Committee on Culture and Education

28.4.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on e-Democracy in the European Union: potential and challenges (2016/2008(INI))

Rapporteur: Isabella Adinolfi

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Acknowledges the continual and swift technological changes occurring in the information society, the deep transformations these changes have brought about, with particular regard to educational and citizenship aspects, and the challenges and opportunities related to the various ICT tools, new media and other new technologies;

2. Notes that an increasing number of citizens use ICT tools and new media and technologies to engage and participate in political life at both national and EU level and that it is therefore crucial to increase digital inclusion and literacy, thus eradicating the existing digital divide;

3. Believes that, in order to stimulate a proper and critical knowledge of the EU and its history, values and fundamental rights, its functioning and structured decision-making processes, ICT tools and new media and technologies are crucial and will increasingly play a fundamental role;

4. Stresses that the EU and the Member States should promote ICT-based lifelong learning programmes on both digital literacy and civic engagement and participation, with particular regard to the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged categories and people with disabilities;

5. Considers it crucial that the EU should strategically launch e-democracy tools able to provide decentralised sources of independent information and innovative models of learning, and to stimulate citizens' active participation and political engagement through participatory and direct democracy mechanisms able to reinforce and complement, where possible, representative democracy;

6. Calls on the Commission to develop and implement specific pilot projects, as provided for in the Digital Agenda, to promote and reinforce responsible and active European citizenship schemes, democracy being a social experience which needs to be experienced and learned about.

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