



Committee on Culture and Education

29/08/2023

Opinion on the implementation report on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Rapporteur: Laurence Farreng

Compromise amendments (CAs) - FINAL

CA 1 - Recitals A, D, E, H, I

Covers: AM 1 S&D, AM 3 S&D, AM 4 Zovko, AM 6 Greens, AM 7 Renew, AM 8 S&D, AM 9 Greens, AM 10 S&D, AM 53 Zovko , AM 56 Zovko , AM 59 Zovko

A. whereas the cultural and creative sectors are not ***included*** in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA); (AM 1)

D. whereas the UK unilaterally decided not to be a part of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme, covering the education, youth and sport sectors; whereas UK institutions can still be associated with Erasmus Mundus and the Jean Monnet activities;

E. whereas Erasmus+ is not just a mobility programme, but a powerful tool for exchanging knowledge, fostering academic cooperation, ***supporting individual development (AM 4)***, creating strong and lasting links and promoting understanding between people ***from different cultural backgrounds***, institutions ***and their members***, as well as a wide range of stakeholders ***and their organisations and networks***, contributing to the development of policies and practices (AM 3);

H. whereas non-EU countries can join Erasmus+ ***and the European Solidarity Corps*** associated countries; (AM 6,7,8)

I. whereas, as a consequence of Brexit, EU citizens studying in the UK ***are*** no longer ***entitled to*** ‘home fees’, but have to pay higher international student fees, making it prohibitively expensive for the vast majority of them, ***especially penalising young students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds***; (AM 9,10)

O. whereas the UK remains a party to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television, and audiovisual works originating in the UK are considered ‘European works’ for the purposes of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (***AVMSD***) in accordance with

Article 1(1), point (n) and paragraph 3 *and implemented the AVMSD during the transition period as that legislation fell within the scope of EU retained law* (covers AM 53, 56, 59);

CA 2 - Paragraph 2

Covers: AM 12 Zovko, AM 13 S&D, AM 14 Zovko, AM 16 Greens, AM 69 Greens

2. Notes that numerous education, culture and youth stakeholders, both in the EU and the UK, are calling for the UK to be associated with Erasmus+, Creative Europe, European Solidarity Corps and Horizon Europe once more; *calls for the issue to be addressed in different political contexts and practical, intermediary solutions to be explored to mitigate the loss of opportunities (AM 13); underlines that, should the UK wish to re-associate with EU programmes, its financial contribution should be fair and ensure the inclusiveness and diversity of participants in the programmes (AM 16);*

CA 3 - Paragraph 3 a (new)

Covers: AM 11 S&D, AM 15 Renew

3 a. *Notes with satisfaction that numerous EU and UK education, youth and cultural institutions and organisations continue their relations on a bilateral basis despite the lack of funding and increased administrative efforts and obstacles (AM 11, 15); is concerned that not all organisations may be able to afford the additional human resources it requires to maintain or pursue those connections (AM 15);*

EDUCATION

CA 4 - Paragraph 4

Covers: AM 18 Zovko, AM 19 Negrescu, AM 20 S&D, AM 21 Slabakov, AM 2 Negrescu

4. Underlines the *significant (AM 21)* benefits of the Erasmus+ programme not only for *higher education (AM 20)* students, vocational education and training (VET) students, adult learners, young people, *but also for teachers, academics (AM 19, 20), researchers (AM 18), administrative staff and generally for education institutions (AM 20)* and society as a whole, which cannot be measured by the size of its financial envelope;

CA 5 - Paragraph 5

Covers: AM 10 S&D, AM 23 Slabakov, AM 24 Renew, AM 40 Kizilyürek

5. Regrets the narrowness of the ‘value for money’ approach adopted by the UK Government regarding Erasmus+, which disregards the numerous benefits in terms of exchange of knowledge and *transferrable (AM 24)* skills for students, teachers and administrative staff, the contribution *of the programme (AM 23)* to diversity on campuses and *in educational institutions (AM 23), increased mutual understanding, a reduction of prejudices and discriminations (AM 40), exposure of UK learners and teachers to their fellow Europeans (AM 10), its contribution to broadening participants’ perspectives (AM 23)* and opportunities, *as well as their employability (AM 24);*

CA 6 - Paragraph 9

Covers: AM 5 S&D, AM 22 S&D, AM 26 S&D, AM 27 Slabakov, AM 25 Slabakov

9. Notes the creation of the Turing scheme by the UK Government; regrets, however, that this programme only covers outgoing student mobility, and does not cover the youth and sport sectors⁶; *notes that the Turing scheme, which is characterised by the UK Government's 'value for money' approach (AM 22), can therefore not be seen as an equivalent replacement for Erasmus+ (AM 5, 26); underlines the importance of staff mobility currently not covered by the Turing scheme (AM 27);*

CA 7 - Paragraph 11

Covers: AM 28 S&D, AM 29 Renew

11. Welcomes the new possibility *for Erasmus+ mobility grant beneficiaries to dedicate 20 % of the grant funding* to outgoing international mobility outside the 33 *Erasmus+ programme (AM 29)* countries; notes, however, that this *share* cannot be dedicated entirely to one specific *partner (AM 28, 29)* country, and *manifestly* does not replace the missed opportunities resulting from the UK's withdrawal from the Erasmus+ programme;

CA 8 - Paragraph 16

Covers: AM 31 S&D, AM 32 Slabakov

16. Notes that *many* UK universities *can be considered among the best in the world*¹; notes that the end of cooperation projects between these universities and EU universities is detrimental to research and academic excellence in Europe;

CA 9 - Paragraph 17

Covers: AM 33 Renew, AM 34 Zovko, AM 35 S&D

17. Notes that 11 UK universities are partners in alliances through the European Universities initiative; regrets that *their participation (AM 35)* will end when the first-generation alliances expire (at the end of 2024); *notes that UK universities are allowed to be part of European Universities alliances, but cannot be included in the governance structure anymore, relegating them de facto to a second class partner (AM 33); encourages their continued partnership through the European Universities initiative (AM 34);*

CA 10 - Paragraph 19

Covers: AM 37 Zovko, AM 38 Slabakov

19. *Expresses concern regarding (AM 38)* the negative effects the *ongoing (AM 38)* situation *has (AM 38)* on issues related to European sovereignty, as all European countries, whether they belong to the EU bloc or not, must be able to compete, particularly with China and the US, in strategic areas such as industrial innovation, digitalisation, clean energy solutions and space capabilities; *reiterates (AM 38)* that research cooperation, *especially in the fields of science and innovation (AM 37)*, between universities in Europe is instrumental in this regard;

CA 11 - Paragraph 22

Covers: AM 39 Slabakov

¹ *The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023*

22. Recalls that Directive 2005/36/EC11 on the recognition of professional qualifications no longer applies to the UK and regrets that the TCA does not contain provisions to enable the mutual recognition of professional qualifications; urges the UK and the Commission to continue their dialogue with a view to establishing an effective framework for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications; ***reiterates that mutual recognition of professional qualifications is beneficial to both the UK and the EU (AM 39);***

CULTURE

CA 12 - Paragraph 24

Covers: AM 17 Kizilyürek (part 1)

24. Recalls the importance of the cultural sectors and industries in the UK, which contributed GBP 109 billion to the UK economy in 2021 (i.e. as much as 5.6 % of the UK economy), with one in 11 jobs being in the creative economy; notes that the cultural sectors and industries are considered a central element of the UK's 'soft power' and wider global influence; ***underlines the inherent value of culture, which promotes the enrichment of societies and brings people closer together (AM 17);***

CA 13 - Paragraph 27 a (new)

Covers: AM 17 Kizilyürek (part 2), AM 52 S&D, AM 54 Kizilyürek, AM 58 S&D

27 a (new) Encourages strengthening cooperation between EU and UK artists and other professionals in the cultural and creative sectors and industries (AM 17) as well as safeguarding their labour rights (AM 54); notes that numerous UK cultural organisations continued to be connected after Brexit through their partnership with European cultural networks, professional associations and trade federations (AM 52, 58); expresses concern that in the medium term the sustainability of these relationships is at great risk and that the adverse effects of the Creative Europe programme exit will increase (AM 52);

CA 14 - Paragraph 28

Covers: AM 44 Negrescu, AM 45 S&D, AM 46 Renew, AM 49 Negrescu

28. Is concerned by the excessive bureaucracy created by the UK's withdrawal from the EU, for UK artists wanting to tour in the EU and European artists wanting to tour in the UK, as illustrated by the administrative obstacles that resulted from the application of the CITES Regulations for artists travelling with musical instruments ***containing elements of protected species (AM 45, 46); calls for creating dedicated mechanisms to facilitate artists' mobility and to reduce the bureaucratic burden for artists (AM 44, 49);***

YOUTH

CA 15 - Paragraph 33

Covers: AM 62 Zovko, AM 63 Negrescu, AM 64 Renew

33. Stresses the importance of international youth projects ***and volunteering***, which enable young people to broaden their horizons, while creating an appetite for discovering other cultures that has lifelong benefits;

CA 16 - Paragraph 35 a (new)

Covers: AM 70 Renew, AM 65 Greens

35 b. *Highlights that all interested neighbouring and like-minded countries, including the UK, are welcome to seek association with the European Solidarity Corps programme, fostering volunteering opportunities and collaboration between young people across Europe;*

CA 17 - Paragraph 32, 34, 34 a (new) and 35

Covers: AM 60, 61, 66, 67 Greens

32. Regrets the absence of any provisions relating to youth, youth exchanges and projects, *youth dialogue and volunteering (AM 60)* in the TCA;

34. Is concerned that almost none of the youth projects previously funded by Erasmus+ *and the European Solidarity Corps (AM 66)* involving school-age children are now being funded through the UK Government's Turing scheme;

34. a (new) *Notes with regret the absence of organisations specifically representing youth among the UK civil society organisations selected to participate in the TCA Civil Society Forum (AM 61);*

35. Notes that school trips *and youth mobility (AM 67)* are hindered by the new migration rules, the need for schools to pay for a visa for every student; therefore, asks the UK Government and the Member States to create a youth group travel scheme for young people under 18;

SPORTS

CA 18 - Paragraph 36, 38

Covers: AM 71, AM 72 Zovko

36. Regrets the absence of any provisions linked to capacity-building of grassroots and professional organisations, partnerships and exchanges in the fields of sports and esports in the TCA, *negatively affecting the sport sector in both the EU and the UK (AM 71);*

38. Highlights that since Brexit EU players and athletes need a work permit to play in the UK, as was previously the case only for non-EU players, hindering their ability to compete on the other side of the Channel; *underlines the importance of better cooperation between the EU and the UK in this regard (AM 72);*

NEW

CA 19 on Paragraph 30

Covers: AM 50 Renew, AM 51 S&D, AM 42 Zovko

30. Stresses that streamlining visa *and work* arrangements is in the interest of the cultural and creative sectors in both the EU and the UK and urges both parties to work towards an agreement; believes that these visa *and work* arrangements should be part of a future EU framework for artists and cultural professionals;

CA 20 on Paragraph 31 a (new)

Covers: AM 55 Renew, AM 57 S&D, AM 41 Zovko

31a. *Regrets that the number of EU citizens working in the cultural and creative sectors and industries in the UK has dropped since Brexit;*

The Compendium of Cultural Policies, UK Office for National Statistics.

CA 21 on Paragraphs 12, 13, 18 and 27

Covers: AM 30 S&D, AM 36 Zovko, AM 43 Zovko + technical change from the rapporteur on para 12

12. Welcomes the creation of the Taith programme by the Welsh Government, covering both incoming and outgoing mobility; notes that this programme, like the Turing scheme, does not cover the sport sector, ***but it does support mobility by sports teams;***

13. Welcomes the work currently being undertaken by the Scottish Government to create a similar programme, covering both incoming and outgoing mobility; ***invites the Scottish Government to consider covering through its programme the same areas of education and training, youth and sport as Erasmus+;***

18. Notes that the numerous partnerships that UK universities had with their EU counterparts through the Erasmus+ programme have to be re-negotiated bilaterally one by one, posing the risk that some smaller universities will be excluded;

27. Notes that the Creative Europe programme was not replaced by any other programme dedicated to culture to support artists in the UK;

ORAL AMENDMENT FROM THE RAPPORTEUR

15. Is concerned by the significant drop in the number of EU students studying at UK universities, which fell by as much as 50 % in the case of first year students between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, in contrast to student numbers from other regions²; underlines that this situation is clearly linked to the UK's withdrawal from the Erasmus+ programme, the end of equal treatment rules for tuition fees and scholarships for EU students and the difficulty of obtaining a student visa; notes that European students contributed to diversity across a broad range of subjects, whereas non-EU international students tend to be more concentrated in particular subject areas such as engineering and business; notes that UK universities welcome an increasing number of foreign students, notably from India and China^{3 4}, which contribute to their financial stability;

² Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), [Chart 6 - First year non-UK domiciled students by domicile 2006/07 to 2021/22](#), 2023.

³ HESA, [Where do HE students come from?](#), 2023.

⁴ [Report of the Intelligence and Security Committee of the UK Parliament on China](#)