



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2012/2045(INI)

8.5.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on Education, Training and Europe 2020
(2012/2045(INI))

Rapporteur: Olle Ludvigsson

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses the importance of investing in learning to meet the Europe 2020 targets and to strengthen European competitiveness, and urges Member States to improve access to lifelong learning (LLL) for all despite budgetary consolidation processes;
2. Recalls that a higher level of skills and knowledge is necessary to reduce unemployment, to facilitate voluntary geographical mobility, to promote professional mobility, and to provide European industry, in particular SMEs, with an adequately educated and trained workforce;
3. Underlines the need for educational and vocational guidance to help learners, trainees and workers identify the education and training path best suiting their inclinations and interests, and recognises that the anticipation of labour market trends can be very useful for all those involved in order to better target their actions and make informed choices;
4. Regrets the reduced funding for education and the lack of training placements offered by enterprises owing to the crisis;
5. Recalls that employers have a key responsibility in making LLL a reality for all and encourages them to facilitate continuous training throughout workers' careers;
6. Urges Member States to set themselves ambitious targets and apply innovative policies in tackling early school leaving and calls for diversified and flexible learning pathways accommodating the needs of different learners, the introduction of dual systems combining studying and practical learning and better opportunities in vocational education and training;
7. Calls for an intensified policy dialogue and cooperation on education and training between the Union and its international partners to reflect the increasing economic, social and political interdependencies and to contribute to the implementation of the external dimension of Europe 2020.