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*****I**

REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on a Community programme for employment and social solidarity –
PROGRESS
(COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD))

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Rapporteur: Karin Jöns

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 proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS (COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2004)0488),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Articles 13(2), 129 and 137(2) (a) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0092/2004),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0199/2005),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Points out that the appropriations indicated in the legislative proposal beyond 2006 are subject to the decision on the next multi-annual financial framework;
 3. Calls on the Commission, once the next multi-annual financial framework is adopted, to present, if appropriate a proposal to adjust the financial reference amount of the programme;
 4. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 2

(2) In line with the Commission's stated intention to consolidate and rationalise EU funding instruments, this Decision should establish a single and streamlined Programme providing for the continuation

(2) In line with the Commission's stated intention to consolidate and rationalise EU funding instruments, this Decision should establish a single and streamlined Programme providing for the continuation

and development of the activities launched on the basis of Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006), Council Decision 2001/51/EC of 20 December 2000 establishing a Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality and European Parliament and Council Decisions 50/2002/EC of 7 December 2001 establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion and 1145/2002/EC of 10 June 2002 on Community incentive measures in the field of employment, as well as those activities undertaken at Community level in relation to working conditions.

and development of the activities launched on the basis of Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006)¹, Council Decision 2001/51/EC of 20 December 2000 establishing a Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality² and European Parliament and Council Decisions 50/2002/EC of 7 December 2001 establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion³ and 1145/2002/EC of 10 June 2002 on Community incentive measures in the field of employment⁴, ***and Decision 848/2004/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 29 April 2004 establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women***⁵, as well as those activities undertaken at Community level in relation to working conditions,

Justification

In the field of equality between men and women, the Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women should be added to the programme establishing a Community strategy for gender equality, since both these programmes expire in December 2005.

Amendment 2 Recital 3

(3) The Extraordinary European Council on Employment in Luxembourg in 1997 launched the European Employment Strategy, encompassing the coordination of Member States' employment policies on the basis of commonly-agreed employment

(3) The Extraordinary European Council on Employment in Luxembourg in 1997 launched the European Employment Strategy, encompassing the coordination of Member States' employment policies on the basis of commonly-agreed employment

¹ OJ L 303, 02.12.2000, p. 23.

² OJ L 17, 19.11.2001, p. 22.

³ OJ L 10, 12.01.2002, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 170, 29.06.2002, p. 1.

⁵ ***OJ L 157, 30.4.2004, p. 18. Corrected in OJ L 195, 2.6.2004, p.7***

guidelines and recommendations. The European Employment Strategy now **has the leading role in the** implementation of the employment and labour market objectives of the Lisbon Strategy.

guidelines and recommendations. The European Employment Strategy **is now the most important instrument for** implementation of the employment and labour market objectives of the Lisbon Strategy.

Justification

Greater emphasis should be placed on the vital importance of the European Employment Strategy.

Amendment 3
Recital 5

(5) Demographic change represents a major long-term challenge to the ability of social protection systems to deliver adequate pensions and health and long-term care **and** it is important to promote policies that can achieve both adequate social protection and **financial** sustainability. ***This balance is achieved in accordance with*** the open method of coordination.

(5) Demographic change represents a major long-term challenge to the ability of social protection systems to deliver adequate pensions and **high-quality** health and long-term care **which are accessible to all and can be funded in the long term. It is important to promote policies that can achieve both adequate social protection and sustainability of social protection systems. The Council has decided that cooperation on social protection should be based on** the open method of coordination.

Justification

The Council has agreed on certain overall aims for cooperation on pensions, health and long-term care. In October 2004 the Council decided to use the open method of coordination now for health and long-term care as well as pensions.

Amendment 4
Recital 5 a (new)

(5a) Attention should be drawn to the specific situation of immigrants in this connection and to the importance of taking action to transform the undeclared- and often precarious- work of migrants into regular employment, so that they will be able to enjoy the same social protection, benefits and working conditions as declared workers.

Amendment 5
Recital 6

(6) Ensuring minimum standards and the constant improvement of working conditions in the EU constitutes a central feature of the European social policy and corresponds to an important overall objective of the European Union. The Community has an important role to play to support and complement the activities of the Member States in the fields of workers' health and safety, working conditions, protection of workers where their employment contract is terminated, information and consultation of workers, representation and collective defence of the interests of workers and employers;

(6) Ensuring minimum standards and the constant improvement of working conditions in the EU constitutes a central feature of the European social policy and corresponds to an important overall objective of the European Union. The Community has an important role to play to support and complement the activities of the Member States in the fields of workers' health and safety, working conditions, ***including the need to reconcile family and professional life***, protection of workers where their employment contract is terminated, information, ***participation*** and consultation of workers, representation and collective defence of the interests of workers and employers;

Or. fr

Justification

The need to reconcile family and professional life has become a central element of European social policy. Improving working conditions in the European Union must necessarily involve encouraging the reconciliation of private life and working life which remains a crucial question in the organisation of work.

Amendment 6
Recital 7

(7) Non Discrimination is a fundamental principle of the European Union. Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ***prohibits discrimination on a variety of grounds***. The specific features of the diverse forms of discrimination should be accommodated. Therefore, the particular needs of people with disabilities should be taken into account in terms of the

(7) Non Discrimination is a fundamental principle of the European Union. ***Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community calls for action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Non-discrimination is also enshrined in*** Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The specific features

accessibility of activities and results.

of the diverse forms of discrimination should be accommodated, **and appropriate action developed in parallel to prevent and combat discrimination on one or more grounds**. Therefore, **when considering the accessibility and results of the programme** the particular needs of people with disabilities should be taken into account in terms of **ensuring their full and equal access to the activities funded by PROGRESS and the results and evaluation of those activities, including the compensation of additional costs incurred by disabled persons. Experience gained over many years of combating certain forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sex, may be useful in combating other kinds of discrimination**

Justification

The section on non-discrimination and diversity should include a reference to Article 13 and the forms of discrimination that it covers. As in the current programme on combating discrimination, it should be emphasised that the particular characteristics of various forms of discrimination require specific measures, and that in particular, lessons can be learned from previous experience of combating discrimination based on sex.

Amendment 7

Recital 8

(8) On the basis of Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Council has adopted Directive 2000/43 of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin which prohibits discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin in, inter alia, employment, vocational training, education, goods and services and social protection; **and** Directive 2000/78 of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation which prohibits discrimination in

(8) On the basis of Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the Council has adopted **the following directives**: Directive 2000/43 of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin which prohibits discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin in, inter alia, employment, vocational training, education, goods and services and social protection; Directive 2000/78 of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation which

employment and occupation on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation.

prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation, **and Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services**¹.

Justification

Since the Commission submitted its proposal, this directive, which is also based on Article 13, has been adopted.

Amendment 8 Recital 9

(9) Equal treatment for women and men is a fundamental principle of Community law and the Directives and other acts adopted on the basis of this principle **have played** a major part in improving the situation of women. Experience of action at Community level has shown that promoting gender equality in EU policies and combating discrimination in practice call for a combination of instruments involving legislation, funding tools and mainstreaming designed to reinforce one another. In line with the principle of gender mainstreaming, equality between **men and women** should be **integrated into** all sections of the Programme.

(9) Equal treatment for women and men is a fundamental principle of Community law **pursuant to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty establishing the European Community**, and the Directives and other acts adopted on the basis of this principle **play** a major part in improving the situation of women. Experience of action at Community level has shown that promoting gender equality in EU policies and combating discrimination in practice call for a combination of instruments involving legislation, funding tools and mainstreaming designed to reinforce one another. In line with the principle of gender mainstreaming, equality between **women and men** should be **taken into account in** all sections **and activities** of the Programme.

Justification

Equal treatment of men and women is included in Article 2 as one of the tasks of the European Community, and the principle of gender mainstreaming is enshrined in Article 3.

Amendment 9

¹ OJ L 373, 21.12.2004, p. 37

Recital 9 a (new)

9a. The involvement of non-governmental organisations active at regional, national and EU levels is important for the successful implementation of the Programme's general objectives, and they should therefore play a substantial part, through relevant EU networks, in devising, implementing and monitoring the Programme.

Justification

Non-governmental organisations are major stakeholders, particularly at national and regional levels, in implementing the policy fields of employment and social policy, which are relevant for PROGRESS.

Amendment 10

Recital 10

(10) Since the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved **by the Member States** because of the need for exchange of information at EU-level and the Community-wide dissemination of good practice and **can** therefore by reason of the multilateral dimension of the Community actions and measures, be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives.

(10) Since the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved **at Member State level** because of the need for exchange of information at EU-level and the Community-wide dissemination of good practice, and **since these objectives can**, by reason of the multilateral dimension of the Community actions and measures, be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives.

Amendment 11

Article 1

This Decision establishes the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, named PROGRESS, to

This Decision establishes the Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity, named PROGRESS, to

financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area and thereby *contribute to the achievement of* the Lisbon Strategy *goals in these fields*. It shall run from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013.

financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area and thereby *in the context of* the Lisbon Strategy *contribute to achieving the objectives of the social policy agenda (2006–2010)*¹. It shall run from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013.

Justification

PROGRESS is directly connected with the social policy agenda and should be closely tied in with it, so that the social policy agenda can be implemented successfully.

Amendment 12
Article 2, point 2

(2) to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators in the areas covered by the programme;

(2) to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators *where possible broken down by gender and age group* in the areas covered by the programme;

Or. fr

Justification

The use of statistics and of qualitative and quantitative indicators broken down by gender and age is a determining factor in assessing the effectiveness of the PROGRESS programme. Women and older workers are often those most exposed to social exclusion, discrimination in the field of employment or poverty.

Amendment 13
Article 2, point 3

(3) to support and monitor the implementation of Community law and policies objectives in the Member States and assessing their impact.

(3) to support and monitor the implementation of Community law and policies objectives in the Member States and assessing their *effectiveness and impact, in particular as regards the creation of more and better jobs..*

¹ Commission communication on the Social Agenda, COM(2005)0033, 9.2.2005

Justification

It is advisable not only to assess the impact of laws and policy objectives but also to ascertain whether they are as effective as intended.

Amendment 14
Article 2, point 4

(4) to promote networking, mutual learning, and identification and dissemination of good practice **at EU level**.

(4) to promote networking, mutual learning, and identification and dissemination of good practice **and innovative approaches at regional, national and transnational levels**.

Justification

Identifying and disseminating good practice will not be enough for successful achievement of the EU's political objectives. There is also a need for new and innovative approaches to be developed.

Amendment 15
Article 2, point 5

(5) to enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and the general public about the EU policies pursued under each of the 5 sections.

(5) to enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and the general public about the EU policies **and objectives** pursued under each of the 5 sections.

Or. el

Justification

It is necessary to indicate in each case not only the political methods being applied but also the objectives being sought, so as to ensure that the individual citizen, who is chiefly affected when the relevant decisions are implemented, is kept informed and is in a position to take action when and where necessary.

Amendment 16
Article 2, point 6

(6) to boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote **and** support EU policies.

(6) to boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote, support **and further develop** EU policies **and objectives and to**

promote the views of their member organisations; such networks and organisations must be demonstrably independent organisations and as such free to operate across a broad range of areas which impact on the concerns of their members.

Amendment 17
Article 2, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. The principle of gender mainstreaming must be taken into account in all programme sections and activities.

Justification

Gender equality is a fundamental principle of the EU, which must be taken into account in the whole programme.

Amendment 18
Article 2, paragraph 1 b (new)

1b. The results achieved in the Programme sections and activities shall be disseminated to those involved and to the public as appropriate. The Commission shall also provide the necessary links with the European Parliament, the relevant NGOs and the social partners at EU level and conduct regular exchanges of views with them.

Justification

Previous action programmes on employment and social affairs have often been criticised for not sufficiently disseminating and publicising results. Therefore PROGRESS should pay greater attention to this objective. A regular exchange of views with Parliament, the social partners and NGOs is an important precondition for successful implementation of this programme.

Amendment 19
Article 4, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of the employment situation, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators.

(1) Improving the understanding of the employment situation **and prospects**, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and **common** indicators.

Or. el

Justification

'Common' indicators must be developed, as only commonly agreed indicators provide the necessary 'comparability'.

Amendment 20
Article 4, point 2

(2) **Monitoring** and evaluating the implementation of the European Employment Guidelines and Recommendations and analysing the interaction between the EES and other policy areas.

(2) **Observing** and evaluating the implementation of the European Employment Guidelines **and their impact** and analysing the interaction between the EES and other policy areas and Recommendations and analysing the interaction between the EES and **general economic and social policy and** other policy areas.

Justification

The European Parliament has repeatedly called for more coherence between the EES and general economic policy.

Amendment 21
Article 4, point 3

(3) Organising exchanges on policies **and** processes and promoting mutual learning in the context of the EES.

(3) Organising exchanges on policies, **proven** processes **and innovative approaches** and promoting mutual learning in the context of the EES.

Justification

Identifying and disseminating good practice will not be enough for successful achievement of

the EU's political objectives. There is also a need for new and innovative approaches to be developed.

Amendment 22
Article 4, point 4

(4) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about employment challenges **and** policies, including among regional and local actors, social partners and other stakeholders.

(4) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting discussion about employment challenges, policies, **and the implementation of national action plans**, including among regional and local actors, social partners and other stakeholders.

Justification

As the development and implementation of national action plans are key for the success of the EES, a better exchange of information and broader discussion are particularly important here.

Amendment 23
Article 4, point 4 a (new)

4a. Attaching importance to positive measures to encourage both equal treatment and opportunities for women and men and the fight against discrimination in access to employment and vocational training and advancement;

Or. fr

Justification

It is extremely important to encourage Member States to envisage positive measures to ensure effective achievement of equality between men and women and to support the fight against discrimination on the labour market.

Amendment 24
Article 5, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of poverty issues, social protection and inclusion policies, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics

(1) Improving the understanding of **social exclusion and poverty** issues, social protection and inclusion policies, in particular through analysis and studies and

and indicators.

the development of statistics and **common** indicators.

Justification

Inclusion of the words 'social exclusion' follows the wording of the current action programme.

Amendment 25
Article 5, point 2

(2) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion and analysing the interaction between this OMC and other policy areas;

(2) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion and analysing the interaction between this OMC and other policy areas **and its impact at national and Community level;**

Justification

It is necessary to focus more closely on women, who are in general the main victims of poverty and social exclusion, also with implications for child poverty.

Amendment 26
Article 5, point 3

(3) Organising exchanges on policies **and processes** and promoting mutual learning in the context of the social protection and inclusion strategy.

(3) Organising exchanges on policies, **good practice and innovative approaches** and promoting mutual learning in the context of the social protection and inclusion strategy.

Justification

Identifying and disseminating good practice will not be enough for successful achievement of the EU's political objectives. There is also a need for new and innovative approaches to be developed.

Amendment 27
Article 5, point 5

(5) Developing the capacity of key EU

(5) Developing the capacity of key EU

networks to *pursue* EU policy goals.

networks to ***support and further develop*** EU policy goals ***and strategies on social protection and social integration.***

Justification

The role of the EU networks should not be confined to simply pursuing current aims and strategies in the programme areas. In view of their particular expertise, they should also play a constructive part in formulating European policy and help to develop it further.

Amendment 28

Article 6, introductory phrase

Section 3 shall support the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work by:

Section 3, ***taking due account of the principle of gender mainstreaming,*** shall support the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work ***and reconciling work and family life*** by:

Justification

The PROGRESS programme should support the improvement of working conditions not only by improving health and safety of workers but also by promoting efforts to reconcile work and family life, which are vital to workers' wellbeing.

Amendment 29

Article 6, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to working conditions, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators, as well as assessing the impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to working conditions, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and ***quantitative and qualitative*** indicators ***broken down by gender and age group,*** as well as assessing the ***effectiveness and*** impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

Amendment 30

Article 6, point 2

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU labour law through **reinforced** monitoring, **training of practitioners**, development of guides and networking amongst specialised bodies;

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU labour law through **effective** monitoring, **holding seminars for those working in the field**, development of guides and networking amongst specialised bodies, **including the social partners**;;

Amendment 31
Article 6, point 3

(3) Initiating preventive actions and fostering **the prevention culture in the field of** health and safety at work;

(3) Initiating preventive actions and fostering health and safety at work;

Justification

Fostering the prevention culture in the field of health and safety at work is one of the recognised key tasks of the European Agency for Safety and Health at work and therefore should not be included in the aims of this section, to avoid overlap.

Amendment 32
Article 6, point 4

(4) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting **the debate** about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to working conditions.

(4) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting **discussion, including discussion between the social partners**, about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to **social security**, working conditions **and the quality of employment, including the importance of reconciling work and family life**.

Justification

As the social partners play a central role in this area, they in particular should be included in the discussion.

Amendment 33
Article 6, point 4 a (new)

(4a) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting discussion on the general question of illegal employment

in order to ensure that the issues of health and safety and working conditions which affect migrants and EU citizens alike will be dealt with and relevant standards met.

Amendment 34
Article 7, introductory part

Section 4 shall support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promote its mainstreaming in EU policies by:

Section 4 shall support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promote its mainstreaming in *all* EU policies by:

Amendment 35
Article 7, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to discrimination in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators as well as assessing the impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to discrimination *and action taken in this respect*, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators as well as assessing the *effectiveness and* impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

Amendment 36
Article 7, point 2

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU anti-discrimination legislation through *reinforced* monitoring, *training of practitioners* and networking amongst specialised bodies dealing with anti-discrimination;

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU anti-discrimination legislation through *effective* monitoring, *holding seminars for those working in the field* and networking amongst specialised bodies dealing with anti-discrimination;

Amendment 37
Article 7, point 3

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in

relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in EU policies;

relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in EU policies ***including among NGOs in the field of anti-discrimination, regional and local actors, social partners and other stakeholders ;***

Or. en

Justification

It is necessary to involve directly affected groups into the discussion in order to assist a wider reach in terms of understanding and awareness of the complexities involved.

Amendment 38 Article 7, point 4

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to ***pursue*** EU policy goals;

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to ***promote and further develop EU policy goals and strategies on combating discrimination; such EU networks must also include smaller EU networks including specialised and impairment specific disability NGOs; these networks and organisations must be demonstrably independent organisations and as such free to operate across a broad range of areas which impact on the concerns of their members;***

Justification

The role of the EU networks should not be confined to simply pursuing current aims and strategies in the programme areas. In view of their particular expertise, they should also play a constructive part in formulating European policy and help to develop it further.

Amendment 39 Article 8, introductory part

Section 5 shall support the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promote gender

Section 5 shall support the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promote gender

mainstreaming in EU policies by:

mainstreaming in *all* EU policies by:

Amendment 40
Article 8, point 2

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU gender equality legislation through **reinforced** monitoring, **training of practitioners** and networking amongst specialised equality bodies;

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU gender equality legislation through **effective** monitoring, **holding seminars for those working in the field** and networking amongst specialised equality bodies;

Amendment 41
Article 8, point 3

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to gender equality and gender mainstreaming;

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting **discussion** about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to gender equality, **including the importance of reconciling work and family life**, and gender mainstreaming, **on a horizontal basis**;

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to gender mainstreaming in all Community policies requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, including as broad a range as possible of participants and exchanges of experiences, with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Community and national policies.

Amendment 42
Article 8, point 4

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to **pursue** EU policy goals.

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to **support and further develop** EU policy goals **and strategies on gender equality**.

Justification

The role of the EU networks should not be confined to simply pursuing current aims and strategies in the programme areas. In view of their particular expertise, they should also play

a constructive part in formulating European policy and help to develop it further.

Amendment 43

Article 9, paragraph 1, introductory part

1. The Programme shall finance the following types of actions:

1. The Programme shall finance the following types of actions, ***which may also be implemented across borders:***

Justification

As in the previous action programmes, PROGRESS should also foster transnational exchanges, since transnational projects contribute substantially to mutual learning and to disseminating good practice and innovative approaches.

Amendment 44

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (a), indent 5 a (new)

- Publication and dissemination of information and educational material via the Internet or other media

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 45

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (b), indent -1 (new)

x

- exchanges on strategies, good practice and innovative approaches and promoting mutual learning at regional, national, transnational and EU level

Justification

As in the previous action programmes, PROGRESS should also foster transnational exchanges, since transnational projects contribute substantially to mutual learning and to disseminating good practice and innovative approaches.

Amendment 46

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (b), indent 1

– Identification of best practices and organisation of peer review by means of meetings/workshops/seminars at EU or national level

– Identification of best practices and organisation of peer review by means of meetings/workshops/seminars at EU, **transnational** or national level

Justification

As in the previous action programmes, PROGRESS should also foster transnational exchanges, since transnational projects contribute substantially to mutual learning and to disseminating good practice and innovative approaches.

Amendment 47

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (b), indent 3 a (new)

x

– organisation of an annual forum for all interested parties on evaluating progress in achieving the social policy agenda and on implementation of the individual sections of the PROGRESS programme, including presentation of results and dialogue on future priorities

Justification

This annual event for all involved should help to promote dialogue, publicise the programme's results and discuss future priorities.

Amendment 48

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (b), indent 5 a (new)

- Exchanges between persons active at local level in the EU, as a means of promoting the direct exchange of experiences and awareness of the specific nature of national circumstances;

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 49

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (c), indent 3

– Funding of training seminars addressed to **legal practitioners**, key officials and other relevant actors

– Funding of training seminars addressed to **those working in the field**, key officials and other relevant actors, **including representatives of NGOs and the social partners**

Justification

As NGOs and the social partners play a key role in this area in implementation and monitoring, their representatives should have access to training activities.

Amendment 50

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (c), indent 8 a (new)

- Cooperation between institutions and local national staff

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 51

Article 9, paragraph 2

2. Types of actions foreseen under paragraph (1) b) should have a strong EU dimension, an appropriate scale in order to ensure a real EU added-value and be carried out by (sub)national authorities, specialised bodies foreseen under Community legislation or actors which are considered the key **player** in their area.

2. Types of actions foreseen under paragraph (1) b) should have a strong EU dimension, an appropriate scale in order to ensure a real EU added-value and be carried out by **regional or local** authorities, specialised bodies foreseen under Community legislation or actors which are considered **to be amongst** the key **players** in their area.

Or. en

Justification

Needed for clarity and to avoid unnecessary debate.

Amendment 52
Article 9, paragraph 2 a (new)

(2a) The types of actions should contribute to the areas listed in Article 3, intended to achieve the objectives of the social policy agenda under the Lisbon Strategy.

Amendment 53
Article 9, paragraph 2 b (new)

2b. The programme shall not finance any measures for the preparation and implementation of European Years.

Or. de

Justification

As in the past, European Years should not be funded from the appropriations for multi-annual Community programmes. The Budgetary Authority should make its contribution to the preparation and implementation of European Years as a separate item in the budgetary procedure.

Amendment 54
Article 10, paragraph 1, indent 2

- **Public** employment services

- employment services **and employment agencies,**

Or. de

Amendment 55
Article 10, paragraph 1, indent 6

Non-governmental organisations organised at EU level;

Non-governmental organisations organised at **regional, national or** EU level;

Justification

As well as the EU networks, many NGOs at regional and national level will play an important role in achieving the programme's aims.

Amendment 56
Article 10, paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. Full access to the activities and results of the programme shall be given to disabled people. Their particular needs shall be taken into account including the compensation of additional costs incurred by disabled people as a result of meeting their access needs.

Or. en

Justification

Persons directly affected by the issues to be addressed by the PROGRESS programme MUST be fully involved as participants in the programme.

The additional costs incurred by disabled people to ensure their equal participation in these activities must be taken on board (for example, the cost of sign language interpreters, accessible hotel rooms, accessible transport etc).

Amendment 57
Article 11, paragraph 1, indent 2

– a partial subsidy following a call for proposals. In this case, the EU co-financing may not exceed, as a general rule, **80%** of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any subsidy in excess of this ceiling can only be granted under exceptional circumstances and after close scrutiny.

– a partial subsidy following a call for proposals. In this case, the EU co-financing may not exceed, as a general rule, **90%** of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any subsidy in excess of this ceiling can only be granted under exceptional circumstances and after close scrutiny.

Justification

Many EU networks would have great difficulty in meeting the condition of providing 20% of the funding.

Amendment 58
Article 12

1. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to the following matters shall be adopted in accordance with the **management** procedure referred to in **Article 13§2**:

- (a) the general guidelines for the implementation of the programme;
- (b) the work programme for the implementation of the programme;

(c) the financial support to be supplied by the Community;

(d) the annual budget **and the distribution of funding between the different sections of the programme**;

(e) the procedures for selecting the actions to be supported by the Community and the draft list of actions to receive such support submitted by the Commission;

1. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to the following matters shall be adopted in accordance with the **advisory** procedure referred to in Article **13§2**:

- (a) the general guidelines for the implementation of the programme;
- (b) the **annual** work programme for the implementation of the programme, **divided up into separate** sections;

(c) the financial support to be supplied by the Community;

(d) the annual budget;

(e) the procedures for selecting the actions to be supported by the Community and the draft list of actions to receive such support submitted by the Commission;

(ea) **criteria for evaluating the Programme, including criteria relating to the cost-benefit ratio and rules for disseminating and passing on the results.**

2. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to all other matters shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 13§3.

Justification

The advisory procedure foreseen in Council Decision 1999/468/E is preferable, because it leaves the European Commission its executive powers conferred to it by the Treaties. As Parliament as co-legislator has no say in Comitology procedure, the Council or Member States officials should not have it either. The advisory procedure is therefore the traditional approach by the Committee on Budgets.

Amendment 59
Article 13, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee, ***divided into five subcommittees corresponding to the five sections.***

Justification

As the five Programme sections concern policy areas at different stages of development and with specific problems, steps should be taken to ensure that the Programme Committee is made up of experts from the Member States with specialist knowledge of each area.

Amendment 60
Article 13, paragraph 2

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, ***taking account of Article 8 of the same Decision.***

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at two months.

(Adoption of this amendment means that the following technical adjustment is needed: paragraph 3 is redundant.)

Justification

The advisory procedure is the traditional approach by the Committee on Budgets. Parliament and Council as co-legislators should leave to the European Commission its executive powers and only have the right to blow the whistle in case that the proposed measure is no "implementing" measure, but concerns Parliament's legislative prerogatives.

Amendment 61
Article 14, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. The Commission shall also inform the other relevant committees of the action

taken under the five sections of the Programme.

Amendment 62
Article 15, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall, in cooperation with the Member States, ensure overall consistency with other Union and Community policies, instruments and actions, in particular by establishing appropriate mechanisms to coordinate the activities of the programme with relevant activities relating to research, justice and home affairs, culture, education, training and youth policy, and in the fields of enlargement and the Community's external relations. A special attention should be given to the possible synergies between the present programme and those in the field of education and training.

1. The Commission shall, in cooperation with the Member States, ensure overall consistency with other Union and Community policies, instruments and actions, in particular by establishing appropriate mechanisms to coordinate the activities of the programme with relevant activities relating to research, justice and home affairs, culture, education, training and youth policy, and in the fields of enlargement and the Community's external relations, ***and with regional policy and general economic policy***. A special attention should be given to the possible synergies between the present programme and those in the field of education and training.

Justification

The programme should be consistent with regional policy and general economic policy as well as with the other areas mentioned, as both may have important implications for the success of the programme's aims.

Amendment 63
Article 15, paragraph 2

2. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure consistency and complementarity between actions undertaken under the programme and other relevant Union and Community actions, in particular under the Structural Funds and especially the European Social Fund.

2. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure consistency and complementarity between actions undertaken under the programme and other relevant Union and Community actions, in particular under the Structural Funds and especially the European Social Fund, ***and shall take care to avoid overlapping responsibilities***.

Amendment 64
Article 15, paragraph 2 a (new)

x

2a. The Commission shall ensure consistency and complementarity between action under the programme and the activities of other Commission departments and other relevant European agencies, particularly with the activities of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and the future European Gender Institute, and shall take care to avoid overlapping responsibilities.

Justification

Other Commission departments and some European agencies are also active in the area covered by the actions under the PROGRESS programme. The greatest possible consistency and complementarity is therefore essential.

Amendment 65
Article 15, paragraph 4

4. The Commission shall keep the Committee referred to in Article 13 regularly informed of other Community action ***contributing to*** the Lisbon strategy ***goals in the field of employment and social policy.***

4. The Commission shall keep the Committee referred to in Article 13 regularly informed of other Community action ***under*** the Lisbon strategy ***contributing to achieving the objectives of the social policy agenda.***

Amendment 66
Article 17, paragraph 1

1. The financial framework for implementing the Community activities referred to in this Decision for the period ***1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 shall be*** 628.8 million EUR.

1. The ***indicative*** financial framework for implementing ***this Community programme is set at*** EUR 854.2 million for the period ***of 7 years as from 1 January 2007.***

Justification

The reference amount for the financial framework is indicative until a decision has been reached on the Financial Perspective. Once a decision is reached, the Commission shall present a legislative proposal to set the reference amount with the respect to the appropriate ceiling of the financial framework concerned (see amendment to the legislative resolution).

Amendment 67 Article 17, paragraph 2

2. The financial breakdown between the different sections shall respect the following lower limits:

Section 1 Employment 21%
Section 2 Social protection and inclusion **28%**
Section 3 Working conditions 8%
Section 4 Antidiscrimination and diversity 23%
Section 5 Gender equality **8%**

2. The financial breakdown between the different sections shall respect the following lower limits:

Section 1 Employment 21%
Section 2 Social protection and inclusion **30%**
Section 3 Working conditions 8%
Section 4 Antidiscrimination and diversity 23%
Section 5 Gender equality **12%**

Justification

Cutting the section for gender equality by the whole amount intended for the planned European Gender Institute is too radical a step and should be partly compensated by increasing the lower limit from 8% to 12%. With regard to the section on social protection and inclusion, raising the percentage by 2% takes account of the fact that the previous action programme on combating social exclusion is being extended to include the areas of pensions, health and long-term care.

Amendment 68 Article 17, paragraph 4

4. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspectives.

4. The annual appropriations ***and the allocation of the appropriations to the individual sections of the programme*** shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspectives. ***The allocation of the annual appropriations to the individual sections shall be set out in appropriate fashion in the Budget.***

Or. de

Justification

It needs to be ensured that the allocation of the appropriations to the individual sections of the programme is transparent and is determined by the Budgetary Authority. In the Budget, too, the allocation of the annual appropriations to the various sections must be clearly set out, in order to guarantee the necessary transparency and visibility of the sections.

Amendment 69

Article 19, paragraph 1

1. In order to ensure a regular monitoring of the programme and allow necessary reorientations, annual activity reports shall be elaborated by the Commission and transmitted to the programme Committee referred to in Article 13.

1. In order to ensure a regular monitoring of the programme and allow necessary reorientations, annual activity reports shall be elaborated by the Commission and transmitted to the programme Committee referred to in Article 13 **and to the European Parliament.**

Justification

The EP must monitor the implementation of PROGRESS and all its subprogrammes.

Amendment 70

Article 19, paragraph 2

2. The programme shall also be the subject of a mid-term evaluation at the level of the different sections with an overview on the programme in order to measure the progress made regarding the impact of the programme objectives and its EU added value. This evaluation may be supplemented by on-going evaluations. These shall be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of external experts. When available, their results shall be reported in the activity reports referred to in paragraph 1.

2. The programme shall also be the subject of a mid-term evaluation at the level of the different sections with an overview on the programme in order to measure the progress made regarding the impact of the programme objectives and its EU added value. This evaluation may be supplemented by on-going evaluations. These shall be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of external experts. When available, their results shall be reported in the activity reports referred to in paragraph 1 **and forwarded to the European Parliament.**

Justification

The EP must monitor the implementation of PROGRESS and all its subprogrammes.

Amendment 71

Article 19, paragraph 3

3. An ex-post evaluation covering the whole programme shall be carried out, one year after it ends, by the Commission with the assistance of external experts, in order to measure the impact of the programme objectives and its EU added value. It shall be transmitted to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

3. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions:

(a) by 31 December 2010 an interim report evaluating the results achieved and the qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementing the programme,

(b) in the context of proposals for the next financial perspectives, by 31 December 2011 a communication on continuing the programme, and

(c) by 31 December 2015, with the assistance of external experts, an ex-post evaluation report to measure the impact of the programme objectives and its EU added value. .

Justification

Parliament should be kept adequately informed on implementation of the programme.

Amendment 72

Article 19, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Commission shall ensure that, as part of the monitoring and evaluation process, assessment is undertaken of the extent to which measures have been taken to ensure accessibility for disabled people to the activities and the results of the programme.

Or. en

Justification

The development of measures to combat discrimination and social exclusion are key to the overall objectives of the PROGRESS programme. It is important, therefore, that non-discrimination and social inclusion is recognised horizontally across the activities funded by the programme, that there is direct participation by the persons directly concerned (such as by women, disabled persons, persons from ethnic minorities, lesbian and gay persons etc) and that there is effective monitoring of what has been done to ensure their full and equal involvement in the activities supported by the Programme.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Your rapporteur in principle welcomes the Commission proposal to establish the PROGRESS Community Programme. While keeping to the existing financial allocation for employment and social affairs, the Commission declares its faith in the employment and social policy pillars of the Lisbon Strategy and reinforces its commitment to more and better jobs, social cohesion and modernisation of the European social model. **PROGRESS will make a substantial contribution to achieving the objectives of the social policy agenda under the Lisbon Strategy.**

1. Simplification and rationalisation

Your rapporteur supports the attempt to simplify and rationalise by combining specific action programmes, as long as costs are actually saved, duplication avoided and more administrative clarity and transparency achieved. She points out however that ‘user-friendliness’ will mainly depend on the specific implementing provisions which are to be adopted by the Programme Committee at a later date. With regard to the new general financial provisions, which previous ‘users’ have clearly not regarded as an attempt to cut red tape, we cannot expect miracles.

2. Increasing the visibility of the individual programme sections

There is however a danger, in grouping the four existing action programmes into one common programme, that the separate sections will become less visible and their specific problems will no longer be targeted so exactly. To prevent this, and to increase visibility:

- some of the recitals outlining the political objectives of the separate sections have been expanded and worded more precisely;
- the Programme Committee has been divided into **five subcommittees**, so that the Member States' experts can meet each other within each of the five programme sections;
- the Commission should submit **annual work plans and reports of activities**, divided up into the separate programme sections;
- the annual forum envisaged in the social policy agenda should include an exchange of views with the relevant participants about implementation of each programme section, which would allow results to date to be presented and future priorities to be discussed.

3. Objectives and actions

Your rapporteur welcomes the Commission's proposed objectives and actions. She proposes the following additions, which are substantially based on the existing action programmes:

- account should be taken of the **gender mainstreaming** principle in all sections and actions;
- the programme should promote networking and mutual learning and identification and dissemination of good practice not only at EU level but also at transnational, national and regional level;
- as in the existing programmes, **transnational exchanges and transnational activities** should continue to be an important component of PROGRESS,
- in order to better meet the EU's political objectives in the relevant fields, it is not enough

to identify and disseminate good practice, but there is a great need also to **develop new and innovative approaches**;

- more weight should be placed on **better and more targeted dissemination of the results** achieved in the sections and actions, as this is the only way that the programme will have the desired propulsive effect.

4. Greater participation by the European Parliament

In view of the significance of PROGRESS and its seven-year duration, your rapporteur would like to strengthen Parliament's role in monitoring the programme and increase its influence on implementation. To this end she proposes:

- that the annual financial appropriations and their allocation to each programme section be determined not by the Programme Committee but under the annual budget procedure,
- that the Commission hold a regular exchange of views with Parliament on implementation of the programme,
- that the Commission draw up an interim report evaluating the results achieved and the qualitative and quantitative aspects of programme implementation.

5. The role of the social partners and non-governmental organisations

The social partners and NGOs operating at regional, national and EU level are important factors for the successful implementation of the programme's political aims and should therefore, in the context of the relevant EU networks, play an important part in designing, implementing and monitoring the programme. In comparison with the existing action programmes the Commission proposal, in your rapporteur's view, incomprehensibly weakens the role of the social partners and NGOs. Therefore she proposes the following clarifications:

- the intended role of the **EU networks** should not be confined to monitoring EU objectives but should also include **constructive monitoring and further development of the EU's political objectives and strategies**,
- access to the programme should also be open to **national and regional NGOs**,
- the EU's maximum cofinancing contribution to the overall costs of a financial aid recipient should be increased from 80% to 90%, as the obligation to contribute 20% themselves would cause great difficulties to many EU networks,
- the Commission should regularly hold an exchange of views on implementation of programme with the social partners and NGOs and make relevant information available to them.

6. Financial framework

The Commission has stated that the proposed financial framework for the programme sections will be equivalent to the previous appropriations for the four action programmes and the budget lines on working conditions (calculated on the basis of the estimated figures for the 2006 budget). The proposed increase only takes account of expected inflation and enlargement (EU-25 plus Bulgaria and Romania).

In its opinion for the Temporary Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means 2007–2013, our committee noted that *'the appropriations earmarked for PROGRESS do not*

represent any increase in the appropriations so far set aside for these areas' and considered that *'the financial framework of PROGRESS must be increased if the European Union is really serious about implementing the Lisbon Strategy and the social policy agenda'*. The committee has even advocated doubling the funding earmarked for implementing the social policy agenda. Therefore your rapporteur proposes a **50% increase in the financial framework, i.e. from € 628.8m to € 943.2 m**. This is of course a provisional proposal, pending further discussions in the Temporary Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the enlarged Union 2007–2013 and the forthcoming decision by Parliament on the financial perspectives 2007–2013. Your rapporteur will be able to make her final proposal on funding for PROGRESS only when the Plenary has adopted its decision on the financial perspectives.

The question also arises of whether the funds earmarked to date have been allocated appropriately to each individual section. Gender equality is in a special situation: the Commission has previously cut the funding which was to be made available for this section from € 107.25 m to € 54.55 m. This cut corresponded to the proposed budget for the planned **European Gender Institute**; a Council decision had decreed that establishment of this Institute must be budget neutral. Although your rapporteur recognises that a certain amount of reduction is justified, since the Gender Institute will take over certain activities from the Commission, she considers that such a radical cut is unjustified, in view of the particular significance of gender equality in EU policy. She therefore proposes increasing the **lower limit for the gender equality section from 8% to 12%**.

With regard to the section on **social protection and inclusion**, your rapporteur points out that only a slight increase in funding is planned, although the previous action programme on combating social exclusion has been extended to include pensions, health and long-term care. She therefore proposes an **increase of the lower limit for this section from 28% to 30%**, so that the field of social integration can be appropriately developed and at the same time the Member States can receive targeted support for their efforts to modernise social protection.

The proposed increases in the lower limits should not be at the expense of the other three programme sections. Instead, the **amount of the margin for manoeuvre**, which is not allocated to programme sections and is to be allocated later on the basis of current developments in the individual areas, should be **cut from 10% to 4%, and the annual allocation to each programme section should be undertaken by the budgetary authority**.

14.6.2005

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD))

Draftsman: Janusz Lewandowski

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

At its meeting of 23-24 May 2005, the committee on Budgets examined the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS.

The committee on Budgets can only support the amendments by the rapporteur of the lead committee aiming at a better participation in monitoring the programme and its implementation, especially Amendments 42 and 43, because the annual distribution of funding to the different sections of PROGRESS should be the prerogative of the budgetary authority.

For the same reason it seems unacceptable that the proposal in its Article 12, in very general terms attributes all implementing measures concerning the general guidelines, the work programme, the financial support to be supplied by the Community, the annual budget and the procedures for selecting the actions and the draft list of actions to a management procedure in the sense of Article 4 of Council Decision on Comitology, 1999/468/EC and "All other matters" to the advisory procedure in the sense of Article 3 of Council Decision on Comitology, 1999/468/EC procedure.

As to the compatibility of the proposal with the next Financial Perspectives (Rule 36, paragraph 2 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure), the Committee on Budgets points out that, in paragraph 20 of its report of 13 May 2005, the Temporary Committee on Policy Changes and Budgetary Means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013 stresses that "an increase of EUR 200 millions is necessary in order to attain the goals of the Social Policy Agenda". Subject to the final adoption of the Financial Perspective 2007-2013, the proposed increase by EUR 314,4 million (Amendment 53) would not be compatible with this. The Committee on Budgets therefore requests that Parliament wait for the outcome of the negotiations on the Financial Perspectives before setting up the financial framework for this programme.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment 1

- 1a. Points out that the appropriations indicated in the legislative proposal beyond 2006 are subject to the decision on the next multi-annual financial framework;*
- 1b. Calls on the Commission, once the next multi-annual financial framework is adopted, to present, if appropriate a proposal to adjust the financial reference amount of the programme.*

Justification

The reference amount for the financial framework is indicative until a decision has been reached on the Financial Perspective. Once a decision is reached, the Commission shall present a legislative proposal to set the reference amount with the respect to the appropriate ceiling of the financial framework concerned.

Proposal for a decision

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 2 Article 12

1. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to the following matters shall be adopted in accordance with the **management** procedure referred to in **Article 13§2**:

- (a) the general guidelines for the implementation of the programme;
- (b) the work programme for the implementation of the programme;
- (c) the financial support to be supplied

1. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to the following matters shall be adopted in accordance with the **advisory** procedure referred to in Article **13§3**:

- (a) the general guidelines for the implementation of the programme;
- (b) the work programme for the implementation of the programme;
- (c) the financial support to be supplied by

by the Community;
(d) the annual budget and the distribution of funding between the different sections of the programme;
(e) the procedures for selecting the actions to be supported by the Community and the draft list of actions to receive such support submitted by the Commission;

2. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to all other matters shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 13§3.

the Community;
(d) the annual budget and the distribution of funding between the different sections of the programme;
(e) the procedures for selecting the actions to be supported by the Community and the draft list of actions to receive such support submitted by the Commission;

Justification

The advisory procedure foreseen in Council Decision 1999/468/E is preferable, because it leaves the European Commission its executive powers conferred to it by the Treaties. As Parliament as co-legislator has no say in Comitology procedure, the Council or Member States officials should not have it either. The advisory procedure is therefore the traditional approach by the Committee on Budgets.

Amendment 3 Article 13, paragraph 2

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at two months.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 3 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

Justification

The advisory procedure is the traditional approach by the Committee on Budgets. Parliament and Council as co-legislators should leave to the European Commission its executive powers and only have the right to blow the whistle in case that the proposed measure is no "implementing" measure, but concerns Parliament's legislative prerogatives.

Amendment 4 Article 17, paragraph 1

1. The financial framework for implementing the Community activities referred to in this Decision for the period **1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 shall be** 628.8 million EUR.

1. The **indicative** financial framework for implementing of **this instrument is set at** EUR 628.8 million for the period **of 7 years as from 1 January 2007.**

Justification

The reference amount for the financial framework is indicative until a decision has been reached on the Financial Perspective. Once a decision is reached, the Commission shall present a legislative proposal to set the reference amount with the respect to the appropriate ceiling of the financial framework concerned (see amendment to the legislative resolution).

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS
References	COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	BUDG 15.9.2004
Enhanced cooperation	No
Draftsman Date appointed	Janusz Lewandowski 26.10.2004
Discussed in committee	14.6.2005
Date amendments adopted	
Result of final vote	for: 19 against: abstentions:
Members present for the final vote	Richard James Ashworth, Simon Busuttil, Valdis Dombrovskis, Hynek Fajmon, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Neena Gill, Louis Grech, Catherine Guy-Quint, Anne Elisabet Jensen, Alain Lamassoure, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Jan Mulder, Giovanni Pittella, Esko Seppänen, Nina Škottová, Helga Trüpel, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski, Ralf Walter
Substitutes present for the final vote	
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	

27.5.2005

**OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE
AND HOME AFFAIRS**

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS (COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD))

Draftsman: Kyriacos Triantaphyllides

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Union's policy on the social protection of workers is clearly in need of improvement. As a basis for moving in that direction, there should be improvements to institutions, legislation and existing practices. Our responsibility, in the context of this proposal for a decision, is to help secure and protect the political freedoms and rights of all those living and working in the European Union so that they can take part in society in a dignified manner and lead a satisfactory life.

As an improvement in social indicators is not solely the result of achieving the economic objectives set, we should take particular care over the substance of the policies we promote. Consequently, although the aim is to tackle the social problems of the people simultaneously with the economic problems, we should constantly bear in mind, once called upon to deliver our opinion as the European Parliament, that we should not lower the standards to which we aspire in terms of social protection for workers, while attempting to improve economic indicators. Essentially, if the European Union is to tackle existing social and economic problems properly, it must adopt the most progressive approach possible to resolve issues such as working conditions, the work environment, protection of workers (social security, stability, health), the promotion of integration at the work place and in society, combating discrimination and promoting gender equality.

To achieve the social objectives put forward in the proposal for a decision, it is important to define the role which workers themselves should have, as an organised body, in defending and promoting their interests. The interests of employers do not always coincide with the interests of workers and it is, therefore, a matter for the European Union itself to ensure that workers have the right to take part in social dialogue and in the programmes under discussion.

It is inconceivable and certainly ineffective to engage in social dialogue and analysis of work-related issues, in a Union consisting of 25 Member States, without giving greater prominence to the role of the most essential players involved, i.e. the workers themselves. Obviously, on practical grounds but also for reasons of substance, to achieve that requires the participation of organised bodies, non-governmental organisations such as the trade unions.

In conjunction with the above, the Commission should also assess the need for measures to strengthen and take seriously into account the role of immigrants. In particular, the proposal for a decision should recognise the need to protect immigrants at the work place, whilst also stressing the need for their genuine integration into society and their social protection. Moreover, recognising that there are also problems associated with implementing social welfare and social protection measures for local workers, the provisions of the proposed decision should be extended beyond the need for social protection and the integration of immigrants, essentially to cover all workers. Another particularly important point in order to ensure at least satisfactory levels of social protection in the broad sense and good working conditions is to recognise that people who suffer various disabilities are a vulnerable group in terms of discrimination.

Securing high levels of social protection for workers and satisfactory working conditions is not an easy objective. The need to achieve economic objectives frequently means that social security provisions often take second place. Despite that, we should never overlook the fact that the targets and the economic objectives set, and provided they are met, should actually be in the interests of the workers themselves. Consequently, the European Union should ensure that the measures taken do not result in the creation of a sterile legislative framework regulating the employment sector, but in the operation of a system which takes account of the interests of workers in all spheres of employment, provides for the necessary social welfare measures and promotes social dialogue in a way which does not exclude or ignore those classes which are directly affected.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 5 a (new)

(5a) Attention should be drawn to the specific situation of immigrants in this context and to the importance of taking

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

action to transform the undeclared- and often precarious- work of migrants into regular employment, so that they will be able to enjoy the same social protection, benefits and working conditions as declared workers.

Amendment 2
Recital 7

(7) Non Discrimination is a fundamental principle of the European Union. Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union prohibits discrimination on a variety of grounds. The specific features of the diverse forms of discrimination should be accommodated. Therefore, the particular needs of people with disabilities should be taken into account in terms of ***the accessibility of*** activities and results.

(7) Non Discrimination is a fundamental principle of the European Union. Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union prohibits discrimination on a variety of grounds. The specific features of the diverse forms of discrimination should be accommodated. Therefore, the particular needs of people with disabilities should be taken into account in terms of ***ensuring their full and equal access to the activities funded by PROGRESS and the results and evaluation of those activities. The Programme should cover the additional costs incurred by disabled people in gaining equal access to the Programme (for example, the cost of sign language interpreters and accessible hotel rooms and transport, etc). Experience at Community level has shown that promoting equality and combating discrimination in practice call for a combination of instruments involving legislation, funding and mainstreaming, which are designed to reinforce one another.***

Justification

The additional costs incurred by disabled people to ensure their equal participation in the Programme activities must be taken on board (for example, the cost of sign language interpreters, accessible hotel rooms, accessible transport etc).

Amendment 3
Article 5, point 4 a (new)

(4a) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate among NGOs, trade unions, regional and

local actors and other stakeholders about the best means of promoting the integration of third-country nationals residing legally on the territory of the Union into the official labour market and society and about the best means of ensuring the social protection of both migrant and local workers;

Amendment 4
Article 5, point 4 b (new)

(4b) Promoting the conclusion by the Member States of agreements with the countries of origin of immigrants so as to guarantee the transfer of their social security entitlements;

Amendment 5
Article 5, point 5

(5) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue EU policy goals.

(5) Developing the capacity of key networks to pursue *the relevant* EU policy goals.

Amendment 6
Article 6, point 4 a (new)

(4a) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting debate on the global question of illegal employment in order to ensure that the issues of health and safety and working conditions which affect migrants and EU citizens alike will be dealt with and relevant standards met.

Amendment 7
Article 7, point 3 a (new)

(3a) Actively supporting any concrete anti-discrimination measure aiming at removing all barriers that prevent members of any

disadvantaged and disabled groups from gaining access to jobs and training, with a view to integrating them into the labour market and society and ensuring, simultaneously, their social protection.

Amendment 8
Article 8, point 3 a (new)

(3a) Drawing special attention to the importance of ensuring equal access of women and men to every level of professional life and every profession.

Amendment 9
Article 8, point 4

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue EU policy goals.

(4) Developing the capacity of key networks to pursue *the relevant* EU policy goals.

Amendment 10
Article 10, paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. All groups which are vulnerable and discriminated against shall enjoy full equality of access to all activities funded by the PROGRESS programme so as to ensure the direct involvement and participation of persons directly concerned by social exclusion, discrimination and inequality in the Programme. The particular access needs of disabled persons and the additional costs incurred as a result of meeting their access needs shall be taken fully into account in the design of projects and activities funded by the PROGRESS programme.

Justification

The additional costs incurred by disabled people to ensure their equal participation in these activities must be taken on board (for example, the cost of sign language interpreters, accessible hotel rooms, accessible transport etc).

Amendment 11
Article 11, indent 2

– a partial subsidy following a call for proposals. In this case, the EU co-financing may not exceed, as a general rule, 80 % of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any subsidy in excess of this ceiling can only be granted under exceptional circumstances and after close scrutiny.

– a partial subsidy following a call for proposals. In this case, the EU co-financing may not exceed, as a general rule, 80 % of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient; ***in the case of non-governmental non-profit-making organisations, such co-financing may not exceed 90% of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient.*** Any subsidy in excess of this ceiling can only be granted under exceptional circumstances and after close scrutiny.

Justification

The purpose of the proposal is to increase and expand the opportunities for nongovernmental non-profit-making organisations to promote solidarity and social inclusion. Without involving nongovernmental non-profit-making organisations it would be inconceivable for a civil society to be built up and to function or for social cohesion to be increased. Regrettably, however, in their case it has in practice often proved very problematic to find the funds to make a 20% contribution of their own towards the cost of implementing projects.

Amendment 12
Article 17, paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. To ensure that disabled persons have equal access to the activities of the Progress Programme, the additional costs incurred to meet their access must be provided for and fully taken into account by the PROGRESS programme.

Justification

The additional costs incurred by disabled people to ensure their equal participation in these activities must be taken on board (for example, the cost of sign language interpreters, accessible hotel rooms, accessible transport etc).

Amendment 13
Article 19, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. As part of the monitoring and evaluation process, the Commission shall ensure that the extent to which persons directly affected by social exclusion and

discrimination participate directly in the activities funded by PROGRESS, including the measures taken to ensure accessibility for disabled persons, is assessed.

Justification

The development of measures to combat discrimination and social exclusion are key to the overall objectives of the PROGRESS programme. It is important, therefore, that non-discrimination and social inclusion is recognised horizontally across the activities funded by the programme, that there is direct participation by the persons directly concerned (such as by women, disabled persons, persons from ethnic minorities, lesbian and gay persons etc) and that there is effective monitoring of what has been done to ensure their full and equal involvement in the activities supported by the Programme.

3.5.2005

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS
(COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD))

Draftswoman: Ilda Figueiredo

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. With the aim of simplifying and rationalising the existing situation, the Commission has submitted a single, integrated Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS), covering the period 2007-2013 and incorporating four action programmes currently in operation in implementation of the social policy agenda, as well as a number of budget headings related to working conditions. The Commission is proposing an allocation of only EUR 628.8 m for the entire period, and a cofinancing level of only 80% of the beneficiary's expenditure. This is manifestly insufficient for the social field.

The programme comprises five sections:

- employment;
- social protection and inclusion;
- working conditions;
- anti-discrimination and diversity;
- gender equality.

It thus aims to bring together under a single EU financial instrument the currently existing programmes, namely:

- Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 – Action programme to fight against discrimination (2001-2006);
- Council Decision 2001/51/EC of 20 December 2000 – Community action programme for gender equality (2001-2005);
- European Parliament and Council Decision 50/2002/EC of 7 December 2001 – Community action programme to combat social exclusion;
- European Parliament and Council Decision 1145/2002/EC of 10 June 2002 – Community incentive measures in the field of employment and activities undertaken in relation to working conditions.

2. On the specific issue of gender equality, and in the light of the opinion adopted on 28 January 2005 by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality on 'policy challenges and budgetary means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013', for which I was also draftsman, and in particular its paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5, which reject the idea of bringing the gender equality programme under the PROGRESS umbrella, emphasise the need to allocate extra financial resources and point out that gender equality must, like all Community policies, operate across the board, including in areas of expenditure such as the Structural Funds, a number of amendments are tabled. These include:

- a specific budget heading for gender equality, with the creation of a programme 'Gender Equality 2013', and a new funding provision for the future European Gender Institute (not to be included under PROGRESS). It is necessary to give greater visibility to the fight for real gender equality, establishing closer links between the concrete actions of the subprogrammes and the existing directives;
- a review of the programme in 2010, with the possible adaptation of the objectives and financial means following assessment of its implementation;
- the broadening of the programme's objectives in the interests of clarification, with respect to: exchanges between organisations; gender-specific assessment of developments regarding equality and working and social conditions in the Union; assessment of the impact of Community policies, notably of the European Employment Strategy, on the creation of more and better jobs and the situation and participation of women in the various programmes;
- the need to emphasise actions promoting gender equality that aim to combat discrimination in access to employment, career development, pay and training, and fight the causes of poverty and social exclusion, especially discrimination related to gender or affecting children, with a view to focusing more closely on women, who are in general the main victims of poverty and social exclusion, also with implications for child poverty;
- the need to pay particular attention to working women and the protection of motherhood, setting precise targets for reducing occupational accidents and illnesses;
- the need to give greater visibility to the implementation and assessment of the gender equality programme, by means of an annual round table including members of the national parliaments' committees on gender equality or their equivalents and representatives of NGOs, the EP, the Commission, etc.;
- increasing the Community cofinancing rate to a basic rate of 90%, in view of the problems experienced by NGOs and other social organisations working in these areas;
- increasing the financial allocation to EUR 700 m and altering the breakdown.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1

Recital 2

(2) In line with the Commission's stated intention to consolidate and rationalise EU funding instruments, this Decision should establish a single and streamlined Programme providing for the continuation and development of the activities launched on the basis of Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006), Council Decision 2001/51/EC of 20 December 2000 establishing a Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality and European Parliament and Council Decisions 50/2002/EC of 7 December 2001 establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion and 1145/2002/EC of 10 June 2002 on Community incentive measures in the field of employment, as well as those activities undertaken at Community level in relation to working conditions.

(2) In line with the Commission's stated intention to consolidate and rationalise EU funding instruments, this Decision should establish a single and streamlined Programme providing for the continuation and development of the activities launched on the basis of Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006)², Council Decision 2001/51/EC of 20 December 2000 establishing a Programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality³ and European Parliament and Council Decisions 50/2002/EC of 7 December 2001 establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion⁴ and 1145/2002/EC of 10 June 2002 on Community incentive measures in the field of employment⁵, as well as those activities undertaken at Community level in relation to working conditions, **and Decision 848/2004/EC of 29 April 2004 establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men**

¹ OJ C ... /Not yet published in OJ.

² OJ L 303, 02.12.2000, p. 23.

³ OJ L 17, 19.11.2001, p. 22.

⁴ OJ L 10, 12.01.2002, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 170, 29.06.2002, p. 1.

*and women*¹.

Justification

In the field of equality between men and women, the Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women should be added to the programme establishing a Community strategy for gender equality, since both these programmes expire in December 2005.

Amendment 2

Recital 6

(6) Ensuring minimum standards and the constant improvement of working conditions in the EU constitutes a central feature of the European social policy and corresponds to an important overall objective of the European Union. The Community has an important role to play to support and complement the activities of the Member States in the fields of workers' health and safety, working conditions, protection of workers where their employment contract is terminated, information and consultation of workers, representation and collective defence of the interests of workers and employers.

(6) Ensuring minimum standards and the constant improvement of working conditions in the EU constitutes a central feature of the European social policy and corresponds to an important overall objective of the European Union. The Community has an important role to play to support and complement the activities of the Member States in the fields of workers' health and safety, working conditions ***including the need to reconcile work and family life***, protection of workers where their employment contract is terminated, information and consultation of workers, representation and collective defence of the interests of workers and employers.

Justification

The need to reconcile work and family life has become a key aspect of European social policy. Improving working conditions in the European Union must include improving efforts to reconcile work and private life, which is still a vital issue in the organisation of work.

Amendment 3

Article 2, point 2

(2) to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators in the areas covered by the programme.

(2) to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common ***qualitative and quantitative*** indicators ***broken down by gender and age group*** in the areas covered by the programme ***which make a proper***

¹ OJ L 157, 30.4.2004, p. 18.

assessment of the development of social and working conditions in the European Union possible.

Amendment 4
Article 2, point 2 a (new)

(2a) the principle of gender mainstreaming must be taken into account in all sections of and measures under the programme.

Amendment 5
Article 2, point 3

(3) to support and monitor the implementation of Community law and policies objectives in the Member States and assessing their impact.

(3) to support and monitor the implementation of Community law and policies objectives in the Member States and assessing their impact, ***in particular as regards the creation of more and better-quality jobs.***

Justification

The objectives need clarification.

Amendment 6
Article 2, point 4

(4) to promote networking, mutual learning, and indentification and dissemination of good practice at EU level.

(4) to promote networking, mutual learning, and indentification and dissemination of good practice ***and transnational exchanges*** at EU level.

Amendment 7
Article 2, point 6

(6) to boost the capacity of key EU networks to promote and support EU policies.

(6) to boost the capacity of key EU networks ***and non-governmental organisations to take part in devising, implementing, promoting and supporting EU and national policies which seek to improve social and working conditions in the European Union***

in the context of this programme.

Justification

The objectives need clarification.

Amendment 8
Article 3, point 5

(5) Gender equality

(5) Gender equality **2013**

Justification

Greater visibility should be given to the programme's objectives, especially gender equality.

Amendment 9
Article 4, introductory phrase

Section 1 shall support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy by:

Section 1, **taking due account of the principle of gender mainstreaming**, shall support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy by:

Justification

Recital 9 states that gender mainstreaming should be integrated into all sections of the programme. Attention should be drawn to this fundamental principle in the body of the text of the Decision.

Amendment 10
Article 4, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of the employment situation, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators.

(1) Improving the understanding of the employment situation, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and **qualitative and quantitative indicators broken down by gender and age group**.

Justification

The employment situation is different for women and men. Women are in fact often discriminated against on the employment market in terms of access, participation, career development and wages. The distinction between women and men should therefore be taken

into account in drawing up statistics. Statistics should also be drawn up regarding the employment of older people, who are also discriminated against.

Amendment 11
Article 4, point 2

(2) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the European Employment Guidelines and Recommendations and analysing the interaction between the EES and other policy areas;

(2) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the European Employment Guidelines and Recommendations ***and their impact*** and analysing the interaction between the EES and other policy areas;

Justification

Gender equality must be clearly taken into account.

Amendment 12
Article 4, point 3

(3) Organising exchanges on policies and processes and promoting mutual learning in the context of the EES;

(3) Organising exchanges on policies and processes and promoting mutual learning in the context of the EES ***or of studies and proposals aimed at the improvement or possible revision thereof,***

Justification

Gender equality must be clearly taken into account.

Amendment 13
Article 4, point 4 a (new)

(4a) Placing particular stress on actions promoting gender equality and aimed at fighting discrimination in access to work, career development, pay and training

Justification

Gender equality must be clearly taken into account.

Amendment 14
Article 5, introductory phrase

Section 2 shall support the implementation of the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion by:

Section 2, ***taking due account of the principle of gender mainstreaming***, shall support the implementation of the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion by:

Justification

See justification for Amendment 9.

Amendment 15
Article 5, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of poverty issues, social protection and inclusion policies, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators.

(1) Improving the understanding of poverty ***and social exclusion*** issues, ***in particular those affecting households, women and children***, social protection and inclusion policies, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and ***qualitative and quantitative*** indicators ***broken down by gender and age group***.

Justification

Special attention should be given to poverty among households and women and children. Statistics should therefore be drawn up by gender and by age group in such a way as to include not only women but also children and the elderly.

Amendment 16
Article 5, point 2

(2) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion and analysing the interaction between this OMC and other policy areas;

(2) Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion and analysing the interaction between this OMC and other policy areas ***and its impact at national and Community level***;

Justification

It is necessary to focus more closely on women, who are in general the main victims of

poverty and social exclusion, also with implications for child poverty.

Amendment 17
Article 5, point 3

(3) Organising exchanges on policies and processes and promoting mutual learning in the context of the social protection and inclusion strategy;

(3) Organising exchanges on policies and processes and promoting mutual learning in the context of the social protection and inclusion strategy ***with the objective of improving social protection, contributing to social progress and ensuring the upward harmonisation of social rights in the EU;***

Justification

It is necessary to focus more closely on women, who are in general the main victims of poverty and social exclusion, also with implications for child poverty.

Amendment 18
Article 5, point 5

(5) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue EU policy goals.

(5) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue ***and implement*** EU policy goals.

Justification

The EU networks cannot be restricted to a passive role, i.e. that of supporting and promoting EU policies. Instead, they must be able to participate in the work of devising Community policies, so that they can communicate citizens' concerns to the Community institutions, thereby helping to improve legislation.

Amendment 19
Article 5, point 5 a (new)

(5a) Placing particular stress on actions promoting gender equality and aimed at fighting the causes of poverty and social exclusion, especially gender discrimination and that affecting children.

Justification

It is necessary to focus more closely on women, who are in general the main victims of

poverty and social exclusion, also with implications for child poverty.

Amendment 20
Article 6, introductory phrase

Section 3 shall support the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work by:

Section 3, ***taking due account of the principle of gender mainstreaming***, shall support the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work ***and reconciling work and family life*** by:

Justification

The PROGRESS programme should support the improvement of working conditions not only by improving health and safety of workers but also by promoting efforts to reconcile work and family life, which are vital to workers' wellbeing.

Amendment 21
Article 6, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to working conditions, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators, as well as assessing the impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to working conditions, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and ***quantitative and qualitative*** indicators ***broken down by gender and age group***, as well as assessing the impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

Justification

See justification for Amendment 10.

Amendment 22
Article 6, point 2

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU labour law through reinforced monitoring, training of practitioners, development of guides and networking amongst specialised bodies;

(2) Supporting the implementation of EU labour law through reinforced monitoring, training of practitioners, development of guides and networking amongst specialised bodies, ***including the social partners***;

Justification

The improvement of working conditions and the reduction of occupational accidents and illnesses depend on many other factors, including the nature of industrial relations and the organisation of work and occupational training.

Amendment 23
Article 6, point 3

(3) Initiating preventive actions and fostering the prevention culture in the field of health and safety at work;

(3) Initiating preventive actions and fostering the prevention culture in the field of health and safety at work, ***paying particular attention to working women and the protection of motherhood, setting precise targets with the objective of reducing occupational accidents and illnesses***;

Justification

The improvement of working conditions and the reduction of occupational accidents and illnesses depend on many other factors, including the nature of industrial relations and the organisation of work and occupational training.

Amendment 24
Article 6, point 4

(4) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to working conditions.

(4) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to ***social security***, working conditions ***and the quality of employment, including the importance of reconciling work and family life.***

Amendment 25
Article 7, introductory phrase

Section 4 shall support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promote its mainstreaming in EU policies by:

Section 4, **taking due account of the principle of gender mainstreaming**, shall support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promote its mainstreaming in EU policies by:

Justification

See justification for Amendment 9.

Amendment 26
Article 7, point 1

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to discrimination in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and indicators as well as assessing the impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

(1) Improving the understanding of the situation in relation to discrimination in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and **quantitative and qualitative** indicators **broken down by gender and age group** as well as assessing the impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;

Justification

Statistics in the field of discrimination should be broken down by gender and age group in order to take account of the situation of women and elderly people who are often affected by discrimination.

Amendment 27
Article 7, point 3

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in EU policies;

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in EU policies, **on a horizontal basis**;

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to the fight against discrimination requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, bringing together as broad a

range of participants as possible with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Union policies.

Amendment 28
Article 7, point 4

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue EU policy goals;

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue **and implement** EU policy goals;

Justification

The EU networks cannot be restricted to a passive role, i.e. that of supporting and promoting EU policies. Instead, they must be able to participate in the work of devising Community policies, so that they can communicate citizens' concerns to the Community institutions, thereby helping to improve legislation.

Amendment 29
Article 7, point 4 a (new)

(4a) Developing actions aimed at proposing improvements in its implementation, notably an annual conference.

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to the fight against discrimination requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, bringing together as broad a range of participants as possible with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Union policies.

Amendment 30
Article 8, title

SECTION 5: Gender equality

Programme 'Gender Equality 2013

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to gender mainstreaming in all Community policies requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, including as broad a range as possible of participants and exchanges of experiences, with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Community and national policies.

Amendment 31
Article 8, introductory part

Section 5 shall support the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promote gender mainstreaming in EU policies by:

This subprogramme of PROGRESS shall support the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promote gender mainstreaming in EU policies, **taking account of the directives in force in this area**, by:

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to gender mainstreaming in all Community policies requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, including as broad a range as possible of participants and exchanges of experiences, with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Community and national policies.

Amendment 32
Article 8, point 3

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to gender equality and gender mainstreaming;

(3) Raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to gender equality, **including the importance of reconciling work and family life**, and gender mainstreaming, **on a horizontal basis**;

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to gender mainstreaming in all Community policies requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, including as broad a range as possible of participants and exchanges of experiences, with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Community and national policies.

Amendment 33
Article 8, point 4

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue EU policy goals;

(4) Developing the capacity of key EU networks to pursue **and implement** EU policy goals;

Justification

The EU networks cannot be restricted to a passive role, i.e. that of supporting and promoting EU policies. Instead, they must be able to participate in the work of devising Community policies, so that they can communicate citizens' concerns to the Community institutions, thereby helping to improve legislation.

Amendment 34
Article 8, point 4 a (new)

(4a) Developing actions aimed at improving its implementation, especially the holding of an annual round table including, in particular, NGOs and parliamentary women's rights committees.

Justification

The need to give greater visibility to gender mainstreaming in all Community policies requires the development of actions and the holding of events such as annual conferences, including as broad a range as possible of participants and exchanges of experiences, with a view to ensuring the mainstreaming and implementation of this principle in all Community and national policies.

Amendment 35
Article 9, paragraph 1, point (a), indent 5 a (new)

- Publication and dissemination of information and educational material via the Internet or other media

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 36
Article 9, paragraph 1, point (b), indent 5 a (new)

- Exchanges between persons active at local level in the EU, as a means of promoting the direct exchange of experiences and awareness of the specific nature of national circumstances;

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 37

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (b), indent 5 b (new)

- The organisation of seminars and conferences with a view to adapting Community legislation to different national circumstances;

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 38

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (c), indent 1

- Support to running costs of key EU networks

- Support to running costs of key ***national and*** EU networks

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 39

Article 9, paragraph 1, point (c), indent 8 a (new)

- Cooperation between institutions and local national staff

Justification

Greater attention should be paid to the specific circumstances of each Member State, given the diversity of situations existing in the Union.

Amendment 40
Article 9, paragraph 2

(2) Types of actions foreseen under paragraph (1) b) should have a strong EU dimension, an appropriate scale in order to ensure a real EU added-value and be carried out by **(sub)national** authorities, specialised bodies foreseen under Community legislation or actors which are considered the key player in their area.

(2) Types of actions foreseen under paragraph (1) b) should have a strong EU dimension, an appropriate scale in order to ensure a real EU added-value and be carried out by **regional or local** authorities, specialised bodies foreseen under Community legislation or actors which are considered the key player in their area.

Justification

It is preferable to replace the term ‘(sub)national authorities’ with ‘regional or local authorities’ to make the text clearer and more consistent, given that Article 10 refers to regional and local authorities among those having access to the PROGRESS programme.

Amendment 41
Article 10, paragraph 1, indent 6

- Non-governmental organisations organised at EU level;

- Non-governmental organisations, **whether** organised **at national or** at EU level;

Justification

The Commission has many other forms of financing, and the limited budget of PROGRESS should be used only for particular cases related to the implementation of the programme.

Amendment 42
Article 10, paragraph 2

2. The Commission can also directly access the programme as far as actions foreseen under Article 9 paragraph 1 a) and b) are concerned.

2. The Commission can also directly access the programme as far as actions foreseen under Article 9 paragraph 1 a) and b) are concerned, **in respect of a sum which may not exceed 1% of the total under the headings for the programme.**

Justification

The Commission has many other forms of financing, and the limited budget of PROGRESS should be used only for particular cases related to the implementation of the programme.

Amendment 43
Article 11, subparagraph 1, indent 2

- a partial subsidy following a call for proposals. In this case, the EU co-financing may not exceed, as a general rule, **80 %** of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any subsidy in excess of this ceiling can only be granted under exceptional circumstances *and after close scrutiny*.

- a partial subsidy following a call for proposals. In this case, the EU co-financing may not exceed, as a general rule, **90 %** of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any subsidy in excess of this ceiling can only be granted under exceptional circumstances, *especially for Objective 1 regions and the outermost regions*.

Justification

The financial problems experienced by most NGOs and other social organisations working in these areas call for an increase in the Community cofinancing rate. The rate could be even higher for the least-favoured regions.

Amendment 44
Article 13, paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. The Commission shall ensure that the committee is provided with all the necessary impartial expertise in the area under consideration.

Justification

Given that a single Programme Committee will be responsible for covering all sections, it is important to ensure that the Committee has access to all the necessary impartial expertise in each area under consideration.

Amendment 45
Article 17, paragraph 1

1. The financial framework for implementing the Community activities referred to in this Decision for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 shall be **628.8** million EUR.

1. The financial framework for implementing the Community activities referred to in this Decision for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013 shall be **943.2** million EUR.

Justification

This is a provisional proposal, given that there is not yet any definitive proposal from the

Amendment 46
Article 17, paragraph 2

(2) The financial breakdown between the different sections shall respect the following lower limits:

Section 1 Employment – 21%

Section 2 Social protection and inclusion – **28%**

Section 3 Working conditions – 8%

Section 4 Antidiscrimination and diversity – 23%

Section 5 Gender equality – **8%**

(2) The financial breakdown between the different sections shall respect the following lower limits:

Section 1 Employment – 21%

Section 2 Social protection and inclusion – **30%**

Section 3 Working conditions – 8%

Section 4 Antidiscrimination and diversity – 23%

Section 5 Gender equality – **12%**

Justification

The reduction in the 'gender equality' section of the total budget, intended for the planned European Gender Institute, is excessive and should be partly compensated by increasing the minimum percentage of 8% to 12%. As regards the 'social protection and inclusion' section, the 2% increase takes account of the fact that the action programme conducted to date against social exclusion will be extended to include areas relating to pensions, health care and long-term care.

Amendment 47
Article 17, paragraph 4

4. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority ***within the limits of the financial perspectives.***

4. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority.

Justification

If PROGRESS is to be financed properly, there has to be a substantial increase in the budget headings in the light of the need to boost the participation of the various agents in these key social areas.

Amendment 48
Article 19, paragraph 1

1. In order to ensure a regular monitoring of

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the programme and allow necessary reorientations, annual activity reports shall be elaborated by the Commission and transmitted to the programme Committee referred to in Article 13.

the programme and allow necessary reorientations, annual activity reports shall be elaborated by the Commission and transmitted to the programme Committee referred to in Article 13 **and to the European Parliament.**

Justification

The EP must monitor the implementation of PROGRESS and all its subprogrammes.

Amendment 49
Article 19, paragraph 2

2. The programme shall also be the subject of a mid-term evaluation at the level of the different sections with an overview on the programme in order to measure the progress made regarding the impact of the programme objectives and its EU added value. This evaluation may be supplemented by on-going evaluations. These shall be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of external experts. When available, their results shall be reported in the activity reports referred to in paragraph 1.

2. The programme shall also be the subject of a mid-term evaluation at the level of the different sections with an overview on the programme in order to measure the progress made regarding the impact of the programme objectives and its EU added value. This evaluation may be supplemented by on-going evaluations. These shall be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of external experts. When available, their results shall be reported in the activity reports referred to in paragraph 1 **and forwarded to the European Parliament.**

Justification

The EP must monitor the implementation of PROGRESS and all its subprogrammes.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - PROGRESS
References	COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	FEMM 15.9.2004
Enhanced cooperation	No
Draftswoman Date appointed	Ilda Figueiredo 5.10.2004
Discussed in committee	16.3.2005 26.4.2005
Date amendments adopted	26.4.2005
Result of final vote	for: unanimous against: abstentions:
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Hiltrud Breyer, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Nicole Fontaine, Lissy Gröner, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Lívia Járóka, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Christa Prets, Marie-Line Reynaud, Teresa Riera Madurell, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Amalia Sartori, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Anne Van Lancker, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Zuzana Roithová, Marta Vincenzi
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Małgorzata Handzlik, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS			
References	COM(2004)0488 – C6-0092/2004 – 2004/0158(COD)			
Legal basis	Articles 251(2), 13(2), 129 and 137(2) EC			
Basis in Rules of Procedure	Rule 51			
Date submitted to Parliament	15.7.2004			
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	EMPL 15.9.2004			
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	BUDG 15.9.2004	CONT 15.9.2004	LIBE 15.9.2004	FEMM 15.9.2004
Not delivering opinion(s) Date of decision	CONT 23.5.2005			
Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary	-			
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Karin Jöns 11.10.2004			
Previous rapporteur(s)	-			
Simplified procedure Date of decision	-			
Legal basis disputed Date of JURI opinion	-			
Financial endowment amended Date of BUDG opinion	-			
Discussed in committee	30.3.2005	24.5.2005	14.6.2005	
Date adopted	15.6.2005			
Result of final vote	for : 44 against : 1 abstentions : 1			
Members present for the final vote	Jan Andersson, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Mogens N.J. Camre, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Luigi Cocilovo, Proinsias De Rossa, Harald Ettl, Richard Falbr, Carlo Fatuzzo, Ilda Figueiredo, Stephen Hughes, Karin Jöns, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Sepp Kusstatscher, Jean Lambert, Raymond Langendries, Bernard Lehideux, Elizabeth Lynne, Mary Lou McDonald, Thomas Mann, Mario Mantovani, Ana Mato Adrover, Maria Matsouka, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Csaba Óry, Siiri Oviir, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Jacek Protasiewicz, José Albino Silva Peneda, Kathy Sinnott, Jean Spautz, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer			
Substitutes present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Mihael Brejc, Udo Bullmann, Françoise Castex, Marian Harkin, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Lasse Lehtinen, Elisabeth Schroedter, Marc Tarabella, Patrizia Toia, Anja Weisgerber, Tadeusz Zwiefka			
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote				
Date tabled – A6	20.6.2005		A6-0199/2005	
Comments				