

Charter of Responsibilities of Spanish Youth

In view of the celebration of the International youth and children Conference: Let's Take Care of the Planet, from June 5 to 10; we, schoolchildren from Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque country, have celebrated school and regional Conferences in Spain, and we made, together, the following conclusions.

The living beings are part of the Earth, and the Earth is part of us, we mutually complete ourselves. We, the human beings, are characterized by having a brain that allows us to improve our environment; but, instead of this, we are making it worse. Our self-centeredness is damaging the most valuable thing we have: our house, our Planet.

The increase of temperatures in the Earth has put hundreds of animal species in extinction danger. Also plants, that allow us to breathe and to live, are being victims of the climate change. We are utilizing our mother, Nature, by using the resources it offers us, against it.

We are involved on our local environment and for this reason we commit ourselves to improve the quality of life, of our schools, of our families, of our peoples and cities, of our country and of the world where we live. We know the current situation and are collaborating to change it, sensitizing the community and carrying out actions whose impact will contribute to the reduction of the environmental problems.

If all of us collaborate and start being active, we will manage to "take care of the Planet". Therefore, our pact of responsibility with the Planet covers the following responsibilities:

Water

- To reduce the consumption of water and use it appropriately both at school, in our houses and in the city (turn off the faucets, take showers instead of baths, no water waste...).

Air

- To collaborate in decreasing the quantity of CO₂ emitted in the atmosphere because of traffic, using public transportation and walking or cycling for short and middle distances.

Earth

- To reduce deforestation by planting trees and taking care of city's gardens. If each of us planted only one tree every year, millions of species would sprout : "Plant a tree, sow life".
- To recuperate the green areas in our local environment for study and biodiversity conservation.

- To reduce the consumption of paper, of plastic containers and of waste in general at school and at home, implementing the 3 Rs, without becoming needlessly dependant on fashion or on technological innovations (taking advantage of and/or giving instead of throwing, repairing instead of throwing out...).

Energy and society

- To reduce the energy consumption at school, at home and in the city (turning off television and computers when not used, turning off lights and removing the "standby" position of electronic material, loading the mobile phones' batteries when totally discharged, heating at 20°C maximum...)
- To be aware of the investigations and progresses in regard to energy saving and elimination of polluting substances, and fight for their implementation in our own environment.
- To re-educate using games and teaching through the elaboration of games with and for the youngest so that they can see how much care and pampering our Earth needs.
- To accept a day by day commitment, stopping to do those small things that, although they seem to be insignificant, are damaging little by little our Planet (let's banish forever phrases such as: "A paper on the floor, so what...", "A plastic bag in the beach, so what...", "So what...").

And, together with the responsibilities that will come out from the European Seminar, we, Amaia, Brian, Álvaro, Patricia, Gerard, Mireia, Silvia and Marta - as members of the Spanish delegation - commit ourselves to bring them to Brazil to share them, to put them on debate and to collaborate in the writing of the *International Charter of Responsibilities of the Youth of the Planet*.

The youth from Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque country, April 2010.