Sweden

4. Join in and be part – Civil participation in the city

Civil dialogue, civil summit, civil report – civil participation is „en vogue“. Can the urban challenges of the upcoming years with regard to energy, environment and demography only be mastered through the active participation of citizens? In which way can citizens be included more effectively in urban planning and design? Can extreme developments such as gentrification on the one hand and impoverishment on the other be controlled through civil engagement? Which chances arise from civil participation and where do boundaries lie?

Expert: Theresa Scavenius, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

5. Resources in the city: Skyfarming & Urban Gardening

Agriculture in multi-storey buildings & the city as a „huge raw materials mine“ – Can we and do we need to provide agricultural areas in the cities for our own supply? How could that be implemented? How can we recycle the waste that cities produce in the most effective way? Which chances and risks exist?

Expert: Ass. Prof Bettina Lamm, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

6. Energy efficient houses and flats

The highest potential of saving energy lies in already existing buildings. They require three times as much energy as new buildings. Research strives after the zero-emission building – but can it be realised everywhere? Which reconstruction possibilities are there for existing houses? And who is supposed to pay for it at the end?

Expert: Prof Alan Penn, University College London, United Kingdom

7. Smart City: Life in an urban network

Half of the world’s population lives in cities. The future belongs to urban regions. What challenges are posed to an intelligent traffic control? Will we be capable of controlling the interconnections in our cities similar to the way it is done in the computer game “Sim City”? How can intelligent electricity meet the requirements of an increasing population? Can cloud computing, smartphones and social networks reform the working environment? Which role do open data networks and data protection play?

Expert: Dr Andrea Scharnhorst, Data Archiving and Network Services, The Netherlands

Procedure of the debate

1. Reading out the recommendations

At the beginning of each debate, the proposing committee's recommendations, which are gathered in this resolution booklet, are read out. *(The chair of the debate reads out the recommendations.)*

2. Defence speech

Subsequently, the proposing committee has the opportunity to hold a defence speech and to explain the existing resolution and its contents. *(One member of the proposing committee holds the speech at the lectern; approx. three minutes.)*

3. Attack speech(es)

Directly after, all other committees have the opportunity to hold one or more attack speeches, provided that the first attack speech does not take up all time. Every committee which has prepared an attack speech can now explain why some of the claims should not be accepted by the delegates. *(One member of an opposing committee; up to three minutes at own seat/via microphone.)*

4. Response to attack speech(es)

The proposing committee has the opportunity to give answers to the attack speech and to allay doubts the delegates may have. *(One member of the proposing committee; up to one minute at own seat/via microphone.)*

5. Open debate

All members of all opposing committees can raise their placards to address questions or remarks to the proposing committee. Up to three questions/remarks are gathered from members of the different committees, before the proposing committee can give a summarising answer to all of them. *(Up to four rounds à three questions/remarks of less than a minute; at own seat/via microphone.)*

6. Summarising speech, response to last questions

The proposing committee holds a summarising speech and answers the last questions. *(Two members of the proposing committee; three minutes at the lectern.)*

7. Voting

The chair of the debate asks all delegates to vote for or against the resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “Future mobility – New approaches in the city”

Mobility has many facets. How do we want to move along in the future? Is the e-car really the solution or is the concept of a “car” already out of date? Which ways of locomotion and hence which transport routes will have priority in future urban planning? Is the mobile workplace really a concept for tomorrow?

Proposed by: Carlo Alberto Barbano (IT/Torino), Sofia Bettella (IT/Bozen), Vilana Cassing (DE/Herford), Selma Cesko (SE), Ivan Chanev (BG), Johannes Gräger (DE/Berlin), Moshe Levi (IL), Diana Loidolt (AT), Guillem Megías Homar (ES), Rory O'Sullivan (IE), Eleni Youtsina Papalia (GR), Moderator: Martin Hoffmann (DE)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. A need for non-fossil fuel powered transport facilities as fossil fuels are running out and pollution is increasing,
- B. That motorised individual transport is increasing within urban areas although it is inefficient, space-wasting, expensive, unsafe and damaging to the environment,
- C. That the increasingly dispersed structure of urban areas create long distances between points of interest in daily life,
- D. That, in addition to this, the implementation of public transportation systems lags behind the spread of cities,
- E. That rush hours are inevitable because of the challenging synchronisation of inflexible public transport time tables and individual daily schedules,
- F. That individuals can become isolated by increased use of technology, due to the growing possibilities of mobile work and organising one’s whole life from home,
- G. The increased risk of isolation for elderly people with reduced mobility.

We recommend:

1. The European Investment Bank increases research funding of alternative eco-friendly fuels,
2. The European Union (EU) provides financial incentives for the use of e-cars and grants for the introduction of e-car charging points in all European cities, and encourages the use of recycled materials for the construction of public transportation vehicles,
3. Local governments expand and improve the quality and affordability of local public transport systems,
4. That cities place a special emphasis on making public transport systems more accessible for the elderly and those of reduced mobility to reduce their isolation,
5. EU Members States encourage people to use public transport more regularly in their daily lives through:
 - a) Education in schools,
 - b) Advertising campaigns and,
 - c) Youth projects,
6. Member States aim to reduce rush-hour traffic by financially incentivising businesses to let employees work from home and staggering school times,
7. Local governments implement stronger laws to protect the environment, such as the Low Emission Zone system used in many German cities, in which vehicles with high emission levels are not allowed to enter the city centre,
8. Working towards the ultimate reduction in the number of cars in European city centres with the long-term aim of making cities car free, with the exception of e-car-usage for emergency purposes and services.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “Demography in the city“

Demographic developments affect urban regions. Which changes lie ahead of us? Will the inhabitants be older or younger in the cities – or will it remain as it is? Do we need workforce from abroad or are there not even sufficient jobs for our own inhabitants? How does our society deal with such developments? How can we arrange our life together in the future?

Proposed by: Maximilian Beckmann (DE/Herford), Claudia Galàn Rullo (ES), Maud Gancarski (FR), Vanja Gođevac (RS), Michael Helmer (AT), Katharina Huboi (DE/Berlin), Martha Hutchinson (UK), Melina Megalogianni (GR), Helbe-Laura Nikitkina (EE), Fabian Patzl (AT), Sergio Manuel Torres Vasquez (IT/Torino), Arianna Vassere (CH), Tia Whitehead (UK), Moderator: Noura Berrouba (SE)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. That urbanisation is caused by the attractiveness of mobility, entertainment, employment and education opportunities available in cities, causing a decrease of both the number of educated young people in residing in rural regions and the use of rural resources and facilities,
- B. The increasing trend toward urban centralisation both on a national (from rural areas to urban agglomerations) and an international level (from lesser developed to more developed countries),
- C. That the increasing life expectancy and the declining birth rates in European cities lead to an ageing society, which will result in:
 - i) Increased public spending for healthcare and social welfare,
 - ii) An unbalanced ratio of taxpayers to pensioners,
- D. That the segregation of immigrants in European cities contributes to a lack of understanding and acceptance between different social groups and promotes xenophobia and prejudices,
- E. That the lack of green areas in urban regions, as well as increased pollution levels, encourage a sedentary lifestyle causing health problems and decreasing life expectancy,

- F. A lack of cross-generational and cross-cultural activities in cities,
- G. The limited opportunities migrants have to work in their professional fields, as a consequence of insufficient recognition of qualifications,
- H. That the majority of European citizens live longer and healthier lives, and therefore a fixed retirement age is less important than it once was.

We recommend:

1. Local municipalities provide such facilities as cycling infrastructure and green areas to tackle obesity and other health problems, in order to increase life expectancy in urban regions,
2. National governments reform fixed retirement ages so that they become more flexible allowing:
 - a) The choice to retire early and receive a lower pension or to retire later and receive an increased pension,
 - b) Those in demanding jobs to change professions if the work becomes too strenuous,
3. That pensions become supplied by generational payments, which operate under a defined contribution scheme, rather than defined benefit,
4. That governments provide cultural attractions, necessary services and increased public transportation between regions in gentrified, suburban and rural areas,
5. Universities cooperate with companies to develop job finding programmes for new graduates in order to offer practical experience,
6. The establishment of a community council with all members of society represented regardless of religion, ethnicity, sexuality, gender etc, to increase civil participation,
7. National governments collaborate to harmonise educational qualifications at all levels throughout Europe,
8. Companies introduce matched job sharing schemes between younger and older workers,
9. Companies establish day-care services in their facilities,
10. National governments establish financial aid for working mothers and fathers,
11. Local authorities create cultural centres which would foster communication between people from different backgrounds, and could make use of under utilised areas in cities.

Fact sheet

Defined contribution plan:

A defined contribution plan is a type of retirement plan in which the employer, employee or both make contributions on a regular basis. Individual accounts are set up for participants and benefits are based on the amounts credited to these accounts (through employer contributions and, if applicable, employee contributions) plus any investment earnings on the money in the account. Only employer contributions to the account are guaranteed, not the future benefits. In defined contribution plans, future benefits fluctuate on the basis of investment earnings.

Defined benefit pension plan:

A defined benefit pension plan is a type of pension plan in which an employer/sponsor promises a specified monthly benefit on retirement that is predetermined by a formula based on the employee's earnings history, tenure of service and age, rather than depending directly on individual investment returns. Traditionally, many governmental and public entities, as well as a large number of corporations, provided defined benefit plans, sometimes as a means of compensating workers in lieu of increased pay. A defined benefit plan is 'defined' in the sense that the benefit formula is defined and known in advance. Conversely, for a "defined contribution pension plan", the formula for computing the employer's and employee's contributions is defined and known in advance, but the benefit to be paid out is not known in advance.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “City. Climate. Change.”

The impacts of the climate change affect cities in a particular way due to their high density of population. Cities need to focus on the consequences of flooding, heat waves and thunderstorms. The collaboration of different protagonists is necessary to be able to face the climatic changes. Which measures are required to be able to respond to the consequences of the changed climate? Do we need to alter our cities? What do need to consider when planning cities in future? Which part do open spaces play? And who needs to be involved in urban planning?

Proposed by: Mery Calcagno (CH), Xynos Dimitrios (GR), Jelena Gligic (CH), Jelena Glišić (RS), Fadime Gökcil (FI), Sara Chavdarova Gradinarska (BG), Jolaine Hancock (IT/Bozen), Lukas Hassebrauck (DE/Herford), Elizabeth Hession (IE), Robert Jonsson (SE), Melina Kukkonen (FI), Linea Meyer (DK), Avinash Mocherla (UK), Ricca Rossano (CH), Laura Schaumann (DE/Herford),
Moderator: Cliona Cowhig (IE)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. Anthropogenic climate change as an international problem that needs to be confronted by individuals, corporations and governments of all levels,
- B. That a lack of urban planning contributes to energy inefficiency in cities,
- C. The contribution made by green spaces¹ to the creation of heat islands,
- D. That drainage of rain water is inhibited by the predominance of hard impermeable surfaces in cities,
- E. The insufficiency of the current methods of storage and reuse of water,
- F. That awareness of the causes and consequences of climate change is lacking across all social groups,

¹ An area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.

- G. An absence of motivation and desire to change the living habits of the general population,
- H. That public transport, bicycles, electric cars and other low-emission forms of transport are not used to their full potential.

We recommend:

1. Increased co-operation between communities, local governments and experts in urban planning,
2. The introduction of smart, environmentally-friendly architecture and innovative urban planning, including:
 - a) The replacement of impermeable materials in the construction or reconstruction of surfaces with innovative permeable materials,
 - b) The designation of suitable city areas (such as on flood plains, roundabouts and road sides) as green spaces,
 - c) The long term maintenance of such designated green space,
3. Government grants to encourage installation of renewable energy systems should be:
 - a) Increased in value,
 - b) Increased in number and,
 - c) Made available for a wide range of renewable energy systems,
4. A greater environmental focus in education and media,
5. That the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) of the European Parliament investigates the most efficient and environmentally friendly transport systems for cities.

Fact Sheet

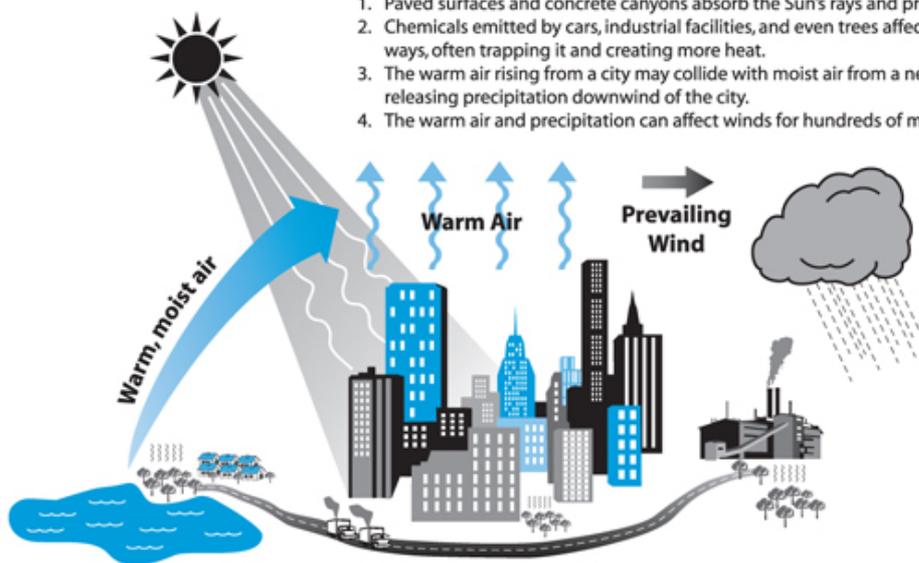
Heat Island

A heat island is a metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than surrounding areas due to human activities.

Urban Heat Island Effect

Urban areas influence the atmosphere through a number of processes:

1. Paved surfaces and concrete canyons absorb the Sun's rays and produce heat.
2. Chemicals emitted by cars, industrial facilities, and even trees affect sunshine in different ways, often trapping it and creating more heat.
3. The warm air rising from a city may collide with moist air from a nearby body of water, releasing precipitation downwind of the city.
4. The warm air and precipitation can affect winds for hundreds of miles.



(Graphic Source: <http://www.ucar.edu/communications/staffnotes/0603/cities.shtml>, retrieved 21 June 2014)

Anthropogenic climate change

Anthropogenic climate change refers to climate change that occurs as a direct result of human activities, usually used in the context of emissions produced. In a general sense climate change encompasses natural causes of climate change, including changes in the earth orbit or solar activity in addition to anthropogenic climate change.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “Join in and be part – Civil participation in the city“

Civil dialogue, civil summit, civil report – civil participation is “en vogue“. Can the urban challenges of the upcoming years with regard to energy, environment and demography only be mastered through the active participation of citizens? In which way can citizens be included more effectively in urban planning and design? Can extreme developments such as gentrification on the one hand and impoverishment on the other be controlled through civil engagement? Which chances arise from civil participation and where do boundaries lie?

Proposed by: Markus Avonius (FI), Tobias Baadsgaard (DK), Lora Benova (BG), Pietro Cibinel (IT/Torino), Emily Fisher (UK), Sofija Jovanović (RS), Nitay Kornfeld (IL), Kristi Luha (EE), Julian Nikolaus Rensi (IT/Bozen), Sine Vivian Sola Olesen (DK), Cyprien Truchot (FR), Melissa Yeoman (UK), Moderator: Jingcheng Zhao (SE)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. That the lack of civics courses in compulsory education focusing on modern political and social issues has a limiting effect on civil participation,
- B. That marginalised groups outside of compulsory education are also in great need of the aforementioned civic education,
- C. That formal opportunities for citizen participation in urban planning do not exist in all European cities,
- D. That insufficient advertising of such opportunities lead to low civil participation in urban planning initiatives,
- E. The European Citizens’ Initiative² as an example of a good method of attracting attention to issues important to the public,
- F. The potential of formal advisory citizen council groups to be successful in finding efficient long-term solutions to urban challenges,
- G. The particular suitability of municipal governments in implementing policies best adapted to local circumstances.

² The European Citizens’ Initiative enables one million EU citizens, who are nationals of at least one quarter of the Member States, to call directly on the European Commission to propose a legal act to the European Parliament.

We recommend:

1. National governments introduce compulsory social studies courses in compulsory school that focus on:
 - a) Modern political and social issues,
 - b) Current decision-making structures and institutions,
 - c) Opportunities for participating in decision-making processes,
2. Local governments to organise similar political education in the form of:
 - a) Evening classes,
 - b) Long-distance courses,
 - c) Courses at asylum centres,
3. Local governments make invitations to political meetings and information about decisions more accessible via unbiased audience-specific channels such as:
 - a) Social media,
 - b) Mailing-lists,
 - c) Local newspapers,
4. National governments implement a policy whereby local governments are obliged to both consider and respond to all proposals with over a certain threshold of signatories proportional to the population of the city,
5. Further that national governments establish a complementary electronic platform whereby citizens can submit petitions and collect electronic signatures,
6. That all cities establish local citizen councils that:
 - a) have a political representative from every community in the city
 - b) act in an advisory capacity to the administrative local city council
 - c) participate in all urban planning decisions.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “Resources in the city: skyfarming and urban gardening”

Agriculture in multi-storey buildings and the city as a “huge raw materials mine” – Can we and do we need to provide agricultural areas in the cities for our own supply? How could that be implemented? How can we recycle the waste that cities produce in the most effective way? Which chances and risks exist?

Proposed by: Yael Abutbul (IL), Jamie Cross (IE), Louise Denoix (FR), Marlies Frank (AT), Luise Hohensee (DE/Berlin), Jan Malchin (DE/Berlin), Karim Nanaei (AT), Georgina Pérez Victòria (ES), Irene Pomero (IT/Torino), Moderator: Mathilde Pascal (FR)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. That cities can be food deserts³. This will be intensified by greater urbanisation which will contribute to the increase of the proportion of the global population living in cities, from 50% in 2014 to 80% in 2050,
- B. The lack of public awareness about the existence and methods of urban gardening and its positive effects, in particular because of a lack of environmental education,
- C. That while cities take up only 3 percent of the global land surface, they produce 50% of the global waste, a level not efficiently dealt with by our current waste management and recycling systems,
- D. The increase in greenhouse gas emissions and food prices because of the long distances between producers and consumers,
- E. The potential of unused areas such as rooftops, school yards, back yards and former industrial sites as viable spaces for urban gardening,
- F. The sense of community and greater social links that urban gardening can create between people of all ages and backgrounds.

³ Places where access to affordable or good-quality and healthy food is difficult.

We recommend:

1. Motivating people to build urban gardens themselves by organising events such as “Open Garden Days”, during which city dwellers can visit the gardens of individuals, schools or other institutions and receive a starter kit including an information booklet and seeds to initiate their own gardening project,
2. The implementation of activities for teenagers related to urban gardening on social networks such as photo competitions,
3. The further development of local recycling systems by e.g. reusing water collected in rain catchers, extending the production of compost from organic waste and using other waste such as plastic bottles to build urban gardens,
4. Governments support small businesses producing zero-kilometre food⁴ through start-up funding,
5. The presentation of successful stories of urban gardening, such as the local youth club *Klokkergarden* in Copenhagen⁵, to city councils to encourage them to simplify procedures to open up urban gardens and to give them more importance in the allocation of public space,
6. That urban gardens include socialising areas, such as picnic areas and markets, and welcome, among others, schools and people from disadvantaged backgrounds to meet retired people who can teach and share their knowledge on gardening.

⁴ System in which food does not have to be transported from the production site to the selling point.

⁵ The local youth club *Klokkergarden* involved teenagers in the construction from beginning to end of an urban garden, taking down trees, creating a terraced floor, putting together planting beds and installing an open fire for bonfires.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “Energy-efficient houses and flats”

The highest potential for saving energy lies in already existing buildings. They require three times as much energy as new buildings. Research strives for the zero-emission building – but can it be realised everywhere? Which reconstruction possibilities are there for existing houses? And who is supposed to pay for it at the end?

Proposed by: Andreas Åhman (SE), Ciarán Daly (IE), Or Ganon (IL), Adrià Hernandez Pineda (ES), Ioannis-Konstantinos Katochoritis (GR), Valentine Kempf (FR), Rangel Milushev (BG), Nicoló Modenato (CH), Alysia Murray (DE/Berlin), Mikkel Nielsen (DK), Kadri Ann Prass (EE), Bogdan Radičević (RS), Enzo Weber (IT/Bozen), Moderator: Anna-Helena Saarso (EE)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. That citizens lack knowledge and information about methods of increasing energy-efficiency in their households and applying it to their daily routine,
- B. That the lack of short-term advantages of investing in energy efficiency is a major disincentive for implementing energy-efficient solutions,
- C. The prohibitively expensive start-up costs of green housing and energy-efficient retrofits which are often unaffordable for house owners,
- D. The need for further incentives for governments and companies to pursue more energy-efficient policies regarding housing and flats,
- E. That building new houses is more common than renovating existing ones,
- F. That national governments fail to implement existing EU-wide guidelines and standards concerning energy-efficient housing,
- G. That energy inefficiency in houses and flats is caused by a range of factors such as insufficient insulation, inefficient energy distribution, human behaviour and outdated technology,
- H. That there is a lack of productive communication and co-operation between EU Member States, scientists and professionals in energy-efficient developments.

We recommend:

1. A Europe wide campaign to educate the general public on energy-efficiency, including but not limited to:
 - a) A lecture series in schools,
 - b) A website,
 - c) A public advertising campaign in different forms,
2. The introduction of low interest mortgages on energy-efficient properties, as well as loans and grants for energy-efficient retrofits to cover start-up costs by national governments,
3. The development of a certification system by national governments that will classify companies according to their level of energy efficiency of their production process,
4. The Directorate-General for the Environment (DG ENVI)⁶ takes on responsibility for financially supporting energy-efficient retrofits of public buildings,
5. The introduction of taxation policies that are advantageous for companies following energy-efficient guidelines or companies that conduct energy-efficient retrofits by national governments,
6. The creation of advisory specialists' groups with the aim of adapting to and enforcing the existing EU directives by EU Member States,
7. Maximising the bioclimatic potential of existing and newly built houses by:
 - a) Following the principles of bioclimatic architecture,
 - b) Integrating building management systems,
 - c) Educating the inhabitants and managers of houses on proper use of the installed energy-efficient technologies,
8. That the European Commission forms an amalgamated committee of scientists to conduct joint research on energy-efficient housing materials and techniques, in cooperation with relevant specialists.

⁶ The administrative branch of the European Commission department for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON “Smart city: life in an urban network“

Half of the world’s population lives in cities. The future belongs to urban regions. What challenges are posed to an intelligent traffic control? Will we be capable of controlling the interconnections in our cities similar to the way it is done in the computer game “Sim City”? How can intelligent electricity meet the requirements of an increasing population? Can cloud computing, smartphones and social networks reform the working environment? Which role do open data networks and data protection play?

Proposed by: Lazar Bulić (RS), Sara De Carli (IT/Bozen) Leon Gershkovich (IL), Amel Kefi (FR), Dimitrios Marousis (GR), Malgorzata Nowacka (SE), Niels Oldemeier (DE/Herford), Bruna Oliveras Segui (ES), Johanna Raudsepp (EE), Mark Reidy (IE), Elena Plamenova Janakieva (BG), Alessandro Spina (IT/Torino), David Benjamin Wendner Rokkedahl (DK), Moderator: Sofia Zafeiriou (GR)

The Final European Student Parliament recognises:

- A. Data as the “life-blood” of the smart city,
- B. That societies today are information dependent,
- C. That cities adapt to their citizens and not vice versa,
- D. That smart city paradigm characterises cities as “interconnected, technology-aware, inclusive, green, sustainable, innovative, efficient and accessible”,
- E. That the major challenges cities currently face are:
 - i) Environmental issues, such as pollution and health-related problems, as well as waste management and natural disasters,
 - ii) Lack of civil participation,
 - iii) Smart systems integration along with existing concepts,
- F. That the major challenges related to data are:
 - i) Collecting and parsing⁷ the data,
 - ii) Turning data into information (e.g. linked data),
 - iii) Making data open.

⁷ The turning of raw data into actionable information.

We recommend:

The European Union (EU) works toward common standards for city data on a global level (linked data),

Local governments develop a deposit system for recyclables such as plastic and glass with scan code integration and a refund mechanism for consumers,

Local governments implement an intelligent sensor system for flooding that will include:

- a) A mobile application providing reliable information to people at risk,
- b) Outline of alternative routes for emergency transport,
- c) Prediction algorithms for floods using Artificial Intelligence (AI),

Local governments develop a location-based crowdsourcing web application to map problems in cities identified by citizens which will additionally encourage volunteers to take action,

The integration of smart grids into the existing energy network by both public and private initiatives, often involving the integration of solar panels in the urban landscape,

Local authorities invite synergy and collaborations in infrastructure development with actors from different fields, such as energy, transport and information and communication technology (ICT),

Local authorities provide open workspaces for the public, in order to act as hubs of creativity and innovation,

Local governments implement wireless Internet access schemes in the urban public space, such as Wi-Fi hotspots on lamp posts,

National governments modernise environmental education in schools with practical innovative concepts, including map visualisations of actual city data,

Community-organised open citizen fora and local events that will include courses for those less technology-aware/educated,

The European Initiative on Smart Cities should establish an open database for the ideas generated at these events and take these ideas into consideration in their future activities.

Fact Sheet

Linked data

Linked Data is a standard way to represent data on a wide range of topics. Publishing Linked Data makes it easier for developers to connect information from different sources, resulting in new and innovative applications.

The Semantic Web is a Web of Data — of dates and titles and part numbers and chemical properties and any other data one might conceive of. However, to make the Web of Data a reality, it is important to have the huge amount of data on the Web available in a standard format, reachable and manageable by Semantic Web tools. Furthermore, not only does the Semantic Web need access to data, but *relationships among data* should be made available, too, to create a *Web of Data* (as opposed to a sheer collection of datasets). This collection of interrelated datasets on the Web can also be referred to as Linked Data.

Sources: W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) & European Union Open Data Portal

Smart grids

The smart grids are about adding new nodes to the electricity grid, namely Renewable Energy Sources (RES), thus turning the households into half houses-half industry (consumers becomes also generators). The promise of the smart grid is to enable a new paradigm with a reduced energy cost while increasing energy efficiency.



Debate science!

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