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European Bahá'í Youth Council

## The European Bahá'í Youth Council

November 19, 2001

To: All the youth in Europe

Dearest friends,

THE EUROPEAN Bahá'í Youth Council is overjoyed to share with you its vision for the coming year. Although we can all look back on the achievements of the past with fondness and pride, the focus must surely now be on intensifying our actions, building on our successes and dedicating yet more of our time and energy to this worldtransforming Cause. The beloved Guardian wrote:

*“The world is tired of words; it wants example, and it is up to the Bahá'í youth to furnish it.”*

(Shoghi Effendi, September 19, 1946 the Green Acre Summer School)

Training has begun to assume a central role in the lives of communities and individuals on the European Continent. This has undoubtedly led to the development of our capacity to align more closely our lives with the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. However, the value of training institutes is only fully realised when conscientious study is galvanised by sustained action. In the coming year we may wish to consider that it is time to put into practice the principles that we have studied in the training institutes. By organising devotional meetings and Nineteen Day Feasts, participating in Arts workshops, serving in social, moral or humanitarian projects and by involving ourselves in children's classes we can really start to make service part of our everyday lives and greatly enrich our communities. In essence, our commitment to intensifying our action and to channelling our energies in line with our National Spiritual Assemblies' goals constitutes a fuller realisation of the potentials offered by the Institute process. We surely do not do justice to our training if we fail to act.

In July 2003, at the half-way point of the Five Year Plan, a continental Congress will be hosted by the European Bahá'í Youth Council. This Congress will provide the centrepiece to the Council's vision until the completion of the Five Year Plan. At this event the successes of the past two and a half years will be inaugurated, and means to better fulfil the precepts of the Plan will be consulted upon. The Congress will be open to Bahá'ís and seekers alike, and a remarkable programme, geared towards fostering an intensification of action and providing a forum for sharing achievements is planned. In addition, a number of tremendously exciting projects will fall on either side of the Congress, emphasising the Congress's position as one part of a systematic plan, as one stage in a sustainable process. The Council is delighted to share with you its passion and enthusiasm for this event, with more information available in the Act Now Newsletter (subscribe by sending an email to [newsletter@ebyc.org](mailto:newsletter@ebyc.org)).

*“Not by the force of numbers, not by the mere exposition of a set of new and noble principles, not by an organised campaign of teaching – no matter how world-wide and elaborate in its character – not even by the staunchness of our faith or the exaltation of our enthusiasm, can we ultimately hope to vindicate in the eyes of a critical and sceptical age the supreme claim of the 'Abhá Revelation. One thing and only one thing will unflinchingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the*

*extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh."*

(Shoghi Effendi: **Bahá'í Administration**, p.66)

Surely we can all look forward to a year of more learning, of more potent achievement, of greater dedication to this Faith that is so dear to our hearts. "[T]he undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause" is the goal of a process that rests on the ownership of, and commitment to transformation of our individual and collective lives.

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**The European Bahá'í Youth Council**

45 rue Pergolese, F-75116 Paris, France

Tel.: 33 1 4746 9562, Fax: 33 1 4067 1502, E-mail: [secreteria@ebyc.org](mailto:secreteria@ebyc.org)

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