



Plenary sitting

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14.2.2019

*****I**
REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018/0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Michaela Šojdrová

Rapporteurs for the opinions (*):
Eleni Theocharous, Committee on Development
Deirdre Clune, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

(*) Associated committees - Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ▬ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0440),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 165(4), 166(4) and 214(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0264/2018),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 17 October 2018¹,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 6 December 2018²,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education and the opinions of the Committee on Development, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Regional Development (A8-0079/2019),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

¹ Not yet published in the Official Journal.

² Not yet published in the Official Journal.

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. This common value guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Amendment

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. This common value, ***enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union***, guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Given the significant increase in humanitarian crises and global emergencies, and with a view to enhancing the promotion of solidarity and the visibility of humanitarian aid among Union citizens, there is a need to develop solidarity between Member States and with third countries affected by man-made or natural disasters.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1b) Humanitarian aid is based on the principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination, which are embedded in international humanitarian law and Union law. Humanitarian aid provides a needs-based emergency response aimed at

preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering, maintaining human dignity and providing protection for vulnerable groups affected by man-made or natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness through capacity and resilience building activities are also essential elements of humanitarian aid.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016¹⁸, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

Amendment

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016¹⁸, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national, **regional** and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Within the context of this Regulation, solidarity is understood as a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone to commit oneself to the common good, which is expressed through concrete actions without consideration of return service.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4b) Providing assistance to people and communities outside the Union which are confronted with disasters or which are particularly vulnerable to disasters and in need of humanitarian aid, based on the fundamental principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality, is an important expression of solidarity.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4c) Participating volunteers and organisations implementing actions under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps should abide by the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4d) There is a need to further develop solidarity with victims of crises and disasters in third countries and to raise both awareness levels and the visibility of humanitarian aid and volunteering in general as a lifelong activity among Union citizens.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4e) The Union and the Member States have committed to implement the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals thereof, both internally and through external actions.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4f) In its conclusions of 19 May 2017 on operationalising the humanitarian-development nexus, the Council recognised the need to strengthen resilience by better linking humanitarian

assistance and development cooperation and to further strengthen the operational links between the complementary approaches of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and conflict prevention.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible, ***inclusive and meaningful*** opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, ***knowledge***, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers ***and a multicultural exchange***.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, ***in the sense that*** they should ***respond to*** unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy

Amendment

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality; they should ***aim to tackle*** unmet societal needs, ***enhance solidarity and*** contribute to strengthening communities ***and democratic participation***. ***They should*** offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge ***skills*** and competences. ***They should*** be financially

conditions.

accessible to young people and be implemented in safe, *inclusive* and healthy conditions. *Dialogue with local and regional authorities and European networks specialised in urgent social problems should be encouraged in order to best determine unmet societal needs and ensure a needs-oriented programme. Solidarity activities should not have a negative impact on existing jobs or traineeships and should contribute to reinforcing the corporate social responsibility commitments of companies, while not replacing them.*

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service¹⁹ and the EU Aid Volunteers²⁰. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, *are* also ensured. Furthermore,

Amendment

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service¹⁹ and the EU Aid Volunteers²⁰. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under *schemes such as* the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network *and relevant civil*

complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

society organisations, including social partners and networks representing young people and volunteers, is also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes, such as volunteering, civil service and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate, to mutually enhance and enrich the impact and qualities of such schemes and build upon good practices. The European Solidarity Corps should not substitute national schemes. Access for all young people to national solidarity activities should be ensured. The Commission should develop practical guidelines on the complementarity of the programme with other union Programmes and sources of funding and on synergies between them.

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1-17).

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1-17).

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The certification of sending and hosting organisations, carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 375/2014, should not be duplicated under the Programme and equivalence should be recognised when implementing this Regulation from 2021 onwards.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new ***non-formal and informal learning*** opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact. ***It should also contribute to strengthening communities and supporting existing organisations that implement solidarity actions.***

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, **which may** take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity **and culture**, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment

(10) These activities should **have a clear European added value and** be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. **It should be possible for those activities to** take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, **intercultural and interreligious dialogue, social inclusion, inclusion of people with disabilities**, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, **culture, including cultural heritage**, creativity, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, **with a focus on overcoming the challenges faced by migrants**, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, **democratic participation** and employability. **Volunteering should be based on a written volunteering agreement and** volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related **areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This** can help foster the employability **and productivity** of young people **while easing their transition from education to employment**, which is key to **enhancing their chances on** the labour market. **The traineeship activities** offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the **quality** principles outlined in Council Recommendation on **establishing** a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. **The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are**

Amendment

(12) **Easily accessible** traineeships and jobs **should be clearly separated from volunteering, both from a financial and an organisational point of view. Traineeships should never lead to job substitution. Paid traineeships and jobs, however, can represent an incentive for disadvantaged young people and young people with fewer opportunities to participate in solidarity-related activities that they might not otherwise be able to access while giving a clear European added value in contributing to addressing key unmet social challenges and to strengthening local communities. Traineeships can ease the transition of young people from education to employment and** can help foster the

accompanied by adequate *post-activity* support. ***The traineeship and job activities are*** facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, ***and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.***

employability of young people, which is key to ***achieving their sustainable integration into*** the labour market. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market. ***Traineeships and jobs offered under the European Solidarity Corps should always be paid by the participating organisation hosting or employing the participant. Traineeships should be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable law of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and should follow the principles outlined in the Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. Jobs should be based on an employment contract in accordance with the national law or applicable collective agreements, or both, of the participating country where the job is being carried out. Financial support to participating organisations offering jobs should not exceed twelve months. The participating organisations should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.*** Traineeships and jobs ***should be*** accompanied by adequate ***preparation, on-the-job training and post-placement*** support ***in relation to the participation of the participant.*** ***Traineeships and jobs could be*** facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, ***as well as the member organisations of EURES, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{21a} in the case of cross-border activities.***

²¹ Council Recommendation of ***15 March***

²¹ Council Recommendation of ***10 March***

2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships (OJ C 88, 27.3.2014, p. 1).

^{21a} Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets, and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 107, 22.4.2016, p. 1).

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Efforts should be made to ensure that traineeships and jobs are open to the participation of all young people, in particular to young people with fewer opportunities, including young people with disabilities, social or cultural disadvantages, migrants and residents in isolated rural areas and the outermost regions of the Union.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to

the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment **or setting up** associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas **to develop innovative solutions to common challenges through a bottom-up approach** and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment **and continue to be active citizens either as volunteers, trainees or as employees in** associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors. **The European Solidarity Corps should essentially create an atmosphere in which young people are increasingly motivated to engage in solidarity activities and serve the public interest.**

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) Volunteers can contribute to strengthening the Union's capacity to provide needs-based and principled humanitarian aid and can contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the humanitarian sector where they are adequately selected, trained and prepared for deployment so as to ensure that they have the necessary skills and competences to help people in need in the most effective way, and provided that they can count on sufficient on-site support and supervision. Therefore, highly skilled, highly trained and experienced coaches or mentors on the ground play an important role in contributing to the effectiveness of the humanitarian response as well as

towards supporting volunteers.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of *useful* practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect feedback from participants and participating organisations on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of *best* practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect *detailed and meaningful* feedback from participants and participating organisations on *various stages of* the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps. *Feedback should include questions regarding the Programme's objectives in order to better evaluate their fulfilment.*

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) Ensuring successful implementation of the Programme requires increased visibility and awareness and further promoting the funding opportunities available through information campaigns, including an annual European Solidarity Corps Information Day, and dynamic means of communication, with a strong focus on social media, ensuring the largest possible awareness among the target groups, both individuals and organisations.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and ***other*** opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the ***volunteers*** remain of paramount importance ***and volunteers*** should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of, ***and the aim of inclusiveness to be achieved through,*** the activities and ***the*** opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering ***adequate online or offline*** training, language support, ***reasonable accommodation,*** insurance, ***simplified*** administrative ***procedures and pre-*** and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. ***Support measures should be developed and provided in collaboration with youth organisations and other non-profit and civil society organisations in order to tap into their expertise in the field.*** Security and safety of the ***participants as well as of the***

intended beneficiaries remain of paramount importance. *All activities should comply with the ‘do no harm principle’.* *Participants* should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts, *or to facilities that contravene international human rights standards.* *Activities involving direct contact with children should be guided by the ‘best interests of the child’ principle and should entail, where appropriate, the carrying out of background checks on participants or the adoption of other measures with a view to ensuring the protection of children.*

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15a) In line with the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child (2017) and Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Union and the Member States are to promote and support the transition from institutionalisation of vulnerable people, such as persons with disabilities and children, to family and community-based care. In that context, the Programme should not support measures or initiatives that hamper the commitment to end institutionalisation or any placement that would be harmful to children or persons with disabilities.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15 b (new)

(15b) The Union's principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination should be fully respected at all stages of the implementation of the Programme, including the identification and selection of participants and organisations.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²².

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, ***cultural***, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²². ***To ensure that registered candidates are offered appropriate solidarity activities, the learning outcomes of solidarity activities should be made available to them before they choose to participate. To that end, the use of effective instruments at Union and national level for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, such as Youthpass and Europass, should be encouraged, as appropriate.***

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) National agencies should also encourage young volunteers to become ambassadors of the Programme in order to share their experiences through youth networks, educational establishments and workshops. Former volunteers or ambassadors could also contribute to the training of future candidates.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the ***values, principles and objectives of the Union as well as with the*** principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities, ***and safety standards***, during all stages of the solidarity experience, ***including the pre-activity and post-activity phases***. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps. ***Quality labels should be differentiated by type of solidarity activity.***

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed ***periodically and could*** be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. ***To ensure the effective compliance of participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps as regards their rights and responsibilities, separate quality labels should be put in place for volunteering in solidarity activities, volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations, and for traineeships and jobs, and should also vary depending on the function of the participating organisation.*** The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed ***regularly and should*** be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled. ***The administrative process should be reduced to a minimum in order to avoid discouraging smaller organisations.***

Amendment 31

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 19 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19a) As a general rule, grant requests should be submitted to the national agency of the country in which the participating organisation is based. Grant requests for solidarity activities organised by Europe-wide or international organisations, solidarity activities of volunteering teams in priority fields

identified at the European level, and solidarity activities in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries should be submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) established by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/776/EU^{1a}.

^{1a} Commission Implementing Decision 2013/776/EU of 18 December 2013 establishing the ‘Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency’ and repealing Decision 2009/336/EC (OJ L 343, 19.12.2013, p. 46).

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity.

Amendment

(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity ***as well as feedback after the activity***, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity ***in order to increase opportunities for further solidarity experiences. National agencies should also encourage volunteers to become ambassadors for the Programme and share personal experiences through youth networks and educational establishments, thus contributing to the promotion of the***

Programme. To that end, national agencies should provide volunteers with support.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20a) In order to support solidarity activities among young people, participating organisations should be public or private entities or international organisations, non-profit or profit making, and may include youth organisations, religious institutions and charity associations, secular humanistic organisations, NGOs or other actors from civil society. The Programme should only provide funding to cover the non-profit part of the activities of participating organisations.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(21) The scaling-up of European

(21) The scaling-up of European

Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture.

Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. ***At the same time, accurate and continually updated information regarding those opportunities should be provided for potential beneficiaries.*** Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps ***and to provide*** a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy, ***barrier-free and user friendly*** access to the European Solidarity Corps, ***in compliance with the standards established by Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a}. The European Solidarity Corps Portal provides*** a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and ***pre-activity and*** post-activity support, ***feedback and evaluation mechanism*** as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future. ***While a one-stop shop provides the advantage of integrated access to diverse activities, individuals may encounter physical, social and other obstacles in accessing the European Solidarity Corps Portal. In order to overcome such obstacles, participating organisations should provide participants***

with registration support.

^{1a} Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (OJ L 327, 2.12.2016, p. 1).

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be further developed taking into account the European Interoperability Framework²³, which gives specific guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services and is implemented in the Member States and other member of the European Economic Area through National Interoperability Frameworks. It offers public administrations 47 concrete recommendations on how to improve governance of their interoperability activities, establish cross-organisational relationships, streamline processes supporting end-to-end digital services, and ensure that both existing and new legislation do not compromise interoperability efforts.

²³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - European Interoperability Framework – Implementation Strategy (COM(2017) 134 final).

Amendment

(24) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be further developed taking into account the European Interoperability Framework²³, which gives specific guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services and is implemented in the Member States and other member of the European Economic Area through National Interoperability Frameworks. It offers public administrations 47 concrete recommendations on how to improve governance of their interoperability activities, establish cross-organisational relationships, streamline processes supporting end-to-end digital services, and ensure that both existing and new legislation do not compromise interoperability efforts. ***Additionally, the Portal should be built in accordance with the standards established by Directive (EU) 2016/2102.***

²³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - European Interoperability Framework – Implementation Strategy (COM(2017) 134 final).

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24a) In order to enhance the transparency of the implementation process and increase the Programme's effectiveness, the Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the Programme.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24b) In order to ensure the proper functioning of the Programme and the timely deployment of the Programme's actions, it is essential that mechanisms are put in place within the Programme's work programmes to guarantee that offers are presented to registered candidates within a reasonable and relatively predictable amount of time. Periodic information and updates on available placements and actively involved participating organisations should therefore be sent to registered candidates in order to stimulate their engagement with the Programme after their registration, while also offering them the opportunity to directly get in touch with the actors involved in the field of solidarity at both the national and European level.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(27a) The Union's principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination suggest that Union citizens and long-term residents in the Union of all walks of life and ages should be able to engage as active citizens. In view of the specific challenges of humanitarian action, participants in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative should be at least 18 years of age and may represent a wide variety of profiles and generations whose skills are relevant to the successful conduct of such humanitarian operations.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, ***notably the most disadvantaged ones***. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of ***disadvantaged*** young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, ***in particular those with fewer opportunities, as further detailed in the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy developed and applied within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme***. Special measures, ***such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised guidance***, should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of young people ***with fewer opportunities***, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. ***To that end, young people with fewer***

acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

opportunities should, without prejudice to the possibility to participate full-time and in a country other than the country of residence, also have the possibility to participate part-time or in the country of residence, and should benefit from other measures aimed at facilitating their participation in the Programme.

Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28a) Particular attention and support should be given to the capacity of hosting partner organisations in third countries and the need to embed the activities of volunteers within the local context and to facilitate volunteers' interaction with local humanitarian actors, the hosting community and civil society.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of 25 % of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment

(29) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of ***at least*** 25 % of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives ***over the 2021-2027 period of the Multiannual Financial Framework, and an annual target of 30 % as soon as possible and not later than 2027***. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 30 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(30a) An adequate part of the budget should be dedicated to the exchange of best practices among Member States and the development of youth networks.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'³¹, the Programme

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'³¹, the Programme

should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions, ***including reinforced publicity***. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36

Text proposed by the Commission

(36) In compliance with the Financial Regulation, ***the Commission should adopt work programmes and inform the European Parliament and the Council thereof***. The work programme should set out the measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them should be adopted by ***implementing acts in accordance with the examination procedure***.

Amendment

(36) ***Given that the Programme is implemented over a seven-year period, it is necessary to provide for adequate flexibility to enable the Programme to adapt to changing realities and political priorities for the implementation of solidarity activities. As such, this Regulation does not set out in detail how the actions will be designed and it does not prejudge political priorities or respective budgetary priorities for the next seven years. Instead, the secondary policy choices and priorities, including details of specific actions, to be implemented through the different activities should be determined through an annual work programme*** in compliance with ***Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a}*** (the Financial Regulation). The work programme should ***also*** set out the measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific

objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them should be adopted by *means of a delegated act*. *To ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level and ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council.*

1^a Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018).

Justification

This amendment relates to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting work programmes. It declares that the Regulation contains limited policy detail to guarantee flexibility and that the detailed policy choices will be made through the work programmes. It reflects a horizontal approach aligned with other CULT MFF files.

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 38

Text proposed by the Commission

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the

Amendment

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the

Programme should be ensured at European, national and local level. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the Programme, *including*, when relevant, *with* the support of other key stakeholders.

Programme should be ensured at European, *regional*, national and local level. *The Programme should be promoted through dynamic means of communication, with special focus on social media, in order to reach out to a large number of potential candidates.* Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the Programme, *on Union websites, Union programmes associated with the European Solidarity Corps, and should*, when relevant, *involve* the support of other key stakeholders.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should *preferably* work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions

Amendment

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, *social enterprises*, youth organisations, *organisations representing people with disabilities*, and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions, *including volunteer infrastructure and support agencies such as volunteer centres.*

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation Recital 40

Text proposed by the Commission

(40) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, provided that these are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment

(40) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union ***in a barrier-free way***, provided that these are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment 49

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 42**

Text proposed by the Commission

(42) In order to ensure sound financial management and legal certainty in each participating country, each national authority should designate an independent audit body. Where feasible, and in order to maximise efficiency, the independent audit body could be the same as the one designated for the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation].

Amendment

(42) In order to ensure sound financial management, ***cost optimisation*** and legal certainty in each participating country, each national authority should designate an independent audit body. Where feasible, and in order to maximise efficiency, the independent audit body could be the same as the one designated for the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation].

Amendment 50

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 43**

Text proposed by the Commission

(43) Member States should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme. This

Amendment

(43) Member States should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme. This

includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits. In line with Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council³², Member States are encouraged to establish fast-track admission procedures.

includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits **and other legal difficulties that could prevent young people's access to the Programme**. In line with Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council³², Member States are encouraged to establish fast-track admission procedures.

³² Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

³² Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation Recital 45

Text proposed by the Commission

(45) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council³³.

Amendment

deleted

³³ ***Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011. Laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55 28.2.2011 p.13).***

Justification

This amendment corresponds to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting Work Programmes.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 48

Text proposed by the Commission

(48) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³⁵. In particular, this Regulation seeks to ensure full respect for the right to equality between men and women and the right to non-discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to promote the application of Articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

³⁵ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).

Amendment

(48) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³⁵. In particular, this Regulation seeks to ensure full respect for the right to equality between men and women and the right to non-discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, ***socioeconomic background*** and to promote the application of Articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

³⁵ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) ‘solidarity activity’ means a high-quality ***temporary*** activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those

Amendment

(1) ‘solidarity activity’ means a high-quality ***inclusive and adequately funded*** activity ***addressing important societal challenges to the benefit of a community or of society as a whole***, contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps which may take

referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;

the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations **and international human rights standards**;

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) ‘registered candidate’ means an individual aged between 17 and 30 years and who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Amendment

(2) ‘registered candidate’ means an individual aged between 17 and 30 years **who is legally residing in a participating country** and who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) ‘participant’ means an individual aged between 18 and 30 years, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment

(3) ‘participant’ means an individual aged between 18 and 30 years **who is legally residing in a participating country**, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and **who** takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) ‘young people with fewer opportunities’ means **young** people **facing some** obstacles **that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or for reasons such as disabilities and** educational difficulties;

Amendment

(4) ‘young people with fewer opportunities’ means people **who need additional support due to various obstacles arising from, for example disability, health problems, educational difficulties, their migrant background, cultural differences, their economic, social and geographical situation, including people from marginalised communities or at risk of facing discrimination based on any of the grounds enshrined in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;**

Amendment 57

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 5**

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) ‘participating organisation’ means any public or private entity, whether local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label;

Amendment

(5) ‘participating organisation’ means any public or private entity, whether **non-profit or profit making**, local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label, **in a host function, in a support function, or in both functions, ensuring that the entity is able to implement the high-quality solidarity activities in accordance with the objectives of the Programme;**

Amendment 58

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6**

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) ‘volunteering’ means **a** solidarity

Amendment

(6) ‘volunteering’ means **an optional**

activity *taking place as voluntary unpaid* activity for a period of up to 12 months;

solidarity activity *consisting in the performance of an activity for the public benefit that contributes to the achievement of public welfare, which a participant performs in his or her free time and of his or her free will, without an entitlement to remuneration*, for a period of up to 12 months;

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) ‘traineeship’ means a solidarity activity for a period from *two* to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(7) ‘traineeship’ means a *paid* solidarity activity *that takes the form of work practice within a participating organisation* for a period from *three* to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant *and that involves a learning component to gain relevant skills and experience*;

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) ‘job’ means a solidarity activity for a period from *2* to 12 months, paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(8) ‘job’ means a *decently paid* solidarity activity for a period from *three* to 12 months, *which includes a learning and training component, is based on a written agreement and is offered and paid* by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant, *not replacing or substituting an existing employment opportunity*;

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) ‘solidarity project’ means an unpaid in-country solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

Amendment

(9) ‘solidarity project’ means an unpaid in-country **or cross-border** solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) ‘quality label’ means the certification attributed to a participating organisation willing to provide solidarity activities under the European Solidarity Corps, in the role of a host and/or in a support function;

Amendment

(10) ‘quality label’ means the certification attributed, ***on the basis of varying specific requirements depending on the type of solidarity activity provided,*** to a participating organisation willing to provide solidarity activities under the European Solidarity Corps, in the role of a host and/or in a support function, ***that certifies that the organisation is able to ensure the quality of solidarity activities, during all stages of the solidarity experience, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Programme;***

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity *and* democracy in the Union and abroad, *addressing* societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment

1. The general objective of the Programme is to *promote solidarity as a value, mainly through volunteering*, enhance the engagement of *a generation of* young people *more likely to engage in solidarity activities* and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening *social* cohesion, solidarity, democracy, *European identity and active citizenship* in the Union and abroad, *to support communities and respond to* societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion *and equal opportunities*.

Amendment 64

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Amendment

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible *and inclusive* opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities *inducing positive societal changes* in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences *for personal, educational, social, cultural, civic and professional development*, as well as facilitating their *continuous engagement as active citizens*, employability and transition into the labour market.

Amendment 65

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Feedback provided by participants and participating organisations shall also include an evaluation of the fulfilment of the Programme's objectives.

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges, as referred to in Article 6;

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges as referred to in Article 6 **and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;**

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10.

(b) participation of young people **and people with expertise** in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10 **and actions inside and outside the Union aimed at building hosting organisations' capacity for humanitarian aid in third countries as referred to in Article 11.**

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The operational objectives and corresponding policy priorities of the actions to be implemented through the activities under the strands referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article shall be specified in detail in the annual work programmes to be adopted pursuant to Article 18.

Justification

This amendment relates to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting Work Programmes. It recognises that the Regulation contains limited policy detail to guarantee flexibility and that the detailed policy choices will be made through the Work Programmes. It reflects a horizontal approach aligned with other CULT MFF files.

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8;

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8, **which shall be of high quality**;

Amendment 70

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) their **approach** to involve young people from different backgrounds;

(d) their **inclusiveness and their effective ability** to involve young people from different backgrounds, **including young people with disabilities**;

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Annual work programmes adopted pursuant to Article 18 shall include a list of activities which are potentially harmful to participants, beneficiaries and society, or inappropriate for participants, and which shall not be carried out in the framework of the Programme or which shall be subject to special training, background checks or other measures.

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer **good** quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer **high** quality, **easily accessible and adequately funded** projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and participating organisations;

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and **those with some experience in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and** participating organisations;

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) facilitating the access of people with disabilities to all activities offered;

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities; and

(c) providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities ***as well as to promote the Programme as an ambassador***; and

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) measures to protect beneficiaries of solidarity activities, including the targeted training of participants who undertake their solidarity activities for the benefit of vulnerable groups, including children, and background checks of participants working with children;

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ab) measures aimed at promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities,

in particular for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised support;

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ac) measures aimed at ensuring capacity building and administrative support for participating organisations;

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) the development and maintenance of *a* quality *label* for entities willing to provide solidarity activities for the European Solidarity Corps;

(b) the development and maintenance of *the* quality *labels* for entities willing to provide solidarity activities for the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of *the* European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as *the* necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of *an accessible* European Solidarity Corps Portal *in at least all official languages of the Union* and other relevant online services as well as necessary IT support systems and web-based tools *which shall comply with the accessibility requirements of Directive*

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) measures to encourages social enterprises to support Programme activities or to allow employees to engage in volunteering activities in the framework of the Programme;

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(db) the development of a clear and detailed procedure addressed to participants and participating organisations, establishing the steps of, and timeframes for, all phases of the solidarity activities;

Amendment 83

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘Participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges’ shall in particular contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, while also responding to societal challenges with

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘Participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges’ shall in particular contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, ***citizenship*** and democracy in the Union and abroad, while also responding to

particular effort to promote social inclusion.

societal challenges with particular effort to promote social inclusion *and equal opportunities*.

Amendment 84

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8;

Amendment

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8, *which shall be of high quality*;

Amendment 85

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, *point (a)* shall include a learning *and training component*, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering as referred to in *point (b) of Article 4(1)* shall include a *solid education and learning dimension, and online and offline training tailored to the activity in question to take place before and during the activity, shall strive for a clear impact on identified community needs* shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement *in accordance with relevant national law. Such an agreement shall ensure the adequate legal, social and financial protection of the participant.*

Amendment 86

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Volunteering *may* take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) *or* in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

Amendment

2. Volunteering ***shall as a rule*** take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border). ***Volunteering may take place*** in the country of residence of the participant (in-country), ***but shall only be open to the participation of young people with fewer opportunities and shall include the participation of participants residing in a country other than the country in which the activity is taking place.***

Amendment 87

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. A traineeship ***as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b)*** shall be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and ***taking*** into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.

Amendment

1. A traineeship ***shall be paid and*** based on a written traineeship agreement ***concluded at the beginning of the traineeship*** in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate. ***The traineeship agreement shall indicate the educational objectives, the working conditions and the duration of the traineeship, the remuneration which the participant is to receive and the rights and obligations of the parties and shall take*** into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.

Amendment 88

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. A job **as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b)** shall be based on **an** employment contract in **accordance with** the national **regulatory framework** of the **participating** country **where** the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed **12** months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds **12** months.

Amendment

2. A job shall be based on a **written** employment contract **which respects all the terms and conditions of employment as established** in the national **law, applicable collective agreements, or both,** of the country **in which** the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed **twelve** months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds **twelve** months.

Amendment 89

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a learning and training component.

Amendment

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a **solid education and** learning component **before and during the activity, to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the participant's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development.**

Amendment 90

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Traineeships and jobs **may** take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) **or** in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

Amendment

4. Traineeships and jobs **shall as a rule** take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border). **Traineeships and jobs may take place** in the country of residence of the participant (in-country), **but shall only**

be open to the participation of young people with fewer opportunities and shall include the participation of participants residing in a country other than the country in which the activity is taking place.

Amendment 91

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. An adequate budget shall be allocated to fund the reasonable accommodation enabling the effective participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, in accordance with Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and with Council Directive 2000/78/EC^{1a}.

^{1a} **Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16).**

Amendment 92

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’ shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’ shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity ***in the context***

strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities.

of natural or man-made disasters and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of communities that are vulnerable, fragile or affected by natural or man-made disasters, and to facilitate the transition from the humanitarian response to long-term sustainable and inclusive development.

Amendment 93

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. ***The actions*** under this Chapter shall be carried out in compliance with the humanitarian aid principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Amendment

2. ***Actions*** under this Chapter shall be carried out in compliance with the ***European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, promoting the fundamental*** humanitarian aid principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence ***while reiterating the Union's firm commitment to a needs-based approach, without discrimination between or within affected populations, and respecting international law.***

Amendment 94

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Union's humanitarian aid is delivered in situations where other instruments related to development cooperation, crisis management and civil protection might operate. The European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall work in a coherent and complementary manner and avoid overlaps with relevant Union policies and instruments, in particular with the Union's humanitarian

*aid policy, development cooperation policy
and the Union Civil Protection
Mechanism.*

Amendment 95

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. In promoting a coherent international response to humanitarian crises, the actions under this Chapter shall be in accordance with those coordinated by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Amendment 96

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. The European Humanitarian Aid Corps shall contribute to strengthening the gender perspective in Union humanitarian aid, promoting adequate humanitarian responses to the specific needs of women. Special attention shall be paid to cooperation with women's groups and networks in order to promote the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian aid and to draw on their capacities and expertise to contribute to recovery, peace building, disaster risk reduction and resilience of affected communities.

Amendment 97

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. *The specific terms of deployment shall be set out, in close consultation with the hosting organisations, in an agreement between the sending organisation and the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, including rights and obligations, the duration and location of deployment and the tasks to be carried out.*

Amendment 98

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) *solidarity projects;*

Amendment 99

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. *On the basis of a prior assessment of needs in third countries, this Regulation shall support actions aimed at strengthening humanitarian aid capacity in order to enhance local preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and to ensure that volunteers' work has an effective and sustainable impact on the ground, including:*

(a) *management of risks associated with natural disasters, preparedness and response, coaching, training in volunteer*

management, and other relevant areas for staff and volunteers from hosting organisations;

(b) exchange of best practices, technical assistance, twinning programmes and exchange of staff and volunteers, creation of networks and other relevant actions.

Amendment 100

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. *The Commission shall continue, maintain and update the EU Aid Volunteers database, regulate access thereto and use thereof, including with regard to the availability and suitability of EU Aid Volunteers, thus enabling the continued participation of returning volunteers. The processing of personal data collected in or for that database shall be carried out, where relevant, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1b}.*

^{1a} *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).*

^{1b} *Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the*

processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

Amendment 101

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations *as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a)* shall include a learning and training *component*, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations shall include *adequate* learning and training, *including before the placement, linked to the projects in which young volunteers will be involved, with due emphasis on the humanitarian aid principles referred to in Article 10(2) and the ‘do no harm principle’, and it* shall not substitute traineeships or jobs and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment 102

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative shall foster the participation of local volunteers from third countries.

Amendment 103

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Volunteering under this strand may only take place *in third countries*:

Amendment

2. Volunteering under this strand may only take place:

Amendment 104

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. On the basis of a prior assessment of the needs in third countries by sending and hosting organisations, and other relevant actors, the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall support actions aimed at:

(a) strengthening the hosting organisations' capacity for humanitarian aid in third countries in order to enhance local preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and to ensure the effective and sustainable impact of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps' work on the ground through disaster risk management, preparedness and response, the transition from humanitarian response to sustainable local development, coaching, and training in volunteer management;

(b) the exchange of best practices, technical assistance, twinning programmes and the exchange of staff and volunteers.

Amendment 105

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. Assessing the level of risk with regard to the safety and security of volunteers shall be a priority, in particular in countries or areas considered to be unstable or where there are immediate risks.

Amendment 106

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. Communication campaigns on the European Solidarity Corps pertaining to the EU Aid Volunteers initiative shall be carried out primarily on the territory of the Union and shall focus on work undertaken by volunteers and humanitarian aid workers under the humanitarian aid principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality that inform their actions.

Amendment 107

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. Volunteering shall meet the real needs and gaps identified at local level by the host organisations.

Amendment 108

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 11a

Identification and selection of candidate volunteers

- 1. On the basis of a prior assessment of needs in third countries, the Commission shall identify and select candidate volunteers for training in cooperation with national agencies and host organisations.**
- 2. The identification and selection of candidate volunteers shall be carried out in accordance with Article 14, respecting the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and equal opportunities.**
- 3. The age limits referred to in Articles 2 and 15 shall not apply to volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations under this Article.**

Amendment 109

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 11b

Training of candidate volunteers

- 1. Building on existing programmes and procedures, the Commission shall establish a training programme to prepare candidate volunteers to support and complement humanitarian aid actions.**
- 2. Candidate volunteers who have been identified and selected in accordance with the application procedure shall be eligible to participate in the training programme implemented by qualified organisations. The individual scope and content of the training to be undertaken**

by each volunteer candidate shall be determined in consultation with the certified host organisation according to needs, taking into account the previous experience of the volunteer candidate and the planned volunteering location.

3. The training programme shall include an assessment of the readiness of candidate volunteers to be seconded to support and complement humanitarian aid activities in third countries, as well as to meet local needs.

Amendment 110

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 1 260 000 000 in current prices.

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be **EUR 1 112 988 000 in 2018 prices [EUR 1 260 000 000 in current prices]**.

Amendment 111

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems.

Amendment

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems. ***An adequate amount of the budget shall also be dedicated to the exchange of best practices among Member States and the development of youth networks.***

Amendment 112

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 29 to amend this Regulation to allow for flexibility and adaptation of the indicative budgetary breakdown by activities under Article 12a. The delegated acts adopted under this Article shall reflect the new political priorities by readjusting the breakdown respecting a maximum margin of 20 %.

Justification

The indicated margin corresponds to the margin proposed in the current Erasmus proposal.

Amendment 113

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 12a

Breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11

The indicative breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11 shall be as follows:

- (a) for volunteering in solidarity activities and solidarity projects, as specified in Articles 7 and 9: 86 %;***
- (b) for traineeships and jobs, as specified in Article 8: 8 %; and***
- (c) for volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations, as specified***

in Article 11: 6 %.

Amendment 114

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement.

Amendment

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement. ***In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate funding shall be used to the maximum possible extent.***

Amendment 115

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The financial contributions made by and expected from third countries to the Programme shall, once sufficient information is available, be reported to both arms of the budgetary authority as part of the annual or interim reporting of the Programme.

Amendment 116

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. Participants moving to another country shall be guaranteed the full health care they enjoy in their Member

State of residence, not merely urgent health care. Health care shall be provided both through the public health services of the Member State in which the activity is carried out and, in the absence of such services or in the event of a clear case of non-compliance with the quality standards of the Member State of residence, through private health services in the Member State in which the activity is carried out.

Amendment 117

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission, the Members States and other participating countries shall promote social inclusion and equal access conditions, including for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities.

Amendment 118

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities, *whether non-profit or profit making*, and international organisations, *including youth organisations, religious institutions, charity associations, secular humanistic organisations, NGOs or other actors from civil society, provided that they offer solidarity activities, that they have legal personality under the law of the country in which they are registered and* provided

that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label. ***The quality label shall certify that the activities can meet the objectives under Article 3 and provide the actions under Article 4.***

Amendment 119

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. An application from an entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps on the basis of the principles of equal treatment; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; avoidance of job substitution; provision of high quality activities with learning dimension focusing on personal, socio-educational and professional development; adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements; safe and decent environment and conditions; and the 'no-profit principle' in compliance with the Financial Regulation. The above principles ascertain whether its activities meet the requirements of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

2. An application from an entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps on the basis of the principles of equal treatment; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; avoidance of job substitution; provision of high quality, ***easily accessible and inclusive*** activities with ***clear added value for identified community needs***, a learning dimension focusing on personal, socio-educational and professional development; adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements; safe and decent environment and conditions; and the 'no-profit principle' in compliance with the Financial Regulation. The above principles ascertain whether its activities meet the requirements ***and objectives*** of the European Solidarity Corps. ***The quality label shall only be attributed to organisations committing to comply with these principles.***

Amendment 120

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and *may* be revoked.

Amendment

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The ***specific requirements to be fulfilled in order to obtain a quality label shall vary depending on the type of solidarity activity and the function of the entity. The*** obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and ***in the event that the label is misused or of failure to comply with the principles set out in paragraph 2, the label shall*** be revoked. ***Any entity which substantially changes its activities shall inform the competent implementing body for reassessment.***

Amendment 121

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. Participating organisations that have been attributed a quality label shall have access to a platform to easily search for suitable applicants in order to make the process easier for both participants and participating organisations to engage in solidarity activities.

Amendment 122

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4b. Participating organisations shall facilitate the promotion of the Programme by offering former participants the possibility to share their experiences and

act as ambassadors to the potential next generation of participants in the Programme by means of a network.

Amendment 123

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Participating organisations shall perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they shall carry out activities related to making offers for solidarity activities to registered participants, selecting and receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities, providing guidance and support to participants during all the phases of the solidarity activity, providing a safe and convenient working environment for participants, and providing feedback to the participant after the activity, as appropriate. In a support function they shall carry out activities in relation to the sending, the preparation and the support of participants before departure, and during and after the solidarity activity, including training participants and guiding them to local organisations after the activity. Organisations in a support function can also provide administrative and logistical support to participants in solidarity projects.

Amendment 124

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Any public or private entity established in

Any public or private entity established in

a participating country as well as international organisations may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in Articles 7, 8 and 11, a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to Article 9, natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants.

a participating country as well as international organisations may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in Articles 7, 8 and 11, a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to Article 9, natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants. ***As a general rule, the grant request shall be submitted to the national agency of the country in which the organisation is based. Grant requests for activities organised by Europe-wide or international organisations, activities of volunteering teams in priority fields identified at European level and activities in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries shall be submitted to the EACEA.***

Amendment 125

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Work programme

Amendment

Annual work programme

Amendment 126

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – paragraph -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The secondary policy choices and priorities, including details of specific actions outlined in Articles 4 to 11, shall be determined on an annual basis

through a work programme as referred to in Article [110] of the Financial Regulation. The annual work programme shall also set out details concerning the implementation of the Programme. In addition, the work programme shall give an indication of the amount allocated to each action and of the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed through the national agency. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 29 to supplement this Regulation by adopting annual work programmes.

Justification

This amendment relates to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting work programmes. It declares that the Regulation contains limited policy detail to guarantee flexibility and that the detailed policy choices will be made through the work programmes. It reflects a horizontal approach aligned with other CULT MFF files.

Amendment 127

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The *interim evaluation* of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, *but* no later than *four years after the start of the programme implementation*. It shall also be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

Amendment

2. The *mid-term review* of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme. *The Commission shall submit the mid-term review to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions no later than 30 June 2024*. It shall also be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

Amendment 128

Proposal for a regulation
Article 20 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission shall, where necessary and on the basis of the mid-term review and implementation reports submitted by Member States, submit legislative proposals for the amendment of this Regulation. The Commission shall appear before the competent committees of the European Parliament to report on the mid-term review, including with respect to its decision as to whether it is necessary to amend this Regulation.

Justification

This provides for a proper mid-term review and revision clause, reflecting a horizontal approach aligned with other CULT MFF files.

Amendment 129

Proposal for a regulation
Article 21 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin **thereof** and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the actions and their results) by providing **prompt**, coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including, the media and the public.

Amendment 130

Proposal for a regulation
Article 21 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

2. The Commission, ***in cooperation with national authorities and national agencies in participating countries and relevant Union-level networks***, shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

Amendment 131

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to the effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

Amendment

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to ***information and*** the effective outreach, as well as dissemination ***to all potential beneficiaries*** and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

Amendment 132

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Participating organisations shall use the brand name “European Solidarity Corps” for the purposes of communication and dissemination of information related to the Programme.

Amendment 133

Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The national agency shall regularly consult the beneficiaries of the Programme (individuals and organisations) in order to collect their feedback on the Programme, to assess the the quality of the activity, and how the activity evolves, on the basis of Commission guidelines and shall provide support to participants in the event of difficulties and in order to improve the implementation of the Programme at national level based on their feedback and expertise.

Amendment 134

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies;

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies, **taking into consideration the simplification requirements and not imposing additional burden on participants and participating organisations;**

Amendment 135

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) include the requirement to organise regular meetings and training with and for the network of national agencies in order to ensure the coherent implementation of the Programme across all participating countries;

Amendment 136

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Commission shall organise regular meetings on the implementation of the Programme with a representative number and type of networks representing young people and volunteers and other relevant civil society organisations, including social partners and networks relevant to the Programme's activities.

Amendment 137

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Where the Commission cannot accept the yearly management declaration or the independent audit opinion thereon, or in the event of unsatisfactory implementation by the national agency of the Commission's observations, the

Commission may implement any precautionary and corrective measures necessary to safeguard the Union's financial interests in accordance with point (c) of Article 131(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Amendment 138

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 24a

*Education, Audiovisual and Culture
Executive Agency*

At Union level, the EACEA shall be responsible for managing all stages of the grant for the Programme's project actions, as listed in Article 7, submitted by Europe-wide or platform organisations, for activities of volunteering teams in priority fields identified at European level and activities in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries.

EACEA shall also be responsible for the accreditation (i.e. quality label) and monitoring of Europe-wide or platform organisations, organisations in charge of implementing national schemes or Union shared management funds and organisations wishing to carry out activities supporting humanitarian aid operations.

Amendment 139

Proposal for a regulation Article 25 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Audits on the use of the Union

1. Audits on the use of the Union

contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union Institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to [Article 127] of the Financial Regulation.

contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to Article [127] of the Financial Regulation **and shall be carried out in accordance with the same criteria in all Member States.**

Amendment 140

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

Amendment

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall **be proportionate and adequate and shall** give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

Amendment 141

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, instruments and programmes at Union level, in particular the Erasmus programme, as well as to existing networks at Union level relevant to the activities of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

1. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, instruments and programmes at Union level, in particular the Erasmus programme, **the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Rights and Values Programme**, as well as to existing networks at Union level relevant to the activities of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 142

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall **also** be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, programmes and instruments at national level in the participating countries. To this end, the Commission, national authorities and national agencies shall exchange information on existing national schemes and priorities related to solidarity and youth, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity Corps, on the other hand, with a view to build on relevant good practices and achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Amendment

2. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall **not substitute and shall** be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, programmes and instruments at national, **regional and local** level in the participating countries. To this end, the Commission, national authorities and national agencies shall exchange information on existing national schemes and priorities related to solidarity and youth, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity Corps, on the other hand, with a view to build on relevant good practices and achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Amendment 143

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. In order to maximise the effectiveness of Union funding and the impact of the Programme, the relevant authorities at all levels shall seek to establish synergies across all relevant programmes in a coherent manner. Such synergies shall not lead to funds being used to pursue objectives other than those set out in this Regulation. Any synergies and complementarity shall result in simplified application procedures at the implementation level accompanied by relevant implementation guidelines.

Amendment 144

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps in third countries referred to in Article 11 shall be in particular consistent with and complementary to other areas of Union external action, in particular humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy, enlargement policy, neighbourhood policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Amendment

3. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps in third countries referred to in Article 11 shall be in particular consistent with and complementary to other areas of Union external action, in particular humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy, ***security policy***, enlargement policy, neighbourhood policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Amendment 145

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Article** 19 shall be conferred on the Commission for the duration of the Programme.

Amendment

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Articles 12, 18 and** 19 shall be conferred on the Commission for the duration of the Programme.

Justification

This amendment relates to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting Work Programmes and corresponding changes.

Amendment 146

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. The delegation of power referred to in **Article 19** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

3. The delegation of power referred to in **Articles 12, 18 and 19** may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

Justification

This amendment relates to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting Work Programmes and corresponding changes.

Amendment 147

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to **Article 19** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Amendment

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to **Articles 12, 18 and 19** shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Justification

This amendment relates to the replacement of implementing acts by delegated acts as a means for adopting Work Programmes and corresponding changes.

Amendment 148

Proposal for a regulation Annex – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Indicators for monitoring and reporting:

The Programme shall be closely monitored in order to measure the extent to which the general objective and the specific objectives have been achieved, as well as to monitor its output, results and impact. To that end, a minimum framework of indicators is laid down to serve as a basis for a future detailed programme for monitoring the output, results and impact of the Programme, including an extended set of qualitative and quantitative indicators:

Amendment 149

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background; **and**

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background;

Amendment 150

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) number of organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps Quality Label.

(c) number of organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps Quality Label;

Amendment 151

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) number of participants in jobs (in-country and cross-border) broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment;

Amendment 152

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) number of participants in solidarity projects broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment;

Amendment 153

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cc) number of organisations whose quality label has been revoked;

Amendment 154

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cd) number of organisations holding a quality label broken down by country and funding received;

Amendment 155

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ce) number of participating young people with fewer opportunities. Result indicators (Composite indicators);

Amendment 156

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cf) number of participants reporting positive learning outcomes;

Amendment 157

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cg) percentage of participants whose learning outcomes have been recognised through a certificate such as Youthpass, or another type of formal recognition of their participation in the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 158

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ch) overall satisfaction rate of participants with regard to the quality of activities; and

Amendment 159

**Proposal for a regulation
Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c i (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ci) number of people supported directly or indirectly through solidarity activities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Context and policy choices of the new proposal

The EU is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity in its action inside and outside the Union.

In response to the clear demand to do more for young people, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement in June 2018 (adopted in plenary on 11 September 2018) establishing a European Solidarity Corps merging several EU volunteering and solidarity traineeships/jobs schemes into one single programme acting as a "one stop shop" for all solidarity related opportunities for young people. The programme opens new opportunities for young people to engage in quality solidarity activities at local and European level and provide them with the necessary tools to make a positive impact on their communities while acquiring useful training and competences for their future personal development.

On 11 June 2018 the European Commission has published a new proposal for a European Solidarity Corps (COM (2018) 440 Final). The new proposal aligns the activities of the programme with the MFF cycle by proposing a dedicated budget in an own budget line. In addition, the proposal also extends the scope of European Solidarity Corps activities to include those in support of humanitarian aid operations, previously implemented through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. Given the similarities between the two programmes, the Commission believes that merging them will bring the following advantages:

- Consider all participants under a common roster, improving the transparency and speed of the recruitment process.
- Develop single branding and communication activities. This would increase the outreach of activities to promote the programme, making it the 'one-stop-shop' for solidarity activities carried out by young people;
- Introduce a single implementation mechanism. All organisations and projects would use the same e-form to apply for the quality label and funding. This would simplify procedures for the organisations and reduce the overall management cost;
- Bring significant synergies and cost savings by maintaining a single set of tools and systems.

Furthermore, the new proposal is built on and to a large extent incorporates the elements of the political agreement reached in June 2018 (adopted in plenary on 11 September 2018) while adding an extra ambition through an increased budget, extended scope and improving the functioning of the programme.

The position of your rapporteur

Considering the achievements of the current political agreement establishing a European Solidarity Corps and taking into account the various elements of the new proposal, your Rapporteur proposes to reintroduce certain elements previously agreed on in the European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020 that were not incorporated into the current proposal.

Your rapporteur organised an extensive and inclusive consultation with a large variety of stakeholders. Based on this consultation process and on a thorough analysis of the current framework and the new proposal, the overall conclusions are that the future European Solidarity Corps could be an improved framework for solidarity activities through:

- establishing clearer objectives and better connection with the realities and needs of young people as well as with society needs;
- improving the inclusiveness and accessibility of the ESC activities to encounter all young people, considering the diversity of their socio-economic environment and potential obstacles;
- ensuring effective synergies and operational compatibility between the ESC, the future Erasmus programme and other relevant programmes and in the context of the renewed EU Youth Strategy;

In this context, your rapporteur would like to submit to your attention a number of amendments aiming at achieving the above-mentioned general objectives.

Repartition of the budget according to activities - Indeed the current political agreement on the European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020 features indicative thresholds for the repartition of the budget by strands. Your rapporteur believes that the new proposal should also indicate how the budget is going to be distributed between the different activities under the scope of the new ESC and that the repartition should correspond to the objectives of the programme and realistic expectations based on implementation of the previous programmes. The rapporteur's opinion is that volunteering should represent the core essence of the programme but the repartition must remain indicative to allow for needed flexibility.

- **Increased visibility of the ESC** - In order to satisfy the ambition of 350.000+ placements for the seven years period, the ESC and its opportunities should be supported by a more ambitious communication and visibility campaign. Your rapporteur believes that this can be done through:
 - European Solidarity Corps ambassadors (former participants would be encouraged to share their experience through youth networks and educational establishments, while national agencies should provide them with relevant support);
 - Use dynamic means of communication including social media to promote the programme;
 - Increase publicity and communication strategies especially in remote areas.
- **Greater involvement of stakeholders throughout the entire cycle** - Your rapporteur believes that stakeholders, especially youth networks and participating organisations, should be consulted regularly throughout the implementation of the Programme.
- **Emphasis on the inclusion objective and its concretization**- based on evidence and consultation results, your rapporteur believes that the inclusiveness aspect of the programme can be improved and strengthened throughout the programme. The following elements are proposed in this direction:

- Feedback should include an evaluation of how the participant considers the inclusion objective (along with other Programme objectives) to be met;
 - In-country activities should be limited to projects with a dominant inclusion objective (Member States should essentially be responsible for funding of in-country activities, but in case national schemes are not available, it would be unfair to disqualify young people with fewer opportunities who sometimes lack alternatives);
 - ESC should also provide part-time solidarity activities for young people with fewer opportunities.
- **Differentiation of quality labels** - In order to ensure a high quality's of opportunities, your rapporteur believes that participating organisations should be subject to differentiated requirements for the granting of a quality label according to type of activity (different activities require different capacity and services);
 - **Focus on long-term volunteering** - Volunteering experience under the scope of the ESC should encourage participants to a lifelong engagement in solidarity activities. The ESC should strengthen the development of a volunteering spirit among young people.
 - **Jobs and traineeships** - Your rapporteur believes that all solidarity activities taking the form of jobs and traineeships must include a solid and meaningful learning and training component (as stated in the Quality Framework for Traineeships). Furthermore, and in order to reinforce the solidarity dimension of the activities, all jobs and traineeships placements under the scope of the ESC shall exclusively encompass non-profit making tasks, regardless of the type of entity.
 - **Work programmes adopted as delegated acts** - Your rapporteur believes that the proposed adoption of the work programme through implementing acts leaves the Commission with the possibility to make secondary political choices. This capacity should reside within the competences of the co-legislators. Therefore, the appropriate instrument for the adoption of the work programmes should be a delegated act. This matter is also linked to the general discussion on the scrutiny powers of the European Parliament.
 - **Definition of solidarity and specified definition of volunteering** - Your rapporteur considers the ESC to have a great potential in reinforcing a spirit of solidarity throughout Europe. Stronger solidarity could contribute to building a strong, united and resilient Union. Your rapporteur also believes that a definition of „solidarity” could serve as a unifying principle in the programme's implementation. The solidarity spirit is best represented through the act of volunteering. Therefore, a more accurate definition of volunteering would also be an improvement.
 - **Strong impact on society needs** - The opportunities created by the solidarity placements under the scope of the ESC should have a strong impact on society strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in Europe and beyond. Your rapporteur believes that the impact on society can be strengthened if activities

correspond to concrete societal needs and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on promoting social inclusion.

- **Better-targeted benefit for participants** - The ESC is a valuable tool for personal growth of participants. In order to maximize this potential, the identified learning outcomes of individual activities should be made available to the participant in advance, so that the participant can identify activities which best meet his expectations and skills. Participants should also be provided with meaningful feedback.

The draft report does not address any of the provisions under Chapter IV (Articles 10 and 11 - European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as these provisions fall under the exclusive competence of DEVE Committee (Rule 54 of the RoP).

25.1.2019

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion (*): Eleni Theodorou

(*): Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Commission has suggested to merge the recently launched European Solidarity Corps for young people with the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative/ European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps which was set up in 2014 and is based on TFEU Article 214, providing the legal base for humanitarian aid.

The creation of the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative is a Treaty requirement and aims to contribute to the provision of needs-based humanitarian aid and to strengthening the capacities and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in third countries. Despite its potential in many respects, the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative has had a very slow start, falling far below the number of volunteers that the Commission initially hoped to reach, and the mid-term evaluators noting that the engagement of partners within the humanitarian sector was not forthcoming to the extent necessary. The obligatory certification of organisations interested in participating in the initiative is based on a lengthy and burdensome procedure. As a result, the number of volunteers reached a significant (but still too low) level only in 2017. Therefore, the full potential of the initiative remains difficult to assess and clearly remains untapped.

Nevertheless, most stakeholders seem to welcome the merger of the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative with the European Solidarity Corps, which it can complement, namely by providing a volunteering experience outside the Union with a humanitarian focus. If promoted properly it should provide an important stepping-stone for young people interested in a professional career in the humanitarian sector and as a valuable entry point into volunteering and civic engagement, and stimulating interest in global humanitarian challenges more generally.

In addition, it should remain possible for non-profit humanitarian organisations and senior professionals to benefit from training and funding opportunities if they wish to participate in the new programme. Your rapporteur therefor recommends not to apply the overall upper age limit of 30 years under the strand which builds on the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative, so as to allow more experienced individuals to contribute to humanitarian aid on a voluntary basis, in particular as they may require specific training before deployment.

As mentioned above, the accreditation of organisations to participate in the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative is cumbersome and proved a major obstacle to reaching significant numbers of volunteers. It will therefore be important that organisations which already have been accredited, will not have to undergo a similar process again once the new regulation comes into force. In addition, simplified and lean procedures for the new Quality Label for participating organisations is a key concern.

Furthermore, our Committee must ensure that the provisions on actions under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (Chapter IV), for which we have exclusive competence, ensure complementarity and consistency with other EU humanitarian aid activities and with the European Consensus on humanitarian aid. This strand of the future programme must be implemented in full respect of humanitarian principles and be embedded in needs-based, coordinated and effective humanitarian aid.

In this respect, your rapporteur for opinion sees the greatest potential in actions that focus on organisational and local capacity building, resilience and in actions linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD), addressing the humanitarian-development-nexus, disaster risk reduction and preparedness and more generally awareness-raising and communication about humanitarian needs and principles.

Finally, as regards provisions for which our Committee shares competences on this legislative proposal with the Committee on Culture, we believe that overall more emphasis should be given to sustainable development, the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’, poverty eradication, human rights and gender equality.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Given the significant increase in humanitarian crises and global emergencies, and with a view to enhancing the promotion of solidarity and the visibility of humanitarian aid among Union citizens, there is a need to develop solidarity between Member States and with third countries affected by man-made or natural disasters.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1b) Humanitarian aid is based on the principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination, embedded in international humanitarian law and Union law. Humanitarian aid provides a needs-based emergency response aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity as well as providing protection for vulnerable groups affected by man-made or natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness through capacity and resilience building activities are also essential elements of humanitarian aid.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) The State of the Union address of 14 September 2016 emphasised the need to invest in young people and announced the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps (the ‘Programme’) with a view to creating opportunities for young people across the Union to make a meaningful contribution to society, show solidarity and develop their skills, thus getting not only work but also invaluable human experience.

deleted

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016 ¹, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

deleted

¹ ***Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016) 942.***

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Volunteering is a concrete and visible expression of solidarity allowing individuals to dedicate their knowledge, skills and time to the service of society, local communities or fellow human beings, without pecuniary motivation.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4b) Assistance to people and communities outside the Union which are confronted with disasters or which are particularly vulnerable to disasters and in need of humanitarian aid, based on the fundamental principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality, is an important expression of solidarity. Financial allocations should reflect this principle and allow for the participation of at least 5000 volunteers in support of humanitarian aid operations.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4c) Participating volunteers and organisations implementing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps should abide by the principles set out in the European Consensus on

Amendment 8

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 d (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4d) There is a need to further develop solidarity with victims of crises and disasters in third countries as well as to raise both awareness levels and visibility of humanitarian aid and volunteering in general among the Union's citizens as a lifelong activity.

Amendment 9

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 e (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4e) The Union and the Member States have committed to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, both internally and through external actions.

Amendment 10

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4 f (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4f) In its conclusions of 19 May 2017 on operationalising the humanitarian-development nexus the Council recognized the need to strengthen resilience by better linking humanitarian assistance and development cooperation

and to further strengthen the operational links between the complementary approaches of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and conflict prevention.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(5) Young people, ***including those vulnerable and with fewer opportunities***, should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, ***cultural***, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities ***and capacity building***, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions, ***whereas dialogue with local and regional authorities and stakeholders should be encouraged in order to ensure a***

needs-oriented programme and to foster volunteering in partner countries and add a strong development value to the solidarity activities.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) Certification of sending and hosting organisations carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a}, should not be duplicated under the new European Solidarity Corps programme and equivalence should be recognised when implementing this regulation from 2021 onwards.

^{1a} Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1).

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, ***cultural***, civic and

development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, **disaster prevention, preparedness** and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and **wellbeing**, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, **cultural**, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – **circular economy**, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, prevention **of** and recovery **from natural or man-made disasters, protection of vulnerable groups affected by disasters, resilience, poverty reduction, food security**, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and **wellbeing**, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, **particularly non-accompanied children, conflict prevention, peace and reconciliation, human rights, gender equality**, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a

solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young **participants'** personal, **cultural**, socio-educational and professional development, **sense of responsibility**, active citizenship and employability. Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. ***Volunteering activities within the European Solidarity Corps programme should also aim to be complementary to existing local, regional and national volunteering schemes, when such schemes are in place.*** The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal

Amendment

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas can offer additional opportunities for young people, ***including young people with disabilities and those with fewer opportunities***, to make a start

challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships¹. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market, ***including within non-profit organisations and social and humanitarian sectors***. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships¹ ***and the principles laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*** The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities **and also the most deprived in society**. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to **continue being active citizens either as volunteers or as employees in associations** or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) Volunteers can contribute to strengthening the Union's capacity to provide needs-based and principled humanitarian aid and contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the humanitarian sector when they are adequately selected, trained and prepared for deployment so as to ensure that they have the necessary skills and competences to help people in need in the most effective way, and provided that they can count on sufficient on-site support and supervision. Therefore the role of high skilled, highly trained and experienced coaches/mentors on the ground is of utmost importance in contributing to the effectiveness of the humanitarian response as well as towards supporting

volunteers.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) National agencies should encourage former participants to become ambassadors of the European Solidarity Corps in order to share their experiences through youth organisations, educational institutions and workshops. As ambassadors, they would participate in the training of future candidates, thus contributing to the promotion of the programme. To that end, national agencies should provide volunteers with support.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14b) Ensuring successful implementation of the European Solidarity Corps, requires increased visibility and awareness and further promoting the funding opportunities available, through information campaigns (including an annual European Solidarity Corps Info Day) and dynamic means of communication with a strong focus on social media, ensuring the largest possible awareness among the target groups, both individuals and organisations.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

Amendment

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support ***(online, if not possible otherwise)***, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. ***Appropriate training, security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and should be subject to regular exchange of information and risk assessment, notably as regards the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.*** Volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts. ***Due consideration should also be given to the safety and interests of children and other vulnerable persons in contact with the volunteers. Activities involving direct contact with children should be guided by the “best interests of the child” principle and should be subject, where appropriate, to background checks or other measures with a view to ensure child protection.***

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15a) The Union principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination should be fully respected at all stages of the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps, including the identification and selection of participating volunteers and

organisations.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²².

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, ***cultural***, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²².

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) National agencies should also encourage young volunteers to become ambassadors of the European Solidarity Corps programme in order to share their experiences through youth networks, educational establishments and workshops. Former volunteers/ambassadors could also contribute to the trainings of future candidates.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the ***values, principles and objectives of the Union as well as*** the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights, ***safety*** and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps ***in coherence with existing certification schemes. The process of acquiring a label should be simplified for organizations already certified, notably under the current EU Aid Volunteers and for holders of the ECHO Framework Partnership Agreements. This process should take due account of similar processes carried out under Regulation (EU) No 375/2014, Regulation (EU) 2018/1475 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} as well as Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96^{1b}.*** The

attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled. ***In both attribution of a quality label and reassessment of it, the administrative burden should be reduced to a minimum in order to ensure equal access and avoid discouraging smaller organisations from participating.***

^{1a}Regulation (EU) 2018/1475 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU (OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, P. 1).

^{1b} Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1).

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20a) In order to enhance transparency of the implementation process and in order to increase the effectiveness of the European Solidarity Corps programme, the Commission should regularly consult with key stakeholders, including participating organisations, and other relevant civil society organisations, including youth networks and national youth councils as well as networks representing employers and trade unions.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps ***to all users, in compliance with the accessibility requirements of Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a}***, and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support ***(online, if not possible otherwise)***, as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future. ***As regards the deployments in support of humanitarian aid activities and the lengthy timeline between the application and deployment of the volunteer, participants in humanitarian aid activities should not encounter additional barriers compared to participants in other fields.***

^{1a} Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (OJ L 327, 2.12.2016, p. 1).

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) The European Solidarity Corps

Amendment

(27) The European Solidarity Corps

targets young people aged 18-30, and participation in the activities offered by the European Solidarity Corps should require prior registration in the European Solidarity Corps Portal.

primarily targets young people aged 18-35 while needs and contexts in humanitarian aid in third countries may justify the participation of experts above this age. Participation in the activities offered by the European Solidarity Corps should require prior registration in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. *Special attention should be given to gender equality in terms of the promotion and facilitation of equal participation of women and men.*

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(27a) The Union's principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination suggest that Union citizens and long-term residents in the Union of all walks of life and age should be able to engage as active citizens. In view of the specific challenges of humanitarian action, participants in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative should be at least 18 years of age and may represent a wide variety of profiles and generations whose skills are relevant to the successful conduct of such humanitarian operations.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably *the* most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably most disadvantaged *and vulnerable* ones, *including candidates for volunteer work with disabilities*. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion,

take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

training, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28a) Particular attention and support should be given to the capacity of hosting partner organisations in third countries and the need to embed the activities of volunteers within the local context and to facilitate volunteers' interaction with local humanitarian actors, the hosting community and civil society.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed

strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'¹, the Programme should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Recital 42

strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'¹, the Programme should take into account the specific situation **and needs** of these regions, **in particular the evolution of political, economic and social situation, notably the youth unemployment rate in order to enable better cooperation in the most effective and simple way**. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

Amendment

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with **national governments**, non-governmental organisations, youth organisations, **the private sector** and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions, **in accordance with existing national and regional volunteer programmes**.

Text proposed by the Commission

(42) In order to ensure sound financial management and legal certainty in each participating country, each national authority should designate an independent audit body. Where feasible, and in order to maximise efficiency, the independent audit body could be the same as the one designated for the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation].

Amendment

(42) In order to ensure sound financial management, **cost optimisation** and legal certainty in each participating country, each national authority should designate an independent audit body. Where feasible, and in order to maximise efficiency, the independent audit body could be the same as the one designated for the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation].

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) ‘solidarity activity’ means **a** high-quality temporary activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;

Amendment

(1) ‘solidarity activity’ means **an easily accessible, high-quality, inclusive and adequately funded** temporary activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) ‘registered candidate’ means an individual **aged between 17 and 30 years and** who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Amendment

(2) ‘registered candidate’ means an individual who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) ‘participant’ means an individual **aged between 18 and 30 years**, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in **a** solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment

(3) ‘participant’ means an individual who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in solidarity activities, under the European Solidarity Corps; **for activities other than those referred to in Chapter IV, participants are individuals aged between 18 and 35 years old;**

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) ‘young people with fewer opportunities’ means young people facing some **obstacles that prevent them from having** effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or for reasons such as **disabilities** and educational difficulties;

Amendment

(4) ‘young people with fewer opportunities’ means young people facing some **barriers that, in the absence of additional and specifically tailored support, hinder their** effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or for reasons such as educational difficulties **and disabilities, including long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, as recognised in the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities;**

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) ‘volunteering’ means a solidarity

Amendment

(6) ‘volunteering’ means a solidarity

activity taking place as voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to 12 months;

activity taking place as voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to 12 months, ***allowing individuals to dedicate their knowledge, skills and time to the service of society, the community or fellow human beings, without pecuniary motivation;***

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) ‘traineeship’ means a solidarity activity for a period from two to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(7) ‘traineeship’ means a solidarity activity for a period from two to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant ***and that involves a learning component;***

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment

1. The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity ***and non-profit*** activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, ***peace*** and democracy in the Union and abroad, ***making progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals***, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, ***particularly in terms of reducing the risks of natural and man-made disasters, emergency situations in fragile and post-conflict countries***, with particular

effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Amendment

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including **persons with disabilities and** those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their **intercultural awareness and their professional and civic** competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges, as referred to in Article 6;

Amendment

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges **and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**, as referred to in Article 6;

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10.

Amendment

(b) participation of young people **and people with expertise** in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10 **and actions inside**

and outside the Union aimed at building the hosting organisations' capacity for humanitarian aid in third countries as referred to in Article 11.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The annual work programme adopted pursuant to Article 18 shall include a list of activities that are potentially harmful to participants, beneficiaries and society, or inappropriate for participants, which shall not be carried out in the framework of the Programme or which shall be subject to special training, background checks or other measures.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer good quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations **and their local partners to cooperate and** to offer good quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and participating organisations;

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and **those with some experience in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and**

participating organisations;

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Amendment

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based ***tools in line with the accessibility requirements of Directive (EU) 2016/2102.***

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’ shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities.

Amendment

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps’ shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity ***in the context of natural or man-made disasters*** and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of ***communities that are vulnerable, fragile or affected by natural or man-made disasters, and to facilitate the transition from the humanitarian response to long term sustainable and inclusive development.***

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. ***The actions*** under this Chapter shall be carried out in compliance with the humanitarian aid principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Amendment

2. ***Actions*** under this Chapter shall be carried out in compliance with the ***European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, promoting the fundamental*** humanitarian aid principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence ***while reiterating the Union's firm commitment to a needs-based approach, without discrimination between or within affected populations and while respecting international law.***

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. ***The Union's humanitarian aid is delivered in situations where other instruments related to development cooperation, crisis management and civil protection may operate. The European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall work in a coherent and complementary manner and avoid overlaps with relevant Union policies and instruments, in particular with the Union's humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.***

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. In promoting a coherent international response to humanitarian crises, the actions under this Chapter shall be in accordance with those coordinated by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. The European Humanitarian Aid Corps shall contribute to strengthening the gender perspective in Union humanitarian aid, promoting adequate humanitarian responses to the specific needs of women. Special attention shall be paid to cooperation with women's groups and networks in order to promote the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian aid and to draw on their capacities and expertise to contribute to recovery, peace-building, disaster risk reduction and resilience of affected communities.

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. The specific terms of deployment shall be set out, in close consultation with the hosting organisations, in a contract

between the sending organisations and the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, including the rights and obligations, the duration and location of deployment and the tasks.

Amendment 57

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) solidarity projects, as referred to in Article 9;

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. On the basis of a prior assessment of needs in third countries, this Regulation shall support actions aimed at strengthening humanitarian aid capacity in order to enhance local preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and to ensure that volunteers' work has an effective and sustainable impact on the ground, including:

(a) management of risks associated with natural disasters, preparedness and response, coaching, training in volunteer management, and other relevant areas for staff and volunteers from hosting organisations;

(b) exchange of best practices, technical assistance, twinning programmes and exchange of staff and volunteers, creation of networks and other relevant actions.

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation
Article 10 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. The Commission shall continue, maintain and update the EU Aid Volunteers database, regulate access thereto and use thereof, including with regard to the availability and suitability of EU Aid Volunteers, thus enabling the continued participation of returning volunteers. The processing of personal data collected in or for this database shall be carried out, where relevant, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1b}.

^{1a} Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

^{1b} Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a learning and training **component**, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include **adequate** learning and training, **including before the placement, linked to the projects in which young volunteers will be involved, with due emphasis on the humanitarian aid principles referred to in Article 10(2), including the ‘do no harm principle’**, and it shall not substitute traineeships or jobs and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment 61

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative shall foster the participation of local volunteers from third countries.

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Volunteering under this strand may only take place **in third countries**:

2. Volunteering under this strand may only take place:

Amendment 63

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. On the basis of a prior assessment of the needs in third countries by sending

and hosting organisations, and other relevant actors, the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall support actions aimed at:

(a) strengthening the hosting organisations' capacity for humanitarian aid in third countries in order to enhance local preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and to ensure the effective and sustainable impact of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps' work on the ground through disaster risk management, preparedness and response, the transition from humanitarian response to sustainable local development, coaching, and training in volunteer management;

(b) exchanging of best practices, technical assistance, twinning programmes and exchange of staff and volunteers.

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. Assessing the level of risk with regard to the safety and security of volunteers shall be a priority, especially in countries or areas considered to be unstable, or where there are immediate risks.

Amendment 65

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. Communication campaigns on the European Solidarity Corps pertaining to

the EU Aid Volunteers initiative shall be carried out primarily on Union territory and shall focus on work undertaken by volunteers and humanitarian aid workers under the humanitarian aid principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality that inform their actions.

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. Volunteering shall meet the real needs and gaps identified at local level by the host organisations.

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 11a

Identification and selection of candidate volunteers

- 1. On the basis of a prior assessment of needs in third countries, the Commission shall identify and select candidate volunteers for training in cooperation with national agencies and host organisations.**
- 2. The identification and selection of candidate volunteers shall be carried out in accordance with Article 14, respecting the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and equal opportunities.**
- 3. The age limits as referred to in Articles 2 and 15 shall not be applied to volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations under this Article.**

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 11b

Training of candidate volunteers

- 1. Building on existing programmes and procedures, the Commission shall establish a training programme to prepare candidate volunteers to support and complement humanitarian aid actions.*
- 2. Candidate volunteers who have been identified and selected in accordance with the application procedure shall be eligible to participate in the training programme implemented by qualified organisations. The individual scope and content of the training to be undertaken by each volunteer candidate shall be determined in consultation with the certified host organisation according to needs, taking into account the previous experience of the volunteer candidate and the planned volunteering location.*
- 3. The training programme shall include an assessment of the readiness of candidate volunteers to be seconded to support and complement humanitarian aid activities in third countries, as well as to meet local needs.*

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 12 a

Breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11

The indicative breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8,

9 and 11 shall be as follows:

(a) for volunteering in solidarity activities and solidarity projects, as referred to in Articles 7 and 9: 85 %;

(b) for traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8: at least 7.5 %

(c) for volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations, as referred to in Article 11: at least 7.5 %

Amendment 70

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement.

Amendment

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement. ***In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate funding shall be used to the maximum possible extent.***

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. ***However***, at the moment of commencing volunteering, ***traineeship, job or a solidarity project*** a young person shall be at least 18 years of age and not older than ***30***.

Amendment

1. ***Individuals legally residing in a participating country or holding Union citizenship*** willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. At the moment of commencing volunteering a young person shall be at least 18 years of age and not older than ***35***.

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. *For actions under the European Voluntary Aid Corps, as referred to in Chapter IV, the upper age limit shall not apply.*

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label. ***Organisations already holding a label certified under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and parties to a framework partnership agreement (FPA) between NGOs and the Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) may be eligible for a simplified procedure for obtaining the label required by the new programme.***

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and may be revoked.

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically ***or upon request from***

*participants and may be revoked.
Particular attention shall be paid to
avoiding the duplication of work.*

Amendment 75

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Participating organisations may perform the following functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps:

(a) in a host function – carrying out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities, designing learning programmes, providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity and providing feedback and acknowledgment to the participant after the activity, as appropriate;

(b) in a support function – carrying out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including debriefing participants, acknowledging their learning outcomes and facilitating further volunteering at home.

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Adequate monitoring and reporting shall involve regular consultation with national agencies and participating organisations, as well as with relevant civil society organisations and youth networks, in view of potential

improvements of the Programme's implementation.

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5 a. The Commission shall organise regular meetings and trainings with and for the network of national agencies in order to ensure coherent implementation of the European Solidarity Corps across all participating countries. The Commission shall also invite existing Union level networks, pertinent to the activities under the Programme, social partners and networks representing young people and volunteers. The Commission shall regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall also be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, programmes and instruments at national level in the participating countries. To this end, the Commission, national authorities and national agencies shall exchange information on existing national schemes and priorities related to solidarity ***and youth***, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity Corps, on the other hand, with a view to build on relevant good practices and achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

2. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall also be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, programmes and instruments at national level in the participating countries, ***in order to guarantee a sense of responsibility on the part of the participating countries***. To this end, the Commission, national authorities and national agencies shall exchange information on existing national schemes and priorities related to solidarity, ***youth and humanitarian needs***, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity

Corps, on the other hand, with a view to build on relevant good practices and achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps in third countries referred to in Article 11 shall be in particular consistent with and complementary to other areas of Union external action, in particular humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy, enlargement policy, neighbourhood policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Amendment

3. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps in third countries referred to in Article 11 shall be in particular consistent with and complementary to other areas of Union external action, in particular humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy, ***security policy***, enlargement policy, neighbourhood policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme	
References	COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD)	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 2.7.2018	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 2.7.2018	
Associated committees - date announced in plenary	5.7.2018	
Rapporteur Date appointed	Eleni Theocharous 18.7.2018	
Discussed in committee	8.10.2018	20.11.2018
Date adopted	22.1.2019	
Result of final vote	+: 20	–: 1
	0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Mireille D’Ornano, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Maria Heubuch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Vincent Peillon, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Bogusław Sonik, Eleni Theocharous, Anna Záborská, Joachim Zeller, Željana Zovko	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Frank Engel, Stefan Gehrold, Maria Noichl, Judith Sargentini	

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

20	+
ECR	Eleni Theoharous
GUE/NGL	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Lola Sánchez Caldentey
PPE	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Frank Engel, Stefan Gehrold, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Bogusław Sonik, Anna Záborská, Joachim Zeller, Željana Zovko
S&D	Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Maria Noichl, Vincent Peillon, Elly Schlein
VERTS/ALE	Maria Heubuch, Judith Sargentini

1	-
EFDD	Mireille D'Ornano

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

5.12.2018

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion(*): Deirdre Clune

(*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) ***The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. This common value guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by***

Amendment

(1) Solidarity, ***not just*** among citizens, ***but also*** among ***peoples and*** States ***is the basis of developed and democratic societies***. This common value ***enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union should be fostered, especially in view of*** current and future societal

expressing their solidarity in practice.

challenges, which young ***people will be able to continue*** to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) The State of the Union address of 14 September 2016 emphasised the need to invest in young people and announced the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps (the ‘Programme’) with a view to ***creating opportunities for*** young people across the Union to make a meaningful contribution to society, show solidarity and develop ***their skills, thus getting not only work but also invaluable human*** experience.

Amendment

(2) The State of the Union address of 14 September 2016 emphasised the need to invest in young people and announced the establishment of a European Solidarity Corps (the ‘Programme’) with a view to ***enabling*** young people across the Union to make a meaningful contribution to society, show solidarity and develop skills ***and relationships, based on their practical*** experience ***in community-based activities***.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(5) Young people ***including those with fewer opportunities*** should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers ***and support a multicultural exchange***.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should **respond to unmet societal needs**, contribute to **strengthening** communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be **financially** accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should contribute to **the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps and help overcome social challenges and enhance solidarity, while addressing the needs of local** communities. **Solidarity activities should** offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences **for personal, social, civic and professional development, include a solid learning and training dimension**, be accessible to **all** young people, **with particular effort being made to promote the participation of young people with fewer opportunities**, be implemented in safe and healthy conditions **and be properly validated. Solidarity activities should not have a negative impact on existing jobs or traineeships and should contribute to reinforcing the corporate social responsibility commitments of companies, while not replacing them.**

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service and the EU Aid

Amendment

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies, programmes **and instruments**. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European

Volunteers. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, *in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people*, and the European Solidarity Corps should be *ensured, building on* good practices *where appropriate*.

Voluntary Service and the EU Aid Volunteers. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under *schemes such as* the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity *and loyal cooperation* between the existing related schemes and the European Solidarity Corps should *be fostered, in particular with solidarity, volunteering, civic service and mobility schemes for young people, operating at national, regional or local level, as well as with priorities related to solidarity and youth in the participating countries, as appropriate, to mutually enhance and enrich the impact and qualities of such schemes and build upon good practices. The European Solidarity Corps should not substitute similar national solidarity, volunteering, civic service and mobility schemes. Equal access for all young people to national solidarity activities should be ensured. Partnerships with European networks which are specialised in urgent social problems should be encouraged.*

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-

related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities ***should help respond to unmet societal needs and contribute to strengthening communities while also contributing*** to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact. ***It should also contribute to supporting and strengthening existing organisations that implement solidarity actions.***

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals,

Amendment

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, ***social inclusion and integration of people with disabilities***, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, ***heritage protection***, physical education and sport, social assistance and

territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

welfare, *youth assistance*, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability.

Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, *democratic participation* and employability. ***Volunteering should be based on a written volunteering agreement and*** volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related ***areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This*** can help foster the

Amendment

(12) ***Easily accessible*** traineeships and jobs ***should be clearly separated from volunteering, both from a financial and an organisational point of view. Traineeships should never lead to job substitution. Paid traineeships and jobs,***

employability *and productivity* of young people *while easing their transition from education to employment*, which is key to *enhancing their chances on* the labour market. *The traineeship activities* offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the *quality* principles outlined in Council Recommendation on *establishing* a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. *The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.*

however, can represent an incentive for disadvantaged young people and young people with fewer opportunities to participate in solidarity-related activities that they might not otherwise be able to access while giving a clear European added value in contributing to addressing key unmet social challenges and to strengthening local communities. Traineeships can ease the transition of young people from education to employment and can help foster the employability of young people, which is key to achieving their sustainable integration into the labour market. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market. Traineeships and jobs offered under the European Solidarity Corps should always be paid by the participating organisation hosting or employing the participant. Traineeships should be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable law of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and should follow the principles outlined in the Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships, always being paid and based on a written agreement²¹. Jobs should be based on an employment contract in accordance with the national law or applicable collective agreements, or both, of the participating country where the job is being carried out. Financial support to participating organisations offering jobs should not exceed twelve months. The participating organisations should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors. Traineeships and jobs should be accompanied by adequate preparation, on-the-job training and post-placement support in relation to the participation of the participant.

Traineeships and jobs could be facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, as well as the member organisations of EURES, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{21a} in the case of cross-border activities.

²¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

²¹ Council Recommendation of 14 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships (OJ C 88, 27.3.2014, p. 1).

^{21a} Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets, and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 107, 22.4.2016, p. 1).

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Efforts should be made to ensure that traineeships and jobs are opened to all young people, in particular to young people with fewer opportunities to participate in solidarity-related activities, including those with disabilities, social or cultural disadvantages, migrants and residents in isolated rural areas and the outermost regions of the Union.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in **self-employment** or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Amendment

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative **and their active citizenship** is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. **Those projects should be an opportunity for young people to develop innovative solutions and try out ideas in a sustainable way to** support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They **could** also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and **could be** a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in **social entrepreneurship or as volunteers in** associations, non-governmental organisations (**NGO's**), **youth organisations** or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit, youth **and disability** sectors **and the setting up of their own associations. Post-placement support will aim to support young people in remaining engaged and active in the solidarity sector, including through involvement with associations, cooperatives, social enterprises, youth organisations and community centres as well as the sector supporting people with disabilities.**

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities

Amendment

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities

committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of *useful* practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect feedback from participants and participating organisations on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of *best* practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect feedback from participants and participating organisations on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Particular attention should be *given* to ensuring the quality of the activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

Amendment

(15) Particular attention should be *paid* to ensuring the quality of the *solidarity* activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering *participants online and offline* training *and* language support *in a way that respects the principle of multilingualism*, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. *These support measures should be developed and provided in collaboration with youth organisations and other non-profit and civil society organisations in order to tap into their expertise in the field. These support measures should take into account the environment and the nature of activities*

carried out by participants, with special attention paid to any potential risks. Security and safety of the participants, in particular where this concerns children and persons in vulnerable situations, remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts, nor to facilities that contravene international human rights standards or Union policies, such as the commitment to end the institutionalisation of children and measures prohibiting ESIF to maintain residential institutions.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15a) In the case of solidarity activities involving children, only participants who have direct relevant qualifications should have direct contact with children, and they should complete child protection training and vetting procedures in advance of their activity. During the activity, appropriate safeguarding policies and procedures should be in place to protect children and participants, and the latter should be subject to on-going supervision to ensure that child protection policies are being effectively implemented.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the

knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²².

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²². ***To that end, the use of effective instruments at Union and national level for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, such as Youthpass and Europass, should be encouraged, as appropriate.***

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Amendment

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps. ***Separate quality labels should be put in place for volunteering and for traineeships and jobs, taking into consideration the specific characteristics of each component, to ensure the effective and continuous compliance of participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps*** as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label ***should be*** a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps. ***The process that leads to attribution of a quality label should not***

create additional bureaucracy that would dissuade organisations and private businesses from contributions to the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access – ***which should be barrier-free for people with disabilities*** – to the European Solidarity Corps, and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24a) It is essential for the good functioning of the Programme and the timely deployment of the actions that mechanisms are put in place within the European Solidarity Corps work programmes to guarantee that offers are presented to registered young people within a reasonable and relatively predictable amount of time. Periodic information and updates on available placements and actively involved participating organisations should therefore be sent to registered individual in order to stimulate their engagement

with the European Solidarity Corps after their registration, while also offering them the opportunity to directly get in touch with the actors involved in the field of solidarity at both national and European level.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, ***notably the most disadvantaged ones***. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, ***in particular young people with fewer opportunities as further detailed in the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy developed and applied within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme in the youth field***. Special measures, ***such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised guidance***, should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people ***and young persons with disabilities***, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should *preferably* work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

Amendment

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations, ***organisations representing people with disabilities***, and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 40

Text proposed by the Commission

(40) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, provided that these are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment

(40) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union ***in a barrier-free way***, provided that these are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) ‘solidarity activity’ means a high-

Amendment

(1) ‘solidarity activity’ means a high-

quality temporary activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;

quality temporary activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations, **and does not include activities that contravene international human rights standards and Union policies, such as the commitment to end the institutionalisation of children and persons with disabilities;**

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) ‘young people with fewer opportunities’ means young people facing some obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or for reasons such as disabilities **and** educational difficulties;

Amendment

(4) ‘young people with fewer opportunities’ means young people facing some obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or for reasons such as disabilities, educational difficulties **or having grown up in institutionalised care;**

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) ‘participating organisation’ means any public or private entity, whether local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label;

Amendment

(5) ‘participating organisation’ means any public or private entity, whether local, regional, national or international, **profit-making or not for profit**, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label **which ensures that this entity is able to implement the solidarity activities in accordance with the objectives**

of the European Solidarity Corps, and that offers a volunteering, traineeship or job opportunity to a participant or implements and supports other activities in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) ‘volunteering’ means a solidarity activity taking place as voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to 12 months;

Amendment

(6) ‘volunteering’ means a solidarity activity ***that takes the form of a*** voluntary unpaid activity for a period of up to 12 months ***and which provides young people with an opportunity to contribute to the work of participating organisations on solidarity-related activities to the benefit of the communities where such activities are carried out;***

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) ‘traineeship’ means a solidarity activity for a period from ***two*** to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(7) ‘traineeship’ means a ***paid*** solidarity activity ***that takes the form of work practice within a participating organisation*** for a period from ***three*** to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant ***and that involves a learning component to gain relevant skills and experience;***

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) ‘job’ means a solidarity activity for a period from 2 to 12 months, paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(8) ‘job’ means a **paid** solidarity activity for a period from 3 to 12 months, **which includes a learning and training component, is based on a written agreement and that is offered and** paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant, **not replacing or substituting an existing employment opportunity**;

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) ‘quality label’ means the certification attributed to **a participating** organisation willing to provide solidarity activities **under** the European Solidarity Corps, **in the role of a host and/or in a support** function;

Amendment

(10) “quality label” means the certification attributed to **an** organisation willing to provide solidarity activities, **either in a host function, or in a supporting function, including a sending function, or both, that certifies that the organisation is able to ensure quality of solidarity activities in accordance with the principles and objectives of** the European Solidarity Corps, **and that is attributed according to varying specific requirements depending on the type of solidarity activity and the function of the organisation; separate quality labels shall be put in place for volunteering and for traineeships and jobs**;

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Article 3

Amendment

Article 3

Programme objectives

1. The general objective of the Programme is to ***enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy*** in the Union and abroad, ***addressing*** societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

3. The objectives of the Programme shall be implemented under the following strands of actions:

(a) ***participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges***, as referred to in Article 6;

(b) ***participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities*** (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8;

Programme objectives

1. The general objective of the Programme is to ***promote solidarity, democracy and cohesion*** in the Union and abroad, ***to support communities and respond to*** societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion ***and democratic participation, by enhancing the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities***.

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences ***and developing their skills*** as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

3. The objectives of the Programme shall be implemented under the following strands of actions:

(a) solidarity activities addressing societal challenges, as referred to in Article 6;

(b) European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps as referred to in Article 10.

Amendment

(b) traineeships and jobs ***of high quality***, as referred to in Article 8;

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) their **approach** to involve young people from different backgrounds;

Amendment

(d) their ***inclusiveness and their effective ability*** to involve young people from different backgrounds, ***including those with disabilities***;

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Article 5

Actions common to both strands

1. Networking activities, as referred to in Article 4.1, point (d), shall aim at:

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer **good** quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and participating organisations;

(c) providing **opportunities to give** feedback on solidarity activities; and

(d) contributing to exchange of experiences and strengthening the sense of belonging among the individuals and entities participating in the European Solidarity Corps and thus support its wider positive impact.

2. Quality and support measures, as referred to in Article 4.1, point (e), shall include:

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality of volunteering, traineeships **or** jobs, including training, language support,

Amendment

Article 5

Actions common to both strands

1. Networking activities, as referred to in Article 4.1, point (d), shall aim at:

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer **high** quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and participating organisations,

(ba) facilitating accessibility of people with disabilities to all offered activities;

(c) providing feedback on solidarity activities; and

(d) contributing to exchange of experiences and strengthening the sense of belonging among the individuals and entities participating in the European Solidarity Corps and thus support its wider positive impact.

2. Quality and support measures, as referred to in Article 4.1, point (e), shall include:

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality **and accessibility** of volunteering, traineeships, jobs **or solidarity projects and**

complementary insurance, support before *or* after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass *that identifies* and *documents* the competences acquired during the solidarity activities for participants, and capacity building and, administrative support for participating organisations;

(b) the development and maintenance of a quality *label* for entities willing to provide *solidarity activities* for the European Solidarity Corps;

(c) the activities of European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres to support and raise the quality of the implementation of the actions of the European Solidarity Corps and enhance the validation of their outcomes;

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

equal opportunities for all young people across participating countries including *offline and online* training, language support, *child protection and safeguarding training and background checks for participants working with children, administrative support for participants and participating organisations,* complementary insurance, support before *and, where necessary,* after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass *to identify* and *document* the competences acquired during the solidarity activities for participants, and capacity building and, administrative support for participating organisations;

(b) the development and maintenance of *separate* quality *labels* for entities willing to *respectively* provide *volunteering, traineeships or jobs* for the European Solidarity Corps *in order to ensure compliance with the principles and requirements of the Programme;*

(c) the activities of European Solidarity Corps Resource Centres to support and raise the quality of the implementation of the actions of the European Solidarity Corps and enhance the validation of their outcomes;

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the *multilingual* European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation CHAPTER III – title

Text proposed by the Commission

***PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE
IN SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES
ADDRESSING SOCIETAL
CHALLENGES***

Amendment

**SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES
ADDRESSING SOCIETAL
CHALLENGES**

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘**Participation of young people in** solidarity activities addressing societal challenges’ shall in particular contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, while also responding to societal challenges with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment

1. Actions implemented under the strand ‘solidarity activities addressing societal challenges’ shall in particular contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, while also responding to societal challenges with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8;

Amendment

(b) traineeships and jobs **of high quality**, as referred to in Article 8;

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) **shall provide young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity activities to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out**, shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8

Text proposed by the Commission

Article 8

Traineeships and jobs

1. A traineeship as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and taking into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.

2. A job as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on **an** employment contract in **accordance with** the national **regulatory framework** of the **participating** country **where** the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed **12** months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds **12** months.

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a learning and training component.

4. Traineeships and jobs may take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border)

Amendment

Article 8

Traineeships and jobs

1. A traineeship as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) **shall always be paid and** be based on a written traineeship agreement **concluded at the beginning of the traineeship** in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, **indicating the educational objectives, the working conditions, the duration of the traineeship, the remuneration of the participant and the rights and obligations of the parties**, and taking into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.

2. A job as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on a **written** employment contract **which respects all the terms and conditions of employment as defined** in the national **law, applicable collective agreements, or both** of the country **in which** the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed **twelve** months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds **twelve** months.

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a learning and training component, **to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the participants' personal, educational, social, civic and professional development.**

4. Traineeships and jobs may take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border)

or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The financial support to solidarity activities referred to in Article 7 and Article 8 shall indicatively be 80 % for volunteering and solidarity projects; and 20 % for either traineeships or jobs, or both, with a maximum of 20 % for in-country activities.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems.

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems. ***This amount shall be made equally accessible for all of the three strands of the Programme and shall be distributed in relation to the demonstrable needs of the relevant projects and activities.***

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing

Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing

to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. However, at the moment of commencing volunteering, traineeship, job or a solidarity project a young person shall be at least 18 years of age **and not older than 30**.

to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal, **which shall be accessible to people with disabilities**. However, at the moment of commencing volunteering, traineeship, job or a solidarity project a young person shall be at least 18 years of age.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16

Text proposed by the Commission

Article 16

Participating organisations

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

2. An application from an entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps on the basis of the principles of equal treatment; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; avoidance of job substitution; provision of high quality activities with learning dimension focusing on personal, socio-educational and professional development; adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements; safe and decent environment and conditions; and the 'no-profit principle' in compliance with the

Amendment

Article 16

Participating organisations

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label **to attest that they offer activities that are in line with principles and objectives of the European Solidarity Corps and fully correspond to the definition of solidarity activity within this Regulation. In line with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, the grants shall not have the purpose and effect of producing a profit.**

2. An application from an entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps on the basis of the principles of equal treatment; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; avoidance of job substitution; provision of high quality activities with learning dimension focusing on personal, socio-educational and professional development; adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements; safe and decent environment and conditions, **including policies and procedures to ensure child**

Financial Regulation. The above principles ascertain whether its activities meet the requirements of the European Solidarity Corps.

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and may be revoked.

4. Any entity which has received the European Solidarity Corps quality label shall be given access to the European Solidarity Corps Portal in the role of a host function, in a support function, or both, and shall be able to make offers for solidarity activities to registered candidates.

protection during the activity; adherence to international human rights standards; commitment to the end the institutionalisation of children and persons with disabilities and the 'no-profit principle' in compliance with the Financial Regulation. The above principles ascertain whether its activities meet the requirements of the European Solidarity Corps. ***The quality label shall only be attributed to organisations committing to comply with these principles. Compliance shall be controlled in accordance with Articles 26 and 27 of this Regulation.***

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically ***or may be re-assessed upon request from participants*** and may be revoked. ***Any entity which substantially changes its activities shall inform the competent implementing body for reassessment. The process for attributing the quality label for volunteering shall be differentiated from the one used for jobs and traineeships.***

4. Any entity which has received the European Solidarity Corps quality label shall be given access to the European Solidarity Corps Portal in the role of a host function, in a support function, or both, and shall be able to make offers for solidarity activities to registered candidates.

4a. Participating organisations who have been attributed a quality label shall have access to a platform to easily search for suitable applicants in order to make the process an easier one for both participants and participating organisations to engage in solidarity activities.

4b. Participating organisations shall facilitate the promotion of the European Solidarity Corps by offering the possibility for former participants to share their experience and act as ambassadors to the

potential next generation of European Solidarity Corps participants through the facilitation of a network.

5. The European Solidarity Corps quality label shall not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

6. The solidarity activities and related quality and support measures offered by a participating organisation may receive funding under the European Solidarity Corps or from other funding sources which do not depend on the Union budget.

7. For organisations participating in the context of activities as referred to in Article 11 the safety and security of volunteers shall be a priority.

5. The European Solidarity Corps quality label shall not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

6. The solidarity activities and related quality and support measures offered by a participating organisation may receive funding under the European Solidarity Corps or from other funding sources which do not depend on the Union budget.

7. For organisations participating in the context of activities as referred to in Article 11 the safety and security of volunteers shall be a priority.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop ***a consistent strategy*** with regard to ***the*** effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage ***within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.***

Amendment

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop ***policies*** with regard to effective outreach. ***Such policies shall also target young people with fewer opportunities including in remote areas*** as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage, ***involving also youth organisations and specialised youth information services, as appropriate.***

Communication activities shall also contribute to the communication of the political priorities of the Union, provided that they are related to the general objective of this Regulation and that they represent added value and visibility for

the Union.

Participating organisations shall use the brand name “European Solidarity Corps” for the purposes of communication and dissemination of information related to the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. *The Commission shall organise regular meetings and trainings with and for the network of national agencies in order to ensure coherent implementation of the European Solidarity Corps across all participating countries. The Commission shall regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.*

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation Annex – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Indicators for monitoring and reporting:

The European Solidarity Corps shall be closely monitored in order to measure the extent to which the general objective and the specific objectives have been achieved, as well as monitor its outputs, results and impacts. To that end, a minimum framework of indicators is laid down, to serve as a basis for a future detailed programme for monitoring the outputs, results and impacts of the European Solidarity Corps, including an extended set of qualitative and quantitative indicators:

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Annex

Text proposed by the Commission

Annex

Indicators for monitoring and reporting:

- (a) number of participants in **solidarity activities**;

- (b) **percentage** of participants **from a fewer opportunities** background; and

- (c) number of **organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps Quality Label**.

Amendment

Annex

Output indicators

- (a) number of participants in **volunteering (in-country and cross-border) broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment**;

- (b) **number** of participants **in traineeships (in-country and cross-border) broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment**;

- (c) number of **participants in jobs (in-country and cross-border) broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment**;
 - (ca) **number of participants in solidarity projects broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment**;
 - (cb) **number of organisations holding a quality label broken down by country and funding received**;
 - (cc) **number of participating young people with fewer opportunities. Result indicators (Composite indicators)**;
 - (cd) **number of participants reporting positive learning outcomes**;
 - (ce) **percentage of participants whose learning outcomes have been recognised through a certificate such as Youthpass, or another type of formal recognition of their participation in the European Solidarity Corps**;
 - (cf) **overall satisfaction rate of participants with regard to the quality of activities**;

(cg) number of people supported directly or indirectly through solidarity activities.

In addition, as appropriate, the coherence with key indicators for Youth as referred to in Annex [XX new Erasmus + Regulation] shall be ensured.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme
References	COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 2.7.2018
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	EMPL 2.7.2018
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Rapporteur Date appointed	Deirdre Clune 29.6.2018
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Date adopted	3.12.2018
Result of final vote	+: 34 -: 3 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Laura Agea, Guillaume Balas, Brando Benifei, Enrique Calvet Chambon, David Casa, Michael Detjen, Geoffroy Didier, Lampros Fountoulis, Marian Harkin, Agnes Jongerius, Rina Ronja Kari, Jan Keller, Ádám Kósa, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Jean Lambert, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Patrick Le Hyaric, Jeroen Lenaers, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Thomas Mann, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Emilian Pavel, Georgi Pirinski, Dennis Radtke, Terry Reintke, Robert Rochefort, Claude Rolin, Siôn Simon, Ulrike Trebesius
Substitutes present for the final vote	Georges Bach, Heinz K. Becker, Deirdre Clune, Tania González Peñas, Alex Mayer, Jasenko Selimovic, Helga Stevens, Monika Vana
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Caterina Chinnici, Paolo De Castro

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

34	+
ALDE	Enrique Calvet Chambon, Marian Harkin, Robert Rochefort, Jasenko Selimovic
ECR	Helga Stevens, Ulrike Trebesius
PPE	Georges Bach, Heinz K. Becker, David Casa, Deirdre Clune, Geoffroy Didier, Adam Kósa, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Jeroen Lenaers, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Thomas Mann, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Dennis Radtke, Claude Rolin
S&D	Guillaume Balas, Brando Benifei, Caterina Chinnici, Paolo De Castro, Michael Detjen, Agnes Jongerius, Jan Keller, Alex Mayer, Emilian Pavel, Georgi Pirinski, Siôn Simon
VERTS/ALE	Jean Lambert, Terry Reintke, Monika Vana

3	-
GUE/NGL	Tania González Peñas, Rina Ronja Kari, Patrick Le Hyaric

2	0
EFDD	Laura Agea
NI	Lampros Fountoulis

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

22.11.2018

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Tiemo Wölken

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The rapporteur welcomes the proposal to establish a European Solidarity Corps (ESC) for the period 2021 - 2027 put forward by the European Commission on 11 June 2018. The European Union is built on solidarity: solidarity between its citizens, solidarity across borders between its Member States, and solidarity in its action inside and outside the Union. It is a shared value that is strongly felt within the European Union.

The ESC creates an initiative that gives young people who want to engage in solidarity activities the possibility to develop their own skills, whilst being able to act on their aspirations for a better Union. More solidarity will keep Europe together and strive it towards a stronger Union that works together in solidarity.

The ESC not only builds on established programmes such as the European Voluntary Service that provided opportunities for young people over the past 20 years, but also expands in offering new opportunities, wider visibility and greater impact. It will help young people to create common values across the Union and hence make the Union stronger.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6 a) The elimination of discrimination is vital to fulfil the Union's commitments towards an inclusive Europe; therefore the European Solidarity Corps should promote gender balance and put a strong emphasis on gender equality commitments.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new ***formal and informal learning*** opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarity-related areas ***in a non-profit context*** can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the quality principles outlined in Council Recommendation on establishing a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

²¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

²¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(27) The European Solidarity Corps targets young people aged 18-30, and participation in the activities offered by the European Solidarity Corps should require prior registration in the European Solidarity Corps Portal.

(27) The European Solidarity Corps targets young people aged 18-30, and participation in the activities offered by the European Solidarity Corps should require prior registration in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. ***For the humanitarian aid operations, a derogation to the age limits should be made for the purpose of recruiting participants with special professional skills that are needed for the successful execution of such activities.***

Justification

Current volunteering programme for Humanitarian aid operations, The EU Aid Volunteers, is open for participants over 18 years without upper age limit. This good practice should be continued after merging the programmes. This should be done for the purpose of recruiting participants with special professional skills, which could be needed for the successful execution of humanitarian aid operations.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. ***Accordingly, the monitoring of the Programme shall report upon the extent to which the Programme meets its aspiration to reflect the diverse make up of European Society in terms of ethnicity, gender, (dis)ability, social background and the geography of the Union.*** Similarly, the participating countries

residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of 25 % of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment

(29) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of **at least** 25 % of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives **over the MFF 2021-2027 period, and an annual target of 30 % as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027**. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the

implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 1 260 000 000 in current prices.

implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR **1 112 988 000 in 2018 prices** [EUR 1 260 000 000 in current prices].

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) The financial contributions made by and expected from third countries to the Programme shall, once sufficient information is available, be reported to both arms of the Budgetary Authority as part of the annual/or interim reporting of the Programme.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. However, at the moment of commencing volunteering, traineeship, job or a solidarity project a young person shall be at least 18 years of age and not older than 30.

Young people aged 17 to 30 years willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps shall register in the European Solidarity Corps Portal. However, at the moment of commencing volunteering, traineeship, job or a solidarity project a young person shall be at least 18 years of age and not older than 30. ***For the humanitarian aid operations, a derogation to the age limit shall be made for the purpose of recruiting participants with professional skills that are needed for the successful execution of such operations.***

Justification

Current volunteering programme for Humanitarian aid operations, The EU Aid Volunteers, is open for participants over 18 years without upper age limit. This good practice should be continued after merging the programmes. This should be done for the purpose of recruiting

participants with special professional skills, which could be needed for the successful execution of humanitarian aid operations.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) percentages of gender balance, ethnicity, (dis)ability and geography of the Union.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme
References	COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 2.7.2018
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 2.7.2018
Rapporteur Date appointed	Tiemo Wölken 28.6.2018
Discussed in committee	26.9.2018
Date adopted	21.11.2018
Result of final vote	+: 27 –: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, André Elissen, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, John Howarth, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Jan Olbrycht, Răzvan Popa, Petri Sarvamaa, Jordi Solé, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken, Stanisław Żółtek
Substitutes present for the final vote	Karine Gloanec Maurin, Giovanni La Via, Ivana Maletić, Andrey Novakov, Tomáš Zdechovský

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

27	+
ALDE	Jean Arthuis, Gérard Deprez
ECR	Zbigniew Kuźmiuk
PPE	Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, Giovanni La Via, Ivana Maletić, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Inese Vaidere, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Karine Gloanec Maurin, John Howarth, Vladimír Maňka, Răzvan Popa, Manuel dos Santos, Isabelle Thomas, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken
VERTS/ALE	Jordi Solé, Indrek Tarand, Monika Vana

4	-
ECR	Bernd Kölmel
ENF	André Elissen, Stanisław Żółtek
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

21.1.2019

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ivana Maletić

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Solidarity Corps is the new EU initiative which promotes solidarity as a basic EU value among its citizens and among its Member States, and creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.

The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge skills and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions. The rapporteur specially emphasised that the solidarity activities offered to young people should target those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Volunteering activities, both within and beyond the Union, constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. The rapporteur stressed that participants in voluntary activities should be fully compensated for their costs related to the volunteering activity, such as accommodation, local transport, pocket money, meals, transportation from their place of residence to the place of the voluntary and back.

The European Solidarity Corps offer young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local and

regional communities. These projects are a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. Furthermore, European Solidarity Corps projects are the first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations, social enterprises or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label as a precondition for participation. The rapporteur emphasised that the attributed quality label should be reassessed at least every two years and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national, regional and local level. In that manner, special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. In order to better achieve the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, social enterprises, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

This proposal introduces several simplifications for individuals, organizations and at institutional level. The rapporteur proposes further simplifications of existing financial procedure, by giving preference to the simplified cost option, in order to simplify requirements for the beneficiaries. The rapporteur agrees with proposal for laying down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies, but taking into consideration the simplification requirements and not imposing additional burden on participants and participating organisations.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The European Union is ***built on*** solidarity, among its citizens and among its

Amendment

(1) The European Union is ***founded on common values and*** solidarity, among its

Member States. *This* common *value guides* its actions and *provides the necessary unity* to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

citizens and its Member States, *and between generations*. These common values guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges *at European and international level*, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016¹⁸, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

Amendment

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016¹⁸, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national, *regional* and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible **and inclusive** opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which **will** enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities, **including local communities**, while acquiring useful experience, **knowledge**, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability **at national, regional, European and where appropriate at cross-border or international level**. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality **and target especially those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)**, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening **local communities and social cohesion**, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge, **skills** and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe, **inclusive** and healthy conditions.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service¹⁹ and the EU Aid Volunteers²⁰. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122,

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service¹⁹ and the EU Aid Volunteers²⁰. It also complements the efforts made by Member States, **regions and cities** to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122,

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity **programmes and** projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social

Amendment

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities **and supported by the local and regional authorities**, while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, **IT and new technologies**, developed in relation to different areas, such as **formal and non-**

entrepreneurship –,citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

formal education and *informal learning, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, and* training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –,citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid *education and* learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability.

Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, *exchanges of good practices,* and, *the perspectives of* employability *on the labour market.* Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it.

Participants in volunteering activities should be adequately compensated for their costs related to the volunteering activity including accommodation, local transport, pocket money, meals, transportation from their place of residence to the place of the volunteering

activity and back. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to **try out ideas** and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Amendment

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local **and regional** communities **taking account of specific local, regional and cross-border factors where necessary**. These projects are an opportunity to **develop innovative solutions to key challenges** and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations, **social enterprises** or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and

Amendment

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and

other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, **access to personal support service**, insurance, administrative, **pre-** and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(17) A quality label should ensure **effective and continuous** compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience, **including preparation and follow up phases**. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should

Amendment

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should

receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed ***at least every four years*** and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) The scaling-up of European Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture.

Amendment

(21) The scaling-up of European Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. ***At the same time, accurate and continually updated information regarding these opportunities should be provided for potential beneficiaries.*** Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European

Amendment

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy ***and user-friendly***

Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. ***Accordingly, the monitoring of the programme shall report upon the extent to which participation meets the aspiration to reflect the diverse make up of society in terms of minority groups, (dis)ability, social/financial disadvantage and the regional origin of the participants.*** Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as

well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Recital 38

Text proposed by the Commission

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national and local level. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the Programme, including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders.

Amendment

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national, **regional** and local level. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the Programme, including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should **preferably** work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions

Amendment

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, **social enterprises**, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions, **including volunteer infrastructure and support agencies such as volunteer centres**.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 41

Text proposed by the Commission

(41) In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of this Regulation, the Programme should make maximum use of existing management arrangements already in place. The implementation of the Programme should therefore be entrusted to existing structures, namely the Commission and the national agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation]. The Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(41) In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of this Regulation, the Programme should make maximum use of existing management arrangements already in place. The implementation of the Programme should therefore be entrusted to existing structures, namely the Commission and the national agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation]. The Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps ***and actively involve them in the decision making process.***

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) “volunteer” means a person who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal, carries out activities benefiting society, of their own free will;

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) ‘solidarity project’ means an unpaid in-country solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of

(9) ‘solidarity project’ means an unpaid in-country ***or cross-border*** solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months,

at least five European Solidarity Corps **participants**, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants **or by a participating organisation**, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Amendment

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible **and inclusive** opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad, **with emphasis on candidate and potential candidate countries** while improving and properly validating their **knowledge and** competences as well as facilitating their employability.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) their approach to involve young people from different backgrounds;

Amendment

(d) their **inclusive** approach to involve young people from different **and disadvantaged** backgrounds, **including those facing barriers to fully participate in the programme**;

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality of volunteering, traineeships or jobs, including training, language support, complementary insurance, support before or after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass that identifies and documents the competences acquired during the solidarity activities for participants, and capacity building and, administrative support for participating organisations;

Amendment

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality ***and accessibility*** of volunteering, traineeships or jobs, including training, language support, complementary insurance, support before or after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass that identifies and documents the competences acquired during the solidarity activities for participants, and capacity building and, administrative support for participating organisations;

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) measures aimed at promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities;

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) ***shall be focused and have an impact on identified community needs***, shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement. ***Such agreement shall ensure an adequate legal and social protection of the participant. Participants in volunteering activities shall be adequately compensated for their costs related to the volunteering activity.***

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The simplified cost option shall be given preference, in order to simplify requirements for the beneficiaries.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

When implementing this Regulation, the Commission, the Members States and other participating countries shall promote social inclusion and equal access conditions, including for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities

+

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed ***periodically*** and may be revoked

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed ***at least every four years*** and may be revoked ***in case of misuse***.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 20 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the start of the programme implementation. It shall **also** be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

Amendment

2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the start of the programme implementation. It shall be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

Amendment

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin **thereof** and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the actions and their results) by providing **prompt**, coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including, the media and the public.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, **its target public, its duration** and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to the effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

Amendment

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to **information and** the effective outreach, as well as dissemination **to all potential beneficiaries** and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies;

Amendment

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies, **taking into consideration the simplification requirements and not imposing additional burden on participants and participating organisations.**

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Audits on the use of the Union

Amendment

1. Audits on the use of the Union

contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union Institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to [Article 127] of the Financial Regulation.

contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to Article [127] of the Financial Regulation **and shall be carried out in accordance with the same criteria in all Member States.**

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

Amendment

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall **be proportionate and adequate and shall** give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Commission shall take appropriate measures ensuring that, when actions financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background; ***and***

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background;

Amendment

(ba) percentages for gender balance, minority groups, (dis)ability and regional origin of the participants.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme
References	COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 2.7.2018
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 2.7.2018
Rapporteur Date appointed	Ivana Maletić 20.6.2018
Discussed in committee	21.11.2018
Date adopted	17.1.2019
Result of final vote	+: 28 –: 1 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Pascal Arimont, Franc Bogovič, Rosa D’Amato, Tamás Deutsch, Aleksander Gabelic, Iratxe García Pérez, Michela Giuffrida, Krzysztof Hetman, Marc Joulaud, Sławomir Kłosowski, Constanze Krehl, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Martina Michels, Iskra Mihaylova, Andrey Novakov, Younous Omarjee, Konstantinos Papadakis, Mirosław Piotrowski, Stanislav Polčák, Liliana Rodrigues, Fernando Ruas, Monika Smolková, Ruža Tomašić, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Monika Vana, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Derek Vaughan, Kerstin Westphal, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ivana Maletić, Bronis Ropė, Maria Gabriela Zoană
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Damiano Zoffoli

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

28	+
ALDE	Iskra Mihaylova, Matthijs van Miltenburg
ECR	Sławomir Kłosowski, Mirosław Piotrowski, Ruža Tomašić
PPE	Pascal Arimont, Franc Bogovič, Tamás Deutsch, Krzysztof Hetman, Marc Joulaud, Ivana Maletić, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Andrey Novakov, Stanislav Polčák, Fernando Ruas, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Joachim Zeller
S&D	Aleksander Gabelic, Iratxe García Pérez, Michela Giuffrida, Constanze Krehl, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Liliana Rodrigues, Monika Smolková, Derek Vaughan, Kerstin Westphal, Maria Gabriela Zoană, Damiano Zoffoli

1	-
NI	Konstantinos Papadakis

5	0
EFDD	Rosa D'Amato
GUE/NGL	Martina Michels, Younous Omarjee
VERTS/ALE	Bronis Ropè, Monika Vana

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme			
References	COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD)			
Date submitted to Parliament	11.6.2018			
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 2.7.2018			
Committees asked for opinions Date announced in plenary	DEVE 2.7.2018	BUDG 2.7.2018	EMPL 2.7.2018	ENVI 2.7.2018
	REGI 2.7.2018			
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	ENVI 21.6.2018			
Associated committees Date announced in plenary	DEVE 5.7.2018	EMPL 5.7.2018		
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Michaela Šojdrová 1.6.2018			
Discussed in committee	10.10.2018			
Date adopted	4.2.2019			
Result of final vote	+: -: 0:	14 1 1		
Members present for the final vote	Dominique Bilde, Andrea Bocskor, Silvia Costa, María Teresa Giménez Barbat, Petra Kammerevert, Rupert Matthews, Luigi Morgano, Michaela Šojdrová, Helga Trüpel, Sabine Verheyen, Julie Ward, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Milan Zver			
Substitutes present for the final vote	Norbert Erdős, Romeo Franz, Dietmar Köster			
Date tabled	15.2.2019			

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

14	+
ALDE	María Teresa Giménez Barbat
PPE	Andrea Boeskor, Norbert Erdős, Michaela Šojdrová, Sabine Verheyen, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Milan Zver
S&D	Silvia Costa, Petra Kammerevert, Dietmar Köster, Luigi Morgano, Julie Ward
VERTS/ALE	Romeo Franz, Helga Trüpel

1	-
ENF	Dominique Bilde

1	0
ECR	Rupert Matthews

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention