

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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**A6-0056/2004**

2.12.2004

**\*\*\*II**

## **RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING**

on the Council common position for adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)  
(12242/1/2004 – C6-0158/2004 – 2003/0307(COD))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Ljudmila Novak

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position*  
*majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

### ***Amendments to a legislative text***

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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## **DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

**on the Council common position for adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)  
(12242/1/2004 – C6-0158/2004 – 2003/0307(COD))**

**(Codecision procedure: second reading)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Council common position (12242/1/2004 – C6-0158/2004),
  - having regard to its position at first reading<sup>1</sup> on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2003)0796)<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to Article 251(2) 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 and Education (A6-0056/2004),
1. Approves the common position;
  2. Notes that the act is adopted in accordance with the common position;
  3. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council pursuant to Article 254(1) of the EC Treaty;
  4. Instructs its Secretary-General to sign the act, once it has been verified that all the procedures have been duly completed, and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Union;
  5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> *Texts Adopted*, 22.4.2004, P5\_TA(2004)0362.

<sup>2</sup> Not yet published in OJ.

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **Draft decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)**

The legislative proposal aims to create a uniform portfolio of documents to give citizens the option of setting out their personal abilities, skills and qualifications in a clear, consistent and internationally transparent manner when applying for jobs at home and abroad.

By encouraging qualifications and skills to be transparent and comparable, the proposal is facilitating skill-related professional mobility in Europe. This is intended not only to help achieve the Lisbon 2000 strategic objectives but also to improve the quality of education and training in Europe.

The Europass portfolio consists of five documents:

- the Europass curriculum vitae
- the Europass mobility pass (for periods of education or training abroad)
- the Europass diploma supplement (for university degrees)
- the Europass language pass (for language knowledge)
- the Europass certificate supplement (for training courses).

When applying for a job, citizens are free to use individual Europass documents or the whole portfolio.

### **PROCEDURE**

Parliament gave its opinion on the proposal at first reading under the codecision procedure on 22 April 2004. Through enhanced cooperation between committees under Rule 47, members of the Committee on Culture and Education (rapporteur: Sabine Zissener) and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (rapporteur: Barbara Weiler) tabled a total of 14 amendments.

The Council reached a political agreement on the draft at its meeting of 28 May 2004. After translating the political agreement into all the EU official languages the common position was adopted on 21 October 2004.

As the Europass concept is a priority issue and of particular importance not just to Parliament but also to the Commission and the Netherlands Council Presidency, the Committee on Culture and Education has been working to a tight schedule for commenting on the proposal.

## COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CONTENT OF PARLIAMENT'S AMENDMENTS AND THAT OF THE COMMON POSITION

Parliament tabled 14 amendments at first reading. The Council has taken up 12 of Parliament's amendments, which were also accepted by the Commission, either wholly, partly or as far as their sense is concerned. These are Amendments 1-6, 8-11 and 13-14. The others, Amendments 7 and 12, the wording of which was not acceptable to the Commission, have been taken up by the Council in an amended form (7) or in part (12).

First of all, it has accepted the amendment to extend the Europass concept to include a new instrument for recording competence in the field of information technology, though without including the practical phrase 'as soon as possible'.

Another important amendment to shorten the initial evaluation period has also been taken up. This defined the period for preparing the initial evaluation report as three years after the entry into force of the decision. The original proposal was for a four-year period. The evaluation period thereafter will be of four years.

The following proposals have also been taken up either in full or in slightly amended form:

- Third-country nationals resident in the European Union should also be able to use this facility.
- The social partners at EU level and other interested parties, including training establishments, are given a special role in the case of transparency initiatives, which may if necessary be incorporated in the Europass framework at a later stage.
- Each Member State will appoint a national Europass Centre (NEC) responsible for coordinating at national level all the activities laid down by the decision. As Parliament proposed, the Member State may if need be replace or expand existing agencies that already carry out similar tasks.
- The Commission and the Member States will ensure that adequate promotion and information activities are carried out at European and national level, covering citizens, education and training providers, the social partners and industry, including small businesses. As Parliament proposed, the field of social inclusion will also be taken into account when implementing the decision.
- The amendment by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on Annex III (the Europass mobility pass) proposing suitable instruction of the persons concerned on health and safety in the workplace, labour law, equal opportunity measures and other work-related measures in the host country by the sending and host organisations has been taken up in full.
- Another proposal, point 28a, for extending the uniform structure of the Europass mobility pass and aiming to record the holder's social skills and abilities, particularly those connected with inter-cultural experience, has also been taken up in full.
- The passage in Annex V (now VI, on the Europass certificate supplement), stating that 'it

is not a personal document: all holders of the same certificate in a given country will hold the same CS, attached to their certificate' has in accordance with Parliament's amendment been dropped.

Two amendments have **not been accepted in full**:

- The common position contains the original wording, which says that the Europass mobility pass will be completed by the sending organisation **and** the host organisation. By contrast Parliament's proposal says this pass should be provided by the sending or the host organisation. For translation of the pass into a second language, a choice from amongst the languages of the sending and host organisation and a third European language has been accepted.
- The proposal that the National Europass Centres (NECs) should **where appropriate** provide an introductory guide to mobility has been taken up in amended form. The Council has incorporated the phrase *where appropriate* in the new wording.

#### OTHER COUNCIL AMENDMENTS

- In new Annex I the Council has laid down four criteria for the inclusion of new Europass documents. They are:
  1. relevance,
  2. European dimension
  3. linguistic coverage
  4. feasibility.

On the future introduction of other documents, the Council takes the view that the Commission should be assisted by the existing committees (Socrates and Leonardo) in accordance with the management procedure.

- Some terminology has also been changed. The designation of documents in the Europass portfolio and of the Europass centres has changed as follows:

OLD	NEW
European Curriculum Vitae	Europass-Curriculum Vitae
MobiliPass	Europass-Mobility
Diploma Supplement	Europass-Diploma Supplement
European Language Portfolio	Europass-Language Portfolio
Certificate Supplement	Europass-Certificate Supplement
Europass National Agency – ENA	National Europass Centre – NEC

- In addition, the Council has clarified the extent of citizens' access to information systems concerning Europass documents.

#### RAPPORTEUR'S COMMENTS

The rapporteur supports the proposal and favours its rapid entry into force. This is backed up by the Netherlands Presidency and Commission, and it is also in the interest of European

citizens, who should as soon as possible have the opportunity to benefit from the advantages of using the Europass portfolio. Early introduction of the proposed Europass framework should also go hand in hand with the early establishment of a suitable implementation and support procedure.

The proposed date of entry into force is 1 January 2005. There are no serious divergences between the positions of Parliament and the Council; the purpose of the amendments proposed at first reading was to make minor and/or technical improvements to the proposal.

To keep to the above date for entry into force, the rapporteur recommends concluding the legislative procedure at second reading. She accordingly proposes accepting the Council's common position without amendment.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Council common position for adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europapass)
<b>References</b>	12242/1/2004 - C6-0158/2004 - 2003/0307(COD)
<b>Legal basis</b>	Articles 251(2) and 149 and 150 EC
<b>Basis in Rules of Procedure</b>	Rule 67
<b>Date of Parliament's first reading – P5</b>	22.04.20004 <b>P5</b> TA(2002)0362
<b>Commission proposal</b>	COM(2003)0796 – C5-0648/2003
<b>Amended Commission proposal</b>	
<b>Date receipt of common position announced in plenary</b>	28.10.2004
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	CULT 28.10.2004
<b>Rapporteur(s)</b> Date appointed	Ljudmila Novak 13.9.2004
<b>Previous rapporteur(s)</b>	Sabine Zissener
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	4.10.2004 25.11.20004
<b>Date adopted</b>	30.11.2004
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for: 18 against: 0 abstentions: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	María Badía i Cutchet, Christopher Beazley, Ivo Belet, Giovanni Berlinguer, Guy Bono, Věra Flasarová, Vasco Graça Moura, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Ruth Hieronymi, Manolis Mavrommatis, Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack, Christa Prets, Karin Resetarits, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Helga Trüpel, Thomas Wise, Jaroslav Zvěřina
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Reimer Böge (Marie-Hélène Descamps)
<b>Date tabled – A6</b>	2.12.2004 A6-0056/2004
<b>Comments</b>	...