

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2007/0145(COD)

4.4.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through co-operation with third countries (Erasmus Mundus) (2009-2013) (COM(2007)0395 – C6-0228/2007 – 2007/0145(COD))

Draftswoman: Teresa Riera Madurell

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

As the overall results of participation show, the first phase of the Erasmus Mundus Programme has been a great success. However, the picture is less flourishing if one analyses the percentage of women participation. In this light, the aim of the drafts person has been twofold: to promote the basic right of equality between men and women through education in order to contribute towards more just and democratic societies and to enhance the concrete mechanisms which can help increase the programme's accessibility for women in order to avoid such a waste of talents.

Therefore, proposed amendments refer to the implementation of gender mainstreaming when defining educational programmes, to women's access to and participation in the programme through gender-sensitive selection criteria and procedures, to the gender-balanced representation in the programme's Committee, and to the gathering of gender-based data in the programme's evaluations reports.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendment

(7) Enhancing the quality of European higher education, promoting understanding between peoples as well as contributing to the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education avoiding brain-drain whilst favouring vulnerable groups are the core objectives of a higher education cooperation programme aimed at third countries. The most effective means to achieve these aims in a programme of excellence are highly integrated study programmes **at postgraduate level**, collaborative partnerships with third countries, scholarships for the most talented

(7) ***Contributing to the personal fulfilment of European students***, enhancing the quality of European higher education, promoting understanding between peoples, as well as contributing to the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education avoiding brain-drain whilst favouring vulnerable groups ***contributing to social cohesion, active citizenship and gender equality, through elimination of social gender stereotypes***, are the core objectives of a higher education cooperation programme aimed at third countries. The most effective means to achieve these aims

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

students and projects to enhance the worldwide attractiveness of European higher education.

in a programme of excellence are highly integrated study programmes, *either after the sixth level of the European Qualifications Framework, or after the first cycle of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna)*, collaborative partnerships with third countries, scholarships for the most talented students and projects to enhance the worldwide attractiveness of European higher education.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) There is a need to step up the fight against exclusion in all its forms, including racism and xenophobia, and to step up Community efforts to promote dialogue and understanding between cultures world-wide, bearing in mind the social dimension of higher education as well as the ideals of democracy and respect for human rights, especially as mobility fosters the exchange with new cultural and social environments and facilitates understanding thereof, and in so doing to ensure that no group of citizens or of third-country nationals is excluded or disadvantaged as mentioned in Article 21(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Amendment

(8) There is a need to step up the fight against exclusion in all its forms, including racism and xenophobia **and discrimination against women**, and to step up Community efforts to promote dialogue and understanding between cultures world-wide, bearing in mind the social dimension of higher education as well as the ideals of democracy and respect for human rights, **including equality between women and men**, especially as mobility fosters the exchange with new cultural and social environments and facilitates understanding thereof, and in so doing to ensure that no group of citizens or of third-country nationals is excluded or disadvantaged as mentioned in Article 21(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) In all its activities, the Community must aim to eliminate inequalities, and promote equality, between men and women, as

Amendment

(12) In all its activities, the Community must aim to eliminate inequalities, and promote equality, between men and women, as

provided for in Article 3(2) of the Treaty.

provided for in Article 3(2) of the Treaty,
***giving special consideration to the
integration of gender perspective in all
types and levels of education and in
accordance with the objectives of the
roadmap for equality between women and
men (2006-2010) (COM(2006)0092).***

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) There is a need to widen access for those from ***disadvantaged*** groups and to address actively the special learning needs of people with disabilities in the implementation of all parts of the programme, including through the use of higher grants to reflect the additional costs of ***disabled*** participants.

Amendment

(13) There is a need to widen access for those from ***vulnerable*** groups and to address actively the special learning needs of people with disabilities ***or learning difficulties*** in the implementation of all parts of the programme, including through the use of higher grants to reflect the additional costs of participants ***affected and their families***.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 - paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The programme's overall aim is to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between peoples and cultures through cooperation with third countries as well as to promote EU external policy objectives and the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education.

Amendment

1. The programme's overall aim is to enhance the quality of European higher education, ***to promote the gaining of qualifications with a view to the future professional development and mobility of men and women,*** and to promote dialogue and understanding between peoples and cultures through cooperation with third countries as well as to promote EU external policy objectives and the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 - paragraph 2 - point (b a) (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) to contribute to the promotion of equality between women and men by improving women's access to and participation in the programme;

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 - paragraph 2 - point (d)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) to improve accessibility and enhance the profile and visibility of European higher education in the world as well as its attractiveness for third-country nationals.

(d) to improve accessibility ***and facilitate access for women from third countries, in particular those living in rural areas and economically less-favoured regions***, and to enhance the profile and visibility of European higher education in the world as well as its attractiveness for ***male and female academics and students who are*** third-country nationals.

Justification

Access to programmes such as this one may sometimes be difficult for women from rural areas, particularly in terms of information on the existence of programmes and the lack of financial resources which may pose an obstacle to their joining these programmes. Moreover, women from rural areas have an additional contribution to make to interculturality.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 - paragraph 2 - point (d a) (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) to help both to ensure that sciences and humanities are promoted equally in order to improve their position on the

labour market, and to encourage young people to match their qualifications to their options without being restricted by stereotypes, in particular gender-related stereotypes.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision

Article 4 - paragraph 2 - point (c a) (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) support for capacity building for gender mainstreaming in higher education;

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 - paragraph 2 - point (a)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) take the necessary steps to ensure the efficient running of the programme at Member State level involving all the parties concerned in higher education in accordance with national practice, including endeavours to adopt such measures as may be deemed appropriate to remove legal and administrative barriers;

(a) take the necessary steps to ensure the efficient running of the programme at Member State level involving all the parties concerned in higher education in accordance with national practice, including endeavours to adopt such measures as may be deemed appropriate to remove legal and administrative barriers *and guarantee equal treatment*;

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision

Article 7 - paragraph 2 - point (d)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) *the* selection criteria and procedures, including the composition and the internal rules of procedure of the selection board;

(d) *gender-sensitive* selection criteria and procedures, including the composition and the internal rules of procedure of the

selection board;

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision

Article 8 - paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee. ***It shall be ensured that there is a balanced representation of women and men in this Committee.***

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision

Article 10 - point (a)

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) enhancing the knowledge base of European economy and contributing to strengthening the global competitiveness of the European Union;

Amendment

(a) enhancing the knowledge base of European economy and contributing to ***creating more jobs in line with the Lisbon Strategy objectives and*** strengthening the global competitiveness of the European Union;

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision

Article 10 - point (d)

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) promoting equality between men and women and contributing to combating all forms of discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Amendment

(d) promoting equality between men and women and contributing to combating all forms of discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability ***or learning difficulty (in particular dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia)***, age or sexual orientation ***with a view to bolstering this equality and combating these forms of discrimination in third countries in the long term, so as***

to boost the active participation of young people and women in social, economic and political life in their countries.

Justification

Not all the Member States regard learning difficulties (in particular dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia) as a disability. Moreover, the educational arrangements made for students affected by these problems, such as authorisation to use a PC during exams, differ widely from one Member State to another. These students must be given an equal chance. The European Union also has an obligation to share experiences and promote the values of democracy, tolerance and respect for rights in education.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision

Article 13 - paragraph 3 - point (a)

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) an interim evaluation report on the results achieved and on the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the implementation of the programme by 31 March 2012;

Amendment

(a) an interim evaluation report, ***that includes gender-disaggregated data***, on the results achieved and on the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the implementation of the programme by 31 March 2012;

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision

Annex - Action 1 - A. Erasmus Mundus masters programmes - paragraph 2 - point h)

Text proposed by the Commission

h) shall reserve a minimum of places for, and host, European and third-country students who have been granted financial support under the programme;

Amendment

h) shall ***fix a percentage of the total number of*** places for, and host, ***male and female*** European and third-country students who have been granted financial support under the programme;

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision

Annex - Action 1 - C. Scholarships - paragraph 1 - point d a) (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

da) The Community will ensure and apply transparent criteria for the award of scholarships which take into account, inter alia, respect for the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination;

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision

Annex - Selection procedures - point a)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

a) proposals under action 1 will be selected by the Commission assisted by a selection board presided over by a person whom it elects, composed of personalities of high standing from the academic world who are representative of the diversity of higher education in the European Union. The selection board shall ensure that Erasmus Mundus masters programmes and doctoral programmes correspond to the highest academic quality. The Commission shall organise a European-level assessment of all eligible proposals by independent academic experts prior to submitting the proposals to the selection board. Each Erasmus Mundus masters programme and doctoral programme will be allocated a specific number of scholarships which will be paid to the selected individuals by the body managing the masters programmes and doctoral programmes. The selection of master students, doctoral candidates and academics will be carried out by the institutions participating in the Erasmus Mundus masters programmes and doctoral programmes following consultation with the Commission;

a) proposals under action 1 will be selected by the Commission assisted by a selection board presided over by a person whom it elects, composed of personalities of high standing from the academic world who are representative of the diversity of higher education in the European Union. The selection board shall ensure that Erasmus Mundus masters programmes and doctoral programmes correspond to the highest academic quality. The Commission shall organise a European-level assessment of all eligible proposals by independent academic experts prior to submitting the proposals to the selection board. Each Erasmus Mundus masters programme and doctoral programme will be allocated a specific number of scholarships which will be paid to the selected individuals by the body managing the masters programmes and doctoral programmes. The selection of master students, doctoral candidates and academics will be carried out by the institutions participating in the Erasmus Mundus masters programmes and doctoral programmes following consultation with the Commission. ***Inclusion of gender equality and equity issues in the programme***

contents will be considered positively;

PROCEDURE

Title	Erasmus Mundus programme (2009-2013)
References	COM(2007)0395 – C6-0228/2007 – 2007/0145(COD)
Committee responsible	CULT
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	FEMM 3.9.2007
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Teresa Riera Madurell 1.10.2007
Discussed in committee	28.2.2008 3.4.2008
Date adopted	3.4.2008
Result of final vote	+ : 23 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Edite Estrela, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Zita Gurmai, Livia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Urszula Krupa, Roselyne Lefrançois, Astrid Lulling, Zita Pleštinská, Anni Podimata, Christa Prets, Teresa Riera Madurell, Anne Van Lancker, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Mary Honeyball, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Petya Stavreva, Feleknaš Uca
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Manolis Mavrommatis