

Newsletter

Committee meeting 4 May 2017

European Electronic Communications Code (Recast)

Adoption of draft opinion (Curzio MALTESE, GUE/NGL)

The CULT Committee adopted, by a large majority, the opinion on the proposed Regulation establishing the European Electronic Communications Code (Recast).

The CULT committee, in its opinion, aims to reinforce one of the main purposes of the recast, which is to ensure that the Directive can properly safeguard media pluralism and cultural diversity in respect of the changes that have taken place in the media sector. In that regard, the opinion proposes a series of amendments to the Commission proposal, notably as regards its general objectives. In particular, it requires that national regulatory and other competent authorities contribute within their powers to ensure the implementation of policies aimed at the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity, as well as media pluralism.

Furthermore, it suggests that Union citizens should have universal access to a wide range of information and high-quality, public-value content, in the interest of media pluralism and cultural diversity, taking into account the rapid development of distribution systems and business models currently affecting the media sector. The opinion therefore introduces 'radio' in some specific provisions and also requires that network operators and terminal equipment manufacturers facilitate access for disabled users to electronic communications services, including radio services.

[Procedure file](#)

Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications

Adoption of draft opinion (Silvia COSTA, S&D)

The CULT Committee narrowly adopted the opinion on the proposed Regulation establishing BEREC, the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications. The close final vote hinged on the fundamental question of whether BEREC should become a fully-fledged EU agency – as per the Commission proposal – or whether it should retain its existing hybrid structure – an essentially intergovernmental body bring together national regulators and supported by a small Community agency, the BEREC Office. The CULT Committee narrowly backed the Commission's approach.

Besides the core question, the opinion also proposes amendments to the Commission proposal, notably as regards BEREC's tasks, working methods and the appointment of its Executive Director, who, in the CULT opinion, is required to appear before the Parliament's competent committees to obtain consent before his/her appointment. The opinion recalls that BEREC must act with due regard for the general objectives of promoting cultural and linguistic diversity and media pluralism laid down in the proposed Electronic Communications Code (Maltese opinion). Finally, it introduces a set of requirements governing stakeholder engagement and consultation, where BEREC shall "ensure that stakeholders represent fully the different policy interests as stake" and should engage actively with stakeholders from outside the immediate regulatory community.

[Procedure file](#)

EU action for sustainability

Adoption of draft opinion (Liadh Ni Riada GUE/NGL)

The CULT Committee adopted an opinion to ENVI's INI report on the "EU Action for sustainability" – the EU's reply to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals agreed last year. The opinion establishes a strong link between EU policies in the field of education and culture (EU youth Strategy; Erasmus+ etc.) and the wider framework of EU action for sustainability, and in particular with SDG 3 – education for a sustainable future. A clear emphasis is put on the key role of education and culture in achieving a more sustainable environment and society. The ENVI committee will vote on its INI report in June, with the plenary vote scheduled for July 2017.

[Procedure file](#)

Children and child pornography - combating the sexual abuse

Consideration of draft opinion (Sabine VERHEYEN, EPP)



There was a lively debate among Members of CULT on the report from the Commission assessing the implementation of Directive 2011/93/EU of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. In her presentation, the Rapporteur, Sabine Verheyen (EPP), stressed that the online sexual exploitation of children is constantly evolving and can take different forms, such as grooming, and that prevention measures – where much remains to be done – should also cover technology-related aspects. She called in particular on the Member States to improve their cooperation in the fight against the darknet and to better coordinate their efforts to accelerate, in cooperation with the internet industry, ‘notice and take-down’ procedures. She also recommended enhanced cooperation between national authorities in the fight against child trafficking.

Members broadly agreed that these nefarious crimes need a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach and that the focus should be on prevention and awareness-raising measures and on the sharing of best practices.

- [Procedure file](#)

- Amendments deadline: 11 May 2017 at 18.00

- Committee vote: 29 June 2017

Does the EU Youth Guarantee schemes deliver results?

Consideration of draft opinion (Therese COMODINI CACHIA, EPP)



The Rapporteur made a brief presentation of her draft opinion, which focuses on the performance of the EU Youth Guarantee – one of the EU flagship measures to counter high youth unemployment rates. The opinion points out that, while some results are encouraging, in many Member States the Guarantee falls short of fulfilling its main objective – providing a quality offer to all those who are not in education, employment or training (the NEETs). The opinion recommends more efforts by Member States to successfully implement the initiative, in particular by better matching supply and demand on the labour market and producing high-quality statistics and comparable data.

The CONT INI report and the CULT opinion come as a political response to a recent Special Report by the Court of Auditors, which points to a number of shortcomings within Member States in the implementation of the Guarantee. The Guarantee is of utmost interest to CULT as it not only plays a key role in curbing youth unemployment, but can also be seen as complementary to programmes such as Erasmus+.

- [Procedure file](#)

- Amendments deadline: 10 May 2017 at 12.00

- Committee vote: 21-22 June 2017

Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations

JOINT AFET-CULT MEETING, Tuesday, 2 May 2017 - Consideration of amendments (Elmar BROK, EPP, and Silvia Costa, S&D)

The 2 May AFET meeting saw a discussion on the amendments tabled to the joint AFET/CULT INI report. Members were informed that 313 amendments had been tabled and that a shadows meeting took place on 26 April, where 19 of the 21 compromises were approved. Two compromises (recitals) are still under discussion. The following key elements, reflected in the draft report, were discussed: cultural heritage, culture as an intrinsic value, global strategy, culture as a soft power tool and the importance of supporting further cultural networks. The two Committees will vote on the joint report on 30 May and the vote in plenary is slated for July.

- [Procedure file](#)

- Committee vote: 30 May 2017

- Foreseen plenary vote: July 2017

Further reading

In this non exhaustive list you can find recent articles/publications which might be of interest to you:

- [The one crucial skill our education system is missing](#)
- [In 2050, Africa will be home to 1 billion young people. And they'll need educating](#)
- [Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all](#)
- [Focusing on the child: Creating a child-centered family policy that ensures education and participation for all](#)
- [Early Childhood Education and Services for all! Policy Recommendations](#)
- [Recognizing non-formal and informal competences](#)
- [Culture urban future - Global report on Culture for sustainable urban development](#)
- [Improving adult skills can help countries benefit from globalisation](#)
- [The world's languages captured in 6 charts](#)

The next committee meeting:
Monday, 29 May 2017 at 15.00-18.30 and
Tuesday, 30 May 2017 at 9.00-12.30

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Policy Department Publications in the EP](#)
- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
- [DG EAC Newsletter](#)
- [The Maltese Presidency of the Council](#)

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