

Newsletter

Committee meeting 25 April 2018

Modernisation of Education in EU

Adoption of draft report (Rapporteur: Krystyna LYBACKA, S&D)

As expected, this report captured the attention, not only of CULT Members, who tabled 485 amendments, but also of the EMPL (associated under Rule 54) and FEMM Committees, which drew up opinions. The report mainly deals with the following issues:

- education as a key aspect of economic potential and a crucial factor for the development of the individual as a whole;
- the challenges faced by the education systems due to the rapid technological developments / the information society and globalisation;
- teachers as the main guarantor of the successful modernisation of education systems.

The report, adopted almost unanimously (27 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention), supports the Commission's idea of creating a European Education Area, stressing, however, that it must be consistent with what has been achieved so far by the European Higher Education Area and the European Research and Innovation Area. The Committee argues that the European Education Area should receive strong political support from the Member States, whose collective efforts can give a fresh impetus to educational development while respecting the principles of subsidiarity, educational freedom and institutional autonomy.

Moreover, the report sends a strong signal to the Member States and regional authorities as regards the need to increase investment in education, using the European Structural and Investment Funds, and to support teachers and managers, both in the area of modern technologies and in the development of learner-centred teaching methods. High-quality education should be measured by the wealth of knowledge and skills passed on, as well as creativity and a capacity for lifelong learning.

During the preparation of the report, the Rapporteur consulted a wide range of stakeholders and organised a seminar on the modernisation of education with the participation of, among others, Commissioner Navracsics, the CULT, MEPs, representatives from the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and representatives from civil society and academia.

[Procedure file](#)



European citizens' initiative

Adoption of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Angel DZHAMBAZKI, ECR)

The CULT committee adopted (20 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstentions) its opinion on the proposed new Regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative. The amendments adopted concern the admissibility criteria for initiatives and the Commission's prerogatives on the matter. AFCE, the leading committee, will vote on 24 May.

[Procedure file](#)



Structural and financial barriers in the access to culture

Adoption of draft report (Rapporteur: Bogdan Andrzej ZDROJEWSKI, EPP)

The report on the Structural and financial barriers in access to culture was adopted with near unanimity (27 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention). The comprehensive report examines existing barriers and identifies potential solutions to overcome them. Considerable attention is given to more vulnerable groups like children, young people and people with disabilities. The report recommends that Member States develop a cultural action strategy aimed at children and young people. It calls on Member States to integrate cultural and artistic education into school curricula, in both formal and informal education, and encourages them to set up free-time programmes for young people in cultural institutions.

Concerning people with disabilities, the report calls on the Member States to continue to work towards better social integration through culture and efforts to remove existing barriers. It underlines the need to gather information on the participation of people with disabilities in cultural activities in order to shape cultural policy according to their needs and calls for improved access to cultural infrastructure with no technological or physical barriers.

The report focuses on audience development and calls on the Commission to pursue its efforts via cultural programmes. It calls on the Member States to build audience development into their cultural and digital strategies and to support the use of digital technologies to facilitate access to cultural content.

Finally, with respect to budgetary issues, the report calls on the Commission and the Member States not to cut culture budgets and calls for greater investment in the cultural sector to boost local economies and promote cultural tourism. The Commission and the Member States are also requested to devote an appropriate part of their budgets to public support for culture and to strengthen synergies with the European Regional Development Fund and other support funds, including programmes facilitating research and innovation and the cohesion policy tools.

[Procedure file](#)



Implementation report on the EU Youth Strategy

Adoption of draft report (Rapporteur: Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL, S&D)

The CULT committee also adopted by a large majority (26 in favour, 1 against, 0 abstentions) an implementation report on the EU Youth Strategy (Rapporteur: Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (S&D)) setting the policy framework for the Commission's recommendations on the renewal of the strategy expected in May. Most importantly, the report recommends concrete measures to strengthen and improve the future EU Youth Strategy. The report underlines the lack of clearly established benchmarks and indicators, which makes it difficult to identify priorities and pursue and measure achievements. It also calls for a better-coordinated Strategy focusing on fewer priority areas, with a horizontal

cross-sectoral approach. The Members recommend a more inclusive Strategy, reflecting the voices of all young people, thus ensuring strong participatory policy-making. Amongst the priorities identified by this report are the inclusion in the labour market of all young people through the creation of equal opportunities, but also creating the conditions to grant young people the right to live in a healthy environment and have access to education and culture, which should be considered as a fundamental right.

[Procedure file](#)

Budget 2019

Consideration of a draft opinion on the Mandate for the Trilogue (Rapporteur: Morten LØKKEGAARD (ALDE) and exchange of views with Mr Daniele VIOTTI (S&D), General Rapporteur on Budget 2019

With the March plenary resolution on the guidelines for the 2019 budget adopted and PPPAs now submitted to the Commission for assessment, the annual budgetary procedure in CULT began in earnest with an exchange of views with the General Rapporteur for the 2019 budget, Daniele Viotti, and an examination of the draft opinion on the mandate for the trilogue. Mr Viotti began by bemoaning the rigidity of the EU budget and the problem that new programmes and policies are adopted without fresh money allocated to fund them. Mr Løkkegaard set out the key priorities for the 2019 budget as described in his opinion, thanking Mr Viotti for his clear support. In the debate, the following questions were highlighted:

- The need for enhanced budgetary support for Erasmus+, both in 2019 and in the next MFF. For 2019, the guidelines report argues for a doubling of funds, while CULT Members reiterated their backing for substantial additional funding in the next MFF.
- Creative Europe remains chronically under-funded. Looking at the next MFF, it must remain a stand-alone programme.
- Europe for Citizens continues to suffer from inadequate funding. Mr Løkkegaard highlighted his intention to table an amendment on the Commission's plan to reduce the 2019 and 2020 EFC budget to top up the new Citizens' Initiative.
- The European Solidarity Corps needs fresh money (not redeployed funds) if it is to deliver added value.
- Greater cross-programme synergies should be sought to ensure spending on culture and education is more joined-up.
- Support is needed for Euranet Plus both for the remainder of the current MFF and beyond.
- The excellent Preparatory Action run by ARTE Europe on subtitling needs ongoing support through the EU budget.

The budget procedure will now pick up pace as the Commission is due to present the 2019 draft budget on 23 May 2018. CULT aims to vote on its budgetary amendments just before the summer recess.

[Procedure file](#)

The CULT mission to Lisbon (Portugal), 4-6 April 2018

The mission allowed Members to meet various actors of civil society and government in the fields of culture and education. It began with a visit to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF), a well-known cultural and educational organisation and included a meeting with the Portuguese Coordinator for the European Year of Cultural Heritage, Professor Guilherme d'Oliveira Martins, a Trustee of the Foundation.

Other highlights included a meeting with Members of the Committees on Culture, Communication, Youth and Sport and Education and Science in the Assembleia da República (Portuguese Parliament); a visit to the Nova School of Business and Economic Campus (Nova SBE) in Carcavelos, one of the very few projects in the education sector funded by EFSI; and a visit to the joint EU-Council of Europe pilot project, STEPS, which aims to build and strengthen community cohesion and to promote trust, dialogue and mutual understanding across diverse societies through participatory heritage-based action plans.

The delegation ended with a meeting with the Erasmus+ National Agency Director and the Secretary-General of the Council of Youth where there was a debate on the the future of the Erasmus+ programme.

Delegation: Petra KAMMEREVERT (Chair), Andrea BOCSKOR, Luigi MORGANO, Bogdan Andrzej ZDROJEWSKI, Curzio MALTESE, Bogdan Brunon WENTA, Momchil NEKOV, Liliana RODRIGUES



The next committee meeting: 16-17 May 2018

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
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- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
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