



**2023/2004(INI)**

23.11.2023

# **COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 13**

**Draft report**

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(PE750.184v01-00)

Implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme 2021-2027 – citizens' engagement and participation  
((2023/2004(INI))

AM\_Com\_NonLegCompr

## COMPROMISE 1

### CA 1

Compromise supported by Renew  
and replacing Amendment(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

#### Motion for a resolution

##### Recital B

###### *Motion for a resolution*

B. whereas citizenship of the Union gives people various rights, in particular the right to petition Parliament on any issue within the EU's responsibility, the right to raise perceived cases of maladministration by any EU institution with the European Ombudsman, the right to write to any EU institution in one of the EU's official languages and receive a reply in the same language and the right to access Parliament, Council and Commission documents ***under certain conditions***;

###### *Amendment*

B. whereas citizenship of the Union gives people various rights, in particular the right to petition Parliament on any issue within the EU's responsibility, the right to raise perceived cases of maladministration by any EU institution with the European Ombudsman, the right to write to any EU institution in one of the EU's official languages and receive a reply in the same language and the right to access Parliament, Council and Commission documents ***in accordance with the applicable EU rules***;

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 2

### CA 2

Compromise supported by Renew, EPP, Greens  
and replacing Amendment(s) 8, 9, 10 and 11

#### Motion for a resolution

##### Recital C

###### *Motion for a resolution*

C. whereas present and emerging systemic challenges, such as the climate crisis, global pandemics, the digital shift ***and migration***, require the adaptation of structures and approaches ***granting*** active participation ***to*** citizens in society; whereas the active digital engagement of citizens should take into account and address the

###### *Amendment*

C. whereas present and emerging systemic challenges, such as the climate crisis, global pandemics, the digital shift ***social inequalities*** require the adaptation of structures and approaches ***ensuring*** active participation ***of*** citizens in society; whereas the active digital engagement of citizens should take into account and address the digital gap between generations, ***social***

digital gap between generations;

***groups as well as between well connected urban areas and rural and remote areas, while improving overall digital literacy;***

## **Recital C a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***C a. whereas Union programmes promoting civic engagement, rights and values, the sense of belonging and increasing socio-civic competences and critical thinking are more important than ever;***

Or. en

## **COMPROMISE 3**

### **CA 3**

Compromise supported by Negrescu, Greens, EPP, ECR, Rapp and replacing Amendment(s) 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

## **Motion for a resolution**

### **Recital D**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

D. whereas citizen engagement must be understood as multi-level, encompassing local, regional, national, European and global processes; whereas the ongoing processes of globalisation and European integration will require the new generation of Europeans to be increasingly politically engaged at multiple levels in order to be able to live and work internationally and navigate difference in their daily lives; whereas societies are becoming more diverse, making respect for the diversity of cultures and origins and the rejection of any kind of discrimination towards women, LGBTBIQ people ***or*** minorities ever more important within Europe;

D. whereas citizen engagement must be understood as multi-level, encompassing local, regional, national, European and global processes ***through which people acquire awareness and knowledge (rapporteur) and express their opinions taking part in and influence the decisions that affect their lives; whereas participants from rural and remote areas must be encouraged to participate in the programme;*** whereas the ongoing processes of globalisation and European integration will require the new generation of Europeans to be increasingly politically engaged at multiple levels in order to be able to live and work internationally and navigate difference in their daily lives; whereas societies are becoming more

diverse, making respect for **human dignity**, the diversity of cultures and origins and the rejection of any kind of discrimination towards women, LGBTBIQ people, **ethnic minorities and other marginalised groups** ever more important within Europe;

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 4

### CA 4

Compromise supported by Renew, Greens and replacing Amendment(s) 18, 19

### Motion for a resolution

#### Recital E

#### *Motion for a resolution*

E. whereas socio-political changes observed in Member States, ranging from social polarisation and low institutional trust to democratic backsliding, the erosion of the rule of law, exclusionary nationalism and the instrumentalisation of Euroscepticism for political purposes, along with the rise of extremist movements and authoritarianism, may pose a serious threat to European democracies and destabilise the Union as a whole; whereas strengthening citizens' active participation and engagement through formal, non-formal, informal and lifelong learning and education can play **an** important role in countering this trend;

#### *Amendment*

E. whereas socio-political changes observed in Member States, ranging from social polarisation and low institutional trust to democratic backsliding, the erosion of the rule of law, **shrinking space for civil society**, exclusionary nationalism and the instrumentalisation of Euroscepticism for political purposes, along with the rise of extremist movements and authoritarianism, **entryism of religious fundamentalisms, as well as disinformation campaigns and misinformation**, may pose a serious threat to European democracies and destabilise the Union as a whole; whereas strengthening citizens' active participation and engagement through formal, non-formal, informal and lifelong learning and education can play important **plays a fundamental** role in countering this trend;

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 5

### CA 5

Compromise supported by Negrescu, Renew, Rapp  
and replacing Amendment(s) 21, 22, 23

## Motion for a resolution

### Recital F

#### *Motion for a resolution*

F. whereas the emergence of a European citizenship has been hindered by a knowledge gap and an emotional gap, and should therefore be accompanied and reinforced by a set of mechanisms enabling citizen participation and intercultural dialogue; whereas a better understanding of our shared European history and stronger citizen engagement in social and political life can have a beneficial impact on an emerging European identity that complements citizens' multiple local, national, geographical, cultural or other identities;

#### *Amendment*

F. whereas the emergence of a European citizenship has been hindered by a knowledge gap and an emotional gap ***often related to misperceptions of the EU*** and should therefore be accompanied and reinforced by a set of mechanisms enabling citizen participation and intercultural dialogue; whereas a better understanding of our shared European history and stronger citizen engagement in social and political life can have a beneficial impact on an emerging European identity that complements citizens' multiple local, ***regional*** national, geographical, cultural or other identities; ***whereas active citizens' participation and dialogue are interlinked with the European dimension of citizenship education and can effectively contribute to the creation of an European citizenship with clear rights and obligations;***

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 6

### CA 6

Compromise supported by Greens, Renew, Rapp, EPP  
and replacing Amendment(s) 30, 32, 33, 34

## Motion for a resolution

### Paragraph 1

#### *Motion for a resolution*

1. Firmly believes that the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme makes a unique contribution to enhancing civic engagement and

#### *Amendment*

1. Firmly believes that the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme makes a unique contribution to enhancing civic engagement and

participation from a fundamental rights perspective by effectively combining values, civil dialogue and citizenship, while also promoting gender equality and the fight against discrimination and violence; is of the opinion that the CERV programme is essential for addressing shrinking civic space and challenges to the rule of law across Europe.

participation from a fundamental rights perspective by effectively combining values, civil dialogue and citizenship, while also promoting *social and* gender equality, *the diversity through the assistance for preserving the regional heritage, historical consciousness as well as* and the fight against discrimination and violence; is of the opinion that the CERV programme is *an* essential *instrument for the future of the EU in* for addressing *socio-political challenges, such as the knowledge gap, Euroscepticism,* shrinking civic space, *and the erosion of* and challenges to the rule of law across Europe; *encourages the programme to support actions aimed at building the resilience of civil society organisations, including those focused on the rule of law and union values;*

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 7

### CA7

Compromise supported by Renew, Greens and replacing Amendment(s) 35, 36

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 2 a (new)

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**2 a.** *Calls on the Commission to prioritise data collection on the CERV programme, particularly on disadvantaged groups, including marginalised communities, minorities, and vulnerable populations to address their unique challenges and promote research into their experiences; insists on the need to establish strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; underlines that this approach will be useful to inform policy development, ensuring the meaningful participation of disadvantaged*

*groups in civic engagement initiatives and elevate their voices, and create a more inclusive and equitable programme while ensuring better future evaluations at large;*

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 8

### CA 8

Compromise supported by ECR, Negrescu and replacing Amendment(s) 37, 38

#### Motion for a resolution

##### Paragraph 3

###### *Motion for a resolution*

3. Underlines that the programme faced several challenges that hindered the initial stages of its implementation, many of which were external factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, and that these disrupted and compromised citizens' rights and participation in democracy; notes, however, that implementation then picked up and is now going well;

###### *Amendment*

3. Underlines that the programme faced several challenges that hindered the initial stages of its implementation, many of which were external factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war of aggression on Ukraine, and that these disrupted and compromised citizens' rights and participation in democracy; notes, however, that *following a delayed and slow start in its* implementation then picked up and is now going *currently the programme is functioning* well; *furthermore highlights that awareness campaigns must be organised in order to reach a wider population, especially from the rural areas;*

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 9

### CA 9

Compromise supported by Renew, Greens and replacing Amendment(s) 17, 18, 19

#### Motion for a resolution



## Paragraph 4

### *Motion for a resolution*

4. Is concerned that the use and introduction of new digital tools for the implementation of EU funds (e.g. the eGrants tool) appear to be a key issue for beneficiaries with regard to the programme's development; regrets that complex procedures have also hindered the participation of smaller organisations that do not have the time and resources required to go through the application process; considers that the design of these tools limits the programme's ability to adapt to new developments and changing needs; calls for the elimination of the administrative burden and the simplification of the application, contracting and reporting processes;

### *Amendment*

4. Is concerned that the use and introduction of new digital tools for the implementation of EU funds (e.g. the eGrants tool) appear to be a key issue for beneficiaries with regard to the programme's development; regrets that complex procedures have also hindered the participation of smaller organisations that do not have the time and resources required to go through the application process ***within the set timelines***; considers that the design of these tools limits the programme's ability to adapt to new developments and changing needs; calls for the elimination of the administrative burden and the simplification of the application, contracting and reporting processes; ***underlines that simplify administrative requirements includes also a more efficient and flexible application process for organisations that have signed multi-year framework partnership agreements, also in order to anticipate policy developments; stresses, furthermore, the need to make the application portal more user friendly, especially for small-scale organisations, and to ensure that all the documents related to the procedure be translated in all EU languages in order to widen participation from all Member States and ensure cultural diversity***;

Or. en

## COMPROMISE 10

### CA 10

Compromise supported by Greens, Negrescu and replacing Amendment(s) 8, 9, 10 and 11

### Motion for a resolution

## Paragraph 7

*Motion for a resolution*

7. Calls on the Commission to strengthen civil dialogue in such a way as to support a **two-way** process between institutions at all levels and all relevant stakeholders, and as part of the implementation of Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692, using civil dialogue as a tool to determine priorities for the two-year work programme and promoting further the collective dimension of civic engagement as a critical dimension of democracy and of the rule of law; recalls, in this regard, that innovative actions to support dialogue with civil society should be promoted, including with a view to fostering a culture of trust-based partnership with grantees; calls, in particular, for capacity-building actions to support the wide participation of civil society, particularly through links with other funding schemes provided through shared management, such as the technical support instrument;

**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

7. Calls on the Commission **to establish the Civil Dialogue Group to ensure regular, open, and transparent** to strengthen civil dialogue **throughout the program** in such a way as to support a **two-way** process between institutions at all levels and all relevant stakeholders, **especially CSOs** , and as part of the implementation of Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2021/692, **and** using civil dialogue as a tool **for governance and** to determine priorities for the two-year work programme and promoting further the collective dimension of civic engagement as a critical dimension of democracy and of the rule of law; recalls, in this regard, that innovative actions to support dialogue with civil society should be promoted, including with a view to fostering a culture of trust-based partnership with grantees; calls, in particular, for capacity-building actions to support the wide participation of civil society, particularly through links with other funding schemes provided through shared management, such as the technical support instrument;

*Amendment*

**7 a. Recalls the need to encourage citizens' active participation by reinforcing the European dimension of citizenship education, both in curricular and extracurricular activities; highlights that a truly European citizenship education can inform and form citizens in the spirit of civic engagement and participation and that appropriate EU guidelines can be useful tool in this direction ; emphasises the importance of including non-citizens who live in the EU, and their self-led organisations, in the target group of the CERV programme, which will foster democratic governance,**

## COMPROMISE 11

### CA 11

Compromise supported by greens  
and replacing Amendment(s) 47, 59

### Motion for a resolution

#### Paragraph 8

##### *Motion for a resolution*

8. Calls on the Member States that have not yet designated NCPs to do so as quickly as possible and calls on the Commission to continue working with the NCP network through meetings, training measures and dedicated exchanges, as these have been organised very successfully so far;

##### *Amendment*

8. Calls on the Member States that have not yet designated NCPs to do so as quickly as possible and calls on the Commission to continue working with the NCP network through meetings, training measures and dedicated exchanges, as these have been organised very successfully so far; ***in this context, encourages the Commission, Member states and NCPs to establish a European network of NCPs to facilitate the sharing of best practices and the exchange of knowledge; furthermore encourages the Commission to establish a network of CERV beneficiaries to exchange experiences and best practices for a deeper understanding of local and national realities across the EU and beyond;***

## COMPROMISE 12

### CA 12

Compromise supported by Renew, Greens, Rapp, EPP  
and replacing Amendment(s) 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 60 and 61

### Motion for a resolution

## Paragraph 9

### *Motion for a resolution*

9. Takes note of the results of introducing different types of re-granting mechanisms under the CERV programme, which have been very encouraging so far; calls for a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the different re-granting calls with a view to possibly extending their use to the other strands of the CERV programme, where relevant, and in particular to Strand 3, in order to ensure that EU funding reaches grassroots-level civil society organisations that have long track records and considerable experience; urges the Commission to further simplify the administrative procedures and requirements for re-granting to give organisations applying for re-granting more flexibility vis-à-vis **sub-grantees**, ensuring appropriate working, healthcare and social protection standards; believes that the co-funding requirements could be revised with a view to adapting the rules to the beneficiary's situation in order to support a larger variety of beneficiaries and thematic fields; underlines that funding provided from the CERV programme in the field of rights, equality, values and civic engagement, for which other sources of funding are very scarce or absent, should cover a greater percentage of grant amounts;

### *Amendment*

9. Takes note of the results of introducing different types of re-granting mechanisms under the CERV programme, which have been very encouraging so far; calls for a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the different re-granting calls with a view to possibly extending their use to the other strands of the CERV programme, where relevant, and in particular to Strand 3, in order to ensure that EU funding reaches grassroots-level civil society organisations that have long track records and considerable experience; urges the Commission to further simplify the administrative procedures and requirements for re-granting to give organisations applying for re-granting more flexibility vis-à-vis **sub-grantees**, ensuring appropriate working, healthcare and social protection standards; believes that the co-funding requirements could be revised with a view to adapting the rules to the beneficiary's situation in order to support a larger variety of beneficiaries, ***including individuals and micro structures***, and thematic fields; ***insists on the importance to promote the use of the programme in the educational sector at large, including students, teachers, educational staff and youth workers***; underlines that funding provided from the CERV programme in the field of rights, equality, values and civic engagement, for which other sources of funding are very scarce or absent, should cover a greater percentage of grant amounts; ***urges the Commission to ensure that financing goes to structures that respect the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, for instance by setting up control mechanisms to guarantee appropriate working, healthcare and social protection standards; calls for an assessment on the re-granting mechanisms to evaluate its effectiveness and flexibility in reaching grassroots groups and in supporting***

*organisation in countries with shrinking civic space;*

**Paragraph 9 a (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**9 a.** *Calls for an increase in the program's budget up to 2.6 billion EUR in the next MFF to meet the growing demand for civic engagement and democratic participation initiatives, and for the establishment of an ad-hoc mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders, similar to mechanisms in place for human rights defenders outside the EU or the protection of journalists, and, in general, to address the impact of inflation on program costs, also considering the Conclusions of the Conference on the future of Europe on European citizenship and education, as well as the strategic importance of the CERV programme for the implementation of EU priorities;*

**Paragraph 9 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

**9 b.** *Emphasizes that effective communication and awareness-raising activities are essential for the success of the programme, therefore they need to be prioritized in order to engage potential beneficiaries, especially at local level;*

Or. en

**COMPROMISE 13**

**CA 13**

Compromise supported by Rapp, Renew, Greens and replacing Amendment(s) 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58

**Motion for a resolution**

## Paragraph 10

### *Motion for a resolution*

10. Acknowledges that exchanges and participation in activities under the CERV programme are key for building the capacity of civil society organisations for civic engagement and the promotion of Union values in non-EU countries; underlines that active engagement and commitment to European values do not start with accession agreements and are the outcome of the long-standing work of activists and civil society organisations to promote these ideas and support local activists in non-EU countries; calls, therefore, for the CERV programme to cover the participation costs of civil society representatives, at least those from candidate and associated countries, regardless of whether their country is involved in the CERV programme; stresses the need to address the challenges associated with the war in Ukraine by encouraging projects with Ukrainian partners through remembrance and democratic participation activities;

### *Amendment*

10. Acknowledges that exchanges and participation in activities under the CERV programme are key for building the capacity of civil society organisations for civic engagement and the promotion of Union values in non-EU countries; underlines that active engagement and commitment to European values do not start with accession agreements and are the outcome of the long-standing work of activists and civil society organisations to promote these ideas and support local activists in non-EU countries; ***encourages the Commission to facilitate the participation of non-EU citizens through the engagement of non-EU CSOs in CERV activities***; calls, therefore, for the CERV programme to cover the participation costs of civil society representatives, at least ***for*** those from candidate and associated countries, regardless of whether their country is involved in the CERV programme; stresses the need to address the challenges associated with the war in Ukraine by encouraging projects with Ukrainian partners through remembrance, and democratic participation activities ***and recovering Ukrainian cultural heritage***;

## Paragraph 10 a (new)

### *Motion for a resolution*

### *Amendment*

***10 a. Reiterates its call to make the CERV programme a lever for action in the field of European historical consciousness by actively supporting structures that aim at fostering critical historical memory, for instance on transnational research and visiting places of memory, both in the EU and beyond; particularly to denounce historical and cultural revisionism; calls on the Commission and Member States to pay***

*particular attention to sensitive societal issues that could bring to possible instrumentalisation;*

**Paragraph 10 b (new)**

*Motion for a resolution*

*Amendment*

***10 b. Asks for the CERV programme to support the emerging dynamic of linking town twinning and networks of towns to the twinning of education establishments, which can reinforce the European dimension, the exchange of good practices and the sense of belonging;***

Or. en