

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on Culture and Education*

**2007/0145(COD)**

14.4.2008

**\*\*\*I**

## **DRAFT REPORT**

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))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Marielle De Sarnez

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

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

### ***Amendments to a legislative text***

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. In the case of amending acts, passages in an existing provision that the Commission has left unchanged, but that Parliament wishes to amend, are highlighted in **bold**. Any deletions that Parliament wishes to make in passages of this kind are indicated thus: [...]. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). Suggested corrections of this kind are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

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))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2007)0395),
  - having regard to Articles 251(2) and Article 149(4) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0228/2007),
  - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Development, the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0000/2008),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
  2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
  3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a decision Title

*Text proposed by the Commission*

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)

*Amendment*

Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing ***the Erasmus Mundus 2009-2013*** programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through co-operation with third countries

## Amendment 2

### Proposal for a decision

#### Recital 2 a new

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(2a) The new programme is consistent with the objective of excellence set out in the 2004-2008 programme. It helps attract the best students from third countries through the quality of the studies on offer, the quality of the reception arrangements and a scholarship scheme that can compete with any in the world.***

Or. fr

## Amendment 3

### Proposal for a decision

#### Recital 7

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*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 students and projects to enhance the worldwide attractiveness of European higher

(7) Enhancing the quality of European higher education, promoting understanding between peoples as well as contributing to the sustainable development ***of higher education in*** third countries ***whilst avoiding*** brain-drain 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 students and projects to enhance the worldwide attractiveness of European higher education

education.

Or. fr

#### Amendment 4

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Recital 7 a new

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(7a) In order to ensure that the beneficiaries of the programme enjoy a high quality welcome and stay, administrative formalities should be eased and the Member States should therefore be encouraged to look into the introduction of a specific visa for beneficiaries of the Erasmus Mundus programme as part of the Regulation establishing a Community Code on visas currently under consideration.***

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*It is important to make it easier for students from third countries to obtain visas, particularly for those moving around the EU. The best means of doing so would be to allow them to benefit during this period of mobility from a specific visa designed for students selected for the "Erasmus Mundus" programme.*

#### Amendment 5

##### Proposal for a decision

##### Recital 9

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(9) Promoting the teaching and learning of languages and linguistic diversity ***should***

(9) Promoting the teaching and learning of languages and linguistic diversity ***is*** a

*be* a priority of Community action in the field of higher education. The teaching and learning of languages is of special relevance in relation to third countries.

priority of Community action in the field of higher education. The teaching and learning of languages is of special relevance in relation to third countries.

Or. fr

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a decision Recital 10

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(10) *The Commission Communication "Europe in the world – some practical proposals for greater coherence, effectiveness and visibility"*<sup>1</sup> *addresses the external challenges which Europe faces, including how to use available internal and external policies more coherently and effectively. Moreover, within the context of the Commission Communication "The Western Balkans on the road to the EU: consolidating stability and raising prosperity", the Commission has recommended expanding mobility opportunities for academics and students at all levels of higher education from that region.*

<sup>1</sup> COM (2006)0278

#### *Amendment*

(10) *To strengthen European Union relations with the Western Balkans, particular attention is paid to the mobility of students in higher education and academics from that region. The participation of universities from these countries in consortia and partnerships should be promoted.*

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*Students and academics from countries moving towards pre-accession status should be able to be active participants in this programme so that they can add a European dimension to their courses and facilitate their future integration into the European Union.*



## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a decision Recital 11

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(11) In the period 2004-2008, country-specific scholarships funded from the Commission's external cooperation instruments complemented the Erasmus Mundus scholarships in order to extend the number of beneficiary students coming from specific third countries, such as China, India, the Western Balkan countries or the ACP countries, to study in Europe. ***Given the positive experience with this approach,*** similar opportunities could be envisaged in the future in accordance with the political priorities, rules and procedures of the external co-operation instruments in question.

#### *Amendment*

(11) In the period 2004-2008, country-specific scholarships funded from the Commission's external cooperation instruments complemented the Erasmus Mundus scholarships in order to extend the number of beneficiary students coming from specific third countries, such as China, India, the Western Balkan countries or the ACP countries, to study in Europe. Similar opportunities could be envisaged in the future in accordance with the political priorities, rules and procedures of the external co-operation instruments in question, ***in line with the programme's objectives for academic excellence established by this decision and with a balanced geographical representation across beneficiary third countries.***

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*The Erasmus Mundus label attached to joint programmes and partnerships should be a quality label. Compliance with the objectives for academic excellence provides such a guarantee. This programme should also be designed to benefit all geographical regions of the world in a balanced fashion.*

## Amendment 8

### 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

#### *Amendment*

(13) There is a need to address actively the special learning needs of people with disabilities ***or persons with learning difficulties,*** including through the use of higher grants to reflect the additional costs

programme, including through the use of higher grants to reflect the additional costs of disabled participants.

of *these* participants.

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*Particular attention should be paid to students and academics with disabilities or those with learning difficulties so that they can also take part in this programme.*

## **Amendment 9**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Recital 14**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(14) Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities as amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 and Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 as amended by Commission Regulation No 478/2007 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation 1605/2002 as amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, which safeguard the Community's financial interests, have to be applied taking into account the principles of simplicity and consistency in the choice of budgetary instruments and the required proportionality between the amount of resources and the administrative burden related to their use.

#### *Amendment*

(14) Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities as amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 and Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 as amended by Commission Regulation No 478/2007 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation 1605/2002 as amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006, which safeguard the Community's financial interests, have to be applied taking into account the principles of simplicity and consistency in the choice of budgetary instruments and ***in line with the programme's objectives for academic excellence and*** the required proportionality between the amount of resources and the administrative burden related to their use.

Or. fr

## *Justification*

*The financing of Action 2 activities 'Erasmus Mundus partnerships' should comply with the various EDF, DCI, ENPI, ICI and IPA rules and beneficiaries should always be selected in accordance with the excellence criteria.*

### **Amendment 10**

#### **Proposal for a decision Recital 15 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(15a) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission<sup>1</sup>.***

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23. Decision as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC (OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p. 11).

Or. fr

### **Amendment 11**

#### **Proposal for a decision Recital 15 b (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(15b) In particular power should be conferred on the Commission to define the general guidelines for implementation of the programme and the selection criteria. Since those measures are of general scope and are designed to amend non-essential elements of this Decision, or supplement this Decision by the addition of new non-essential elements, they should be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny***

## **Amendment 12**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Recital 16**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(16) The measures necessary for the implementation of actions referred to in Article 4(1)(a) and Article 4(1)(c) of this Decision should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission[19]. The measures necessary for the implementation of the action referred to in Article 4(1)(b) of this Decision should be adopted in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession, Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation, Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 of the Council establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories, the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Community and its Member States, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, as amended by the Agreement signed in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 (Council Decision 2005/599/EC), and its Internal Agreement

##### *Amendment*

(16) ***In line with the programme's objectives for academic excellence***, the measures necessary for the implementation of actions referred to in Article 4(1)(a) and Article 4(1)(c) of this Decision should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission[19]. The measures necessary for the implementation of the action referred to in Article 4(1)(b) of this Decision should be adopted in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession, Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation, Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 of the Council establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories, the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Community and its Member States, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000, as amended by the Agreement signed in Luxembourg on 25

between the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting with the Council, on the financing of Community aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2008 to 2013 in accordance with the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies (Decision No 1/2006 of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers, 2006/608/EC).

June 2005 (Council Decision 2005/599/EC), and its Internal Agreement between the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting with the Council, on the financing of Community aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2008 to 2013 in accordance with the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies (Decision No 1/2006 of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers, 2006/608/EC).

Or. fr

### Amendment 13

#### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 1 – paragraph 1

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. This Decision establishes a programme - ‘Erasmus Mundus’ (hereinafter ‘the programme’) - for the **enhancement** of quality in European higher education and the **promotion** of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries as well as for the development of third countries in the field of higher education.

##### *Amendment*

1. This Decision establishes a programme - ‘Erasmus Mundus’ (hereinafter ‘the programme’) - **both** for the **promotion** of quality in European higher education and intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries, **and** for the development of third countries in the field of higher education. ***The programme should be implemented in line with the objectives for academic excellence and with a balanced geographical representation.***

Or. fr

##### *Justification*

*The inspiration behind the programme set up in 2004 was to promote high quality European higher education to attract the best students from third countries. This should remain the primary objective of the 2009-2013 programme. The Commission should ensure that all the actions in the programme meet the objectives of academic excellence and a balanced geographical representation.*

## Amendment 14

### 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 aim is to **promote** European higher education and **intercultural** understanding **through** cooperation with third countries, **in accordance with EU** external policy objectives **in order to contribute to** the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education.

Or. fr

## Amendment 15

### Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 2 – introductory sentence

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The programme's specific objectives are:

*Amendment*

**2. The specific objectives of the programme are:**

Or. fr

## Amendment 16

### Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

a) **to foster structured cooperation between** higher education **institutions and academic staff in Europe and third countries with a view to creating centres of excellence and providing highly trained**

*Amendment*

a) **to promote an offer of enhanced quality in** higher education **with a distinct European added value, attractive both within the European Union and beyond its borders, the aim being to create centres**

*human resources;*

*of excellence;*

Or. fr

## **Amendment 17**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point b**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**b) to contribute to the mutual enrichment of societies by developing a pool of well-qualified, open-minded and internationally experienced women/men through promoting mobility for the most talented students and academics from third countries to obtain qualifications and/or experience in the European Union and for the most talented European students and academics towards third countries;**

*Amendment*

**b) to help highly qualified students and academics obtain qualifications and/or experience inside the European Union and, within the specific framework of partnerships, encourage highly qualified students and academics to share their experience or qualifications upon their return to their country of origin;**

Or. fr

## **Amendment 18**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point c**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

**c) to contribute towards the development of human resources and the international cooperation capacity of higher education institutions in third countries through increased mobility streams between the European Union and third countries;**

*Amendment*

**c) to ensure a more structured international cooperation between higher education institutions thanks to greater mobility between the European Union and third countries;**

Or. fr

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) Erasmus Mundus joint **masters programmes and joint doctoral programmes** of outstanding academic quality, including a scholarship scheme;

*Amendment*

(a) **Action 1:** Erasmus Mundus joint **programmes (masters and doctorates)** of outstanding academic quality, including a scholarship scheme;

Or. fr

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) partnerships between European and third-country higher education institutions as a basis for structural co-operation, exchange and mobility at all levels of higher education;

*Amendment*

(b) **Action 2: Erasmus Mundus** partnerships between European and third-country higher education institutions as a basis for structural co-operation, exchange and mobility, **including a scholarship scheme**;

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*Clarification that this action is only open to students and academics with an excellent university education, in order to avert any misunderstandings in the calls for tender that might open this programme up to political refugees, asylum-seekers or persons working in private companies or administration, as has happened in the past.*

## Amendment 21

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point c

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) measures enhancing the attractiveness

*Amendment*

(c) **Action 3: promotion of European**



of Europe as an educational destination.

**higher education through** measures enhancing the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination.

Or. fr

## Amendment 22

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 2 – introductory sentence

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. These actions shall be implemented using the procedures described in the Annex **and, as for the action of the programme** referred to in Article 4(1)(b), **the procedures laid down in the legal instruments mentioned in Article 1(4), and through the following types of approaches, which may be combined where appropriate:**

##### *Amendment*

2. These actions shall be implemented using the procedures described in the Annex. **The measures relating to Action 2** referred to in Article 4(1)(b) **within the framework of partnerships shall be implemented in accordance with the rules established by the EDF, DCI, ENPI, IPA and ICI legal instruments mentioned in Article 1(4), and shall:**

Or. fr

## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point a

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) support **for** the development of joint educational programmes and cooperation networks facilitating the exchange of experience and good practice;

##### *Amendment*

(a) support the development of **high quality** joint educational programmes and cooperation networks facilitating the exchange of experience and good practice;

Or. fr

## Amendment 24

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(b) enhanced support *for* mobility, *between* the Community *and third countries*, of people in the field of higher education;

*Amendment*

(b) **enhance** support for **the** mobility of people in the field of higher education **selected on the basis of academic excellence, particularly from third countries to** the Community, **while respecting the principles of gender equality and a balanced geographical representation and taking into account the specific needs of people with disabilities or persons with learning difficulties**;

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*Clarification that Action 2 is only open to students and academics with an excellent university education. In the partnerships, as in the joint masters and joint doctoral programmes, the principles of equal access for all persons, men and women, with disabilities or with learning difficulties, must be applied.*

## Amendment 25

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point c

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(c) promotion of language skills, **preferably** providing students with the possibility of learning at least two of the languages spoken in the countries in which the higher education institutions are situated, and promotion of the understanding of different cultures;

*Amendment*

**promote** language skills, providing students with the possibility of learning at least two of the languages spoken in the countries in which the higher education institutions are situated, and promotion of the understanding of different cultures;

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*Language learning is a key tool for improving European higher education and as a factor in attracting students from third countries.*

### **Amendment 26**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point (e a) (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ea) support public-private partnerships between universities and enterprises seeking to foster excellence in research and produce innovations in both sciences and humanities.***

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*It is essential for universities to open up to business in order for European higher education to be globally competitive; this will lead to a better match between education and market requirements and greater investment in research.*

### **Amendment 27**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 4 – paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***3a. The Commission shall ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on activities and developments in the programme, mainly through the Erasmus Mundus information portal.***

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*The Erasmus Mundus portal should be more visible on the Internet and set up as a direct link*

on as many European and third country university websites as possible. It should also be more attractive in terms of the number of user languages.

## Amendment 28

### Proposal for a decision Article 4 – paragraph 4

*Text proposed by the Commission*

4. ***The*** actions referred to in this Article ***may be implemented by means of calls for proposals, calls for tenders, or directly by the Commission.***

*Amendment*

4. ***Support for the*** actions referred to in this Article ***may be granted by the Commission after examining the replies received to calls for proposals and/or tenders. With respect to the measures taken under paragraph 3, the Commission may, if necessary, implement these measures directly in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002. It shall systematically inform the European Parliament and the Committee referred to in Article 8 thereof.***

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*Actions shall only be supported once the replies to invitations to tender have been examined. It is just for technical support measures such as studies or expert meetings that the Commission may implement measures directly.*

## Amendment 29

### Proposal for a decision Article 5 – subparagraph 1 – introductory sentence

*Text proposed by the Commission*

Under the conditions and arrangements for implementation specified in the Annex and bearing in mind the definitions in Article 2, the programme is aimed ***in particular*** at:

*Amendment*

Under the conditions and arrangements for implementation specified in the Annex and bearing in mind the definitions in Article 2, the programme is aimed at:

Or. fr

## Amendment 30

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 5 – subparagraph 1 – point b

*Text proposed by the Commission*

b) students in higher education, at all levels;

*Amendment*

b) students at all levels ***enrolled for or following training*** in a higher education ***establishment***;

Or. fr

## Amendment 31

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 5 – subparagraph 1 – point d

*Text proposed by the Commission*

d) staff directly involved ***in*** higher education;

*Amendment*

d) staff directly involved, ***by virtue of their functions, in the educational process in an establishment of*** higher education;

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*The beneficiaries of the programme may only be members of the teaching staff or highly qualified academics.*

## Amendment 32

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 5 – subparagraph 1 – point e

*Text proposed by the Commission*

e) other public or private bodies active in the field of higher education;

*Amendment*

e) other public or private bodies active in the field of higher education ***under national legislation***;

Or. fr

## Amendment 33

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***The beneficiaries of the programme shall be persons enrolled and studying at a higher education establishment or who, by virtue of their functions, are directly involved in the educational process in an establishment of higher education.***

Or. fr

## Amendment 34

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(a) ensure the effective and ***efficient*** implementation of the Community actions provided for by the programme in conformity with the Annex and, as regards the action of the programme referred to in Article 4(1)(b), with the legal instruments mentioned in Article 1(4);

(a) ensure the effective and ***transparent*** implementation of the Community actions provided for by the programme in conformity with the Annex and, ***as regards Action 2 of the programme referred to in Article 4(1)(b), with the EDF, DCI, ENPI, IPA and ICI legal instruments mentioned in Article 1(4), and in compliance with the objectives of academic excellence in selecting the beneficiaries of the programme;***

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*The legal instruments for financing Action 2 are mentioned for the sake of greater clarity.*

## Amendment 35

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point (c a) (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ca) make sure, when determining the individual amounts for the scholarships, to take into consideration the level of tuition fees, the estimated expenditure for the studies and costs relating to the student's stay in the destination country;***

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*The cost of living can vary depending on the destination country. The tuition fees for masters or doctorate courses can account for a sizeable proportion of the monthly amount awarded to the student depending on the type of course followed (aeronautics or languages). Attempts should be made to adapt scholarships as well as possible to these different parameters.*

## Amendment 36

### 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 ***and endeavour*** to adopt such measures as may be deemed appropriate to remove legal and administrative barriers, ***particularly as regards visas for the students selected who need to be informed of their study destination at least 6 months prior to their departure;***

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*Obtaining a visa can often be preceded by lengthy administrative procedures that have prevented students from starting their masters course on time. Everything possible should be done to ensure that in future students are informed well in advance of their host university.*

### **Amendment 37**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 6 – paragraph 3 – point a**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) appropriate information, publicity and follow-up with regard to actions supported by the programme;

*Amendment*

(a) appropriate information, publicity and follow-up with regard to actions supported by the programme, ***that meets the objectives defined in this Decision;***

Or. fr

### **Amendment 38**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Article 7 – paragraph 1 a – introductory sentence (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1a. The following measures, designed to amend non-essential elements of this Decision, or supplement this Decision, should be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny provided for in Article 8(1a):***

Or. fr



## Amendment 39

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 7 – paragraph 1 a – point a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(a) the general guidelines for  
implementing the programme;***

Or. fr

## Amendment 40

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 7 – paragraph 1 a new – point b (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(b) the selection criteria.***

Or. fr

## Amendment 41

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 7 – paragraph 2 – point c

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(c) the general guidelines for  
implementing the programme;***

***deleted***

Or. fr

## Amendment 42

### Proposal for a decision

#### Article 7 – paragraph 2 – point d

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(d) the selection ***criteria and*** procedures,

(d) the selection procedures, including the

including the composition and the internal rules of procedure of the selection board;

composition and the internal rules of procedure of the selection board;

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 43**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Article 7 – paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***2a. The selection decisions shall be taken by the Commission, which shall immediately inform the European Parliament and the Committee referred to in Article 8 thereof.***

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 44**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Article 8 – paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5a(1) to (4) and Article 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.***

Or. fr

## Amendment 45

### Proposal for a decision Article 11 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The Commission shall keep the Committee referred to in Article 8(1) regularly informed about Community initiatives taken in relevant fields, ensure efficient linkage and, where appropriate, joint actions between the programme and the programmes and actions in the area of higher education undertaken within the framework of the Community's cooperation with third countries, including bilateral agreements, and the competent international organisations.

*Amendment*

2. The Commission shall keep **the European Parliament and** the Committee referred to in Article 8(1) regularly informed about Community initiatives taken in relevant fields, ensure efficient linkage and, where appropriate, joint actions between the programme and the programmes and actions in the area of higher education undertaken within the framework of the Community's cooperation with third countries, including bilateral agreements, and the competent international organisations.

Or. fr

*Justification*

*The rights of Parliament should be respected by keeping it regularly informed of initiatives that may be taken under this programme to meet the objectives thereof.*

## Amendment 46

### Proposal for a decision Article 12 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The financial framework for the implementation of the actions of the programme ***referred to in Article 4(1)(a), 4(1)(c) and 4(3) and as set out in the Annex to the decision – Action 1, Action 3 and related technical support measures - for the period specified in Article 1(2)*** is hereby set at EUR 493.69 million.

*Amendment*

1. The financial framework for the implementation of Actions ***1 and 3*** of the programme ***and related technical support measures*** for the ***2009-2013*** period is hereby set at EUR 493.69 million.

Or. fr

## Amendment 47

### Proposal for a decision Article 12 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The financial framework for the implementation of the actions *of the programme referred to in Article 4(1)(b) and Article 4(3) and as set out in the Annex to the decision – Action 2 and related technical support measures - for the period specified in Article 1(2) is set in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in the external cooperation instruments referred to in Article 1(4).*

*Amendment*

2. The financial framework for the implementation *of Action 2 and related technical support measures should allow for the mobility of a maximum number of students from third countries selected on the basis of academic excellence in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in the external cooperation and development instruments referred to in Article 1(4).*

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*It is only possible to estimate the budget available for Action 2 on account of the specific nature of these financial instruments. The objective should, however, be to permit funding for a maximum number of beneficiaries from third countries selected on the basis of academic excellence.*

## Amendment 48

### 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 on the results achieved and on the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the implementation of the programme by **31 March 2011**;

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*Given the amount of financial resources made available to this programme, an interim review*

*should be conducted after two years.*

#### **Amendment 49**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Article 13 – paragraph 3 – point b**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

b) a communication on the continuation of the programme by **30 June 2012**;

*Amendment*

b) a communication on the continuation of the programme by **30 January 2012**;

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 50**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Article 15**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

*Amendment*

*(Does not affect English version.)*

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 51**

##### **Proposal for a decision**

##### **Annex – Action 1 – Section A – paragraph 2 – point i**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

i) shall establish transparent joint conditions for admissions which pay due regard, inter alia, to gender issues and equity issues;

*Amendment*

i) shall establish transparent joint conditions for admissions which pay due regard, inter alia, to gender issues and equity issues ***and facilitate access for people with disabilities or persons with learning difficulties, particularly dyslexia, dyscalculia or dyspraxia;***

Or. fr

## Amendment 52

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 1 – Section A – paragraph 2 – point j

*Text proposed by the Commission*

j) **shall establish** a joint tuition fee regardless of the actual place of study of the students within the masters programme;

*Amendment*

j) **shall ensure that, when tuition fees are to be paid**, a joint tuition fee **is established** regardless of the actual place of study **and the country of origin** of the students within the masters programme. **This joint tuition fee should be in accordance with the national legislation in force;**

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*Whilst the level of tuition fees falls within the exclusive competence of the universities involved in the consortia, it is essential that the fees demanded do not de facto exclude nationals of countries such as Denmark where tuition fees do not exist or are illegal. These tuition fees should be identical for all students.*

## Amendment 53

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 1 – Section A – paragraph 2 – point l

*Text proposed by the Commission*

l) shall put in place appropriate arrangements to facilitate access for, and hosting of, European and third-country students (information facilities, accommodation, assistance with visas, etc.);

*Amendment*

l) shall put in place appropriate arrangements to facilitate access for, and hosting of, European and third-country students (information facilities, accommodation, assistance with visas, etc.). **The Commission shall keep its delegations in the third countries concerned regularly informed of all updated provisions regarding the programme;**

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*After Internet sites and the international relations offices at universities, it is to the European Commission's delegations in third countries that students turn with their requests for information. These delegations should therefore be fully involved in any measures that may be taken to make the process and personal life easier for students taking part in a mobility scheme.*

### **Amendment 54**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex – Action 1 – Section A – paragraph 2 – point l a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(1a) The students selected should be informed of their study destination at least 6 months prior to their departure, so that they can take the necessary steps to obtain their visa within a reasonable time limit.***

Or. fr

### *Justification*

*Obtaining a visa can often be preceded by lengthy administrative procedures that have prevented students from starting their masters course on time. Everything possible should be done to ensure that in future students are informed well in advance of their host university.*

### **Amendment 55**

#### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex – Action 1 – Section A – paragraph 2 – point m**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

m) without prejudice to the language of instruction, shall provide for the use of at least two European languages spoken in the Member States where the higher education institutions involved in the Erasmus Mundus masters programme are situated and, ***as appropriate***, for language preparation and assistance for students, in particular by means of courses organised

m) without prejudice to the language of instruction, shall provide for the use of at least two European languages spoken in the Member States where the higher education institutions involved in the Erasmus Mundus masters programme are situated and ***offer*** language preparation and assistance for students, in particular by means of courses organised by the

by the institutions in question.

institutions in question.

Or. fr

*Justification*

*Language courses should be offered so that students taking part in a mobility scheme can benefit from the cultural enrichment of studying in that country.*

**Amendment 56**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex – Action 1 – Section B – paragraph 2 – point d**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

d) *where appropriate*, shall encourage placements as part of the doctoral programme;

*Amendment*

d) shall encourage placements as part of the doctoral programme ***and support public-private partnerships between universities and enterprises seeking to foster excellence in research and produce innovations in both sciences and humanities;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 57**

**Proposal for a decision**

**Annex – Action 1 – Section B – paragraph 2 – point i**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

i) shall establish transparent joint conditions for admissions which pay due regard, inter alia, to gender issues and equity issues;

*Amendment*

i) shall establish transparent joint conditions for admissions which pay due regard, inter alia, to gender issues and equity issues ***and facilitate access for people with disabilities or persons with learning difficulties, particularly dyslexia, dyscalculia or dyspraxia;***

Or. fr



## Amendment 58

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 1 – Section B – paragraph 2 – point j

*Text proposed by the Commission*

j) **shall establish** a joint tuition fee regardless of the actual place of study **and research of the doctoral candidates** within the doctoral programme;

*Amendment*

j) **shall ensure that, when tuition fees are to be paid**, a joint tuition fee **is established** regardless of the actual place of study **and the country of origin of the students** within the doctoral programme. **These joint tuition fees should be in accordance with the national legislation in force;**

Or. fr

#### *Justification*

*Whilst the level of tuition fees falls within the exclusive competence of the universities involved in the consortia, it is essential that the fees demanded do not de facto exclude nationals of countries such as Denmark where tuition fees do not exist or are illegal. These tuition fees should be identical for all students.*

## Amendment 59

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 1 – Section B – paragraph 2 – point n

*Text proposed by the Commission*

n) without prejudice to the language of instruction, shall provide for the use of at least two European languages spoken in the Member States where the higher education institutions involved in the Erasmus Mundus doctoral programme are situated and, **as appropriate**, for language preparation and assistance for doctoral candidates, in particular by means of courses organised by the institutions in question.

*Amendment*

n) without prejudice to the language of instruction, shall provide for the use of at least two European languages spoken in the Member States where the higher education institutions involved in the Erasmus Mundus doctoral programme are situated and **offer** language preparation and assistance for doctoral candidates, in particular by means of courses organised by the institutions in question.

Or. fr

## Justification

*Language courses should be offered so that students taking part in a mobility scheme can benefit from the cultural enrichment of studying in that country.*

### Amendment 60

#### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 2 – paragraph 2 – point c

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

c) ***exchange students*** at all levels of higher education (from bachelor to postdoctoral), ***academics*** and higher education staff for mobility periods of variable length, including the possibility of placement periods. Mobility must take European nationals to third countries ***and third-country nationals to European countries.*** ***The scheme will also allow the hosting of third-country nationals who are not linked to the third-country institutions involved in the partnerships, as well as include specific provisions for vulnerable groups, as appropriate to the political and socio-economic context of the respective region/country;***

##### *Amendment*

c) ***organise exchanges of students selected on the basis of academic excellence*** at all levels of higher education (from bachelor to postdoctoral), ***academics*** and higher education staff for mobility periods of variable length, including the possibility of placement periods. Mobility must ***mainly take third-country nationals to European countries.*** ***The beneficiaries of these exchanges will also be obliged to return to their home country once the exchange has ended. In the interests of mutual enrichment, mobility should also take a smaller proportion of European nationals to third countries;***

Or. fr

## Justification

*Cooperation windows have allowed a higher number of students from third countries to spend a short or long period of time in Europe during their studies. This possibility therefore exists but subject to specific selection conditions such as the academic excellence criteria, and it is only open to a lesser extent for exchanges of European students to third countries since the basic rationale behind the programme is to make European higher education attractive to students from third countries who would otherwise have gone to study in the USA, but at the same time avoiding brain drain.*

## Amendment 61

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 2 – paragraph 2 – point f

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

f) establish transparent conditions for the award of mobility grants which pay due regard, inter alia, to gender issues and equity issues;

##### *Amendment*

f) shall establish transparent joint conditions for admissions which pay due regard, inter alia, to gender issues and equity issues ***and facilitate access for people with disabilities or persons with learning difficulties, particularly dyslexia, dyscalculia or dyspraxia;***

Or. fr

## Amendment 62

### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Action 3 – paragraph 3

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

3. Activities can take various forms (conferences, seminars, workshops, studies, analyses, pilot projects, prizes, international networks, production of material for publication, development of ICT tools, etc.) and may take place anywhere in the world.

##### *Amendment*

3. Activities can take various forms (conferences, seminars, workshops, studies, analyses, pilot projects, prizes, international networks, production of material for publication, development of ICT tools, etc.) and may take place anywhere in the world. ***The Commission shall ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on activities and developments in the Erasmus Mundus programme, mainly through the Erasmus Mundus information portal which should be made more visible and more accessible. The Commission shall keep its delegations in the third countries concerned regularly informed of all useful public information on the Erasmus Mundus programme.***

Or. fr

## Justification

*After Internet sites and the international relations offices at universities, it is to the European Commission's delegations in third countries that students turn with their requests for information. These delegations should therefore be fully involved in any measures that may be taken to make the process and personal life easier for students taking part in a mobility scheme.*

### Amendment 63

#### Proposal for a decision

#### Annex – Selection procedures – point a

##### *Text proposed by 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;

##### *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 ***and a balanced geographical representation. The selection board shall also ensure that the tuition fees proposed do not exceed certain thresholds based on the average of the tuition fees applied across the Member States.*** 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 ***on the basis of academic***

*excellence* following consultation with the Commission. *Action 1 is intended mainly for students from third countries;*

Or. fr

## **Amendment 64**

### **Proposal for a decision**

#### **Annex – Selection procedures – point b – subparagraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

*Without prejudice to the provisions of the rules and decisions referred to in the first subparagraph, the Commission shall also ensure that Erasmus Mundus partnership proposals meet the highest academic quality standards and the criterion of balanced geographical representation. Students and academics are selected by establishments taking part in the partnership on the basis of academic excellence criteria, following consultation with the Commission. Action 2 is intended mainly for students from third countries. However, in the interests of mutual enrichment, mobility should also take a smaller proportion of European nationals to third countries.*

Or. fr

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The proposal for the Erasmus Mundus 2009 - 2013 programme is dealt with under the codecision procedure. It is the subject of increased cooperation with the AFET and DEVE committees with regard to the external development and cooperation instruments in Action 2.

### **The development of the Erasmus Mundus programme**

The current Erasmus Mundus programme is a co-operation and mobility programme in the field of higher education intended to promote the European Union as a centre of excellence in learning around the world.

The objective of excellence that lay behind the first programme should be pursued further. The new programme will also seek to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries, and boost their development in the field of higher education.

The mid-term review of the current programme testifies to its success with students from third countries and European students. Between 2004 and 2008, 4 424 scholarships were granted to students from third countries and 323 universities (265 in Europe) took part.

The new Erasmus Mundus programme should therefore be tailored to this rising demand for mobility without sacrificing quality.

### **The new programme will be based on three actions:**

**Action 1** deals with joint masters and doctoral programmes, and scholarships. It aims to promote the excellence of European higher education in the world. The joint programmes are set up by a consortium of universities from at least three European countries and may involve higher education institutions from different third countries.

**Action 2** allows partnerships with third-country higher education institutions and includes scholarships. The aim of this external cooperation action is to develop human resources and the international cooperation capacity of higher education institutions in third countries, in line with EU external policy.

These partnerships involve a minimum of five higher education institutions from a minimum of three different European countries and a number of institutions in third countries.

**Action 3** covers specific communication and information measures. This action seeks to enhance the visibility of European higher education on the international stage.

## **The budget for the programme**

The budget is split into two separate parts: one budget for Actions 1 and 3 and a separate budget for Action 2.

The budget for Action 1 (joint masters and doctorates) is therefore € 450 million (as compared with a budget of € 230 million for the current programme) and € 16.5 million for Action 3 (information measures). This budget is managed by the Education and Culture DG.

The budget for Action 2 (Erasmus Mundus partnerships), on the other hand, is only an estimate. This estimated budget of € 460 million will be divided, indicatively, between various external policy and development instruments and will be managed by the RELEX and AIDCO DGs.

## **The new features of this programme are:**

- **Under Action 1: Erasmus Mundus masters and doctorates**

- The award of scholarships to European students moving to study in Europe and in third countries;

Up to now, scholarships for European students were only possible if they moved to third countries only for a maximum of three months and only if these third countries were partners under the masters programme.

- The establishment of joint "Erasmus Mundus" doctorates.

- **Under Action 2: 'Erasmus Mundus partnership'**

This type of partnership is in fact the transposition of experience acquired by the Commission since 2005 outside the Erasmus Mundus programme.

Through the comitology procedure, external cooperation 'windows' have been set up in order to allow a higher number of third-country students to come to Europe without having to follow a masters course. Under this framework, 1640 additional scholarships were granted between 2005 and 2008, thanks to funding from financial instruments other than the Erasmus Mundus budget.

## **Points of particular note for the rapporteur:**

### **1. The 'indicative' budget for Action 2 'Erasmus Mundus partnership'**

The budget for Action 2 is financed by external cooperation instruments and divided up as follows:

- 2 development policy instruments:
  - European Development Fund (10th EDF): € 30 million,
  - Financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI): € 240 million;
- and 3 external policy instruments:

- European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI): € 140 million,
- Financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries (ICI): € 20 million,
- Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA): € 30 million.

Each year, the European Commission establishes the amount to be spent on exchanges in higher education with each third country. It therefore unfortunately seems impossible to determine in advance amounts which will vary from year to year depending on the priorities set by these countries.

*The rapporteur regrets that a report containing precise information on the sums allocated to these exchanges will only be available a posteriori.*

## **2. Geographical distribution and gender equality not properly respected**

The geographical distribution of the partnerships is decided on solely by DGs RELEX and AIDCO, which could lead once again, for example, to over-representation of Asian students to the detriment of students from Mediterranean or ACP countries, as is the case in the current programme.

It would also be desirable to avoid certain countries being under-represented in Erasmus Mundus consortia, as is currently the case for Greece, Austria, Slovakia, the western Balkans or the new Member States in general.

Indicatively, 273 Erasmus Mundus scholarships have been granted for 2007-2008, along with scholarships granted under 'external cooperation windows', i.e. 63 scholarships for the Balkans, 37 for China and **403** for India.

*DG RELEX and AIDCO's choice of countries to participate in partnerships is therefore crucial in ensuring a balanced representation of students according to their geographical origin.*

Equally, the principle of gender equality must be effectively respected. For example, out of the 403 students from India having received a scholarship for 2007-2008, only 103 were women.

### **The rapporteur's suggestions for the programme as a whole:**

1. The granting of visas for beneficiaries of the programme moving around a number of Member States could be made easier if they are informed of their destination university at least 6 months prior to departure; Similarly, the Member States could look into the possibility of introducing a specific visa as part of this programme.
2. Learning at least two foreign languages should be emphasised; the diversity of European languages is value added to the course.
3. Access to the programme will be on the basis of academic excellence criteria, and should also be open to people with disabilities and persons with learning difficulties,



and comply with the principles of gender equality and a balanced geographical breakdown.

4. Nationals from the Balkans and the acceding countries should be encouraged to take part in this programme, and universities in these countries encouraged to join consortia, in order to lend a European dimension to their education which would be useful for their future integration into the EU.
5. Tuition fees, where these exist, should be common to all universities in the consortium or partnership, and be identical for all students (from third countries or Europe).
6. The value of the scholarships should take account of the level of tuition fees, estimated expenditure for the studies and costs relating to the student's stay in the destination country.
7. Public-private partnerships should be set up, notably to allow for greater investment in research.
8. Information on the programme should reach an optimum number of universities in Europe and throughout the world. This is why such information needs to be available in as many languages as possible. The European Commission's delegations in third countries should also be able to handle the widespread local dissemination of useful information and help influence the student's choice (as to the level of tuition fees, the value of scholarships, possible obligation to return home, etc.).

#### **The rapporteur's specific suggestions for Action 2:**

1. Details should be given on funds from the field of external policy that may be used to finance scholarships for European students, and they should be clearly labelled as such.
2. Attracting students from third countries to the EU should remain the primary objective of the partnerships. European students moving to third countries is still necessary for promoting intercultural dialogue, but this should be on a lesser scale.
3. Important information should be contained in the Decision establishing the programme (and not in the invitations to tender) so that all parties, and particularly the students, know of it. One such piece of information is the obligation for students to return to their country of origin, as this programme should on no account allow a brain drain from third countries.

Whilst this programme is open to more students and academics from third countries, through partnerships, care should therefore be taken to retain the objectives of excellence in the persons selected and the quality of the welcome.

## ***CONCLUSION***

For this programme to be a success, it is necessary to pursue the objectives of excellence in the education offered and the quality of the welcome.

In order to create poles of excellence attracting a greater number of top quality students and academics, this programme needs clear and transparent conditions on participation.

Finally, to ensure that this programme can foster better intercultural understanding, it will need to reach out in a balanced manner to all parts of the world.