



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2011/2293(INI)

1.2.2012

AMENDMENTS

1 - 66

Draft opinion
Marian Harkin
(PE478.721v01-00)

Recognising and promoting cross-border voluntary activities in the EU
(2011/2293(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Kinga Göncz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

Amendment

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering ***solidarity***, active citizenship ***and inter-cultural learning***, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

Amendment

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border ***economically, socially and ecologically sustainable*** development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

Or. fi

Amendment 3
David Casa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

Amendment

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening **social** cohesion and participative democracy;

Or. en

Amendment 4

Liisa Jaakonsaari

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

Amendment

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy; ***cross-border volunteering better enables volunteers to realise the goal of increasing mobility within the EU by providing volunteers with the opportunity to learn the language and culture of the country in which they work;***

Or. fi

Amendment 5

Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active

Amendment

1. Notes that volunteering involves citizens in local and cross-border development and therefore plays a role in fostering active

citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy;

citizenship, thereby strengthening cohesion and participative democracy ***and can often ensure the swift provision of aid when disasters occur;***

Or. de

Amendment 6
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Draws attention to the fact that volunteering not only strengthens civil society, encourages social solidarity and mutual self-help, but also brings economic benefits to Member States, for people who engage in voluntary activities contribute to the generation of the gross domestic product;

Or. lt

Amendment 7
Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Emphasises that it is important to encourage the view that time spent undertaking voluntary work provides added value to a CV, even though no contributions are paid during that period;

Or. pl

Amendment 8
Philippe Boulland

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Recalls the need to encourage volunteering particularly during the European Year of Citizenship in 2013, by facilitating the mobility of volunteers and the recognition of their experience;

Or. fr

Amendment 9
Roger Helmer

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Is convinced that there is no necessity for new regulation on volunteering on EU level, as the main responsibility lies with national, regional and local government;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty ***while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;***

2. Notes that volunteering ***can contribute*** to fighting ***the consequences of*** poverty;

Or. de

Amendment 11
Rolandas Paksas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to **fighting** poverty *while helping to* achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to **social inclusion and integration, the fight against** poverty, *and also helps* achieve economic and social cohesion;

Or. It

Amendment 12
Roger Helmer

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering **contributes** to fighting poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering **can also contribute** to fighting poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 13
David Casa

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to **fighting** poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to poverty **reduction** while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment 14
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty **while helping** to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty, **helps** to achieve economic and social cohesion **and also helps to improve environmental protection while promoting practical interaction in a spirit of solidarity and cultural knowledge, thereby enabling cross-border friendships to form;**

Or. fi

Amendment 15
Sylvana Rapti, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Marian Harkin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion **and to promote solidarity between generations by encouraging the cooperation among young and senior citizens and having a positive impact on their active participation in the social activities;**

Or. en

Amendment 16
Kinga Göncz

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2**

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to **social inclusion, social innovation, solidarity as well as** fighting poverty while helping to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Or. en

**Amendment 17
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2**

Draft opinion

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty **while helping** to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Amendment

2. Notes that volunteering contributes to fighting poverty **and social exclusion, and helps** to achieve economic and social cohesion;

Or. It

**Amendment 18
Martin Kastler**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Emphasises the importance of volunteering among and between all generations and its contribution to active ageing in terms of vitality and dignity, social involvement in all phases of life and a generation-friendly EU;

Amendment 19
Kinga Göncz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Highlights that volunteering - in a broader sense - improves the understanding between generations, increases people's tolerance, is a means for volunteers to acquire new skills, contributes to learning-mobility and inter-cultural learning, while it also creates human and social capital;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft Opinion

Amendment

2a. Encourages the European Commission to develop special volunteer programmes aimed at youngsters; emphasises the necessity to make European programmes more inclusive and valid for all age groups;

Or. it

Amendment 21
Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Considers that volunteering is not only a way of becoming socially active, but also an opportunity to acquire valuable experience. In addition, it can help young people in their choice of future career;

Or. pl

**Amendment 22
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Notes that voluntary work helps volunteers broaden their horizons, acquire new skills, forge personal links, come to know themselves better and to develop their personalities, besides giving much useful practice, which, especially among young people, will develop in the future;

Or. It

**Amendment 23
Licia Ronzulli**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)**

Draft Opinion

Amendment

2b. Observes the importance of recognising the vital role that volunteering plays with regard to the inclusion and empowerment of socially

excluded groups;

Or. it

Amendment 24
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Notes that older people who engage in volunteering find it easier to make the transition from work to pension: i.e. gradually to leave active work;

Or. It

Amendment 25
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. Whereas volunteering reduces the danger of social division, it is essential to attract into such activity all social groups, especially people with disabilities; it is necessary to ensure that volunteering becomes more widely recognised and less hampered by various obstacles;

Or. It

Amendment 26
Roger Helmer

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

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Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Stresses that volunteering *should not be a substitute for paid work*; *deleted*

Or. en

Amendment 27
Kinga Göncz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Stresses that volunteering *should* not be a substitute for paid work;

3. Stresses that - *although it is an important resource in our economy and society* - volunteering *must* not be considered as an alternative to regular, paid work;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Nadja Hirsch

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Stresses that volunteering *should* not be a substitute for paid work;

3. Stresses that volunteering *must* not be a substitute for paid work;

Or. de

Amendment 29
Sylvana Rapti, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Marian Harkin

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Stresses that volunteering should not be a substitute for paid work;

Amendment

3. Stresses that volunteering should not be ***an alternative nor*** a substitute for paid work ***and, should not, in any case, constitute a reason for superseding the obligations of the social state;***

Or. en

Amendment 30

Jean Lambert

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Stresses that volunteering should not be a substitute for paid work;

Amendment

3. Stresses that volunteering should not be a substitute for paid work; ***also points out that the promotion of volunteering in relation to acquiring, developing or maintaining skills should not result in volunteering becoming a mandatory requirement as this undermines its fundamental nature;***

Or. en

Amendment 31

Liisa Jaakonsaari

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Stresses that volunteering should not be a substitute for paid work;

Amendment

3. Stresses that volunteering should not be a substitute for paid work; ***this aspect should be particularly emphasised in the care sector, where the amount of volunteering continues to grow. Care***

work always requires trained employees;

Or. fi

Amendment 32

Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft Opinion

Amendment

3a. Emphasises the role of volunteer work in promoting the development of the abilities and skills necessary in a knowledge-based society;

Or. it

Amendment 33

Roger Helmer

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of Europe 2020, to ***develop*** and ***support*** initiatives to ensure that volunteering contributes to ***smart, sustainable and inclusive*** growth;

4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of Europe 2020, to ***assist*** and ***encourage Member States in*** initiatives ***concerning volunteering*** to ensure that volunteering contributes to ***economic*** growth;

Or. en

Amendment 34

Jean Lambert

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of Europe 2020, to develop and support initiatives to ensure that volunteering contributes to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of Europe 2020, to develop and support initiatives to ensure that volunteering contributes to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth ***and to ensure that such initiatives are able to involve a diverse range of participants;***

Or. en

Amendment 35
Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of Europe 2020, to develop and support initiatives to ensure that volunteering contributes to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Calls on the Commission, in the context of Europe 2020, to develop and support initiatives, ***while chiefly focusing on the improvement and expansion of existing projects,*** to ensure that volunteering contributes to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

Or. de

Amendment 36
Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft Opinion

Amendment

4a. Invites the European Commission to recognise and promote volunteer activities in all EU policies, taking the horizontal nature of such activities into consideration and ensuring that said

*policies promote the development of
volunteer work and encourage the
involvement of all citizens;*

Or. it

Amendment 37
Jean Lambert
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

*4a. Urges employers to recognise the
value of facilitating volunteering
initiatives for their staff as an expression
of Corporate Social Responsibility;*

Or. en

Amendment 38
Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft Opinion

Amendment

*4b. Invites the European Commission to
include volunteering support in
international development assistance
policies, for the particular purpose of
reaching all targets identified in the
Millennium Development Goals;*

Or. it

Amendment 39
Roger Helmer

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5**

Draft opinion

5. ***Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible;***

Amendment

5. ***Notes that the European Skills Passport, which allows skills to be recorded in a transparent and comparable way, has met so far with little enthusiasm by small and medium sized businesses in Europe, who already use the Europass - a streamlined European CV template which focuses on additional training and work experience;***

Or. en

**Amendment 40
Martin Kastler**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5**

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible ***and to work quickly to develop it into a European Volunteering Card;***

Or. de

**Amendment 41
Kinga Göncz**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 5**

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible; ***stresses that recognition of competences and skills gained through***

volunteering as non-formal and informal learning and work experience is essential;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Nadja Hirsch

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible;

Amendment

5. Calls on the Commission to make the European Skills Passport a reality as soon as possible *and emphasises the acquisition of skills that are also of considerable significance for professional employment;*

Or. de

Amendment 43
Roger Helmer

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Asks the Commission to *ensure that adequate funding is provided* for programmes to support cross-border volunteering;

Amendment

6. Asks the Commission to *evaluate and justify the necessity of* funding for programmes to support cross-border volunteering *at EU level.*

Or. en

Amendment 44
Kinga Göncz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Asks the Commission to ensure that adequate funding is provided for programmes to support **cross-border** volunteering;

Amendment

6. Asks the Commission to ensure that adequate funding is provided for programmes to support volunteering **activities within Member States and across borders**;

Or. en

Amendment 45
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Asks the Commission to ensure that adequate funding is provided for programmes to support cross-border volunteering;

Amendment

6. Asks the Commission to ensure that adequate funding is provided for programmes to support cross-border volunteering, **and reminds the Commission that voluntary work is organised by many types of non-governmental organisation, as well as by registered religious groups who carry out diaconal work, and maintains that public subsidies for volunteering should be allocated without discriminating against any organiser on the grounds of ideology**;

Or. fi

Amendment 46
Rolandas Paksas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Asks the Commission to ensure that adequate funding is provided for

Amendment

6. Asks the Commission to ensure that adequate funding is provided for

programmes to support cross-border volunteering;

programmes to support cross-border volunteering; *that particular attention should be given to financial support for the infrastructure of volunteering; calls upon Member States to actively implement schemes for fostering national cross-border volunteering;*

Or. It

Amendment 47
Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft Opinion

Amendment

6a. Invites the European Commission to recognise the work of volunteers as a real investment for the benefit of the Community in its programmes and projects;

Or. it

Amendment 48
Rovana Plumb

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Calls on the European Commission to support volunteers and promote cross-border volunteering activities by EU funding programmes in different policy areas;

Or. en

Amendment 49
Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Emphasises the need to provide access to as wide a range of cross-border volunteering opportunities as possible, not only in terms of the assistance provided, but also in terms of the important experiences gained;

Or. pl

Amendment 50
Franz Obermayr

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

Amendment

7. Proposes the **setting up of a cross-border network** of voluntary organisations in the **various** Member States;

7. Proposes **that** the **coordination** of voluntary organisations in the Member States **should be improved and that new contact points should only be opened in those Member States that do not already have such structures;**

Or. de

Amendment 51
Philippe Boulland

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

Amendment

7. **Proposes** the setting up of a cross-border network of voluntary organisations in the

7. **Suggests** the setting up of a cross-border network of voluntary organisations in the

various Member States;

various Member States *by bringing together existing voluntary organisations based on their experiences;*

Or. fr

Amendment 52
Rolandas Paksas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Proposes the setting up of a cross-border network of voluntary organisations in the various Member States;

Amendment

7. Proposes the setting up of a cross-border network of voluntary organisations in the various Member States *and a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps;*

Or. It

Amendment 53
Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft Opinion

7a. Supports the creation of a European Volunteering Platform aimed at facilitating the exchange of good practices and experiences between volunteer organisations in all Member States;

Or. it

Amendment 54
Rovana Plumb

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7a. Calls on Member States to promote and implement national schemes for cross-border volunteering in order to contribute to its development across the EU;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Licia Ronzulli

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 b (new)

Draft Opinion

Amendment

7b. Invites the European Commission to allocate adequate resources for the creation of a European Volunteer Centre Development Fund, aimed at developing an infrastructure to support volunteering;

Or. it

Amendment 56
Philippe Boulland

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8

Draft opinion

Amendment

8. Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States **do not constitute barriers to** cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States;

8 Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States **encourage** cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States;

Amendment 57

Elisabeth Schroedter, Jean Lambert
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8

Draft opinion

8. Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States do not constitute barriers to cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States;

Amendment

8. Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States do not constitute barriers to cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States; ***requests Member States to examine their cross-border tax and social security arrangements in connection with cross-border volunteering to ensure they do not present additional barriers to such activity and that cross-border volunteers are able to receive the social security benefits to which they are entitled in accordance with Regulation 2004/883;***

Amendment 58
Kinga Göncz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8

Draft opinion

8. Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States do not

Amendment

8. Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States do not

constitute barriers to cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States;

constitute barriers to cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States; ***calls on the Commission to assist the process of dismantling existing barriers;***

Or. en

Amendment 59
Nadja Hirsch

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8

Draft opinion

8. Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers so that different regimes in different Member States do not constitute barriers to cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States;

Amendment

Calls on Member States to ensure legal certainty for volunteers - ***also with regard to insurance issues*** - so that different regimes in different Member States do not constitute barriers to cross-border volunteering and also to ensure better provision of information to volunteers in connection with their rights and the regulatory and institutional arrangements pertaining in the various Member States;

Or. de

Amendment 60
Rovana Plumb

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

8a. Calls on Member States to promote training programmes, develop guides and materials on the management of

volunteers and schemes to motivate people to engage in cross-border volunteering activities;

Or. en

Amendment 61
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

9. Calls on the Member States to promote the use of volunteer time as matching funding for European projects, in particular cross-border initiatives;

Amendment

9. Calls on the Member States to promote the use of volunteer time as matching funding for European projects *involving non-governmental organisations and religious groups*, in particular cross-border initiatives;

Or. fi

Amendment 62
Kinga Göncz

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10

Draft opinion

10. Calls on the Commission to encourage Member States to adopt the ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work in order to ensure robust comparable data which can help improve policy-making.

Amendment

10. Calls on the Commission to encourage Member States to adopt the ILO Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work in order to ensure robust comparable data which can help improve *monitoring and* policy-making.

Or. en

Amendment 63
Marian Harkin

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 10 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

10a. Calls on the Commission to propose a mechanism allowing Member States wishing to strengthen civil society to generally exempt from VAT all or most of the activities and transactions carried out by voluntary non-profit making organisations; stresses that at least the smaller non-profit-making organisations should be covered by such a mechanism;

Or. en

**Amendment 64
Rolandas Paksas**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 10 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

10a. Calls on the Commission to carry out comparative research into volunteering in Europe for the collection of data into volunteering, its extent and its specific features on a European scale;

Or. lt

**Amendment 65
Roger Helmer**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 10 a (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

10a. Recalls that volunteering is primarily a local activity, and is by definition

voluntary;

Or. en

Amendment 66
Roger Helmer

Draft opinion
Paragraph 10 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

*10b. Questions whether policy initiatives
at the European level are justified,
practicable and cost-effective;*

Or. en