



2017/2069(INI)

15.6.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Petitions

on EU Citizenship Report 2017: Strengthening Citizens' Rights in a Union of
Democratic Change
(2017/2069(INI))

Rapporteur: Krystyna Łybacka

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Emphasises the role of education, training, culture and sport in promoting EU citizenship rights, active citizenship and solidarity, as well as in strengthening EU values; acknowledges that through transnational and intercultural cooperation and exchange, EU programmes such as Erasmus+, the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, Europe for Citizens and Creative Europe contribute to the above objectives;
2. Recalls that continuous efforts are needed to increase EU citizens' awareness of their rights and to ensure that those rights are uniformly enforced across the entire EU; underlines the role of educational institutions in raising awareness among young people of their EU rights and in endorsing active citizenship; calls on the Commission, in this context, to provide a common framework for learning about the EU at school; shares the Commission's view, moreover, that promoting awareness of EU citizenship rights requires cooperation at European, national, regional and local levels;
3. Is of the opinion that in order to ensure that all EU citizens are guaranteed equal rights, educational systems should be inclusive and offer high-quality education which encourages active citizenship and life-long learning that responds to economic and societal demands;
4. Values the importance of culture and art as integral aspects of active EU citizenship; stresses their role in strengthening citizens' shared sense of belonging to the Union and stimulating intercultural dialogue;
5. Welcomes the Commission's intention to enhance citizens' political engagement in the democratic life of the EU; encourages the promotion of democratic participation by intensifying citizens' dialogue, enhancing citizens' understanding of the role of EU legislation in their daily lives, and underlining their right to vote in local and European elections;
6. Emphasises the need to ensure that citizens with disabilities and vulnerable citizens can fully enjoy the rights and opportunities granted by EU citizenship; encourages all EU countries to implement an EU Disability Card in order to facilitate the mobility of persons with disabilities in the EU;
7. Supports the revision of the European Citizens Initiative (ECI), with a view to improving its accessibility and ease of use; highlights the need to enhance the functioning and public awareness of the ECI;
8. Calls on the Member States to implement the EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018 by focusing on the promotion of active citizenship, and on boosting social inclusion and the participation of young people in democratic and civic life in the EU;
9. Stresses the importance of volunteering as an essential component of programmes which

foster active citizenship; encourages the development of curricula encompassing educational content and civic involvement;

10. Highlights the role of sport, particularly at grassroots level, in contributing to active citizenship by promoting mutual understanding and respect, while fostering EU values and principles; encourages the Commission to continue supporting sporting initiatives which uphold the practice of active citizenship and civic values, and thus develop a common sense of European identity.