Plenary sitting

26.2.2015 B8-0298/2015

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on the abolition of the requirement to teach pupils the language and culture of their country of origin

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Motion for a resolution on the abolition of the requirement to teach pupils the language and culture of their country of origin

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Directive 77/486/EEC of 25 July 1977 on the education of the children of migrant workers,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the objective of the ELCO (teaching languages and cultures of origin) programme, which was introduced in France in 1975, was to make integration easier for the children of migrant workers;
- B. whereas the ELCO programme gives mastery of the child's language of origin priority over mastery of French (the 'second language');
- C. whereas schools should not have to deal with issues relating to a child's specific cultural and family background, which are private matters;
- D. whereas Directive 77/486/EEC gave as the main reason for setting up programmes for migrant children that of 'facilitating their possible reintegration into the Member State of origin';
- 1. Believes that the ELCO programme is no longer relevant, given that immigrants now tend to settle permanently in the host country, and that it encourages ghettoism;
- 2. Emphasises that learning and mastering the host country language is a prerequisite for successful integration;
- 3. Calls on the Commission to abolish the requirement to teach pupils the language and culture of their country of origin, and to emphasise the teaching of the host country language;
- 4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the national parliaments.

