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REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010)
(COM(2007)0797 – C6-0469/2007 – 2007/0278(COD))

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Rapporteur: Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

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 on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010)
(COM(2007)0797 – C6-0469/2007 – 2007/0278(COD))**

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2007)0797),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 137(2) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0469/2007),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0173/2008),
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 the Commission.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1) The fight against poverty and social exclusion is one of the central objectives of the European Union and its Member States.

Justification

It is important to make clear at the start of the document why there should be such a year.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision
Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) There is a need for support to be provided for less-favoured regions, for areas with permanent structural disadvantages, for extremely remote regions, for island Member States and for areas that have been affected by recent deindustrialisation or industrial conversion, in order to enable necessary social and economic cohesion to take place.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision
Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) In its resolution of 15 November 2007 on social reality stocktaking¹, the European Parliament stressed that the strengthening of social cohesion and the eradication of poverty and social exclusion must become a political priority for the European Union. In that resolution, the European Parliament also welcomed the nomination of 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and called on the Commission and Member States to specify and pursue the ambitious objective of reducing poverty in Europe.

¹ Texts Adopted, P6_TA(2007)0541 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

Justification

This recital shows the support the European Parliament has given, in an earlier phase, for the European Year 2010.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) Despite these achievements, significant parts of the population ***in all Member States*** are still suffering from deprivation ***and*** limited access to ***basic*** services or ***feel*** excluded from their societies, and 78 million people live at risk of poverty.

Amendment

(6) Despite these achievements, significant parts of the population are still suffering from deprivation ***or*** limited ***and unequal*** access to services or ***are*** excluded from their societies, and 78 million people ***in the European Union*** live at risk of poverty ***amongst which 19 million are children, which is at least 3 percentage points higher than among adults. The gender gap is about 2 percentage points. Persistent poverty is a worrying phenomenon in Europe which also needs to be tackled more effectively.***

Justification

Special attention should be given to child poverty and persistent poverty which are serious problems in the EU.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) Input for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion should also be derived from the Commission's Communication of 30 January 2008 on a Proposal for the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008, which contained an assessment of the 2007 Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion that focused on child poverty, thus contributing to keeping the issue high on the political agenda.

Justification

To stress the fact that the fight against child poverty should be an important goal of the

European Year 2010 in conformity and continuity with the impetus already given with the 2007 OMC.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) In addition, ***there are signs that the issue of deep poverty is becoming more important and the number of people suffering from absolute poverty is increasing, not least because of*** growing wealth inequalities across the Union.

Amendment

(7) In addition, wealth inequalities ***and severe*** poverty ***are matters of*** growing concern across the Union.

Justification

The purpose is to stress the crucial role of the Member States in providing sufficient economic and social support as a means to combat poverty. Regarding discrimination the focus of the European Year 2010 should be on combating discrimination on all grounds.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The fight against poverty and social exclusion ***is one of the central objectives of the EU and its*** Member States.

Amendment

(8) The fight against poverty and social exclusion ***must be pursued both within the European Union, and externally, in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals to which the European Union and the*** Member States have subscribed.

Justification

The UN Millennium Development Goals support the fight against poverty and are therefore a support to the European Year 2010. In addition, in a globalised world, the eradication of poverty within the EU borders is closely linked to the fight against poverty in third countries.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision

Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The European Union, Member States and all those involved, should create the necessary synergies between the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and the activities developed around the annual UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October.

Justification

The General Assembly of the United Nation adopted a resolution on 31st March 1993 that this day would be a special UN day paying attention to the eradication of poverty. Synergies should therefore be created between the European Year and the events of the 17th of October.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9) Poverty and social exclusion ***take*** complex and multi-dimensional forms. They relate to income and living standards, access to good quality health services and other services, ***and*** educational and work opportunities.

(9) The problem of poverty and social exclusion ***has broad,*** complex and multi-dimensional forms. They relate to income and living standards, access to good quality health services and other services, ***including effective social protection systems, housing, the reconciliation of work and family life,*** educational and ***decent*** work opportunities ***as well as active citizenship. There is therefore a need, at all levels, for a transparent coordination and cooperation system.***

Justification

The prevention and eradication of poverty require good quality and financially sustainable social protection systems as well as possibilities for the conciliation of family and professional life. Conciliation enables better integration in the labour market and therefore helps prevent poverty and social exclusion.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9a) The prevention of and the fight against poverty therefore require multi-dimensional policies at national, regional and local level which ensure a balance between economic growth and social objectives and are complemented by more targeted strategies for particularly vulnerable groups or persons.

Justification

Given the complexity of the phenomenon of poverty, its prevention and eradication requires multi-dimensional policies which will be implemented at all levels of governance and be completed by more targeted policies for vulnerable groups or persons.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision Recital 9 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9b) Social exclusion affects individuals' well-being and prevents people from expressing themselves and participating in society. Community and Member State actions and policies should therefore focus particularly on social exclusion.

Justification

The Commission proposal assimilates social exclusion and poverty and the purpose of the amendment is to differentiate these two phenomena in order to be able to tackle them with different policies and actions in appropriate situations.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Social Agenda 2005-2010, which complements and supports the Lisbon Strategy, has a key role in promoting the social dimension of economic growth. One of the priorities of the Social Agenda is the promotion of equal opportunities for all as a vector for a more **cohesive** society.

Amendment

(10) The Social Agenda 2005-2010, which complements and supports the Lisbon Strategy, has a key role in promoting the social dimension of economic growth **and the active participation of citizens in society and the labour market**. One of the priorities of the Social Agenda is the promotion of equal opportunities for all as a vector for **social and intergenerational solidarity and the creation of a poverty-free and** a more **inclusive** society.

Justification

This is a further specification of the link between the Social Agenda 2005 - 2010 and the European Year 2010. The later part of the amendment is in conformity with earlier amendments by the European Parliament on the European Year 2007 for equal opportunities for all (C6 0178/2005).

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In their National Action Plans for Social Inclusion, several countries highlight the high poverty and/or exclusion risk faced by some particular groups, including children, **lone** parents, the elderly, migrants and ethnic minorities, **disabled** people, the homeless, prisoners, women and children who are victims of violence, and severe substance abusers.

Amendment

(11) In their National Action Plans for Social Inclusion, several countries highlight the high poverty and/or exclusion risk faced by some particular groups, including children, **early school leavers, single** parents, **large families, families with a single income, young people, in particular young women, older people,** migrants and ethnic minorities, people **with disabilities and their carers**, the homeless, **the unemployed, in particular the long-term unemployed,** prisoners, women and children who are victims of violence, and severe substance abusers. **National policies and supporting measures targeted at the most vulnerable groups can play an**

important role in fighting against poverty and social exclusion.

Justification

The additions are also part of the National Action Plans for social inclusion.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) ***If*** employment significantly reduces the poverty risk for the individual, it is not ***always*** a sufficient condition to lift people out of poverty, and the at-risk-of-poverty rate is still relatively high even for those in work. In-work poverty is linked to low pay, low skills, ***and precarious and often part-time*** employment, but also to ***the characteristics of the household in which the individual lives, in terms of the number of dependants and the work intensity of the*** household. Quality employment is thus essential to lift individuals out of poverty.

Amendment

(12) ***Although decent*** employment significantly reduces the poverty risk for the individual, it is not a sufficient condition to lift people out of poverty, and the at-risk-of-poverty rate is still relatively high even for those in work. In-work poverty is linked to low pay, ***the gender pay and pensions gap, low skills, limited professional training opportunities and combining a job with family and non-secure*** employment ***and working conditions***, but also to ***difficult*** household ***conditions***. Quality employment ***and social and economic support are*** thus essential to lift individuals out of poverty.

Justification

The additions are also important when combating poverty.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The lack of basic competences and qualifications is also a major barrier to inclusion in society. There is a growing danger of new cleavages in society emerging, between those who have access to lifelong learning to enhance their employability and adaptability, and to facilitate their personal development and

Amendment

(13) The lack of basic competences and qualifications ***adapted to the changing needs of the labour market*** is also a major barrier to inclusion in society. There is a growing danger of new cleavages in society emerging, between those who have access to lifelong learning to enhance their employability and adaptability, and to

active citizenship, and those who remain excluded. *Those without adequate skills will find it more difficult to enter the labour market and find a quality job, are more likely to spend long periods out of work and, if they do work, are more likely to find themselves in low-paid jobs.*

facilitate their personal development and active citizenship, and those who remain excluded *and face forms of discrimination. It is therefore of the greatest importance that both employed and unemployed persons with low skills are given opportunities to enhance their skills.*

Justification

The amendment refers to flexicurity and to combating discrimination on all grounds as an integral part of the European Year 2010.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Key to the successful impact of Community action to fight poverty and social exclusion is the extent to which it enjoys broad popular support. The European Year should act as a catalyst in raising awareness *and* in building momentum. It should help to focus political attention and mobilise everyone concerned in order to drive forward the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Amendment

(15) Key to the successful impact of Community action to fight poverty and social exclusion is the extent to which it enjoys broad popular *and political support*. The European Year should act as a catalyst in raising awareness, in building momentum *and in exchanging best practices between the Member States, local and regional authorities and international organisations involved in the fight against poverty*. It should help to focus political attention *in the long-term* and mobilise everyone concerned in order to drive forward *and strengthen* the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion *as well as promote further actions and initiatives at European and national level in that field, in association with the people affected by poverty and their representatives. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to the implementation, at national level, of Community legislation, in particular that on equal opportunities, non-discrimination and gender equality.*

Justification

The campaign to address the issue of poverty and social exclusion should be seen as a long-term effort and the action taken during the Year should have a permanent impact.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision

Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15a) The European Year should help improve the coordination between existing programmes and initiatives at EU level on the fight against poverty and social exclusion within the Open method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Justification

The European Year should also be used to improve the coordination between existing EU programmes to improve their effectiveness.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision

Recital 15 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15b) The European Year should also give rise to a process of reflection at national level on the necessity of establishing decent living conditions for all as a means to prevent poverty and promote the exchange of best practices between Member States in this regard.

Justification

The establishment of decent living conditions is a fundamental prerequisite to prevent and fight against poverty and social exclusion and therefore this issue should be high on the agenda.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) However, the definition of policy priorities at national level should be monitored by the Commission with a view to guaranteeing consistency with the strategic objectives agreed for the European Year and ultimately with the Common Objectives established for the Open Method of Coordination.

Amendment

(17) However, the definition of policy priorities at national level **and their subsequent implementation** should be monitored by the Commission with a view to guaranteeing consistency with the strategic objectives agreed for the European Year and ultimately with the Common Objectives established for the Open Method of Coordination.

Justification

This amendment is to stress that, apart from putting poverty on the political agenda, it is mutually important to stress the need for implementation of policies.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision

Recital 17 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17a) Good coordination of all the partners contributing at European, national, regional and local level is a fundamental prerequisite to ensuring the effectiveness of the European Year.

Justification

It is important that during and after the European Year all institutions and parties on all levels that have a role to play in combating poverty should be involved.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision Recital 19 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19a) The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Inclusion should continue the best practices derived from the European Years on Equal Opportunities for All in 2007 and the European Year on Intercultural Dialogue in 2008.

Justification

It is logical that within the European Year 2010, the best practices of previous relevant European Years are taking into account.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Objectives

Objectives and guiding principles

Justification

Article 2 not only concerns objectives but also values which have to be taken into consideration

Amendment 23

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The objectives of the European Year shall be as follows:

The objectives ***and guiding principles*** of the European Year shall be as follows:

Justification

These are not only objectives but also values to be taken into consideration.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

a) Recognition — Recognising the right of people in a situation of poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society. The European Year **shall help in acknowledging** the situation of people experiencing poverty and promoting their effective access to social, economic and cultural rights as well as to resources and services and shall help in combating stereotypes and stigmatisation;

Amendment

(a) Recognition **of Rights— In light of respecting fundamental rights,** recognising the right of people in a situation of poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society. The European Year **will help sensitising public opinion by improving knowledge about** the situation of people experiencing poverty, **paying particular attention to vulnerable groups,** and promoting their effective access to social, economic and cultural rights as well as to **sufficient** resources and **quality** services and shall help in combating stereotypes and stigmatisation;

Justification

Particular attention should be paid to the situation of vulnerable groups.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

b) **Ownership** — Increasing public ownership of social inclusion policies and actions, emphasising **everyone's** responsibility in **tackling poverty and marginalisation**. The European Year **shall foster awareness, participation and engagement, and create new opportunities for ordinary citizens to contribute.**

Amendment

(b) **Shared responsibility and partnership** — Increasing public ownership of social inclusion policies and actions, emphasising **both collective and individual** responsibility in **the fight against poverty and social exclusion and the importance of promoting and supporting voluntary activities**. The European Year **will promote the involvement of all public and private actors, inter alia through pro-active partnerships.**

Justification

It is important that everyone, including people living in poverty be involved in the fight

against poverty and that partnerships be developed between the public and private sector to this end.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) Participation — The European Year will foster awareness and engagement, creating opportunities for contributions by all citizens, in particular people with direct or indirect experience of poverty.

Justification

It is important to highlight that participation of people experiencing poverty should be an objective per se and not only a horizontal principle.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

c) Cohesion — Promoting a more cohesive society by raising public awareness of the benefits for all of a society where poverty is eradicated and no-one is ***condemned to live in the margins***. The European Year ***shall*** foster a society that sustains and develops quality of life, social well-being and equal opportunities for all regardless of their background, ensuring sustainable development and solidarity between and within generations and policy coherence with EU action worldwide.

c) Cohesion — Promoting a more cohesive society by raising public awareness of the benefits for all of a society where poverty is eradicated and no-one is ***marginalised***. The European Year ***will*** foster a society that sustains and develops quality of life, ***quality of skills and employment, the well-being of children***, social well-being and equal opportunities for all, ensuring sustainable development and solidarity between and within generations and policy coherence with EU action worldwide.

Justification

The quality of employment is also important to combat in-work poverty and the gender aspect is obviously to be stressed as women tend to be more vulnerable than men to poverty.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

d) Commitment — Reiterating the strong political commitment of the EU to ***the fight against*** poverty and social exclusion and promoting this commitment at all levels of governance. Building upon the achievements and ***possible shortcomings*** of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the European Year ***shall*** strengthen the political commitment to the prevention of and fight against poverty and social exclusion and give impetus to ***further development of*** the European Union's action in this field.

Amendment

(d) Commitment ***and concrete action*** — Reiterating the strong political commitment of the EU ***and the Member States*** to ***eradicate*** poverty and social exclusion and promoting this commitment ***and concrete actions*** at all levels of governance. Building upon the achievements and ***potential*** of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the European Year ***will*** strengthen the political commitment, ***by focusing political attention and mobilising all interested parties,*** to the prevention of and fight against poverty and social exclusion and give ***further*** impetus to ***the Member States and*** the European Union's action in this field.

Justification

Both the EU and the Member States shall commit to the fight against poverty and social exclusion and have ambitious objectives which can be translated into new initiatives both at national and European level.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

When implementing these objectives, the Community and the Member States should take into account the priorities listed in Part IV of the Annex.

Justification

This is to make clear that the objectives and values of this article need to be part of the European Years' events, projects, meetings etc.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The actions designed to meet the objectives set out in Article 2 may include the following in particular:

- a) meetings and events;
- b) information, promotional and educational campaigns;
- c) surveys and studies on a Community or nationwide scale.

Amendment

1. The actions designed to meet the objectives set out in Article 2 may include the following in particular:

- (a) meetings and events **at Community and national level**;
- (b) information, promotional and educational campaigns **at Community and national level**;
- (c) surveys and studies **based on gender-disaggregated data collection** on a Community or nationwide scale, **as well as the development of multi-dimensional comparable indicators**.

Justification

Stresses the need for action on EU and national level as well as the need for multi-dimensional comparable data on the various aspects of poverty.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Details of the actions referred to in paragraph 1 are set out in the Annex **to this Decision (hereafter referred to as "the Annex")**.

Amendment

2. Details of the actions referred to in paragraph 1 are set out in the Annex.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a decision

Article 4

Text proposed by the Commission

The European Year shall take into account the different **ways in which** women and men experience poverty **and social**

Amendment

The European Year shall take into account the different **risks and dimensions of poverty and social exclusion experienced**

exclusion.

by women and men, specifically in single-parent families, which experience poverty more severely. Special attention should also be paid to discrimination in employment. Account shall be taken of gender considerations in the implementation and evaluation of its activities.

Justification

The gender differences should be mainstreamed in all the activities of the European Year.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a decision

Article 5 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. *It* shall conduct a regular exchange of views with stakeholders, particularly at European level, on the design, implementation, follow-up and assessment of the European Year.

Amendment

4. **The Commission** shall conduct a regular exchange of views with stakeholders **including those working with people living in poverty**, particularly at European level, on the design, implementation, follow-up and assessment of the European Year. **It shall make all relevant information available to the public.**

Justification

It is important that during and after the European Year representatives of the people confronted with poverty are involved.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a decision

Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Each Member State shall appoint a “National Implementing Body” to organise its participation in the European Year and ensure coordination at national level. That National Implementing Body shall be responsible for defining the national programme and the priorities for the European Year and for selecting the

Amendment

1. Each Member State shall appoint a “National Implementing Body” to organise its participation in the European Year and ensure coordination at national level. That National Implementing Body shall be responsible for defining the national programme and the priorities for the European Year and for selecting the

individual actions to be proposed for Community funding. The national strategy and priorities for the European Year shall be set out in accordance with the objectives listed in Article 2.

individual actions to be proposed for Community funding. The national strategy and priorities for the European Year shall be set out in accordance with the objectives listed in Article 2 ***and the gender mainstreaming principle, pursuant to Article 4.***

Amendment 35

Proposal for a decision Article 6 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. For the purpose of carrying out its tasks, the National Implementing Body shall consult on a regular basis and cooperate closely with a National Advisory Group, composed of a broad range of relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations and organisations defending or representing the interests of those who experience poverty and social exclusion, national parliament representatives, social partners, and regional and local authorities.

Amendment

3. For the purpose of carrying out its tasks, ***in particular when drawing up the national programme and whenever appropriate during the implementation of the European Year,*** the National Implementing Body shall consult on a regular basis and cooperate closely with a broad range of relevant stakeholders, including civil society organisations and organisations defending or representing the interests of those who experience poverty and social exclusion, national parliament representatives, social partners, and regional and local authorities, ***structured in an appropriate advisory body.***

Amendment 36

Proposal for a decision Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a ***Committee composed of one representative per State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. The representative per State shall be designated from the National Implementing Body referred to in Article 6.***

Amendment

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a ***committee, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee".***

Amendment 37

Proposal for a decision Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Actions at local, regional or national level may be co-financed from the general budget of the European Union up to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible costs of the actions implemented in accordance with the procedure set out in *part II* of the Annex.

Amendment

(2) Actions at local, regional or national level may be co-financed from the general budget of the European Union up to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible costs of the actions implemented in accordance with the procedure set out in *Part II* of the Annex. ***The national implementing bodies shall provide opportunities for pre-financing and co-financing to facilitate the participation particularly of small and medium-sized non-governmental organisations.***

Justification

In the European Social Fund and previous European Years it has turned out that mechanisms for pre- and co-financing are important to facilitate the participation of small and medium-sized non-governmental organisations.

Amendment 38

Proposal for a decision Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Decisions on the financing of actions pursuant to Article 8(1) ***and Article 8(2)*** shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7(2).

Amendment

1. Decisions on the financing of actions pursuant to Article 8(1) shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7(2).

Amendment 39

Proposal for a decision

Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Requests for financial assistance for actions pursuant to **Article 8(3)** shall be submitted to the Commission by the National Implementing Bodies in accordance with the procedure set out in *part II* of the Annex.

Amendment

2. Requests for financial assistance for actions pursuant to **Article 8(2)** shall be submitted to the Commission by the National Implementing Bodies in accordance with the procedure set out in *Part II* of the Annex **and respecting the gender mainstreaming principle, pursuant to Article 4.**

Amendment 40

Proposal for a decision

Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission together with the participating countries shall ensure that the measures provided for in this Decision are consistent with other Community, national and regional action and initiatives.

Amendment

1. The Commission together with the participating countries shall ensure that the measures provided for in this Decision are consistent with other Community, national and regional action and initiatives, **such as those relating to previous European Years.**

Justification

In order to prevent a doubling of projects and to be able to learn from previous projects the European Year should take into account the results of relevant previous European Years.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a decision

Article 10 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. They shall ensure that the European Year fully complements **other** existing Community, national and regional initiatives and resources, where they can help to attain the objectives of the

Amendment

(2) They shall ensure that the European Year fully complements **the** existing Community, national and regional initiatives and resources, where they can help to attain the objectives of the

European Year.

European Year.

Justification

The proposed wording is more inclusive, the aim being to avoid circumstances where certain Community, national or regional initiatives or resources have not been taken into account.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a decision

Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial **framework** for the implementation of the actions referred to in this Decision for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010 shall be EUR 17 000 000, of which EUR 6 500 000 shall be for the period until 31 December 2009.

Amendment

1. The financial **envelope** for the implementation of the actions referred to in this Decision for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2010 shall be EUR 17 000 000, of which EUR 6 500 000 shall be for the period until 31 December 2009.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a decision

Article 13

Text proposed by the Commission

For the purpose of the European Year, the Commission may cooperate with relevant international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations.

Amendment

For the purpose of the European Year, the Commission may cooperate with relevant international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe, the International Labour Organisation, and the United Nations, **as well as with other EU institutions and agencies.**

Justification

EU agencies can contribute to the success of the European Year according to their field of expertise and therefore need to be involved.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a decision
Article 15 - subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The report shall also contain information concerning the upholding of the principle of equality between the sexes in the course of the European Year and the implementation of that principle, and also an assessment of the way in which the European Year has been of benefit to vulnerable groups.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a decision
Annex – part I – point 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Organisation of meetings and events at Community level, intended to raise the awareness about issues related to the European Year and about poverty and social exclusion and to provide for a forum of exchange of ideas. They will gather relevant stakeholders and will be planned together with people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations representing them, to ***provide a good opportunity to address policy gaps and every day problems.***

Organisation of meetings and events at Community level, intended to raise the awareness about issues related to the European Year and about poverty and social exclusion, ***as well as*** to provide for a forum of exchange of ideas. They will gather relevant stakeholders and will be planned together with people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations representing them, to ***help develop social empowerment measures and practices for all and address policy gaps as well as raising awareness of various institutions regarding the multidimensional aspects of poverty (especially among women and children) such as access to employment, housing, social protection, family support, health and social services.***

Justification

The objective of the Year is to create conditions that limit the proliferation of social inequalities among others by addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty and possible policy gaps.

Amendment 46

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part I – point 2 – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

- The organisation of various solidarity initiatives for poverty alleviation and social inclusion to give **ordinary** citizens the opportunity to contribute directly or through their organisations, even modestly and in whatever form. Media campaigns may support fundraising operations within the framework of the European Year;

Amendment

- The organisation of various solidarity initiatives for poverty alleviation and social inclusion to give **all** citizens the opportunity to contribute directly or through their organisations, even modestly and in whatever form. Media campaigns **at national and EU level** may support fundraising operations within the framework of the European Year;

Justification

For clarification purposes.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part I – paragraph 2 – indent 3

Text proposed by the Commission

- An information campaign at Community level with positioning at national level, based on both traditional and new communication channels and new technologies;

Amendment

- An information campaign at Community level with positioning at national **and local** level, based on both traditional and new communication channels and new technologies

Justification

The local level is important because local and regional authorities have a particular role to play in recognising and promoting effective access to social, economic and cultural services for people living in poverty or social exclusion. They have basic responsibility for carrying out policies designed to guarantee the integration of people who are excluded.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a decision
Annex – part I – point 2 – indent 5

Text proposed by the Commission

- Appropriate measures and initiatives for publicising the results and raising the **profile** of Community programmes, actions and initiatives contributing to the objectives of the European Year;

Amendment

- Appropriate measures and initiatives for **providing information**, publicising the results and raising the **visibility** of Community programmes, actions and initiatives contributing to the objectives of the European Year;

Justification

The visibility of Community programmes and initiatives relating to the European Year should be enhanced.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a decision
Annex – part I – paragraph 2 – indent 6

Text proposed by the Commission

- Appropriate initiatives by educational institutions to disseminate information on the European Year;

Amendment

- Appropriate initiatives by educational institutions, **non-governmental organisations and charities at national and EU level**, to disseminate information on the European Year **and on measures to fight poverty and social exclusion**;

Justification

Also NGOs and charity associations need to be involved to be sure to have support.

Amendment 50

Proposal for a decision
Annex – part I – paragraph 3 – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

- Community-wide surveys and studies to assess and report on the preparation, effectiveness, impact **and long-term monitoring** of the European Year. To facilitate **a new consensus around** political solutions, one such survey will also

Amendment

- Community-wide surveys and studies, **based on gender-disaggregated data collection**, to assess and report on the preparation, effectiveness **and immediate and long-term** impact of the European Year. To facilitate **the identification of**

include a series of questions to gauge public opinion on policy to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion, including social protection systems, and on the potential role of the Union in the fight against poverty and exclusion. *This* will be conducted in 2009 so that its results can be presented at the Opening Conference of the European Year;

innovative political solutions, one such survey will also gauge public opinion on policy to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion, including, ***where appropriate***, social protection systems, and on the potential role of the Union in the fight against poverty and exclusion ***both within the EU and worldwide***. That survey will be conducted in 2009 so that its results can be presented at the Opening Conference of the European Year;

Justification

The UN Millennium Development Goals support the fight against poverty and are therefore a support to the European Year 2010. In addition, in a globalised world, the eradication of poverty within the EU borders is closely linked to the fight against poverty in third countries.

Amendment 51

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part I – point 3 – indent 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

• Promoting a study on the attacks on fundamental rights that are the result of serious poverty;

Justification

Millions of European citizens do not have proper access to fundamental rights because of the extreme poverty and social exclusion in which they are condemned to live. Accordingly a study to report on this reality should be promoted.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part II – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Actions at local, regional or national level may qualify for financing from the Community budget up to a maximum of 50% of the total eligible costs per participating country. National co-funding should match the EU funding with at least

1. National co-funding should match the EU funding with at least 50 % from public or private sources. When selecting actions, National Implementing Bodies will be free to decide whether or not, and at what level, to request co-funding from the organisation

50 % from public or private sources. When selecting actions, National Implementing Bodies will be free to decide whether or not, and at what level, to request co-funding from the organisation responsible for implementing individual actions.

responsible for implementing individual actions, ***with the possibility of considering whether to finance activities even up to 100 % of project costs by the National Implementing Bodies.***

Amendment 53

Proposal for a decision Annex – part II – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. In response to the Strategic Framework Document, each National *Implementation* Body will produce a National Programme for implementing the European Year, in close coordination and consistency with the National Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Amendment

3. In response to the Strategic Framework Document, each National *Implementing* Body will produce, ***after consulting civil society***, a National Programme for implementing the European Year, in close coordination and consistency with the National Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Justification

On of the important aspects of the European Year is the involved of the people that experience poverty, who given their experience can help to improve the quality of the national programme.

Amendment 54

Proposal for a decision Annex – part II – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Each National Implementing Body will submit a single application for Community funding. That grant application will describe the national programme and priorities for the European Year, the actions proposed for funding ***in the relevant participating country and the organisations responsible for implementing each of the individual actions***. The grant application will be accompanied by a detailed budget setting out the total costs of the actions proposed

Amendment

4. Each National Implementing Body will submit a single application for Community funding. That grant application will describe the national programme and priorities for the European Year, ***and*** the actions proposed for funding. The grant application will be accompanied by a detailed budget setting out the total costs of the actions proposed and the amount and sources of co-funding. Eligible costs may include personnel and administrative costs incurred by the national implementing

and the amount and sources of co-funding. Eligible costs may include personnel and administrative costs incurred by the national implementing body.

body.

Amendment 55

Proposal for a decision Annex – part II – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The Commission will evaluate and, if necessary, request modifications to the applications for Community funding submitted by the National Implementing Bodies.

Amendment

6. The Commission will evaluate ***compliance with the objectives referred to in Article 2*** and, if necessary, request modifications to the applications for Community funding submitted by the National Implementing Bodies.

Justification

The Commission should ensure that the applications for Community funding comply with the objectives of the Year as mentioned in article 2 of the proposal.

Amendment 56

Proposal for a decision Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

• promoting multidimensional integrated strategies to prevent and eradicate poverty, in particular severe poverty, and approaches which would be mainstreamed across social, economic and cultural policy;

Justification

The Year should help mainstream the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty in economic, cultural and social policies.

Amendment 57

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

- child poverty **and** the intergenerational transmission of poverty;

Amendment

- **fighting** child poverty **including** the intergenerational transmission of poverty **as well as poverty within families, paying special attention to large families, single parents and families caring for a dependent person, as well as poverty experienced by children in institutions;**

Justification

Specific attention should be given to the situation of vulnerable families.

Amendment 58

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 2

Text proposed by the Commission

- **an** inclusive labour **market**;

Amendment

- **promoting** inclusive labour **markets, addressing in-work poverty and the need to make work pay;**

Justification

Many people who are employed are still at-risk-of-poverty due to, amongst others, low quality jobs and low wages. This problem will need specific attention during the European Year.

Amendment 59

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 3

Text proposed by the Commission

- disadvantages in education and training, including digital literacy training;

Amendment

- **eradicating** disadvantages in education and training, including digital literacy training **and promoting equal access for all to ICTs, with particular focus on the specific needs of disabled people;**

Justification

Access to lifelong learning opportunities is of particular importance because peoples skills need to adopt to the changes in the labour markets to have an opportunity for work at a decent level.

Amendment 60

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 4

Text proposed by the Commission

- poverty **and the gender dimension**;

Amendment

- **tackling the gender and age dimensions of poverty**;

Justification

Poverty does not effect in an equal manner women and men or the elderly. These differences should be taken into account in policies and initiatives during and after the European Year.

Amendment 61

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 5

Text proposed by the Commission

- access to **basic** services, including decent accommodation;

Amendment

- **ensuring equal** access to **adequate resources and** services, including decent accommodation, **health and social protection**;

Justification

Access to adequate resources, to health and social protection are very important for people living in poverty and must be sufficiently addressed by the European Year.

Amendment 62

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 5 a new

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- **facilitating access to culture and leisure opportunities**;

Justification

Persons affected by poverty often do not have access to culture nor to leisure opportunities.

Amendment 63

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 6

Text proposed by the Commission

• overcoming discrimination and promoting *the integration of immigrants and the social and labour market inclusion* of ethnic minorities;

Amendment

• overcoming discrimination and promoting the social *inclusion* of *immigrants and* ethnic minorities;

Justification

To make clear that integration into the societies of immigrants and ethnic minorities is of the utmost importance.

Amendment 64

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

• *promoting integrated approaches to active inclusion and the management of private life;*

Justification

The Year should help promote active inclusion as well as the self-management of private life and in particular sound financial management.

Amendment 65

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 6 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

• *promoting equal opportunities for all;*

Justification

Given the aim of the European Year for equal opportunities it is logical to put that as in theme for this European Year.

Amendment 66

Proposal for a decision

Annex – part IV – paragraph 2 – indent 7

Text proposed by the Commission

- addressing the needs of disabled people and other vulnerable groups.

Amendment

- addressing the needs of disabled ***and dependent*** people ***and their families***, and other vulnerable groups ***as well as people in vulnerable situations, in particular the homeless***.

Justification

Dependent people and the families caring for them are at higher risk of poverty just as persons who face a difficult personal situation.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

At the launch of the Lisbon strategy in March 2000, the European Council invited Member States and the Commission to take steps to make “a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty” by 2010. Subsequent European Councils have reaffirmed this objective.

In 2006, 16% (78 million) of the total EU-25 population lived under the poverty threshold. In 2000 within the EU25 about 40 million people (9% of the total) are confronted with persistent poverty. In 2005, within the EU-25 19% (19 million) of the children were at risk of poverty. Although in most Member States the gender gap is decreasing, regarding the poverty and persistent poverty the gender gap is (in 2006) about 2 percentage point.

Background information

The Lisbon European Council of March 2000 set up the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) which provides a framework of political coordination without legal constraints. As such, it underpins the achievement of the Union’s strategic goal of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs, and greater social cohesion by 2010. Member States agree to identify and promote their most effective policies in the fields of Social Protection and Social Inclusion with the aim of learning from each others’ experiences. This is a flexible and decentralised method, which involves:

In the framework of this flexible and decentralised method, the Member States agree to common objectives and common indicators, prepare national strategic reports and present their evaluation.

Since January 2007, the EU's new integrated programme for employment and social solidarity supports the goals set out in the Social Agenda and contributes to the Union's wider strategy for jobs and growth.

The overarching objectives of the OMC for social protection and social inclusion are to promote:

- Effective and mutual interaction between the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon objectives of greater economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion;
- Social inclusion policies, equality between men and women and equal opportunities for all through accessible, financially sustainable and efficient social protection systems;
- Good governance, transparency and the involvement of stakeholders in the design, implementation and monitoring of policy.

Within the framework of the overarching objectives it is mentioned that the OMC should aim at having a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion.

Following the mandate from the Lisbon European Council, the Member States and the Commission have sought to develop common approaches and compatibility in regard to

indicators. In 2001, the Social Protection Committee (SPC) submitted a report recommending an initial set commonly agreed indicators which was adopted at the Employment and Social Affairs Council in December 2001 and then was submitted to the EU Laeken-Brussels Summit. In June 2006, the SPC adopted an adjusted set of common indicators for the social protection and social inclusion process.

With regard to the objective of eradication of poverty and social exclusion one of the common agreed indicators is the at-risk of poverty rate (share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below 60% of the national equivalised median income).

Summary of the Commission Communication regarding the European Year 2010

In its 2005-2010 Social Agenda, the Commission announced a proposal to designate 2010 as the European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion.

The budget allocated to the Year-17 million euros- represents the highest budget ever granted to a European Year, thus demonstrating its high political importance.

The aim of the European Year is to reaffirm the Union's commitment to solidarity, social justice, greater cohesion, and promote consistency as well as boost support for the overarching objectives of the Union, by making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty.

The European Year should raise public awareness of poverty and social exclusion in Europe and convey the message that they are disruptive to social and economic development. It should reaffirm the importance of collective responsibility, involving not only decision-makers but also public and private actors.

Apart from the general objectives, four specific objectives underpin the proposal for a European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion:

- Recognising the right of people in a situation of poverty and social exclusion to live in dignity and to play a full part in society.
- Increasing public ownership of social inclusion policies and actions, emphasising everyone's responsibility in tackling poverty and marginalisation.
- Promoting a more cohesive society, by raising public awareness of the benefits for all of a society where poverty is eradicated and no-one is condemned to live in the margins.
- Reiterating the strong political commitment of the EU to the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and promoting this commitment at all levels of governance.

The European Year activities will underpin the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on Social Protection and Social Inclusion and aim to produce a clear added value in terms of policy impact and effectiveness. Thus the themes of the European Year are in line with this OMC.

While the Union can provide a framework for coordination at various levels, tangible progress will be achieved only through the significant involvement of participating countries at national level. Activities defined at European level to ensure consistency in the approach towards an inclusive society will thus be adapted to the specificities of each country. A Committee made up of Member State representatives will be appointed in order to assist the

Commission in the implementation of the European Year activities.

The Committee will monitor the implementation of the activities on the basis of common guidelines developed by the Commission, the Strategic Framework Document (SFD).

National implementation will have to be consistent with the policy objectives set for the European Year, in response to the SFD. Each Member State will submit to the Commission a National Programme for implementing the European Year.

Each programme should be devised, adopted and implemented in strict cooperation with and under the supervision of the National Implementing Bodies (NIBs) designated by the countries participating in the European Year.

When establishing and carrying out their national strategies, each NIB will consult and cooperate closely with a National Advisory Group — NAG — composed of a broad range of stakeholders, including civil society organisations representing the interests of people in poverty, national parliament representatives, social partners, and regional and local authorities.

The experience of previous European Years in the social field has demonstrated their relevance in raising awareness among the general public, fostering participation, enhancing political commitment at all levels and contributing to policy change. The proposal therefore conforms to the principle of subsidiarity set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. At the same time, the proposal for the European Year emphasises how important it is to respect the different traditions and national contexts of the Member States, both to ensure flexible implementation and to avoid interfering with the good practices that already exist in some Member States. In this respect, the proposal also complies with the principle of proportionality.

Core of the Amendments of the European Parliament

The European Parliament, in its report on the Stocktaking of Social Reality, had supported the Commission's proposal for a European Year 2010 with the aim of combating poverty and social exclusion.

In general terms your Rapporteur approves the content of the Commission's proposal and is particularly satisfied with the acknowledgement of the multidimensional aspects of poverty and the necessity to increase public awareness and public and private responsibility as well as the involvement of people affected by poverty and their representatives in the implementation of the Year.

The core of the content of the report is aimed at specifications of the articles and introducing some important new elements. The items that are discussed are:

1. Global perspective of poverty and social inclusion by linking the European Year to the Millennium Goals of the UN and especially to the International Day for eradication of Poverty (17th October).
2. It should be clear from the start of the European Year that its aim is not only to combat (severe) poverty but also to prevent poverty and social exclusion.
3. To further develop the concept of the Commissions' Proposal with regard to the complexity and multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and social exclusion.

This is done by a more extensive definition of the groups concerned, for example by

introducing early school leavers and (long) term unemployed.

Also there is a further clarification on the multidimensional policies that have to be coordinated and implemented at national, regional and local levels in order to reach the aim of the European Year. These policies should provide equal access to education and lifelong learning including access to ICTs, social protection systems, the quality of social and health services as well as housing.

4. A separate point of attention is the need to ensure equal treatment and non-discrimination among others through better implementation of relevant EU legislation, as women and vulnerable groups are confronted with poverty and social exclusion more than others.

5. Your rapporteur also wished to give greater emphasis to governance and to the creation of synergies with existing programmes and initiatives.

It is made clear that on an EU level, the Year should not just be used to reiterate previous commitments nor for the mere strengthening of the Open Method of Coordination but that it should give rise to additional efforts in terms of exchange of good practices, the launching of new initiatives etc. For the sake of coherence and continuity of actions, greater links need to be established with the results of previous European Years and coordination with existing European programmes and financial resources that support the fight against poverty and social exclusion needs to be strengthened.

In order to make the European Year a success, national, regional and local authorities need to work together and all relevant actors need to be involved when Member States start to discuss the national content of the European Year.

6. Combined with the previous point, the European Parliament finds it very important that people confronted with poverty and social inclusion, are really involved in the discussions on an EU and national level with regard to the content of and implementation of the plans for the European Year.

This all leads to specific adjustments in the recitals and articles, Specific attention has been given to Article 2 (objectives) and the Annex, part IV, paragraph 2 (themes of the European Year).

In Article 2 the change concerns the involvement and participation of all groups concerned. The Article is also linked to the Annex, part IV. In this Annex the main changes concern the introduction of some additional themes which are aimed at stressing the importance of fighting child poverty in correlation with family poverty, at promoting equal treatment and non-discrimination, active inclusion approaches as well as access to culture and leisure (the purpose is to link the themes with the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and social exclusion).

3.4.2008

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010)
(COM(2007)0797 – C6-0469/2007 – 2007/0278(COD))

Draftswoman: Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In their National Action Plans for Social Inclusion, several countries highlight the high poverty and/or exclusion risk faced by some particular groups, including children, lone parents, the elderly, migrants and ethnic minorities, disabled people, the homeless, prisoners, women and children who are victims of violence, and severe substance abusers.

Amendment

(11) In their National Action Plans for Social Inclusion, several countries highlight the high poverty and/or exclusion risk faced by some particular groups, including children, lone parents, **large families**, the elderly, **young people and in particular young women**, migrants and ethnic minorities, disabled people, the homeless, prisoners, women and children who are victims of violence, and severe substance abusers.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) If employment significantly reduces the poverty risk for the individual, it is not always a sufficient condition to lift people out of poverty, and the at-risk-of-poverty rate is still relatively high even for those in work. In-work poverty is linked to low pay, low skills, **and** precarious and often part-time employment, but also to the characteristics of the household in which the individual lives, in terms of the number of dependants and the work intensity of the household. Quality employment **is** thus essential to lift individuals out of poverty.

Amendment

(12) If employment significantly reduces the poverty risk for the individual, it is not always a sufficient condition to lift people out of poverty, and the at-risk-of-poverty rate is still relatively high even for those in work. In-work poverty is linked to low pay, low skills, **reduced scope for vocational training and for combining a job with a family**, precarious and often part-time employment **and precarious working conditions**, but also to **the level of social and economic assistance in relation to** the characteristics of the household in which the individual lives, in terms of the number of dependants and the work intensity of the household. Quality employment **and social and economic support are** thus essential to lift individuals out of poverty.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Key to the successful impact of Community action to fight poverty and social exclusion is the extent to which it enjoys broad popular support. The European Year should act as a catalyst in raising awareness and in building momentum. It should help to focus political attention and mobilise everyone concerned in order to drive forward the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Amendment

(15) Key to the successful impact of Community action to fight poverty and social exclusion is the extent to which it enjoys broad popular support. The European Year should act as a catalyst in raising awareness and in building momentum. It should help to focus political attention and mobilise everyone concerned in order to drive forward **and to strengthen** the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, **and also to promote further actions and initiatives at European Union and Member State level, in association with people affected by**

poverty and their representatives. In this connection, particular attention should be devoted to the effective implementation at Member State level of Community legislation relating to equal opportunities and equality between the sexes.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – point (c)

Text proposed by the Commission

c) Cohesion — Promoting a more cohesive society by raising public awareness of the benefits for all of a society where poverty is eradicated and no-one is condemned to live in the margins. The European Year shall foster a society that sustains and develops quality of life, social well-being and equal opportunities for all regardless of their background, ensuring sustainable development and solidarity between and within generations and policy coherence with EU action worldwide.

Amendment

c) Cohesion — Promoting a more cohesive society by ***modifying social and economic policies which are the underlying cause of social inequalities and poverty (especially amongst women and children)*** and by raising public awareness of the benefits for all of a society where poverty is eradicated and no-one is condemned to live in the margins. The European Year shall foster a society that sustains and develops quality of life, social well-being and equal opportunities for all regardless of their background ***and gender***, ensuring sustainable development and solidarity between and within generations and policy coherence with EU action worldwide.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision Article 2 - point (d)

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) Commitment — Reiterating the strong political commitment of the EU to the fight against poverty and social exclusion ***and*** promoting this commitment at all levels of governance. Building upon the achievements and possible shortcomings of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion, the European Year shall strengthen the

Amendment

(d) Commitment — Reiterating the strong political commitment of the EU to the fight against poverty and social exclusion, promoting this commitment at all levels of governance ***and modifying policies which cause poverty and social exclusion.*** Building upon the achievements and possible shortcomings of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and

political commitment to the prevention of and fight against poverty and social exclusion and give impetus to further development of the European Union's action in this field.

Social Inclusion, the European Year shall strengthen the political commitment to the prevention of and fight against poverty and social exclusion and give impetus to further development of the European Union's action in this field.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision Article 4

Text proposed by the Commission

The European Year shall take into account the different ways in which women and men experience poverty and social exclusion.

Amendment

The European Year shall take into account the different ways in which women and men experience poverty and social exclusion, ***and it shall have regard to gender considerations in the implementation and evaluation of its activities.***

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Each Member State shall appoint a “National Implementing Body” to organise its participation in the European Year and ensure coordination at national level. That National Implementing Body shall be responsible for defining the national programme and the priorities for the European Year and for selecting the individual actions to be proposed for Community funding. The national strategy and priorities for the European Year shall be set out in accordance with the objectives listed in Article 2.

Amendment

1. Each Member State shall appoint a “National Implementing Body” to organise its participation in the European Year and ensure coordination at national level. That National Implementing Body shall be responsible for defining the national programme and the priorities for the European Year and for selecting the individual actions to be proposed for Community funding. The national strategy and priorities for the European Year shall be set out in accordance with the objectives listed in Article 2 ***and the gender mainstreaming principle pursuant to Article 4.***

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision

Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Decisions on the financing of actions pursuant to Article 8(1) and Article 8(2) shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7(2).

Amendment

1. Decisions on the financing of actions pursuant to Article 8(1) and Article 8(2) shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7(2), ***respecting the gender mainstreaming principle pursuant to Article 4.***

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision

Article 15 - subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The report shall also contain information concerning the upholding of the principle of equality between the sexes in the course of the European Year and the implementation of that principle, and also an assessment of the way in which the European Year has been of benefit to vulnerable groups.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision

Annex - part I. point 1. Meetings and events

Text proposed by the Commission

Organisation of meetings and events at Community level, intended to raise the awareness about issues related to the European Year and about poverty and social exclusion and to provide for a forum of exchange of ideas. They will gather relevant stakeholders and will be planned together with people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations representing

Amendment

Organisation of meetings and events at Community level, intended to raise the awareness about issues related to the European Year and about poverty and social exclusion and to provide for a forum of exchange of ideas. They will gather relevant stakeholders and will be planned together with people experiencing poverty and civil society organisations representing

them, to provide a good opportunity to address policy gaps and every day problems.

them, to provide a good opportunity to address policy gaps and every day problems ***and they shall seek to make the various institutions aware of the causes of poverty and of the action which must be taken in order to reduce poverty, especially amongst women and children.***

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision Annex - part II - point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Actions at local, regional or national level may qualify for financing from the Community budget up to a maximum of 50% of the total eligible costs per participating country. National co-funding should match the EU funding with at least 50% from public or private sources. When selecting actions, National Implementing Bodies will be free to decide whether or not, and at what level, to request co-funding from the organisation responsible for implementing individual actions.

Amendment

1. Actions at local, regional or national level may qualify for financing from the Community budget up to a maximum of 50% of the total eligible costs per participating country. National co-funding should match the EU funding with at least 50% from public or private sources. When selecting actions, National Implementing Bodies will be free to decide whether or not, and at what level, to request co-funding from the organisation responsible for implementing individual actions, ***considering the possibility of financing activities even up to 100% of project costs by the National Implementing Bodies.***

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision Annex - part IV - subparagraph 2 - indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

child poverty and the intergenerational transmission of poverty;

Amendment

the eradication of child poverty and the intergenerational transmission of poverty, ***in particular by means of increased support for the family and for parenthood;***

PROCEDURE

Title	European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
References	COM(2007)0797 – C6-0469/2007 – 2007/0278(COD)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	FEMM 31.1.2008
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Date adopted	3.4.2008
Result of final vote	+: 24 –: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Zita Gurmai, Lívia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Urszula Krupa, Roselyne Lefrançois, Astrid Lulling, Zita Pleštinská, Anni Podimata, Christa Prets, Teresa Riera Madurell, Anne Van Lancker, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Mary Honeyball, Christa Klaß, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Petya Stavreva, Feleknaš Uca
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Manolis Mavrommatis

PROCEDURE

Title	European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion	
References	COM(2007)0797 – C6-0469/2007 – 2007/0278(COD)	
Date submitted to Parliament	12.12.2007	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	EMPL 31.1.2008	
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	FEMM 31.1.2008	
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Marie Panayotopoulos- Cassiotou 23.1.2008	
Discussed in committee	2.4.2008	5.5.2008
Date adopted	6.5.2008	
Result of final vote	+: 41 -: 1 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Jan Andersson, Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Iles Braghetto, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Alejandro Cercas, Derek Roland Clark, Jean Louis Cottigny, Proinsias De Rossa, Harald Ettl, Richard Falbr, Carlo Fatuzzo, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Stephen Hughes, Karin Jöns, Ona Juknevičienė, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Jean Lambert, Raymond Langendries, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Jan Tadeusz Masiel, Jiří Maštálka, Maria Matsouka, Elisabeth Morin, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Csaba Óry, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Jacek Protasiewicz, Bilyana Ilieva Raeva, Elisabeth Schroedter, José Albino Silva Peneda, Jean Spautz, Ewa Tomaszewska, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gabriela Crețu, Petru Filip, Jamila Madeira, Csaba Sógor, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides	