

BM65 – ZAGREB

Internal motion

Resolution

Amendment

Title: ESU stands in solidarity with Western Saharan students

Point of the agenda: 8c

Proposed by: SYL & SAMOK

Seconded by: VSS-UNES-USU, UNEF, NSO, SHI, DSF, EÜL, LSS, SHS, LSA, CREUP, FAIRe

1 The European Students' Union expresses its solidarity to the Western
2 Sahara Students' Union (UESARIO) and draws attention to the human
3 rights violations taking place in the Western Saharan area. Western
4 Sahara has been occupied by Morocco since 1975 and is divided by a
5 2.800 km long wall. The wall is guarded by 160.000 soldiers and eight
6 million landmines surround it. Many of the people have been forced to
7 leave the country to refugee camps in Algeria, where they have
8 resided for numerous years. The ones who have stayed in the occupied
9 territory face human rights violations on a daily basis.

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11 UESARIO organises summer programmes for students and youth in
12 the refugee camps, but their work is not easy. They face challenges
13 such as not having proper headquarters for their work; not being able
14 to finance their summer programmes; or not having enough
15 information or training opportunities. Their work is carried out at the
16 refugee camps, which is a challenging task.

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18 Some of the young people are allowed to go and study in the
19 neighbouring countries, however, they are not given the right to
20 choose what or where to study. The students sometimes face
21 assassinations and imprisonments and in most cases they are banned
22 from university registration or their diplomas are not recognised
23 officially. In practice, this means that when a Saharawi graduates from

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24 a university abroad, as there are no higher education possibilities in
25 Western Sahara, and returns to the occupied territory, the degree is
26 not recognized. As a consequence the young people face discrimination
27 and their right to a decent and dignified life is violated.

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29 ESU believes that education is a human right and everyone should
30 have access to it. All students should have the freedom to choose their
31 field of study and pursue higher education.

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Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)