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Committee on Budgets

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the Bologna Process and student mobility
(2008/2070(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas Parliament has constantly made the mobility of students its budgetary priority and endeavoured to ensure an appropriate level of funding for the EU programmes in the field of education; whereas its firm position on that issue led, despite cuts operated by the Council on the Commission's proposal, to an increase of appropriations for the Lifelong Learning and Erasmus Mundus programmes negotiated under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2007-2013 and in recent budgetary procedures,
1. Notes that, considering the limited room for manoeuvre due to the narrow margins left in Heading 1a, efforts of Member States undertaken in the framework of intergovernmental cooperation in order to enhance the quality and competitiveness of education in the EU by, in particular, the promotion of mobility, ensuring recognition of qualification and quality assurance, are particularly welcomed;
 2. Stresses that, considering the limited resources available in the EU budget, the impact of the Lifelong Learning and Erasmus Mundus programmes as concerns mobility should be closely monitored in relation to the amounts of individual grants and number of persons to whom they are made available, in order to ensure an appropriate balance between maximising the number of beneficiaries and providing an appropriate level of individual funding;
 3. Notes that, in the context of the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework foreseen by the Declaration attached to the Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and sound financial management of 17 May 2006, a strengthening of the financial envelope foreseen for the programmes in the field of education could be considered, subject to the results of monitoring and evaluation of the programme;
 4. Reiterates its position, as expressed in paragraph 15 of the Parliament resolution on 2008 Budget, that implementation of the Lifelong Learning and Erasmus Mundus programmes by an executive agency must not lead to an increase of share of administrative costs in the total envelope.