

30.6.2011

A7-0061/ 001-052

AMENDMENTS 001-052

by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Report

Martin Kastler

European Year for Active Ageing (2012)

A7-0061/2011

Proposal for a decision (COM(2010)0462 – C7-0253/2010 – 2010/0242(COD))

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) Pursuant to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, the Union is, inter alia, to combat social exclusion and discrimination and to promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men and solidarity between generations.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision

Recital 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2b) Pursuant to Article 156 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Commission is to encourage cooperation between the Member States and facilitate the coordination of their action in the social policy field.

Justification

Addition as to the new institutional framework provided for by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision

Recital 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2c) Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union recognises that some Union regions suffer from severe and permanent demographic handicaps that may adversely affect their level of development and require particular attention if the Union is to achieve the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Justification

Article 174 TFEU recognises that some regions of the European Union face difficulties resulting from their demographic characteristics, for example areas with low population density, and that these require particular attention from European policies.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) Pursuant to Article 25 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Union recognises and respects the rights of ***the elderly*** to lead a life of dignity and independence and to participate in social and cultural life.

(3) Pursuant to Article 25 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Union recognises and respects the rights of ***older people*** to lead a life of dignity and independence and to participate in social and cultural life. ***Furthermore, pursuant to Article 34 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Union recognises and respects the entitlement to social security benefits and social services providing protection, as well as, pursuant to Article 35, the right for everyone to a high level of health protection.***

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision
Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) Ageing is undoubtedly a challenge for the whole of society and for all generations in Europe, but it is also a matter of intergenerational solidarity and above all the role of the family.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision
Recital 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3b) The part of the population of the Union comprised of persons in their late 50s and over will increase at a much faster rate than ever before. The largest increase is expected to occur during the period 2015-35 when the population aged 60 and over will be increasing by 2 million people per year. This increase is very positive as it is a logical consequence of the improvement in health care and in the quality of life. Nevertheless, due to the fact of demographic change, the Union faces a number of challenges, such as a shrinking population in certain cities and regions, including a decreasing attractiveness of those cities and regions, a high degree of pressure on pension funds, and problems maintaining the sustainability of financial provision for health care and public services.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4) Successive European Councils have recognised the need to tackle the effect of ageing populations on European social models. A key response to this rapid

(4) Successive European Councils have recognised the need to tackle the effect of ageing populations on European social models. A key response to this rapid

change in the age structure consists in promoting active ageing and thus ensuring that the *baby boom cohorts*, who are, on the whole, healthier and better educated than *any such cohort before them*, have good opportunities for employment and active participation in society.

change in the age structure consists in promoting *the creation of a sustainable culture of lifelong* active ageing and thus ensuring that the *rapidly-growing population currently in their late 50s and above*, who are, on the whole, healthier and better educated than *previous generations*, have good opportunities for employment and active participation in society *and family life, including through volunteering, lifelong learning, cultural expression and sports in view of the positive contribution that these activities can make both to mental and to physical health. Accordingly, fostering the active ageing culture therefore requires a multidimensional approach on a lifelong basis as well as the promotion of solidarity between generations.*

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) The growing proportion of older people in Europe makes it more important than ever to promote healthy ageing. Healthy ageing can help raise labour market participation of older people, enable them to be active in society for longer, improve their individual quality of life and curb the strains on health and social care systems.

Amendment

(5) The growing proportion of older people in Europe *and the increase in chronic health conditions* makes it more important than ever to promote *the* healthy ageing *of all, and in particular older persons, supporting their vitality and dignity. Crucial measures in this respect should include universal and equal access to appropriate and high-quality healthcare, long-term care and social services, sensitising the awareness of European citizens to problems connected with an ageing population, combating the information isolation of the ageing generation, and developing initiatives to counter health risks associated with the ageing process. Healthy ageing is the process of optimising opportunities for physical, social and mental well-being to enable older people to take an active part in society without discrimination and to enjoy an independent life of good quality. Healthy ageing can also* help raise labour

market participation of older people, enable them to be active in society for longer, improve their individual quality of life and curb the strains on health, *pensions* and social care systems.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The Commission presented its views on the demographic challenges the EU faces and on opportunities for tackling them in its communications on ‘The demographic future of Europe —from challenge to opportunity’ of 12 October 2006 and on ‘Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the European Union’ of 21 April 2009.

Amendment

(6) The Commission presented its views on the demographic challenges the EU faces and on opportunities for tackling them in its communications on ‘The demographic future of Europe —from challenge to opportunity’ of 12 October 2006, **on ‘Promoting Solidarity between Generations’ of 10 May 2007** and on ‘Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the European Union’ of 29 April 2009.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) The cultural and ethnic diversity of the older generations in Europe will increase further. It is therefore necessary to actively promote equal opportunities and to encourage participation. Active citizens from different cultural backgrounds have important bridge functions in society, foster integration and contribute to the economy.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7) The Council adopted on 22 February

(7) The Council adopted on 22 February

2007 a resolution on ‘Opportunities and challenges of demographic change in Europe: the contribution of older people to economic and social development’, which emphasised the need to increase the possibilities of active participation by older people, the new economic opportunities ("silver economy") created by the growing demand of older people for certain goods and services as well as the importance of a positive public image of older people.

2007 a resolution on ‘Opportunities and challenges of demographic change in Europe: the contribution of older people to economic and social development’, which emphasised **both** the need to increase the possibilities of active participation by older people, **including in the form of voluntary work, and** the new economic opportunities ("silver economy") created by the growing demand of older people for certain goods and services as well as the importance of a positive public image of older people. ***In this context, the importance of promoting good health and a high quality of life, including by ensuring access to appropriate and high quality health care, should also be highlighted.***

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The Council adopted on 8 June 2009 Conclusions on ‘Equal opportunities for women and men: active and dignified ageing’, which recognises that, throughout the EU, older women and men face serious challenges as they seek to live active lives and to age with dignity, and proposes a number of measures to Member States and the Commission.

Amendment

(8) The Council adopted on 8 June 2009 Conclusions on ‘Equal opportunities for women and men: active and dignified ageing’, which recognises that, throughout the EU, older women and men face serious challenges as they seek to live active lives and to age with dignity, and proposes a number of measures to Member States and the Commission ***including the promotion of active ageing policies, taking into account the different situations in the various Member States and the different challenges faced by women and men.***

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision

Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9a) The conference ‘Together for Mental Health and Well-being’, which was held during the Slovenian Presidency of the EU, on 12-13 June 2008, launched the

European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being. Following that conference, the conference on ‘Active and Healthy Ageing’, which was held under the Spanish Presidency of the EU, on 29-30 April 2010, presented good practices carried out in Europe in the field of social participation and intergenerational solidarity.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) The European Parliament adopted on 11 November 2010 a resolution entitled ‘Demographic challenge and solidarity between generations’¹, calling on the Commission to announce the designation of the European Year 2012 and on the Member States to make active ageing one of the priorities for the coming years. The resolution also stressed that the European Year should, in particular, highlight the contribution that older people make to society and afford opportunities to foster solidarity, cooperation and understanding between generations and to get younger and older people to work together.

¹ *Texts adopted, P7_TA(2010)0400.*

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision Recital 11 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11b) The opinions drawn up by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions also stress the importance for Europe of a culture of active ageing. One particular aspect of this concerns cross-

generational health care and protection from what the Economic and Social Committee refers in its opinion on 'The impact of population ageing on health and welfare system' of 15 July 2010 to as age-related disorders .

¹ *OJ C 44, 11.2.2011, p.10.*

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) The Commission proposed in its proposal for a Council Decision on "Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States" of 27 April 2010, which calls under the guidelines 7 and 8 on Member States to increase labour force participation through policies to promote active ageing, to raise employment rates of older workers through innovation in work organisation and to increase the employability of older workers through up-skilling and participation in lifelong learning schemes. Guideline 10 emphasises the need to enhance social protection systems, lifelong learning and active inclusion policies with the aim *to create* opportunities at different stages of people's lives *and shield* them from the risk of social exclusion.

Amendment

(12) The Commission proposed in its proposal for a Council Decision on "Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States" of 27 April 2010, which calls under the guidelines 7 and 8 on Member States to increase labour force participation through policies to promote active ageing, to raise employment rates of older workers through innovation in work organisation and to increase the employability of older workers through up-skilling and participation in lifelong learning schemes. Guideline 10 emphasises the need to enhance social protection systems, lifelong learning and active *as well as barrier-free* inclusion policies with the aim *of creating* opportunities at different stages of people's lives, *of shielding* them from the risk of *poverty and* social exclusion *and of enhancing their active participation in society.*

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) In its Communication on "A Digital Agenda for Europe", the first EU2020 flagship initiative adopted on 19 May 2010, the Commission stressed the

Amendment

(13) In its Communication on "A Digital Agenda for Europe", the first EU2020 flagship initiative adopted on 19 May 2010, the Commission stressed the

importance of ICT for ageing well, proposing in particular the reinforcement of the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Programme. The Digital Agenda for Europe also recommended taking concerted action to increase the digital competences of all Europeans, including older persons, a group that is over-represented within the 150 million citizens, or about 30% of the total, who have never used the internet.

importance of ICT **applications and services** for ageing well, proposing in particular the reinforcement of the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Programme. The Digital Agenda for Europe also recommended taking concerted action to increase the digital competences of all Europeans, including older persons, a group that is overrepresented within the 150 million citizens, or about 30% of the total, who have never used the internet. **Facilitating access to, and providing training in the use of, new technologies would further improve the opportunities of older persons to benefit from lifelong learning, would enable them to acquire technical skills and would also contribute to the removal of obstacles to lifelong learning related to distance and disabilities.**

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) In the context of 'Europe 2020', the Commission has proposed launching an Active and Healthy Ageing Innovation Partnership (AHAIP) within the framework of the 'Innovation Union' flagship initiative. This pilot project, which is the first innovation partnership, will include social innovation which seeks to promote a better quality of life, to prevent disease, to improve social networks within public sectors and among social partners and to promote the introduction of new technologies supporting the quality of life. It also seeks to enable citizens to live independently and in good health for longer and to increase by two the average number of healthy years of life by 2020. Moreover, it seeks to bring about an improvement in the sustainability and efficiency of European social and healthcare systems and the creation of a Union and a global

market for innovative ICT applications and services.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) The Commission is implementing the European Disability Action plan that contains relevant actions for older persons given the correlation between disability and ageing. In particular actions on accessibility following Design for all approaches would be relevant. Furthermore the EU and all Member States have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities that contains relevant provisions for older persons.

Amendment

(14) The Commission is implementing the European Disability Action plan that contains relevant actions for older persons given the **frequent** correlation between disability and ageing. In particular actions on accessibility following Design for all approaches would be relevant. **Actions to support independent living and inclusion in the community are relevant, including those directed at older persons with disabilities, in need of a high level of support and with complex needs, who are particularly vulnerable and prone to social exclusion.** Furthermore the EU and all Member States have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities that contains **inter alia** relevant provisions for older persons. **The Recommendation of the Council of Europe on ageing and disability in the 21st century, adopted in 2009, aims to promote autonomy and an independent life for ageing people with disabilities, enhancing the quality of services and ensuring equal access to them. It calls on Member States to adopt innovative approaches.**

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) The European Day of Intergenerational Solidarity is celebrated annually on 29 April, an initiative which was expressly welcomed by the European Parliament in its resolution of 11 November 2010 entitled 'Demographic

challenge and solidarity between generations"¹. Every year, this day provides a good opportunity for Europe to renew its commitment to strengthening solidarity and cooperation between generations in order to promote a fair and sustainable society. It is also an opportunity for all stakeholders, including civil society organisations, to reflect together on how best to respond to the challenge which Europe's ageing society presents.

¹ *Texts adopted, P7_TA(2010)0400.*

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision Recital 14 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14b) This Decision establishes a financial envelope, which is to constitute the primary reference for the budgetary authority within the meaning of point 37 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management¹.

¹ *OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1.*

Amendment 22

Proposal for a decision Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15) Active ageing is targeted by several Union programmes, such as the European Social Fund, the European Regional and Development Fund, the PROGRESS programme, the Life Long Learning Programme, *the Public Health Programme*, the specific programmes on

(15) Active ageing is *also* targeted by several Union programmes, such as the European Social Fund, the European Regional and Development Fund, the PROGRESS programme, the Life Long Learning Programme *and, in particular, the Grundtvig programme, the*

information and communication technologies and on socio-economic sciences and humanities in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development, the Action Plan on ‘Ageing well in the information society’, the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint Programme for research and innovation, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme with pilot deployment projects on ICT for Ageing Well and the Action Plan on urban mobility. ***Union co-financing of European Year activities will be in accordance with the priorities and rules applying, on an annual or multi-annual basis, to existing programmes and autonomous budget lines in the field of employment, social affairs and equal opportunities. Where appropriate, programmes and policies in other fields, such as education and culture, health, research, the information society, regional policy and transport policy, may support the European Year.***

Amendment 23

Proposal for a decision Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15a) In order to ensure the participation of a diverse range of organisations, simplified procedures should be available for smaller scale events and operations.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a decision Recital 15 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15b) Given that a number of relevant Union-level networks may be facing severe budgetary constraints which might limit their participation in the European Year, this should be taken into account if additional money becomes available at

Union level.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a decision
Recital 15 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15c) Synergies between the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010), the European Year of Volunteering (2011) and the European Year for Active Ageing (2012) should be promoted.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a decision
Article 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The year 2012 shall be designated as the European Year for Active Ageing (hereafter referred to as ‘the European Year’).

The year 2012 shall be designated as the 'European Year for Active Ageing ***and Solidarity between Generations***', with the ***subheading 'Maintaining the vitality and respecting the dignity of all'*** (hereafter referred to as ‘the European Year’).

Amendment 27

Proposal for a decision
Article 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The overall purpose of the European Year shall be to encourage and support the efforts of Member States, their regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society to promote active ageing and to do more to mobilise the potential of the rapidly growing population in their late 50s and above, thereby ***preserving*** solidarity between generations. Active ageing means creating better opportunities and working conditions to enable older workers to play their part in the labour market, ***combating social exclusion by fostering*** active

The overall purpose of the European Year shall be to ***facilitate the creation of a sustainable active ageing culture in Europe based on a society for all ages and on solidarity between generations.***

participation in society, **and** encouraging healthy ageing. On this basis, the objectives shall be:

In this framework, the European Year shall encourage and support the efforts of Member States, their regional and local authorities, social partners, businesses and civil society, including religious organisations and associations active in combating poverty and social exclusion, to promote active ageing and to do more to mobilise the potential of the rapidly growing population in their late 50s and above, thereby maintaining the vitality of older people, enhancing their social participation, promoting the positive perception of older people in the society, creating a barrier-free society for all ages and fostering solidarity and cooperation between generations. In order to do so, it is essential for the European Year to support and make the most of initiatives that take account of the specific needs of older people, including those at local and regional level.

Active ageing is the process of optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. It allows people to realise their potential for wellbeing throughout their lives and to participate in society according to their needs, desires and capabilities, while providing them with adequate protection, security and care when they need assistance. Active ageing means creating better education, training and lifelong learning possibilities and better opportunities and age-friendly working conditions to enable older workers to play their part in the labour market, supporting the role of older people in family life and voluntary activities and their active participation in society, combating age discrimination and prejudice and eliminating negative stereotypes, fighting poverty and social exclusion, encouraging healthy ageing with dignity and facilitating it through preventive measures and access to quality

health and social services.

On this basis, the objectives *of the European Year* shall be:

Amendment 28

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) to raise general awareness of the value of active ageing in order to highlight the useful contribution older persons make to society and the economy, to promote active ageing and to do more to mobilise the potential of older persons;

Amendment

(1) to raise general awareness of the value of active ageing, ***and to put it high on the political agenda of stakeholders at all levels***, in order to highlight the useful contribution older persons make to society, ***family life*** and the economy, to promote active ***and healthy*** ageing ***and solidarity between generations, maintaining the vitality and respecting the dignity of all people, to combat ageism and negative stereotypes about old age, to remove barriers and recognise the diversity within all age groups***, and to do more to mobilise the potential of older persons ***regardless of their ethnic or cultural origin, paying special attention to enabling their participation in the labour market, voluntary activities and lifelong learning, to protecting those who continue carrying out an activity, to raising an awareness of the valuable contribution made by older members of staff and to combating poverty in old age, particularly that of women***;

Amendment 29

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) to stimulate debate and develop mutual learning between Member States and stakeholders at ***all levels*** in order to promote active ageing policies, to identify and disseminate good practice and to encourage cooperation and synergies;

Amendment

(2) to stimulate debate, ***to exchange information*** and ***to*** develop mutual learning between Member States and stakeholders, ***including the social partners and civil society, at Union, national, regional and local level*** in order to

promote active ageing policies, **to promote sustainable and safe pension systems in Europe**, to **recognise challenges**, to identify and disseminate good practice and to encourage cooperation and synergies;

Amendment 30

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) to offer a framework for commitment and concrete action to enable Member States and stakeholders at all levels to develop policies through specific activities and to commit to specific objectives related to active ageing.

Amendment

(3) to offer a framework for commitment and concrete action to enable **the Union**, Member States and stakeholders at all levels, **with the strong involvement of civil society, the social partners and businesses and with particular emphasis on promoting information strategies**, to develop **innovative solutions**, policies **and long-term strategies** through specific activities and to commit to specific objectives related to active ageing **and intergenerational solidarity**;

Amendment 31

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – point 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) to raise the appreciation of and to bring about better overall recognition of and support for the contribution of older people to economic and social development in Europe, with particular recognition of their experience as explicit added value for economy and society;

Amendment 32

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – point 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3b) to promote activities stimulating the development of comprehensive age

management strategies related to employment and work, activities facilitating the introduction of consistent family-friendly policies which can have a meaningful impact on demographic trends, activities highlighting the importance of prevention of health problems and healthy lifestyles, with particular emphasis on age-related disorders, and activities enhancing respect for older people's dignity, their health, including access to health care, their quality of life, and their autonomy;

Amendment 33

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – point 3 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3c) either to introduce or to strengthen structural fiscal policies in favour of non-profit organisations so that they can plan and carry out their activities in support of ageing people and of the disadvantaged parts of the population on a continual and not just on an occasional basis.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– conferences, events and initiatives to promote debate, raise awareness and foster the making of specific commitments;

– conferences, events and initiatives, **with the active participation of the social partners, businesses, including SMEs, civil society and religious organisations**, to promote debate, raise awareness and foster the making of specific commitments **which contribute to sustained and lasting impacts on future initiatives and activities in the field of active ageing;**

Amendment 35

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 2

Text proposed by the Commission

– information, promotion **and** educational campaigns;

Amendment

– information, promotion, educational, **mentoring and training** campaigns **which are adapted to national, regional or local circumstances as well as to targeted groups and which make use of multimedia and social networks**;

Amendment 36

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 3

Text proposed by the Commission

– exchange of information, experience and good practices;

Amendment

– exchange of information, experience and good practices, **including through the Open Method of Coordination (OMC), networks of contacts set up by stakeholders working to achieve the goals of the European Year and between local representatives with responsibilities relating to active ageing and solidarity between generations**;

Amendment 37

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 4

Text proposed by the Commission

– research and surveys on a Union or national scale, and dissemination of the results.

Amendment

– research and surveys on a Union, national **or regional** scale, and dissemination of the results, **focusing on the economic and social impact of promoting active ageing and of active-ageing-friendly policies**.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. When implementing the activities referred to in paragraph 1, attention should be paid, on a horizontal basis, to preventative health-care oriented towards healthy ageing and to involving all generations in the pursuit of the objectives of the European Year, in particular by encouraging the participation of ageing and young people in common initiatives while highlighting their typical features and the opportunities afforded by intergenerational exchange. Methods of involving elderly people should be analysed and consolidated in order to develop evidence-based best practice.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Commission and Member States shall be encouraged to provide greater opportunities for those who volunteer to support elderly people and who engage in fund raising programmes, thereby putting their enthusiasm and experience to positive use.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. The Commission and the Member States shall take account of ***gender mainstreaming*** in the running of the European Year.

3. The Commission and the Member States shall take account of ***the need to integrate the specificities of the situation of women and men and the need for all generations***

to be involved in the running of the European Year *and should seek to develop an inclusive approach for all generations, recognising their diversity. Special attention shall be paid to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, as well as to combating all forms of discrimination to which older persons may be subject.*

Amendment 41

Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission shall take into account the potential of crossborder activities at a regional or local level for achieving the objectives set out in Article 2.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. The initiatives taken in the light of the European Year for Active Ageing will have a decentralised approach and ensure multi-level ownership.

Justification

It will be important to involve regional and local actors in Member States in carrying out the specific actions. Multi-level ownership should ensure the strong involvement of all relevant stakeholders and should furthermore create a basis on which long-lasting efforts and initiatives are carried out.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a decision Article 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Each Member State shall appoint a national coordinator responsible for organising its

1. Each Member State shall appoint a national coordinator responsible for

involvement in the European Year. The national coordinators should also see to it that national activities are properly coordinated.

organising its involvement in the European Year *and shall inform the Commission of that appointment.*

2. By 30 September 2011, each Member State shall inform the Commission of its work programme, which shall include details of the national activities planned under the European Year.

3. The national coordinators should work independently, without reflecting solely the views of governments and should also see to it that national activities are implemented in accordance with objectives listed in Article 2 and are properly coordinated and that stakeholders, including social partners and civil society organisations are fully involved in the design and implementation of the European Year at local, regional and national level.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a decision Article 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 4a Participating countries

Participation in the European Year shall be open to:

- (a) Member States;*
- (b) candidate countries; and*
- (c) EFTA States that are parties to the EEA Agreement.*

Amendment 45

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall implement the European Year at Union level.

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators for the purpose of coordination at Union level and to exchange information, including on commitments made and their implementation in the Member States.

Amendment

The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators for the purpose of coordination at Union level and to exchange information **and knowledge**, including on commitments made and their implementation in the Member States.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a decision

Article 5 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall facilitate and support the activities at national, regional and local level, including by proposing, where appropriate, new pathways and tools for the achievement of policy goals. The Commission shall, for the purpose of evaluation, encourage national statistical offices to pay special attention to evaluating the activities set out in Article 3(1) that took place within their territory during the European Year, in particular by taking account of public support.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a decision

Article 5 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The theme of the European Year shall be a priority in the communication activities of the representations of the Commission in the Member States and in the work programmes of relevant key European-level networks benefiting from support for their running costs from the Union budget.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a decision Article 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5a

Financial and non-financial support

1. Activities at the Union level, as set out in Article 3(1), may give rise to a procurement contract or the award of grants financed from the general budget of the European Union.

2. Where appropriate, programmes and policies in fields which contribute to promoting active ageing, such as employment, social affairs and equal opportunities, education and culture, health, research, the information society, regional policy and transport policy, may support the European Year in accordance with the rules applying and within the existing margins for priority setting.

3. Non-financial support may be granted by the Union for initiatives undertaken by public and private organisations in accordance with Article 3(2).

Amendment 50

Proposal for a decision Article 5 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5b

Budget

1. The financial envelope for the implementation, at Union level, of this decision, in particular the activities set out in Article 3(1), is, for the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012, at least EUR 6 000 000, of which EUR 2 000 000 shall be reserved for use within the period to 31 December 2011.

2. Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority

within the limits of the financial framework.

Amendment 51

Proposal for a decision Article 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 6a International cooperation

For the purpose of the European Year, the Commission may cooperate with the relevant bodies of other international organisations, in particular with the United Nations and the Council of Europe, in order to increase the Union's effectiveness and to ensure the visibility of its efforts.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a decision Article 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

By 30 June 2014, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the initiatives provided for in this Decision.

1. By 30 June 2014, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions, on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the **Commission and Member-State** initiatives provided for in this Decision, **to serve as a basis for future EU policies, measures and actions in this field.**

2. The report shall also provide information on how the gender and disability have been mainstreamed in the activities of the European Year and how the European Year has contributed towards developing a sustainable active aging culture across Europe.