



**YEN** Youth of European Nationalities  
**JEV** Jugend Europäischer Volksgruppen  
**JCEE** La Jeunesse des Communautés Ethniques Européennes  
**MHE** Молодёжь Народностей Европы

Living diversity:  
Vielfalt leben!  
Разнообразие!  
Vivre la diversité!

## **YEN resolution concerning the anti-Roma demonstrations in Bulgaria**

This resolution from the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN), a network organisation of the youth of autochthonous, national, and ethnic minorities based on the principles of democracy, tolerance and diversity in Europe, in the conviction that national and ethnic minorities are an essential element of Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity, draws attention to the recent measures taken against Roma in Bulgaria.

As a result of the violence that has taken place since 23.09.2011, YEN fears that further escalation could permanently damage the peaceful co-existence of the various ethnic populations in Bulgaria.

YEN would like to emphasise that the principle of equality, regardless of ethnic origin, race, religion and political conviction, is anchored in the Bulgarian constitution.<sup>1</sup> Bulgaria has also ratified at the important international and European conventions for the protection of human rights and minority rights, including *the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.*

However, the lack of intervention by the authorities during the recent discriminatory and violent altercations against the Roma shows that in practice these legal standards have not been implemented sufficiently.

With reference to the guarantee of equal treatment of ethnic groups, YEN calls upon:

1. Bulgaria,
  - a) To investigate and punish the perpetrators of the arson attacks of 25.09.2011;

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<sup>1</sup> Article 6 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria: "All citizens shall be equal before the law. There shall be no privileges or restriction of rights on the grounds of race, national or social origin, ethnic self-identity, sex, religion, education, opinion, political affiliation, personal or social status or property status."





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- b) To take police action against anti-Roma demonstrations and increase police protection for the Roma population;
2. The Member States of the European Union,
    - a) To develop national strategies for the integration of Roma as called for by the European Commission;
    - b) And to make more effective use of the resources available for the integration of Roma minorities.

