

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

FINAL
A6-0255/2006

20.7.2006

*****I** **REPORT**

on the proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility (COM(2005)0450 – C6-0291/2005 – 2005/0179(COD))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Christa Prets

Draftsperson (*) : Sepp Kusstatscher, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

(*) Enhanced cooperation between committees - Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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.

CONTENTS

	Page
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	17
OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS(*).....	21
PROCEDURE.....	28

(*) Enhanced cooperation between committees - Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility (COM(2005)0450 – C6-0291/2005 – 2005/0179(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2005)0450)¹,
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Articles 149(4) and 150(4) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0291/2005),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education and the opinion of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (A6-0255/2006),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. 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;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1

Title

Proposal for a RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility

Proposal for a RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on transnational mobility within the Community for education and *vocational* training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility

Amendment 2

Recital 1

(1) Mobility in education and training is an integral part of the freedom of movement

(1) Mobility in education and training is an integral part of the freedom of movement

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

of persons – a fundamental freedom protected by the Treaty – and one of the main objectives of the European Union’s action in the field of education and vocational training; **indeed**, it is an essential tool for creating a European area of education and training **and for developing European awareness**.

of persons – a fundamental freedom protected by the Treaty – and one of the main objectives of the European Union’s action in the field of education and vocational training, **based both on common values and on respect for diversity**; it is an essential tool for creating a **genuine** European area of **continuous** education and training, **an instrument for tackling unemployment and poverty and for helping to promote an active European citizenship**.

Amendment 3
Recital 1 a (new)

(1a) Mobility brings citizens closer to one another, improves mutual understanding and furthers closer political integration. It promotes solidarity, the exchange of ideas and a better knowledge of the different cultures which make up Europe; thus mobility furthers economic, social and regional cohesion.

Amendment 4
Recital 2 a (new)

(2a) Providing a better framework for mobility for education and training purposes within the EU will help to contribute towards the achievement of a knowledge-based economy central to the creation of employment, sustainable development, research and innovation in the Member States.

Amendment 5
Recital 2 b (new)

(2b) Increased support by public authorities for mobility within the EU is needed to improve the quality and effectiveness of education and training systems in Europe.

Justification

Improving mobility in the EU needs supportive action by public authorities. Social and economic actors alone will not be able to ensure optimal access to mobility.

Amendment 6

Recital 4

(4) The work of the group of experts set up by the Commission in accordance with point III. a) of the above Recommendation, and the first follow-up report, while showing the progress made both at national and at European level as regards mobility for education and training purposes, demonstrate the need to focus not only on increasing mobility but above all on improving its quality.

(4) The work of the group of experts set up by the Commission in accordance with point III. a) of the above Recommendation, and the first follow-up report, while showing the progress made both at national and at European level as regards mobility for education and training purposes, demonstrate the need to focus not only on increasing mobility ***in quantitative terms*** but above all on improving its quality.

Amendment 7

Recital 5

(5) This objective can be ***achieved*** by adopting, in the form of a Recommendation, a Quality Charter for mobility, laying down a set of principles in this field, to be implemented on a voluntary basis.

(5) This objective can be ***pursued, inter alia***, by adopting, in the form of a Recommendation, a Quality Charter for mobility, laying down a set of principles in this field, to be implemented on a voluntary basis. ***However, Member States should not lay down conditions which could hinder progress towards the goals of the Charter.***

Amendment 8

Recital 5 a (new)

(5a) The Quality Charter for Mobility should also allow for the specific needs of people with disabilities and for disadvantaged groups.

Amendment 9

Recital 6

(6) ***Because the*** Charter ***incorporates the underlying principles of educational mobility, it constitutes a reference framework which will*** help increase exchanges, develop recognition of ***study*** periods and ***help to*** establish mutual trust between the authorities, the organisations and all the stakeholders in mobility.

(6) ***The*** Charter ***should*** help increase exchanges, develop ***the*** recognition of periods ***dedicated to education or vocational training and the recognition of titles, qualifications and social security benefits,*** and establish mutual trust ***so as to improve and strengthen cooperation*** between the authorities, the organisations and all the stakeholders in mobility.

Amendment 10
Recital 6 a (new)

(6a) The Charter, in the respective languages of the recipients, should be furnished to all students and persons undergoing training by the authorities, organisations and other stakeholders involved in mobility in countries of origin and host countries, and should be treated as a basic reference framework.

Amendment 11
Recital 7

(7) The advantages of mobility strongly depend on the quality of the practical provisions: preparation, support and recognition. The people and organisations involved can considerably improve its value by careful planning and suitable evaluation.

(7) The advantages of mobility strongly depend on the quality of the practical provisions: ***information,*** preparation, support and recognition ***of the experience and qualifications acquired by participants during the study and training periods.*** The people and organisations involved can considerably improve its value by careful planning and suitable evaluation.

Amendment 12
Recital 7 a (new)

(7a) Europass is a particularly useful instrument for developing transparency and recognition in order to aid mobility.

Amendment 13
Recital 9

(9) A learning plan should be drawn up in advance. General preparation of the participants is also necessary.

(9) A learning plan should be drawn up in advance. General preparation of the participants is also necessary, ***with particular emphasis on linguistic preparation. In this connection, the competent authorities and organisations should provide assistance with the minimum of bureaucracy.***

Amendment 14
Recital 11

(11) All questions ***related to finance, in particular*** what financial support is available and who bears the costs, should be solved before departure.

(11) All ***administrative and financial*** questions, ***such as*** what financial support is available and who bears the costs ***and insurance cover in the host country***, should be solved before departure.

Amendment 15
Recital 11 a (new)

(11a) In order to encourage mobility it should be possible to transfer government loans and or grants for applicants to the host country.

Justification

This amendment underpins the Green Paper adopted by the Commission (Edith Cresson) in 1996 seeking to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers, students and teachers within the EU by removing territorial restrictions on grants.

Amendment 16
Recital 12

(12) Transparency and good administration call for a clear definition of the ***organisations and people responsible*** for each stage and action of the mobility programme.

(12) Transparency and good administration call for a clear definition of the ***stakeholders*** for each stage and action of the mobility programme.

Amendment 17

Recital 13

(13) In order to ensure the overall quality of mobility, it is desirable to apply the principles and recommendations **above mentioned** to all types of mobility for learning or professional development purposes: education or training; formal and non-formal learning including **youth** volunteering; short and long mobility periods; **for** school, **university** or **job-based** learning; **for** young and adult learners, etc.

(13) In order to ensure the overall quality of mobility, it is desirable **to make the freedom of movement for workers a right for all EU citizens and** to apply the **above-mentioned** principles and recommendations to all types of mobility for learning or professional development purposes: education or training; formal and non-formal learning, including volunteering; short and long mobility periods; school, **higher education** or **job-related** learning; **measures in connection with lifelong learning; measures favouring** young and adult learners, **disabled students, as well as elderly people**, etc.

Amendment 18

Recital 14

(14) Member States may adjust the implementation of the Charter according to circumstances, i.e. to adapt it to specific situations and programmes; **to** make some of the points compulsory and **to** consider others as optional.

(14) **In view of the diversity of the nature and duration of mobility activities,** Member States may adjust the implementation of the Charter according to circumstances, i.e. to adapt it to specific situations and programmes. **Potential candidates must not suffer mobility restrictions or discrimination. Member States may** make some of the points compulsory and consider others as optional.

Amendment 19

Recital 15 a (new)

(15a) Pilot projects aimed at establishing a voluntary social service year, which could be completed, partly or wholly, in other Member States, could help to encourage mobility.

Amendment 20

Hereby recommend: that Member States, paragraph 1 and indent 1

HEREBY **RECOMMEND**: *that* Member States adopt the attached European Quality Charter for mobility as a means to enhance personal and professional development.

HEREBY **INVITE** *the* Member States *to* : adopt **and promote the use of** the attached European Quality Charter for mobility as a means to enhance personal and professional development.

Amendment 21

Hereby recommend: that Member States, indent 1 a (new)

HEREBY RECOMMEND: that Member States

HEREBY RECOMMEND: that Member States:

- report on this Recommendation and any complementary measures they may choose to take in favour of mobility, particularly in relation to the quality aspects thereof, in their national contributions to the "Education and Training 2010" work programme as from the second year following the adoption of this Recommendation;

- continue to cooperate closely at the highest level with the Community and coordinate their actions with a view to completely eliminating the obstacles that directly or indirectly impede the mobility of EU citizens;

- establish conditions and lay down policies to enable stakeholders to benefit fully from the European Economic Area (EEA) in terms of mobility;

- provide adequate public funding and suitable infrastructures for mobility for education and vocational training purposes to enhance the education and vocational training levels of their citizens.

Amendment 22

Hereby recommend: that Member States, indent 1 b (new)

- take any necessary steps to promote mobility, to ensure that all relevant information is easily understandable and accessible to all and to make available to

*citizens an introductory guide to mobility
and to improve the conditions for
mobility;*

Amendment 23

Hereby ***recommend that*** : Member States, indent 1 c (new)

- encourage organisations to participate in mobility programmes and in organising mentoring. For that purpose the Member State of origin should grant them special status to put them in a better position to receive budget funding for their programmes;

Justification

By funding programmes we wish to encourage as many organisations as possible to participate in mobility programmes.

Amendment 24

Hereby ***recommend that***: Member States, indent 1 d (new)

- draw up lists of organisations (non-governmental organisations, schools, enterprises, etc.) which wish to help increase mobility and are willing to take part in exchange programmes for that purpose. In order to improve the information provided, the lists could also include the area of activity of interested organisations. Member States should designate institutions responsible for drawing up and publicising the lists among the target population.

Justification

A list of this nature would help to improve the level of information provided and increase participation in mobility programmes.

Amendment 25

Hereby invite Member States

HEREBY INVITE Member States to include general information and ***deleted***

assessment on the actions taken in response to the recommendations set out above in their reporting for the Education and Training 2010 work programme, as from the second year following the adoption of this Recommendation.

Amendment 26

Hereby invite the Commission, paragraph 2, indent 1 a (new)

- to assess the evaluation reports submitted by the Member States and to issue, within one year of receipt of such reports, a report on the measures taken by the Member States to reduce restrictions on mobility, including proposals for improving the quality of the mobility programmes;

Amendment 27

Hereby invite the Commission, indent 2 a (new)

- to encourage the use of the Charter by the national agencies and other organisations working in the field of training and education and mobility;

Amendment 28

Hereby invite the Commission, indent 2 b (new)

- to develop in close cooperation with the relevant authorities a reliable and comprehensive collection of gender-specific statistical data on mobility for education and training purposes.

Amendment 29

Annex, paragraph 1

Potential candidates for mobility should

Potential candidates for mobility,

have access to reliable sources of guidance and information on opportunities for mobility and the conditions in which it can be taken up.

including disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities, should have ***equal access, at national and regional level***, to reliable sources of guidance and information for mobility and the conditions in which it can be taken up. ***Among other things, clear information should be provided on the entire set of guidelines contained in the Mobility Charter, about the role and tasks of the sending and hosting organisations and about the various education and training systems.***

Amendment 30

Annex, paragraph 2 "Learning plan"

Before undertaking ***any kind of*** mobility for education or training purposes, a learning plan should be drawn up and agreed by ***everyone involved, including*** the sending and hosting organisations and the participants. The plan should outline the objectives and expected outcomes, as well as how these would be achieved.

Before undertaking mobility for education or training purposes, a learning plan, ***with special emphasis on linguistic preparation***, should be drawn up and agreed by the sending and hosting organisations and the participants. The plan should outline the objectives and expected outcomes, as well as how these would be achieved ***and implemented.***

Amendment 31

Annex, paragraph 5 "Linguistic aspects", introductory part

Language skills are ***essential*** for effective learning. Participants, and their sending and host institutions, should pay special attention to linguistic preparation. Mobility arrangements should include:

Language skills are ***important*** for effective learning, ***intercultural communication and a better understanding of the host country culture.*** Participants, and their sending and host institutions, should pay special attention to ***appropriate*** linguistic preparation. Mobility arrangements should include:

Amendment 32

Annex, paragraph 5 "Linguistic aspects", indent 1

- before departure, language assessment and the opportunity to follow courses in the language of the host country and in the

- before departure, language assessment and the opportunity to follow courses in the language of the host country and/or in the

language of instruction, if different;

language of instruction, if different;

Amendment 33
Annex, paragraph 6

Adequate logistical support should be provided to the participants. This could include information and assistance with travel arrangements, insurance, residence or work permits, social security, accommodation, and any other practical aspects, including safety issues relevant to their stay.

Adequate logistical support should be provided to the participants. This could include information and assistance with travel arrangements, insurance, residence or work permits, social security, ***the possibility of transferring government grants and loans from the country of origin to the host country***, accommodation, and any other practical aspects, including safety issues relevant to their stay.

Justification

This amendment underpins the Green Paper adopted by the Commission (Edith Cresson) in 1996 seeking to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers, students and teachers in the EU by removing territorial restrictions on grants.

Amendment 34
Annex, paragraph 8

If a study or placement period abroad is an integral part of a formal study or training programme, this fact should be stated in the learning plan, and participants should be provided with assistance to ensure its adequate recognition and certification. ***The way in which the recognition will work should be set out*** in the learning plan. For other types of mobility, and particularly those in the context of non-formal education and training, a certificate should be issued so that the participant is able to demonstrate his or her active participation and learning outcomes in a satisfactory and credible way.

If a study or placement period abroad is an integral part of a formal study or training programme, this fact should be stated in the learning plan, and participants should be provided with assistance to ensure its adequate recognition and certification. ***The sending organisation should recognise each successful period of mobility in the learning plan.*** For other types of mobility, and particularly those in the context of non-formal education and training, a certificate should be issued so that the participant is able to demonstrate his or her active participation and learning outcomes in a satisfactory and credible way. ***In this context, the use of the 'Europass' should be encouraged.***

Amendment 35
Annex, paragraph 9

On return to **their** home country, participants should be given guidance on how to make use of competences and skills acquired during the stay. Appropriate help with reintegration into the social, educational or professional environment of the home country should be available to people returning after long-term mobility. The experience gained should be properly evaluated by participants, together with the organisations responsible, to assess whether the aims of the learning plan have been met.

On return to **the** home country, participants should be given guidance on how to make use of competences and skills acquired during the stay. Appropriate help with reintegration into the social, educational or professional environment of the home country should be available to people returning after long-term mobility. The experience gained should be properly evaluated by participants, together with the organisations responsible, to assess whether the aims of the learning plan have been met.

Or. es

Amendment 36
Annex, paragraph 10 "Commitments and responsibilities"

The responsibilities arising from these quality criteria should be **clearly defined and communicated to everyone involved, including** participants. They should be confirmed in writing, so that responsibilities are clear to all concerned.

The responsibilities arising from these quality criteria should be **agreed by the sending and hosting organisations and the** participants. They should be confirmed in writing, so that responsibilities are clear to all concerned.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. The general framework

To achieve the Lisbon objective of becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, the European Council had asked for "not only a radical transformation of the European economy but also a challenging programme for the modernisation of social welfare and education systems" so that by 2010 Europe becomes a world leader in terms of the quality of its education and training systems.

In 2002, the Council and the Commission endorsed a 10-year work programme to be implemented through the open method of coordination and agreed on three major goals to be achieved by 2010:

- to improve the quality and effectiveness of EU education and training systems;
- to ensure that they are accessible to all;
- to open up education and training to the wider world.

The forthcoming Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and the upcoming Recommendation on Key Competences for lifelong learning should together with the European Mobility Charter be seen as very efficient tools in order to reach these goals.

Mobility in all its forms and in the broader sense of the term is at the heart of this huge project.

II. The framework for mobility at the European Union level

Numerous national activities for promoting mobility in education and training are implemented within the framework of international cooperation (namely the Bologna Process in higher education and the Copenhagen Process in vocational education and training) and the various Community programmes and initiatives.

Apart from the "Education and Training 2010" Programme which provides the framework for an integrated strategy including mobility, an other important step towards achieving better this goal is the forthcoming new lifelong learning 2007-2013 Programme, which includes amongst others Comenius, Erasmus and Leonardo da Vinci Programmes. The Youth Programme is also concerned for mobility purposes. A third important element for supporting mobility is the "Europass" which aims to create a uniform portfolio of documents to give citizens the option of setting out their personal abilities, skills and qualifications in a clear, consistent and internationally transparent manner when applying for jobs at home and abroad.

The Recommendation 2001/613/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers was adopted on 10 July 2001. This Recommendation created a framework for promoting political cooperation to increase mobility in education and training, with the aim to eliminate obstacles to mobility, ensure better preparation and more effective reception on arrival and address the issue of recognising experience gained abroad.

The Recommendation also invited the Commission to set up a group of Member States' experts to coordinate the implementation of the Recommendation.

The present Commission proposal is based on the work of that group, last reported on in its 2004 biennial report.

As a matter of fact, in recent years, a number of measures have been taken in the Member States regarding the removal of obstacles in favour of mobility (legal, administrative, financial, information and transparency of education systems, language, etc.). However the measures taken have not yet given significant impetus to mobility, numerous obstacles still remain and less attention has been given to non-financial and administrative support for mobile persons, i.e. advisory services, quality measures, etc.

In January 2004, the follow-up report to the 2001 Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobility mentioned above, pointed out that the overall situation with respect to promoting participation in mobility had not improved sufficiently in recent years. The report underlined the need to focus not only on increasing mobility but above all on improving its quality.

In its resolution of October 2005 on education as the cornerstone of the Lisbon process, the European Parliament considered a matter of urgency for the European Union the promotion of the convergence of the national education systems towards higher performance standards and called on the Member States to speed up mobility and mutual recognition of qualifications and ensure universal and non-discriminatory access to quality education.

III. The Commission proposal

The present proposal by the Commission aims to cover the need for more quality in mobility for education and training purposes and complements the Recommendation of 10 July 2001, broader in its scope.

Its objectives are in essence:

- to lay down a common statement of principles whose use will lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness in all types of organised mobility for learning purposes,
- more specifically, to provide a reference point for all stakeholders involved with mobility, namely within the integrated lifelong learning programme for the period 2007-2013.

The proposed Charter consists of ten guidelines, addressed mainly to the sending and receiving organisations responsible for mobility, and is characterised as "universal" in the sense that it covers all the possible types of educational and training mobility.

IV. Remarks

The reason why mobility was proclaimed as a priority at the Lisbon European Council, and this had led to the adoption of the European Parliament and Council Recommendation of 10 July 2001, is that it contributes for people benefiting from mobility a sense of belonging to

Europe, leading to the acquisition of a European consciousness and also to the development of a European citizenship.

Mobility also allows, especially for young people, an improvement in the quality of their knowledge and training, a deepening of their experience and reinforcement in their skills.

Moreover, it contributes to create a European space of education and training which strengthens Europe as a whole in a globalised economy where knowledge, intelligence and creativity are important elements.

It should be noted that since 2000 the number of individuals migrating for educational purposes has considerably increased thanks to the existing educational exchange programmes. However, the achievements of policy measures taken in this field are not yet adequate, in proportion to the size of Europe. It is therefore essential to apply all measures to overcome remaining obstacles and to find the necessary means to bring about a significant increase in mobility.

The rapporteur considers that a Charter serves the idea to raise the overall quality levels of European mobility by suggesting a model to ensure the best possible benefits from the educational opportunity and its impact for the individual and the society.

The rapporteur welcomes the proposal that in the framework of the Charter the significance the individuals give to their experience from mobility should be taken into account. The rapporteur also considers that provisions in the Charter for adequate linguistic, educational and practical preparation of the individuals and a guided support to developing their personal project as well as the recognition and promotion of acquired skills are important elements to foster mobility.

In particular, the special emphasis given by the proposed Charter to the linguistic preparation of participants is essential to allow them to make full use of the learning plan provided to them.

In the context of the Charter, clear information on the set of guidelines should be provided. A clear definition of the respective tasks of host and sending organisations would contribute to an efficient application of a mobility programme. Information on the respective education and trainings systems is also of great importance and will contribute to more transparency. However, an evaluation of the overall mobility impact over the education systems and society should also be established in the future.

The rapporteur is of the opinion that Member States should promote mobility, provide information where appropriate with an "introductory guide to Mobility" and improve conditions for mobility.

V. Fostering mobility- Conclusions

The rapporteur considers that the proposed European Quality Charter for Mobility should be implemented at the shortest possible delay.

Member States should ensure adequate coordination of individual mobility programmes at the national and regional level. Particular attention should be given to the information about mobility programmes and to their promotion. Special attention should also be given to guarantee equal opportunities for potential participants in mobility programmes. Furthermore, efforts should be made to guarantee the recognition of experience and qualifications acquired through mobility programmes.

Nevertheless, taking into account that this Charter is not binding for the Member States, the rapporteur considers that Member States should adequately guarantee the proper implementation and the goals of this Charter.

26.6.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS(*)

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility
(COM(2005)0450 – C6-0291/2005 – 2005/0179(COD))

Draftsman (*): Sepp Kusstatscher

(*) Enhanced cooperation between committees – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

AMENDMENTS

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

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1 Title

Proposal for a RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on transnational mobility within the Community for **education** and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility

Proposal for a RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on transnational mobility within the Community for **educational** and **vocational** training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility

Amendment 2

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Recital 1

(1) Mobility ***in education and training*** is an integral part of the freedom of movement of persons – a fundamental freedom protected by the Treaty – and one of the main objectives of the European Union’s action in the field of education and vocational training; ***indeed***, it is an essential tool for creating a European area of education and training and for developing European awareness.

(1) Mobility is an integral part of the freedom of movement of persons – a fundamental freedom protected by the Treaty – and one of the main objectives of the European Union’s action in the field of education and vocational training; ***based both on common values and on respect for diversity***, it is an essential tool for creating a European area of ***continuous*** education and training, ***an instrument for confronting unemployment and poverty*** and for developing European awareness ***and an active European citizenship***.

Amendment 3 Recital 1 a (new)

(1a) Mobility brings citizens closer to one another, improves mutual understanding and furthers closer political integration. It promotes solidarity, the exchange of ideas and a better knowledge of the different cultures which make up Europe; thus mobility furthers economic, social and territorial cohesion and enhances individuals' employability at a time of globalisation.

Amendment 4 Recital 2 a (new)

(2 a) Providing a better framework for mobility for education and training purposes within the EU will help to optimise the development of human capital in effect contributing towards the achievement of a knowledge-based economy central to the creation of employment, sustainable development, research and innovation in the Member States.

Amendment 5 Recital 4

(4) The work of the group of experts set up

(4) The work of the group of experts set up

by the Commission in accordance with point III.a) of the above Recommendation, and the first follow-up report, while showing the progress made both at national and at European level as regards mobility for education and training purposes, demonstrate the need to focus not only on increasing mobility but above all on improving its quality.

by the Commission in accordance with point III.a) of the above Recommendation, and the first follow-up report, while showing the **modest** progress made both at national and at European level as regards mobility for education and training purposes, demonstrate the need to focus not only on increasing mobility **in quantitative terms** but above all on improving its quality, **which, while undoubtedly necessary, must not result in fewer people benefiting from mobility.**

Amendment 6
Recital 5

(5) This objective can be **achieved** by adopting, in the form of a Recommendation, a Quality Charter for mobility, laying down a set of principles in this field, to be implemented on a voluntary basis.

(5) This objective can be **pursued, inter alia**, by adopting, in the form of a Recommendation, a Quality Charter for mobility, laying down a set of principles in this field, to be implemented on a voluntary basis.

Amendment 7
Recital 5 a (new)

(5a) The Quality Charter for Mobility also has to allow for the specific needs of people with disabilities.

Amendment 8
Recital 6

(6) **Because the Charter incorporates the underlying principles of educational mobility, it constitutes a reference framework which will** help increase exchanges, develop recognition of **study** periods and **help to** establish mutual trust between the authorities, the organisations and all the stakeholders in mobility.

(6) **The Charter should** help increase exchanges, develop **the** recognition of periods **dedicated to education or vocational training as well as the recognition of titles, qualifications and social security benefits** and establish mutual trust **so as to improve and strengthen cooperation** between the authorities, the organisations and all the stakeholders in mobility.

Amendment 9
Recital 6 a (new)

(6 a) The advantages that mobility in education and training bring to the EU workforce can only be realized in practice through a continuous process, taking into consideration the interest of all social partners in the Member States with a particular emphasis on the needs of employers.

Amendment 10
Recital 6 b (new)

(6 b) The Charter, in the respective languages of the recipients, should be furnished to all students and persons undergoing training by the authorities, organisations, and other stakeholders involved in mobility in countries of origin and host countries, and should be treated as a basic reference framework.

Amendment 11
Recital 7

(7) The advantages of mobility strongly depend on the quality of the practical provisions: preparation, support and recognition. The people and organisations involved can considerably improve its value by careful planning and suitable evaluation.

(7) The advantages of mobility strongly depend on the quality of the practical provisions: **information**, preparation, support and recognition **of the experience and qualifications acquired by applicants during the training programmes**. The people and organisations involved can considerably improve its value by careful planning and suitable evaluation.

Amendment 12
Recital 9

(9) A learning plan should be drawn up in advance. General preparation of the participants is also necessary.

(9) A learning plan should be drawn up in advance. General preparation of the participants is also necessary. **In this connection, the competent authorities and organisations should provide assistance with the minimum of bureaucracy.**

Amendment 13
Recital 11

(11) All questions **related to finance, in particular** what financial support is available and who bears the costs, should be solved before departure.

(11) All **administrative and financial** questions, **such as** what financial support is available and who bears the costs **and insurance cover in the host country, as well as which periods and contents are to be**

covered , should be solved before departure.

Amendment 14

Recital 13

(13) In order to ensure the overall quality of mobility, it is desirable to apply the principles and recommendations above mentioned to all types of mobility for learning or professional development purposes: education or training; formal and non-formal learning including **youth** volunteering; short and long mobility periods; **for** school, university or **job-based** learning; **for** young and adult learners, etc.

(13) In order to ensure the overall quality of mobility, it is desirable **to make the freedom of movement for workers a right for all EU citizens and** to apply the principles and recommendations above mentioned to all types of mobility for learning or professional development purposes: education or training; formal and non-formal learning, including volunteering; short and long mobility periods; school, university or **job-related** learning; **measures in connection with lifelong learning; measures favouring young and adult learners, disabled students, as well as for elderly people**, etc.

Amendment 15

Recital 15 a (new)

(15a) Pilot projects aimed at establishing a voluntary social service year, which could be completed, partly or wholly, in other Member States, could help to encourage mobility.

Amendment 16

Recommendations

HEREBY RECOMMEND: that Member States adopt the attached European Quality Charter for mobility as a means to enhance personal and professional development.

HEREBY RECOMMEND: that Member States:

- adopt the attached European Quality Charter for mobility as a means to enhance personal and professional development;
- ***two years after the adoption of this Recommendation and every two years thereafter, draw up evaluation reports, to be submitted to the Commission, assessing the measures taken in response to this Recommendation;***
- ***continue to cooperate closely at the highest level with the European***

Community and coordinate their actions with a view to completely eliminating the obstacles that directly or indirectly impede the mobility of EU citizens;

- establish conditions and lay down policies to enable stakeholders to benefit fully from the European Economic Area (EEA) as regards mobility;

- provide adequate public funding and suitable infrastructures for mobility for education and vocational training purposes to enhance the education and vocational training levels of their citizens.

HEREBY INVITE Member States to include general information and assessment on the actions taken in response to the recommendations set out above in their reporting for the Education and Training 2010 work programme, as from the second year following the adoption of this Recommendation.

HEREBY INVITE the Commission:

– to continue to cooperate with the Member States and the social partners, so that useful information and experience concerning the implementation of the measures advocated in this Recommendation may be exchanged

– to consider the present Recommendation as forming a whole with the Recommendation 2001/613/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and therefore to include its requested biennial reports in the general reports of the Education and Training 2010 work

HEREBY INVITE the Commission:

- to assess the evaluation reports submitted by the Member States and to issue, within one year of receipt of such reports, a Commission report on the measures taken by the Member States to reduce restrictions on mobility, including proposals for improvement of the quality of the mobility programmes;

– to continue to cooperate with the Member States and the social partners, so that useful information and experience concerning the implementation of the measures advocated in this Recommendation may be exchanged;

– to consider the present Recommendation as forming a whole with the Recommendation 2001/613/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and therefore to include its requested biennial reports in the general reports of the Education and Training 2010 work

programme.

programme.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility				
References	COM(2005)0450 – C6-0291/2005 – 2005/0179(COD)				
Committee responsible	CULT				
Opinion by	EMPL				
Date announced in plenary	29.9.2005				
Enhanced cooperation	EMPL				
Date announced in plenary	19.1.2006				
Drafts(wo)man	Sepp Kusstatscher				
Date appointed	30.11.2005				
Previous Drafts(wo)man					
Discussed in committee	20.4.2006	21.6.2006			
Date adopted	22.6.2006				
Result of final vote	+	41			
	-	0			
	0	1			
Members present for the final vote	Jan Andersson, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Emine Bozkurt, Iles Braghetto, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Luigi Cocilovo, Jean Louis Cottigny, Proinsias De Rossa, Harlem Désir, Harald Ettl, Carlo Fatuzzo, Ilda Figueiredo, Roger Helmer, Stephen Hughes, Ona Juknevičienė, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Sepp Kusstatscher, Jean Lambert, Raymond Langendries, Bernard Lehideux, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Jan Tadeusz Masiel, Ana Mato Adrover, Maria Matsouka, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Csaba Óry, Pier Antonio Panzeri, José Albino Silva Peneda, Kathy Sinnott, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer				
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Mihael Brejc, Françoise Castex, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Patrizia Toia				
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Małgorzata Handzlik, Bogusław Sonik				
Comments (available in one language only)	...				

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European Quality Charter for Mobility				
References	COM(2005)0450 – C6-0291/2005 – 2005/0179(COD)				
Date submitted to Parliament	23.9.2005				
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 29.9.2005				
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	EMPL				
	29.9.2005				
Not delivering opinion(s) Date of decision					
Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary	EMPL				
	19.1.2006				
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Christa Prets 18.10.2005		Sepp Kusstatscher 30.11.2005		
Previous rapporteur(s)					
Simplified procedure – date of decision					
Legal basis disputed Date of JURI opinion		/			
Financial endowment amended Date of BUDG opinion		/			
European Economic and Social Committee consulted – date of decision in plenary					
Committee of the Regions consulted – date of decision in plenary					
Discussed in committee	23.2.2006	29.5.2006	13.7.2006		
Date adopted	13.7.2006				
Result of final vote	+	26			
	-				
	0	1			
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia I Cutchet, Ivo Belet, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Jolanta Dičkutė, Věra Flasarová, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Milan Gaľa, Claire Gibault, Vasco Graça Moura, Lissy Gröner, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Manolis Mavrommatis, Marianne Mikko, Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack, Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, Christa Prets, Pál Schmitt, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Hannu Takkula, Helga Trüpel, Henri Weber, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal				
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Nina Škottová				
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote					
Date tabled	20.7.2006				
Comments (available in one language only)	2 substitute members from PPE were present, but only 1 vote was taken into account for the final vote.				