



2017/0102(COD)

30.11.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulations (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) No 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU
(COM(2017)0262 – C8-0162/2017 – 2017/0102(COD))

Rapporteur: Eleonora Forenza

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission proposal seeks to lay down a legal framework for the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) by amending Regulations (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) No 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, and (EU) No 1306/2013, and Decision No 1313/2013/EU; the future solidarity corps is also to encompass the pre-existing European Voluntary Service (EVS). One point to note is that the European Solidarity Corps and the European Voluntary Service are not placed within the same sphere of responsibility, given that the EVS has implemented volunteering programmes in countries outside the EU. The rapporteur therefore considers it important to ensure that activities carried out under the earlier programme are not jettisoned when the two programmes are merged.

Under the European Solidarity Corps programme, 100 000 young people aged from 18 to 30 are to be mobilised by 2020 through projects focusing on conservation and environmental protection or on social cohesion. The Commission proposal is based on the philosophy of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights¹. The countries that will have access to the programme will be EU Member States and possibly other countries under bilateral agreements, but it should be borne in mind that people are now passing through the EU without a passport of any Member State. That is why the programme needs to include young people even when they do not hold an identity card issued by a Member State, and it should be made easier for them to obtain residence permits and visas.

Solidarity is one of the principles on which the EU is founded; it defines the European project and provides the unity necessary to cope with emergencies and current and future crises. When they celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, the European Council, Parliament, and the Commission reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing solidarity, which seeks to promote the overall development of the human sphere².

The rapporteur thinks it vital that young people, who are being harder hit by the economic crisis and hence are more vulnerable, should be encouraged and helped to engage in every type of measure aimed at improving systems and policies within a context of solidarity, since that helps to strengthen the culture of human rights on which the EU is built.

It is important to stress that the rights of women, LGBTQI people, and migrants are human rights and that, as these groups are particularly vulnerable, a gender perspective and a migration perspective need to be incorporated into the programme guidelines.

The Commission is to be applauded for making special provision for disadvantaged young people as regards access to the voluntary training programme, which must not, under any circumstances, replace paid work or those traineeships which are regulated by the relevant local laws and intended to lead to employment contracts. The Commission and the Member States should therefore be called upon to exercise oversight in order to rule out such cases.

The rapporteur finds it worrying that resources already earmarked or committed in the education and culture sectors – Erasmus+, for example – are being transferred to the newly

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/charter/index_en.htm (2012/C 326/02) (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/25/rome-declaration/#>

established European Solidarity Corps programme: Erasmus+ has proved to be one of the best means of cementing a European consciousness. Experience acquired through Erasmus+ is culturally and educationally valuable, and that fact could also be turned to account in order to guarantee a high standard of training under the European Solidarity Corps programme.

The rapporteur believes, in addition, that the social partners and all civil society stakeholders have to be involved in the process of making *ex ante* assessment of, and activating, supervising, and monitoring, the programme, without interfering with the voluntary civil protection networks which, whether in the field of environmental protection or because they have been involved in recovery processes in the wake of natural disasters, have contributed to, and collaborated in, Commission programmes of disaster response or environmental protection operations.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities would also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(4) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities would also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers ***and should be in accordance with national labour mobility laws.***

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

(5) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening **local** communities **and social cohesion**, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The European Solidarity Corps would provide a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union. Consistency and complementarity of that framework should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps should build on the strengths and synergies of existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service. It should also complement the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee¹⁹ by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing **Union level** networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, should also be ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where

Amendment

(6) The European Solidarity Corps would provide a single entry point, **free from discrimination based on gender or social class**, for solidarity activities throughout the Union. Consistency and complementarity of that framework should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps should build on the strengths and synergies of existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service. It should also complement the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee¹⁹ by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing **Union-level** networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, should also be ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people,

appropriate.

including schemes operating at regional or local level, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

¹⁹ Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01).

¹⁹ Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01).

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, provisions should be made to allow other Union programmes such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Europe for Citizens programme, the European Regional Development Fund and the Health Programme to contribute to the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps by supporting activities within its scope. This contribution should be financed in accordance with the respective basic acts of the concerned **programmes**. Once they have obtained a valid European Solidarity Corps quality label, the beneficiaries should be given access to the European Solidarity Corps portal and receive the quality and support measures provided according to the type of activity offered.

Amendment

(7) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, provisions should be made to allow other Union programmes such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Europe for Citizens programme, the European Regional Development Fund and the Health Programme to contribute to the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps by supporting activities within its scope. This contribution should be financed in accordance with the respective basic acts of the **programmes** concerned ***with a view to securing greater involvement of young people, civil society, and existing volunteering schemes in Member States***. Once they have obtained a valid European Solidarity Corps quality label, the beneficiaries should be given access to the European Solidarity Corps portal and receive the quality and support measures provided according to the type of activity offered.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18) This Regulation lays down a financial envelope for the period 2018-2020 which is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of Point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management²³, for the European Parliament and the Council during the annual budgetary procedure. ***The prime reference amount includes redeployments from the Erasmus+ programme (EUR 197.7 million) and from the Employment and Social Innovation programme (EUR 10 million) for the financial years 2018, 2019 and 2020, and it is complemented by contributions from several Union programmes under different headings, such as the European Social Fund, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the LIFE programme and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.***

²³ Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

(18) This Regulation lays down a financial envelope for the period 2018-2020 which is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of Point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management²³, for the European Parliament and the Council during the annual budgetary procedure. ***With the exception of redeployments, the prime reference amount should be financed through the use of all financial means available under Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013^{23a}.***

²³ Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

^{23a} ***Council Regulation (EU) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (OJ L 347 20.12.2013, p. 884).***

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18a) Where the actions of the European Solidarity Corps are not directly related to financial means available under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013, the Commission should ensure that new additional funding is available.

Justification

The actions undertaken by the European Solidarity Corps must be related with the funds and programmes through which they are financed; for those actions which are not, the Commission must ensure there are additional sources of funding through which to implement those actions.

Amendment 7

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 20**

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, ***provisions should be made to allow*** participating countries to make additional national funding available in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(20) In order to maximise the impact of the European Solidarity Corps, ***Member States, and, where applicable, competent sub-state bodies with their own exclusive legislative powers, as well as*** participating countries, ***should adopt provisions*** to make additional national, ***regional and local*** funding available in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 8

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 24**

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) Special attention should be paid to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should therefore be put in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost regions

Amendment

(24) Special attention should be paid to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should therefore be put in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost regions

of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories²⁴. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits.

²⁴ Individuals from an overseas country or territory (OCT) and competent public and /or private bodies and institutions from an OCT may participate in the programmes in accordance with Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community, OJ L314, 30.11.2001, p.1.

of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories²⁴. Similarly, the **Member States and the** participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits.

²⁴ Individuals from an overseas country or territory (OCT) and competent public and /or private bodies and institutions from an OCT may participate in the programmes in accordance with Council Decision 2001/822/EC of 27 November 2001 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community, OJ L314, 30.11.2001, p.1.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps, whether funded by the European Solidarity Corps budget, by another Union programme or by a different funding source, should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing structures of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were

Amendment

(Does not affect the English version.)

found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured at European, national and local level. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps, ***including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders.***

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured ***by means of website portals*** at European, national, ***regional*** and local level. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities, should rely on all the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps, ***and on Union programmes already associated with the European Solidarity Corps.***

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, ***provided that these are*** related to the general ***objective*** of this Regulation.

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, ***such as social integration, cohesion, environmental protection and climate change mitigation, as*** related to the general objective of this Regulation ***and be consistent with the objectives of the funding sources of the European Solidarity Corps.***

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 37

Text proposed by the Commission

(37) For reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, the committee established under Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 should also assist the Commission in the implementation of this Regulation. With respect to the European Solidarity Corps, that committee should convene in a specific configuration and its mandate should be aligned in order to fulfil this new role. It should be for the participating countries to appoint the relevant representatives for those meetings, taking into account the volunteering and occupational dimensions of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(37) For reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, the committee established under Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 should also assist the Commission in the implementation of this Regulation. With respect to the European Solidarity Corps, that committee should convene in a specific configuration and its mandate should be aligned in order to fulfil this new role. It should be for the ***Member States and*** participating countries to appoint the relevant representatives for those meetings, taking into account the volunteering and occupational dimensions of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 40

Text proposed by the Commission

(40) The financial envelope of the European Solidarity Corps under Heading 1a of the Multiannual Financial Framework should additionally be supplemented by financial contributions from other programmes and headings, which require the amendment of Regulations (EU) No 1293/2013²⁷, (EU) No 1303/2013²⁸, (EU) No 1305/2013²⁹, (EU) No 1306/2013³⁰ as well as of Decision No 1313/2013/EU³¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Amendment

deleted

²⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EC) No

614/2007 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 185).

²⁸ *Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p.320).*

²⁹ *Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487).*

³⁰ *Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).*

³¹ *Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism, (OJ L347 20.12.2013, p. 924).*

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) “solidarity activity” means an activity aimed at addressing unmet societal needs to the benefit of a community while also fostering the individual’s personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of placements, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship, in particular social entrepreneurship, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion;

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) “disadvantaged young people” means individuals who need additional support because of disability, educational difficulties, economic obstacles, cultural differences, health problems, social obstacles, geographical obstacles;

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) “volunteering” means a full-time³²

Amendment

(1) “solidarity activity” means an activity aimed at addressing unmet societal needs to the benefit of a community while also fostering the individual’s personal, educational, social, civic and **formative** development, which may take the form of placements, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, social entrepreneurship, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, **disability**, reception and integration of third-country nationals as well as territorial cooperation and cohesion;

Amendment

(3) “disadvantaged young people” means individuals who need additional support because of disability, educational **or integration** difficulties, economic obstacles, cultural differences, health problems, social obstacles, geographical obstacles;

Amendment

(6) “volunteering” means a full-time³²

unpaid voluntary service for a period of up to twelve months, which provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations active in solidarity-related fields, to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out, including a solid learning and training dimension in order to enable the young volunteer(s) to gain skills and competences, which will be useful for their personal, educational, social and *professional* development, and *which* will also *contribute to improving* their employability;

³² As a general principle, an activity carried out continuously, 5 days a week for 7 hours a day.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) “volunteering teams’ placements” means placements allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants from different participating countries to volunteer together for a common objective, by carrying out manual or intellectual tasks, on a worthwhile community service project for a period between two weeks and two months;

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) “European Solidarity Corps Portal” means a web-based tool that provides relevant online services to the European Solidarity Corps participants and

unpaid voluntary service for a period of up to twelve months, which provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations active in solidarity-related fields, to the ultimate benefit of the communities within which the activities are carried out, including a solid learning and training dimension in order to enable the young volunteer(s) to gain skills and competences, which will be useful for their personal, educational, social and *formative* development, and *hence* will also *improve* their *potential* employability;

³² As a general principle, an activity carried out continuously, 5 days a week for 7 hours a day.

Amendment

(7) “volunteering teams’ placements” means placements allowing teams of European Solidarity Corps participants from different *Member States and other* participating countries to volunteer together for a common objective, by carrying out manual or intellectual tasks, on a worthwhile community service project for a period between two weeks and two months;

Amendment

(14) “European Solidarity Corps Portal” means a web-based tool that provides relevant online services to the European Solidarity Corps participants and

participating organisations, including providing information about the European Solidarity Corps, registering participants, searching for participants for placements, advertising and searching for placements, searching for potential project partners, managing contacts and offers for placements and projects, training, communication and networking activities, informing and notifying about opportunities, as well as other relevant developments related to the European Solidarity Corps.

participating organisations, including providing information about the European Solidarity Corps, registering participants, ***managing quality labels***, searching for participants for placements, advertising and searching for placements, searching for potential project partners, managing contacts and offers for placements and projects, training, communication and networking activities, informing and notifying about opportunities ***and disseminating the results of solidarity actions***, as well as other relevant developments related to the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The objective of the European Solidarity Corps is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion and solidarity in Europe, supporting communities and responding to ***societal*** challenges.

Amendment

The objective of the European Solidarity Corps is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion and solidarity in Europe, supporting communities and responding to ***epoch-making*** challenges, ***especially those related to greater social integration, education and employment, as well as environmental protection and climate change mitigation.***

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission ***and the*** participating countries shall cooperate to achieve efficiency and effectiveness, by ensuring coherence between national programmes and schemes related to

Amendment

2. The Commission, ***the Member States and other*** participating countries shall cooperate to achieve efficiency and effectiveness, by ensuring coherence between national programmes and schemes

solidarity, education, vocational training and youth on the one hand and actions under the European Solidarity Corps on the other hand. Those actions shall build on relevant good practices and existing programmes.

related to solidarity, education, vocational training and youth, ***without prejudice to the legislative powers of sub-state authorities***, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity Corps on the other hand. Those actions shall build on relevant good practices and existing programmes.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

The European Solidarity Corps shall pursue its objectives through the following types of actions:

Amendment

The European Solidarity Corps shall pursue its objectives through the following types of actions ***within the framework of the objectives of its funding sources***:

Justification

Given that funding for the European Solidarity Corps is coming from Erasmus+, EaSI, the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, LIFE, the ESF and the EAFRD, the objectives of the Corps must be related with those pursued under the funds through which it is financed.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) solidarity placements, projects and networking activities

Amendment

(a) solidarity placements, projects and networking activities ***concerning civil society***;

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) networking activities for individuals and organisations participating

Amendment

(c) networking activities for individuals and organisations participating

in the European Solidarity Corps.

in the European Solidarity Corps, **which shall be entirely consistent with, and complement, proven experience on the ground at local and regional level, and, in particular, good volunteering and civil protection practice.**

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality of solidarity placements, including training, language support, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, insurance, post-placement support as well as the development of a certificate that identifies and documents the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the placement;

Amendment

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the **high** quality of solidarity placements, including **a comprehensive training programme**, language support, administrative support for participants and participating organisations, insurance, post-placement support as well as the development of a certificate that identifies and documents the knowledge, skills and competences acquired during the placement;

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of the European Solidarity Corps Portal, **including participants' field reports**, and other relevant online services, **primarily to disseminate the aims of this Regulation and publicise its accessibility**, as well as the necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 2

2. *The amount referred to in paragraph 1 includes a financial envelope of EUR 294 200 000³³ in current prices supplemented by contributions from:*

deleted

(a) the European Social Fund, contributing with EUR 35 000 000 in current prices;

(b) the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, contributing with EUR 6 000 000 in current prices;

(c) the LIFE programme, contributing with EUR 4 500 000 in current prices;

(d) the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, contributing with EUR 1 800 000 in current prices.

³³ *This financial envelope constitutes the prime reference amount within the meaning of point 17 of the Interinstitutional Agreement (2013/C 373/01) between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management.*

Justification

We believe that new initiatives should not be financed from relocation from existing programmes and funds; they should rather be financed from all other resources available under the existing MFF.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 6

6. A participating country *may* make national funding available to beneficiaries to be managed in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps and, to this end, use the decentralised structures of

6. A participating country ***shall, in accordance with its resources,*** make national funding ***available*** to beneficiaries to be managed in accordance with the rules of the European Solidarity Corps and, to

the European Solidarity Corps, as long as it ensures the complementary pro rata funding of these structures.

this end, use the decentralised structures of the European Solidarity Corps, as long as it ensures the complementary pro rata funding of these structures. ***Member States may make new additional funding available.***

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Member States shall participate in the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

1. The Member States shall participate in the European Solidarity Corps. ***In Member States where powers relating to the performance of European Solidarity Corps actions have been transferred to sub-state authorities, mechanisms shall be developed, through national agencies acting as implementing bodies, to enable the direct participation of those authorities.***

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission and the participating countries shall ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion, in particular for the participation of disadvantaged young people.

Amendment

2. When implementing this Regulation, ***the Member States and other*** participating countries shall ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion, in particular for the participation of disadvantaged ***and more vulnerable*** young people, ***and shall, to that end adopt a gender-sensitive approach.***

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities, or international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

Amendment 31

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. An application from an eligible entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in order to ascertain that its activities adhere to the requirements of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment 32

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 3**

Text proposed by the Commission

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and may be revoked.

Amendment 33

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 5**

Amendment

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities, or international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label ***in line with the objectives of this Regulation.***

Amendment

2. An application from an eligible entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in order to ascertain that its activities adhere to the requirements ***and objectives*** of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed ***at least every two years, without creating excessive administrative burdens,*** and may be revoked.

Text proposed by the Commission

5. The European Solidarity Corps quality label shall not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

5. The European Solidarity Corps quality label shall not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps, ***but shall be an essential prerequisite for such funding.***

Amendment 34

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

Any public or private entity established in a participating country as well as international organisations carrying out solidarity activities in ***the*** participating countries may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in point (a) of Article 7(1), a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to in point (b) of Article 7(1), natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants.

Amendment

Any public or private entity established in a ***Member State or other*** participating country as well as international organisations carrying out solidarity activities in ***a Member State or other*** participating countries may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in point (a) of Article 7(1), a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to in point (b) of Article 7(1), natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants.

Amendment 35

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the participating countries, shall regularly monitor the performance of the European Solidarity Corps towards achieving its objectives.

Amendment

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the ***Member States and other*** participating countries, shall regularly monitor the performance of the European Solidarity Corps towards achieving its

objectives.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) number of participants in volunteering placements (in-country and cross-border);

Amendment

(a) number of participants in volunteering placements, ***including disadvantaged young people*** (in-country and cross-border);

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) number of participants in traineeship placements (in-country and cross-border);

Amendment

(b) number of participants in traineeship placements, ***including disadvantaged young people*** (in-country and cross-border);

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) number of participants in job placements (in-country and cross-border);

Amendment

(c) number of participants in job placements, ***including disadvantaged young people*** (in-country and cross-border);

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) number of participants in solidarity

Amendment

(d) number of participants in solidarity projects, ***including disadvantaged young***

projects;

people;

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 – point d a(new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) number of solidarity projects;

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the participating countries, shall ensure the dissemination of information, publicity and follow-up with regard to all actions supported in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps.

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the ***Member States and other*** participating countries, shall ensure the dissemination of information, publicity and follow-up with regard to all actions supported in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps ***and to everything relating to registration and the accessibility of the procedures.***

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The national agencies referred to in Article 20 shall develop a consistent policy with regard to effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage, shall assist the Commission in the general task of disseminating information concerning the European Solidarity Corps, including information in respect of actions managed at national and Union level, and their results, and shall inform relevant

2. The national agencies referred to in Article 20 shall develop a consistent policy ***and a suitable strategy*** with regard to effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage, shall assist the Commission in the general task of disseminating information concerning the European Solidarity Corps, including information in respect of actions managed at national and Union level, and

target groups about the initiatives undertaken in their country.

their results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the initiatives undertaken in their country.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the national agencies ***at national level*** in the participating countries.

Amendment

(b) the national agencies ***appointed*** in the ***Member States and other*** participating countries.

Justification

The differing situation on the ground in Member States where powers have been transferred to a sub-state level with own legislative powers must be factored into the equation.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation

Article 18 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

In each country participating in the European Solidarity Corps, the national authorities designated for the management of actions referred to in Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 shall also act as national authorities in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. Paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Article 27 of that Regulation shall apply to the European Solidarity Corps by analogy. For countries referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of this Regulation, where a national authority is not identified for that country, it shall be designated in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 6 and 8 to 15 of Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013.

Amendment

In each country participating in the European Solidarity Corps, the national authorities designated for the management of actions referred to in Chapter III of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 shall also act as national authorities in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. ***In Member States where powers relating to that Chapter have been transferred to sub-state authorities with their own exclusive legislative powers, mechanisms shall be developed, through national agencies acting as implementing bodies, to enable the direct participation of those authorities.*** Paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Article 27 of that Regulation shall apply to the European Solidarity Corps by analogy. For countries referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 11 of this Regulation, where a national authority

is not identified for that country, it shall be designated in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 6 and 8 to 15 of Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation

Article 20 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

In each country participating in the European Solidarity Corps, the national agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of the Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 in their respective countries shall also act as national agencies in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

In each ***Member State and other*** country participating in the European Solidarity Corps, the national agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of the Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 in their respective countries shall also act as national agencies in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. ***In Member States where powers relating to that Chapter have been transferred to sub-state authorities with their own exclusive legislative powers, mechanisms shall be developed, through national agencies acting as implementing bodies, to enable the direct participation of those authorities.***

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. ***In order to implement this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt work programmes by way of implementing acts.*** Each work programme shall ensure that the general and specific objectives set out in Articles 3 and 4 are implemented in a consistent manner and shall outline the expected results, the method of implementation and its total amount. The work programmes shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount

Amendment

1. The Commission ***is empowered to*** adopt ***delegated acts in accordance with Article 25a concerning the adoption of work programmes.*** Each work programme shall ensure that the general and specific objectives set out in Articles 3 and 4 are implemented in a consistent manner and shall outline the expected results, the method of implementation and its total amount. The work programmes shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed, an indication of the amount

allocated to each action, an indication of the distribution of funds between the participating countries for the actions to be managed through the national agencies and an indicative implementation timetable.

allocated to each action, an indication of the distribution of funds between the participating countries for the actions to be managed through the national agencies and an indicative implementation timetable.

Justification

Parliament and the Council should be consulted about the implementing measures for this regulation.

Amendment 47

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 24 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 25(2). *deleted*

Justification

Parliament and the Council should be consulted about the implementing measures for this regulation.

Amendment 48

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 25**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 25 *deleted*

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the committee established by Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

Justification

Parliament and the Council should be consulted about the implementing measures for this regulation.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 25a

Exercise of the delegation

- 1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.***
- 2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Article 24 shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from [date of entry into force of this Regulation]. The Commission shall draw up a report in respect of the delegation of power not later than nine months before the end of the two-year period. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.***
- 3. The delegation of power referred to in Article 24 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.***
- 4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in***

accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016.

5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 24 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Justification

Parliament and the Council should be consulted about the implementing measures for this regulation.

Amendment 50

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 26**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

[...]

deleted

Amendment 51

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 27**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 27

deleted

Amendment to Regulation (EU) No

1293/2013

In Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013, the following paragraph is added:

‘3. A maximum of EUR 3 000 000 in current prices from the sub-programme for Environment corresponding to the priority area Environment Governance and Information and of EUR 1 500 000 in current prices from the sub-programme for Climate Action corresponding to the priority area Climate Governance and Information shall be allocated to finance projects within the meaning of Article 17(4) implemented by the European Solidarity Corps in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, which contribute to one or more of the priority areas within the meaning of Articles 9 and 13. This allocation shall be implemented solely in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, to the exclusion of the specific requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013.

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation Article 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 28

deleted

Amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 is amended as follows:

1. Article 58(1) is amended as follows:

(a) the first subparagraph is replaced by the following:

‘At the initiative of the Commission, the ESI Funds may support the preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical assistance, evaluation, audit and control

measures necessary for implementing this Regulation and support actions pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX as referred to in the third subparagraph in so far as those actions pursue the aim of economic, social and territorial cohesion.

‘(m) actions financed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX on the European Solidarity Corps in order to enhance the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of young people, as well as their employability and facilitating transition into the labour market.

‘EUR 35 000 000 in current prices of the amount allocated to technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission shall be allocated to the European Solidarity Corps to support its actions, in accordance with point (a) of article 9(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX. The allocation shall be implemented solely in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, to the exclusion of the specific requirements of Fund-specific Regulations.

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation Article 29

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 29

deleted

Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013

In Article 51(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, the following subparagraph is added under the first subparagraph:

‘The EAFRD may also finance actions implemented by the European Solidarity Corps with an amount of EUR 1 800 000 in current prices in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, which

contribute to one or more of the Union priorities for rural development. The allocation shall be implemented solely in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, to the exclusion of the specific requirements of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation Article 30

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 30

deleted

Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013

In Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, the following point (j) is added:

‘(j) actions implemented by the European Solidarity Corps in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, which contribute to one or more of the Union priorities in the area of agriculture and rural development and notably the actions referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 51(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. The allocation shall be implemented solely in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, to the exclusion of the specific requirements of Fund-specific Regulations.

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation Article 31

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 31

deleted

***Amendment to Decision No
1313/2013/EU***

***In Article 19(1) of Decision No
1313/2013/EU, the following
subparagraph is added after the second
subparagraph:***

***‘EUR 6 000 000 in current prices from
the financial envelope derived from
Heading 3 "Security and Citizenship"
shall be allocated to finance actions
implemented by the European Solidarity
Corps in accordance with Regulation
(EU) 2017/XXX, which contribute to one
or more of the Union priorities in the area
of civil protection. The allocation shall be
implemented solely in accordance with the
Regulation (EU) 2017/XXX, to the
exclusion of the specific requirements of
Decision No 1313/2013/EU.’***

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	European Solidarity Corps
References	COM(2017)0262 – C8-0162/2017 – 2017/0102(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 12.6.2017
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ENVI 12.6.2017
Associated committees - date announced in plenary	5.10.2017
Rapporteur Date appointed	Eleonora Forenza 28.6.2017
Discussed in committee	7.9.2017
Date adopted	28.11.2017
Result of final vote	+: 55 –: 6 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Pilar Ayuso, Catherine Bearder, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Angélique Delahaye, Mark Demesmaeker, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francisc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Arne Gericke, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Giovanni La Via, Jo Leinen, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Susanne Melior, Rory Palmer, Gilles Pargneaux, Bolesław G. Piecha, Pavel Poc, John Procter, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Renate Sommer, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean
Substitutes present for the final vote	Nicola Caputo, Herbert Dorfmann, Christofer Fjellner, Eleonora Forenza, Jan Huitema, Peter Jahr, Gesine Meissner, Ulrike Müller, Younous Omarjee, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Richard Ashworth, Pál Csáky, Marco Valli, Tomáš Zdechovský

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

55	+
ALDE	Catherine Bearder, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Gesine Meissner, Ulrike Müller, Frédérique Ries
ECR	Arne Gericke, Bolesław G. Piecha
EFDD	Marco Valli
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Eleonora Forenza, Kateřina Konečná, Younous Omarjee
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Birgit Collin-Langen, Pál Csáky, Angélique Delahaye, Herbert Dorfmann, Christofer Fjellner, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Jens Gieseke, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Peter Jahr, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Renate Sommer, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nicola Caputo, Nessa Childers, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Karin Kadenbach, Jo Leinen, Susanne Melior, Rory Palmer, Gilles Pargneaux, Pavel Poc, Christel Schaldemose, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Tiemo Wölken
Verts/ALE	Margrete Auken, Bas Eickhout, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

6	-
ECR	Richard Ashworth, Mark Demesmaeker, Julie Girling, John Procter
EFDD	Julia Reid
ENF	Sylvie Goddyn

1	0
ALDE	Jan Huitema

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention