

Press Release No. 4 EN

**EUROPEAN YOUTH MEDIA DAYS 2008:  
THREE DAYS OF HANDS-ON EUROPEAN JOURNALISM**

*New media, open minds, challenging ideas. From October 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2008, the next generation of European journalists met in the European Parliament in Brussels for the second European Youth Media Days. The media produced in 16 workshops is available online at [www.youthmediadays.eu](http://www.youthmediadays.eu).*

Brussels, 17 October 2008 – The second European Media Days have shown that European journalism is possible. 200 young journalists from all EU member states spent three days of creating media, exchanging ideas and observing the political life in the European Parliament from 15 to 17 October. The event in Brussels was hosted by the European Parliament and organised with support of the European Youth Press.

"You will be part of creating and shaping the future of European media", said Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European Parliament, addressing the young journalists. "We need your criticism, your commitment and your enthusiasm."

In his opening speech, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President of the European Parliament, decisively supported objective journalism. One should never forget that journalists and politicians don't play in the same team.

Talking to NGO representatives and media experts in the International Press Centre, participants were presented a critical view on journalism in Brussels: Journalists should do more than just deliver messages from politicians and lobbyists. Wilfried Rütten, Director of the European Journalism Centre, declared that only by moving away from a top-down approach to a "Europe of many voices", European issues can be covered in a successful way.

During the event the participants had the opportunity to ask challenging questions, discuss European politics and share ideas about their vision of future European media. In a panel discussion with the chairmen of the political groups in the European Parliament, the young journalists tried to elicit a concrete European dream from the Members of Parliament.



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Another main focus of the event was the creation of media in all media fields. In 16 workshops, the participants produced radio interviews, online and print magazines, photo reportages and TV shows. They dealt with topics like food price inflation, immigration policies, the EU elections and freedom of press.

The outcomes of the workshops were displayed in a multimedia presentation on Friday evening. At the Media Night, the journalists also had the opportunity to follow the advice given to them by their experienced colleagues: The key lies in networking. The cooperation with fellow journalists from other countries will help them in assuming their task of objectively reporting and thereby controlling powerful players.

*All EYMD press information and workshop outcomes are available online at [www.youthmediadays.eu](http://www.youthmediadays.eu).*

*If you are interested to publish excerpts of the media that were produced during the European Youth Media Days in your media, please contact us.*

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