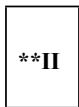


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NOAM

20 May 1998 A4-0191/98



RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING

on the common position established by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Council Recommendation on European co-operation in quality assurance in higher education (C4-0191/98 - 97/0121 (SYN))

Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media

Rapporteur: Mrs Renate Heinisch

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A. DRAFT DECISION4

B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT6

At its sitting of 18th November 1997, Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on European co-operation in quality assurance in higher education.

At the sitting of 2 April 1998 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media.

At its meeting of 2nd July 1997 the committee had appointed Mrs Renate Heinisch rapporteur.

It considered the common position and the draft recommendation for second reading at its meetings of 21 April and 20 May 1998.

At the latter meeting it adopted the draft decision unanimously.

The following Members were present for the vote: Pex, chairman; Hawlicek, vice-chairman, Heinisch, rapporteur; Elchlepp (for Evans), Ewing (for Leperre-Verrier), Günther (for Mouskouri), Kerr, Monfils, Perry, Ryyänen and Voggenhuber.

The recommendation for second reading was tabled on 20 May 1998.

The deadline for tabling amendments to the common position or proposals to reject it will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

A
DRAFT DECISION

Decision on the common position established by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Council Recommendation on European co-operation in quality assurance in higher education (C4-0191/98 - 97/0121(SYN))

(Cooperation procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the common position of the Council, C4-0191/98 - 97/0121(SYN),
 - having regard to its opinion at first reading() on the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0159(),
 - having regard to the amended Commission proposal, COM(97)0707(),
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 189c of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media (A4-0191/98),
1. Amends the common position as follows;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and Commission.

() on the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0159() OJ C 371, 8.12.1997, p. 26.

(^b) OJ C

(^b) OJ C

(Amendment 1)
Part 1, Section A, second indent

- to encourage and help higher education institutions to use appropriate measures, particularly quality assurance, as a means of improving the quality of teaching and learning in a rapidly changing world;

- to encourage and help higher education institutions to use appropriate measures, particularly quality assurance, as a means of improving the quality of teaching and learning, as well as of training in research, another important aspect of their task;

B.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The European Parliament adopted 38 amendments to the Commission's proposal at first reading. The Common Position of the Council goes along with the essence of the Commission's proposal, while differing in a number of aspects.

- * The Council did not consider it appropriate that the Commission support the establishment of a "European Quality Assurance Network". However, the promotion of networking is included in the Common Position, but is now addressed to the Member States, while the Commission is called on to encourage cooperative activity between the authorities responsible for quality assessment and quality assurance in higher education.
- * The Common Position has restructured the text by putting certain explanatory details, previously contained in the main body of the text (Part 1B of the Commission proposal) in an Annex. This improves the structure and logic of the text, which was the aim of a number of Parliament's amendments in this area.

The Council has accepted 13 of the Parliament's amendments, at least in spirit, if not verbatim. However, your rapporteur is, in general, in agreement with the Common Position of the Council, and therefore wishes to present only one amendment at second reading. This amendment relates to the role of educational institutions in training for research, another important aspect of their task.