



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Regional Development

2013/2073(INI)

3.6.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012
(2013/2073(INI))

Rapporteur: Martina Anderson

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Emphasises the importance of the socio-economic and territorial cohesion of the European Union, as specified in Article 174 TFEU, in achieving the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy, namely creating more and equal opportunities for all young people, promoting social inclusion, gender equality and solidarity for all young people, reducing the risk of poverty and increasing the proportion of the population in employment, in the context of ongoing debt reduction measures, rising youth unemployment and divergent levels of educational achievement and training;
2. Believes that the EU's first priority should be the fight against youth unemployment in Europe; is worried about the alarming level of young people with neither education nor jobs; believes that if the EU cannot address this challenge properly, the lack of prospects for young people will undermine confidence in the European project;
3. Underlines the importance of strategic investment of EU structural funding in regional development, competitiveness and the creation of high-quality apprenticeships, internships and sustainable and durable jobs, giving young people the widest possible opportunities for employment that respects the employee's rights in every Member State, so that precarity and the risk of poverty can be significantly reduced; further underlines the importance of economic diversification into high-added-value sectors, where appropriate, and the need for an emphasis on rural and disadvantaged areas;
4. Underlines the importance of addressing geographical mismatches between job supply and demand both within and between Member States, in particular through changes to the European Job Mobility Portal (EURES), in order to improve youth employment opportunities;
5. Believes that early intervention and proactive labour market policies represent a shift from dealing with the symptoms of multi-generational deprivation towards identifying and managing risks early in life in order to prevent unemployment and facilitate reintegration; draws special attention to those who are most marginalised and at greatest risk of unemployment;
6. Suggests that the most effective avenue for progress is the development of a framework which explicitly links outcomes with progress on implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), supporting the view that youth policy needs to be robust and measurable;
7. Notes that alongside the EU employment strategies, cities and regions play an important role in assessing local employment markets, anticipating their needs and tailoring programmes for young people, and emphasises the importance of young people in their communities, including island and outermost regions; calls on local and regional authorities to encourage active citizenship and to ensure that representatives of young people or youth associations participate in the different initiatives proposed by the EU;

8. Emphasises that EU programmes, and especially structural and cohesion funding, are the most efficient instruments for creating new jobs and supporting entrepreneurship among young people;
9. Considers it regrettable that great announcements made by the European Council relating to commitments for youth are not reflected in equivalent financial commitments; notes that a large part of the 'Growth Package' announced in 2012 consisted mainly of a partial reallocation of structural funding that had already been promised and committed;
10. Urges the Member States to remove existing barriers to cross-border apprenticeships, traineeships and internships, so as to better match the supply and demand of work-based training opportunities for young people, thereby improving mobility and employability, particularly in border regions;
11. Considers regrettable the ambivalence shown by the Council, which is advocating additional resources for young people but delaying negotiations on payments in connection with the amending budget for 2013, thereby threatening Erasmus scholarship payments; calls on the Council to adopt a more constructive approach by ceasing to widen the gap between payment appropriations and commitment appropriations in each annual budget;
12. Asks the Commission and the Member States to mobilise all available funds, in particular in the framework of the Structural Funds, for a programme to stimulate investments in training and jobs with a view to combating the unacceptably high rate of youth unemployment, including the encouragement of business development for young people through entrepreneurship; welcomes the Youth Employment Initiative and urges the Member States and regions concerned to make full use of the funding available from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the special allocation;
13. Considers that the high unemployment rates in certain Member States could have been avoided through intensive national and regional strategies aimed at encouraging companies to hire the youth workforce;
14. Proposes that the Youth Guarantee Scheme be adequately funded through better use of the ESF;
15. Stresses that more support should be given to developing the entrepreneurial spirit among young people through access to EU funds and the provision of business advice;
16. Considers that new programmes should be drawn up with a view to providing young people with a high-quality technological education and promoting opportunities for them to specialise or to work in another Member State;
17. Recognises that social enterprises can play an important role in promoting high-quality jobs and fighting poverty and social exclusion, by investing in education and training for young Europeans.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	30.5.2013
Result of final vote	+: 41 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Luís Paulo Alves, Jean-Jacob Bicep, John Bufton, Nikos Chrysogelos, Francesco De Angelis, Danuta Maria Hübner, Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova, Vincenzo Iovine, María Irigoyen Pérez, Seán Kelly, Mojca Kleva Kekuš, Constanze Angela Krehl, Petru Constantin Luhan, Iosif Matula, Erminia Mazzoni, Ana Miranda, Jens Nilsson, Jan Olbrycht, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Markus Pieper, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Georgios Stavrakakis, Csanád Szegedi, Nuno Teixeira, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Oldřich Vlasák, Kerstin Westphal, Hermann Winkler, Joachim Zeller, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Martina Anderson, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Karin Kadenbach, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Elisabeth Schroedter, Patrice Tirolien, Evžen Tošenovský, Manfred Weber, Iuliu Winkler
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Albert Deß, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Katarína Neved'alová