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

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning
(COM(2005)0625 – C6-0422/2005 – 2005/0248(COD))

Committee on Culture and Education

Rapporteur: Nikolaos Sifunakis

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 regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning (COM(2005)0625 – C6-0422/2005 – 2005/0248(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2005)0625)¹,
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 285(1) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0422/2005),
 - 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 (A6-0307/2007),
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 Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1

Recital 1

(1) The Council Resolution of 5 December 1994 on the promotion of education and training statistics in the European Union requested the Commission *and* the Member States to *take action* for the development of statistics *in this area*.

(1) The Council Resolution of 5 December 1994 on the promotion of education and training statistics in the European Union requested the Commission *in close cooperation with* the Member States to *expedite* the development of *education and training* statistics.

Amendment 2

Recital 2 a (new)

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

(2a) To attain these objectives, European systems of education and training must adapt to the requirements of the knowledge society and the need for an enhanced level of education and better quality employment. Statistics on education, training and lifelong learning are of the highest importance as a basis for political decisions.

Amendment 3
Recital 5

(5) The Council has adopted in June 2005 Conclusions on “New indicators in Education and Training”. In these Conclusions the Council invites the Commission to present to the Council strategies and proposals for the development of new indicators in nine particular areas of education and training.

(5) The Council has adopted in June 2005 Conclusions on “New indicators in Education and Training”. In these Conclusions the Council invites the Commission to present to the Council strategies and proposals for the development of new indicators in nine particular areas of education and training ***and also stressed that the development of new indicators shall fully respect the responsibility of Member States for the organisation of their education systems and should not impose undue administrative or financial burdens on the organisation and institutions concerned, nor inevitably lead to an increased number of indicators used to monitor progress.***

Amendment 4
Recital 7 a (new)

(7a) When applying this Regulation, account should be taken of the notion of people at a disadvantage in the labour market referred to in the Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States¹.

¹ OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p. 21.

Justification

In order to obtain an accurate picture of reality from statistics it is necessary to take the

notion and its definition into account. This will make it clear who the disadvantaged categories on the labour market are. According to the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, persons at a disadvantage are 'people facing particular difficulties on the labour market such as early school leavers, low-skilled workers, people with disabilities, immigrants and ethnic minorities'.

Amendment 5
Recital 8

(8) The Commission (Eurostat) is collecting data on vocational training in enterprises according to the "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statistics relating to vocational training in enterprises". However a broader legal framework is necessary to ensure the sustainable production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, covering at least all relevant existing and planned activities. The Commission (Eurostat) is collecting annual data on education from the Member States on a voluntary basis, through a joint action carried out with the OECD and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), usually referred to as the "UOE data collection". The Commission (Eurostat) is also collecting data on education, training and lifelong learning through other household sources like the European Union Labour Force Survey and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions as well as through their ad hoc modules.

(8) The Commission (Eurostat) is collecting data on vocational training in enterprises according to the "Regulation **(EC) No 1552/2005** of the European Parliament and of the Council **of 7 September 2005** on the statistics relating to vocational training in enterprises". However a broader legal framework is necessary to ensure the sustainable production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning, covering at least all relevant existing and planned activities. The Commission (Eurostat) is collecting annual data on education from the Member States on a voluntary basis, through a joint action carried out with the OECD and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), usually referred to as the "UOE data collection". The Commission (Eurostat) is also collecting data on education, training and lifelong learning through other household sources like the European Union Labour Force Survey and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions as well as through their ad hoc modules.

Amendment 6
Recital 8 a (new)

(8a) Since policy formulation and monitoring in the field of education and lifelong learning is of a dynamic nature and adapts to an evolving environment, the statistical regulatory framework should provide for a certain degree of flexibility in a limited and controlled manner, taking

into account the burden for respondents and the Member States.

Amendment 7
Recital 10 a (new)

(10a) The present Regulation ensures full respect for the right to the protection of personal data as provided for in Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Amendment 8
Recital 12 a (new)

(12a) It is appropriate to provide empowerment for the adoption of implementing provisions to this Regulation. These measures should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission¹.

¹OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23. Decision as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC (OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p.11).

Amendment 9
Recital 12 b (new)

(12b) In particular, power should be conferred on the Commission to select and specify the subjects of these statistics, their characteristics in response to policy or technical needs, the breakdown of characteristics, the observation period and timetables for transmission of results, the quality requirements including the required precision and the quality reporting framework. These measures of general scope designed to amend non-essential elements or supplement this Regulation by the addition of new non-essential elements should be adopted in accordance with the

regulatory procedure with scrutiny laid down in Article 5a of Council Decision 1999/468/EC¹.

¹*OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p.23. Decision as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC (OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p.11).*

Amendment 10
Article 2, point (e a) (new)

(ea) 'micro-data' means individual statistical records;

Amendment 11
Article 2, point (e b) (new)

(eb) 'confidential data' means data which allow only indirect identification of the statistical units concerned, in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 322/97 and Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90.

Amendment 12
Article 4, paragraph 1, indent 4

- the improvement of data quality, ***specifically*** comparability, accuracy ***and*** timeliness.

- the improvement of data quality ***in the context of the quality framework, to include:***

- ***relevance,***
- ***accuracy,***
- ***timeliness and punctuality,***
- ***accessibility and clarity,***
- ***comparability, and***
- ***coherence.***

Amendment 13
Article 4, paragraph 1, indent 5

- the improvement of the dissemination, accessibility and documentation of statistical information

Deleted

Amendment 14

Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph after indents

Available capacities within the Member States for data collection and processing and development of concepts and methods *will* be taken into account by the Commission.

Available capacities within the Member States for data collection and processing and development of concepts and methods *shall* be taken into account by the Commission.

Amendment 15

Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph 3

Where appropriate, special attention and consideration shall be given to regional *and gender* dimensions of the data collected.

Where appropriate, special attention and consideration shall be given to regional dimension of the data collected. *Where appropriate, data shall be systematically broken down by gender.*

Amendment 16

Article 4, paragraph 3

3. Whenever significant new data requirements or insufficient quality of data are identified and before any data collection, the Commission (Eurostat) shall institute pilot studies to be completed on a voluntary basis by the Member States. Such pilot studies shall be carried out in order to assess the feasibility of the relevant data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents.

3. Whenever significant new data requirements or insufficient quality of data are identified and before any data collection, the Commission (Eurostat) shall institute pilot studies to be completed on a voluntary basis by the Member States. Such pilot studies shall be carried out in order to assess the feasibility of the relevant data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents. *Pilot studies shall not necessarily lead to corresponding implementing measures.*

Amendment 17

Article 5

When necessary for the production of Community statistics, Member States shall transmit the micro data *of individuals* to the Commission (Eurostat) in accordance with the provisions on transmission of data subject to confidentiality set out in Regulation (EC) No 322/97 and in Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90. Member States shall ensure that the transmitted data do not permit the direct identification of the statistical units (individuals).

When necessary for the production of Community statistics, Member States shall transmit the *confidential* micro data *resulting from sample surveys* to the Commission (Eurostat) in accordance with the provisions on transmission of data subject to confidentiality set out in Regulation (EC) No 322/97 and in Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90. Member States shall ensure that the transmitted data do not permit the direct identification of the statistical units (individuals).

Amendment 18
Article 6, paragraph 1

1. The measures *necessary* for the implementation of this Regulation, including measures to take account of economic and technical developments concerning the collection, transmission and processing of the data, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in *Article 7(2)*.

1. The *following* measures *designed to amend non-essential elements* of this Regulation *by supplementing it*, including measures to take account of economic and technical developments concerning the collection, transmission and processing of the data, shall be adopted in accordance with the *regulatory* procedure *with scrutiny* referred to in *Article 7(2a) with a view to ensuring the transmission of high quality data*.

Amendment 19
Article 6, paragraph 2

2. The implementing measures concerning the statistical actions provided for in Article 4(1) shall concern:

Deleted

Amendment 20
Article 6, paragraph 2, point (a)

a) the selection and specification, *adjustment and modification* of subjects covered by the domains and their characteristics;

a) the selection and specification of subjects covered by the domains and their characteristics *in response to policy or technical needs;*

Amendment 21
Article 6, paragraph 2 point (c)

c) the *periodicity* and deadlines for transmission of results.

c) the *observation period* and deadlines for transmission of results;

Amendment 22

Article 6, paragraph 2 point (c a) (new)

ca) the quality requirements, including the required precision;

Amendment 23

Article 6, paragraph 2 point (c b) (new)

cb) the quality reporting framework.

Amendment 24

Article 6, paragraph 2, subparagraph 2 (new)

If these measures lead to the requirement for a significant enlargement of existing data collections or for new data collections or surveys, implementing decisions shall be based on a cost-benefit analysis as part of a comprehensive analysis of the effects and implications, taking into account the benefit of the measures, the costs for the Member States and the burden on respondents.

Amendment 25

Article 6, paragraph 3, introductory part

3. *When those measures are adopted, particular account shall be taken* of the following:

3. *These measures shall take* account of the following:

Amendment 26

Article 6, paragraph 3 point (-a a) (new)

-aa) for all Domains, the potential burden on educational institutions and individuals;

Amendment 27
Article 6, paragraph 3 point (-a b) (new)

-ab) for all Domains, the results of the pilot studies referred to in Article 4(3);

Amendment 28
Article 6, paragraph 3 point (a)

a) for Domain 1, the latest agreements between UIS, OECD and the Commission (Eurostat) on concepts, definitions, data collection format **and** data processing;

a) for Domain 1, the latest agreements between UIS, OECD and the Commission (Eurostat) on concepts, definitions, data collection format, data processing, ***periodicity and deadlines for transmission of results;***

Amendment 29
Article 6, paragraph 3 point (b)

b) for Domain 2, the results from ***the first implementation of*** the Adult Education Survey ***in*** 2005-2007 and further developments;

b) for Domain 2, the results from the Adult Education ***Pilot*** Survey ***performed between*** 2005 ***and*** 2007 and further development ***needs;***

Amendment 30
Article 6, paragraph 3 point (c)

c) for Domain 3, ***the specific context of implementation of the sources used after due examination of need and non-availability of the statistics required in existing sources.***

c) for Domain 3, ***the availability, suitability and the legal context of existing Community data sources after an exhaustive examination of all existing data sources.***

Amendment 31
Article 6, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. If necessary, limited derogations and transition periods for Member States, both to be based upon objective grounds, shall be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure referred to in Article 7(2).

Amendment 32
Article 7, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Statistical Programme Committee.

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Statistical Programme Committee ***set up by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom¹.***

¹ OJ L 181, 28.6.1989, p. 47.

Amendment 33
Article 7, paragraph 2 (a) (new)

2a. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5a (1) to (4) and Article 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

Amendment 34
Article 7, paragraph 3

3. The Committee shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

Deleted

Amendment 35
Annex, domain 1, point 3, first paragraph

Data shall be collected on ***students, personnel and expenditure allowing the calculation of indicators on the input, process and output of the education and training systems.***

Data shall be collected on:

- a) students enrolment including the characteristics of the students;***
- b) entrants;***
- c) graduates and graduations;***
- d) education expenditure;***
- e) educational personnel;***
- f) foreign languages learnt;***
- g) class sizes***

allowing the calculation of indicators on the inputs, processes and outputs of the

education and training systems.

Amendment 36

Annex, domain 1 "education and training systems", point 4

Data and metadata shall be supplied annually, if not otherwise specified, within the deadlines agreed between the Commission (Eurostat) and the national authorities.

Data and metadata shall be supplied annually, if not otherwise specified, within the deadlines agreed between the Commission (Eurostat) and the national authorities ***taking into account the latest agreements between the UIS, OECD and the Commission (Eurostat).***

Amendment 37

Annex, domain 2 "participation of adults in lifelong learning", point 1

The aim of this ***data collection*** shall be to provide comparable data on participation and non participation of adults in lifelong learning.

The aim of this ***survey*** shall be to provide comparable data on participation and non participation of adults in lifelong learning.

Amendment 38

Annex, domain 2 "participation of adults in lifelong learning", point 2

The statistical unit shall be the individual, covering at least the population age range of 25-64 years. In the case of the collection of information through a survey, proxy answers ***should*** be avoided, wherever possible.

The statistical unit shall be the individual, covering at least the population age range of 25-64 years. In the case of the collection of information through a survey, proxy answers ***shall*** be avoided, wherever possible.

Amendment 39

Annex, domain 2 "participation of adults in lifelong learning", point 3

Microdata shall be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) on participation in learning activities and on the characteristics of these learning activities. Socio-demographic information shall also be collected. Information on self-reported skills and participation in social and cultural activities shall also be collected primarily as explanatory variables useful

Subjects covered by the survey shall be:

for further analysis of the

- a)* participation **and non-participation** in learning activities;
- b)* characteristics of these learning activities;
- c)* **information** on self-reported skills;
- d)* **socio-demographic** information.

Participation in social and cultural activities shall also be collected **on a voluntary basis** as explanatory variables useful for further analysis of the participants and non participants' profiles.

Amendment 40

Annex, domain 2 "participation of adults in lifelong learning", point 3 a (new)

3a. Data sources and sample size

The data source shall be a sample survey. Administrative data sources may be used to reduce the burden on respondents. Sample size shall be calculated on the basis of precision requirements that shall not request effective national sample sizes to be larger than 5000 individuals, calculated on the assumption of simple random sampling. Within these limits, specific subpopulations shall require particular sampling considerations.

Amendment 41

Annex, domain 2, point 4

Data shall be **provided** every five years.

Data shall be **collected** every five years. **The first year of implementation shall be 2010 at the earliest.**

Amendment 42

Annex, domain 3 "other statistics on education and lifelong learning", point 2, introductory part

Other statistics on education and lifelong learning **could in particular** refer to the following aspects:

Other statistics on education and lifelong learning **shall** refer to the following aspects:

Amendment 43
Annex, domain 3, point 2, subparagraph (c)

(c) Statistics on education and social inclusion, required at the Community level for monitoring policies on poverty **and** social inclusion.

(c) Statistics on education and social inclusion, required at the Community level for monitoring policies on poverty, social inclusion **and migrant integration**.

Amendment 44

Annex, domain 3 "other statistics on education and lifelong learning", point 2, last paragraph

For the **domains** listed **in this section**, the necessary data **will mostly** be acquired **through** existing statistical **or other data** sources (**e.g. in the area of social or economic statistics**).

For the **aspects** listed **above**, the necessary data **shall** be acquired **from** existing **Community** statistical sources.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. General

The production at Community level of comparable statistics and indicators on education, training and lifelong learning is becoming increasingly important for the EU. They are needed to monitor progress towards achieving the Lisbon objectives and to support the open method of coordination in the context of the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme.

Comparable statistics are also needed to develop and monitor the progress of strategies on education and lifelong learning. They are essential in formulating policies on such matters as research, innovation, development, competitiveness and employment.

2. Existing framework and need for a new legal framework

Community education and training statistics were developed in the past decade based on an informal agreement (gentlemen's agreement) between the Member States as a response to the Council Resolution of 5 December 1994 on the promotion of education and training statistics in the European Union¹.

Statistics on education are compiled by the Member States and forwarded to the Commission (Eurostat) annually on a voluntary basis through a joint action carried out with the OECD and the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, usually referred to as the 'UOE data collection'. Eurostat also collects data on education, training and lifelong learning through other sources like the European Union Labour Force Survey² and the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions³. Statistics on vocational training in enterprises are also collected under Regulation (EC) 1552/2005⁴.

However, since the Lisbon European Council, education and lifelong learning have been placed at the centre of EU strategy for development and employment. Consequently, both the Member States and the Commission acknowledge the need for a new legal framework to regulate and formalise the production of Community statistics, if there is to be a viable system for producing statistics in these sectors.

3. The proposal

The aim of this proposed regulation is to establish a common framework for the systematic production of Community statistics in the field of education and lifelong learning, except for vocational training, which is already covered by Regulation (EC) 1552/2005.

The legal basis for the proposal is Article 285 of the EC Treaty, which sets out requirements

¹ OJ C374, 30.12.2004, p.4-6

² Commission regulation (EC) No 2104/2002, OJ L 324, 29/11/2002, p. 14.

³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1983/2003, OJ L298, 17.11.2003, p. 34.

⁴ OJ L 225, 30.9.2005, p.1

relating to the production of Community statistics and requires conformity to standards of impartiality, reliability, objectivity, scientific independence, cost-effectiveness and statistical confidentiality, and in parallel provides that it should not place an inordinate burden on economic operators.

The proposal envisages the production of statistics in three domains:

- (a) Domain 1 covers statistics on education and training systems;
- (b) Domain 2 covers statistics on participation of adults in lifelong learning;
- (c) Domain 3 covers other statistics on education and lifelong learning, such as statistics on human capital and social and economic benefits of education, not covered by domains 1 and 2.

Specific arrangements concerned with the aim, scope, subjects covered and the periodicity of forwarding the data for the three domains are laid down in the annex.

The proposal provides that Community statistics are to be produced, inter alia, by means of the following specific statistical actions:

- the regular delivery of statistics on education and lifelong learning by the Member States, within specified deadlines for Domains 1 and 2;
- the use of other statistical information systems and surveys, to provide additional statistical variables and indicators on education and lifelong learning, corresponding to Domain 3;
- the development, improvement and updating of standards and manuals on statistical frameworks, concepts and methods.
- the improvement of data quality, specifically comparability, accuracy and timeliness.
- the improvement of the dissemination, accessibility and documentation of statistical information.

The proposal also provides for Eurostat to institute pilot studies to be completed on a voluntary basis by the Member States whenever significant new data requirements or insufficient quality of data are identified. The pilot studies will be carried out in order to assess the feasibility of the relevant data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents.

All the measures required to implement this regulation, including measures to take account of economic and technical developments concerning the collection, transmission and processing of the data, are to be adopted in accordance with the comitology procedure.

4. Rapporteur's proposals

Your rapporteur welcomes the Commission proposal, which lays down the legal basis for a viable system to produce statistics concerned with education, training and lifelong learning, with the further aim of supporting EU policies in various areas.

In this context a number of amendments are proposed with the aim of improving and clarifying certain specific aspects of the Commission proposal. These amendments aim to achieve, inter alia, the following:

- to define the meanings of ‘microdata’ and ‘confidential data’, which are not clarified in the Commission proposal;
- to specify in Domains 1, 2 and 3 the subjects on which the Member States will collect and transmit statistics;
- to take account of the evolving and changing environment as policies on education and lifelong learning are formulated, providing for a limited and controlled degree of flexibility in the collection of new statistics;
- to ensure that the development of new statistics and indicators will not impose undue administrative or financial burdens;
- to limit the size of statistical samples at national level to 5000 individuals;
- to propose that the measures required to implement the regulation will be in accordance with the regulatory procedure with supervision which allows the European Parliament to object to the proposed measures if it considers that they exceed the implementing powers provided in the regulation, are not in line with its aim or its content or are not consistent with the principles of subsidiarity or proportionality;
- to ensure protection of the personal data of the individuals who contribute statistical information to the research, in accordance with Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

Your rapporteur’s proposals have taken account of the preparatory studies on this subject in the Council. He hopes that, with his proposed amendments to the Commission proposal, agreement with the Council will be reached rapidly so that the regulation can be implemented as soon as possible.

5.7.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning (COM(2005)0625 – C6-0422/2005 – 2005/0248(COD))

Draftsman: Thomas Mann

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission is proposing a uniform European framework for the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning. In so doing, it is demonstrating how important a framework of coherent concepts and comparable measures, specific data collection and general objectives is in the area of quality improvement and data dissemination. The sustainable production of education data can be ensured by this framework. It is a central component of the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme, the aim of which is to establish the European education and training systems as a world reference for quality.

Your draftsman specifically welcomes this Commission initiative. In view of the need to boost the EU's competitiveness, enhance its growth potential and productivity and, in particular, strengthen social cohesion, the main emphasis must be on 'human capital' as Europe's principal asset.

The indispensable starting point for the attainment of these objectives is an improvement in the quality, topicality, sustainability and, in particular, comparability of statistical information as far as compatible Community statistics are concerned. Comparable statistics, indicators and reference levels for European average performance ('Benchmarks') in the areas of education, training and lifelong learning are key instruments in ensuring implementation of the Lisbon objectives.

Your draftsman is of the opinion that the Commission proposal is a good one but in need of improvement on a number of points:

- The points on which Parliament and the Council were already able to reach agreement in Regulation (EC) 1552/2005 on statistics relating to vocational training in enterprises

are taken into account only inadequately in the text under consideration. Essential articles laying down rules on quality control or the implementation process do not feature in the Commission text. In order to provide for the need for information at European level, a comprehensive legal framework is essential. The existing rules must therefore form the basis of a more far-reaching regulation.

- In order to tackle properly the challenges posed by the Lisbon objectives, the development of strategies in the areas of education, training and lifelong learning is of particular significance. However, these strategies can be shaped effectively and achieve an impact only if specific data are collected that take heed of particular social conditions.
 - The proposal drawn up by the Commission hardly pays attention to regional, age-related and, in particular, gender-related features of the data collected. However, education is a social right irrespective of age, gender or social origin. Facilitating equal opportunities and preventing marginalisation are central objectives of the European Union.
 - Furthermore, it is essential to take account of the characteristics of disadvantaged categories and this must be ensured. Special attention should therefore be paid when collecting data to people facing particular difficulties on the labour market (early school leavers, low-skilled workers, people with disabilities, immigrants and ethnic minorities).

Both the consideration of regional, age-related and gender-related characteristics and the collection of specific data relating to disadvantaged categories are important in ensuring an accurate picture of reality and in subsequently adopting appropriate strategies and measures of benefit to all EU citizens from different social backgrounds.

- The terms ‘education’, ‘training’ and ‘lifelong learning’ are used unclearly and inconsistently in the text. A definition of ‘training’ is lacking. It is unclear whether ‘training’ is meant as a component of ‘education’ or of ‘lifelong learning’.

The definition in the text is too brief and imprecise and needs to be expanded so that it either explicitly covers ‘vocational training’ or specifies ‘general education’ and makes a clear distinction from ‘vocational training’. An unambiguous definition of, and distinction between, ‘education’ and ‘training’ are a matter of priority for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

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:

Amendment 1
Recital 2 a (new)

(2a) To attain these objectives, the European systems of education and training must adapt to the requirements of the knowledge society and the need for an enhanced level of education and better quality employment. Statistics on education and training are of the highest importance as a basis for political decisions.

Justification

The conclusion adopted by the Council at its meeting of 24 May 2005 on the new indicators in education and training (2005/C141/04) emphasises that 'human capital is Europe's most important asset'.

Amendment 2
Recital 2 b (new)

(2b) In its conclusions of 5 May 2003 on reference levels of European average performance in education and training (Benchmarks)¹, the Council adopted the following benchmark for lifelong learning: '...by 2010, the European Union average level of participation in lifelong learning should be at least 12.5% of the adult working-age population (25 to 64 age group)'.

¹ OJ 134, 7.6.2003, p. 3.

Justification

To be in a position to estimate to what extent this minimum requirement in Parliament/Council Regulation 1552/2005 (Recital 4) has been satisfied, comparable statistical data are needed from the EU Member States.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 3
Recital 3

(3) Lifelong learning is a key element in developing and promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce. The Spring 2005 European Council underlined that "human capital is **Europe's** most important asset". The Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs including the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, endorsed by the Council on 12 July 2005 , aim to contribute better to the Lisbon strategy and to establish comprehensive lifelong learning strategies.

(3) ***The Spring 2000 Lisbon European Council confirmed lifelong learning as a basic component of the European social model.*** Lifelong learning is a key element in developing and promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce. The Spring 2005 European Council underlined that "human capital" is ***the*** most important asset. The Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs including the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, endorsed by the Council on 12 July 2005 , aim to contribute better to the Lisbon strategy and to establish comprehensive lifelong learning strategies.

Justification

The role of 'lifelong learning' as a basic component of the European social model was already confirmed in Recital 5 of Parliament/Council Regulation 1552/2005 on statistics relating to vocational training in enterprises. To perform this role properly, comparable statistical information is essential.

Amendment 4
Recital 7

(7) Comparable statistical information at Community level is essential for the development of education and lifelong learning strategies and for the monitoring of progress in their implementation. Statistical production should be based on a framework of coherent concepts and comparable data in view of the establishment of an integrated European Statistical Information System on education, training and lifelong learning.

(7) Comparable statistical information at Community level is essential for the development of education and lifelong learning strategies and for the monitoring of progress in their implementation. Statistical production should be based on a framework of coherent concepts and comparable data in view of the establishment of an integrated European Statistical Information System on education, training and lifelong learning. ***Particular attention should be given to vocational training at the workplace and during working hours as a crucial dimension of lifelong learning.***

Justification

This aspect was already emphasised in Recital 8 of Parliament/Council Regulation

1552/2005 and should not therefore be omitted from this regulation.

Amendment 5
Recital 7 a (new)

(7a) When applying this Regulation, account should be taken of the notion of people at a disadvantage in the labour market referred to in the Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States¹.

¹ OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p. 21.

Justification

In order to obtain an accurate picture of reality from statistics it is necessary to take the notion and its definition into account. This will make it clear who the disadvantaged categories on the labour market are. According to the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, persons at a disadvantage are 'people facing particular difficulties on the labour market such as early school leavers, low-skilled workers, people with disabilities, immigrants and ethnic minorities'.

Amendment 6
Recital 12 a (new)

(12a) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission¹.

¹OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

Justification

Inexplicably, a similar reference is missing from this text.

Amendment 7
Article 1, paragraph 1 a (new)

Community statistics are to be based on the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and administrative simplification.

Justification

This concept is fundamental since the stipulated criteria - reflecting a tight budgetary situation - are intended to achieve optimum results with low use of resources.

Amendment 8 Article 2, point (d)

(d) 'education' means organized and sustained communication designed to bring about learning¹;

(d) 'education' means organized and sustained communication designed to bring about learning, ***in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) 1997***;

¹***According to the 1997 version of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED).***

Justification

On grounds of transparency and clarity the definition should be included directly in the text.

Amendment 9 Article 2, point (e)

(e) 'lifelong learning' means all learning ***activity*** undertaken throughout life, ***with the aim of improving*** knowledge, skills and competences ***within a*** personal, civic, social and/or employment-related ***perspective***.

(e) 'lifelong learning' means all ***general education, vocational education and training, non-formal education and informal*** learning undertaken throughout life, ***resulting in an improvement in*** knowledge, skills and competences ***within a*** personal, civic, social and/or employment-related ***perspective. It includes the provision of counselling and guidance services.***

Justification

The terms 'education', 'training' and 'lifelong learning' are used unclearly and inconsistently. A definition of 'training' is missing. Furthermore, it is not clear whether 'training' is meant as a component of 'education' or of 'lifelong learning'. Until such time as the Commission has given an assurance that 'training' is included in the term 'education', a separate definition of 'training' must be required. The term 'training' should then be used everywhere throughout the text including in the title of the regulation. Should the Commission provide Parliament by way of substitute with an acceptable definition of 'education' that includes 'general education' and 'vocational training', the references to 'training' in the text can be deleted. An unambiguous definition of, and distinction between, 'education' and 'training' are a matter of priority for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

Amendment 10
Article 3, paragraph 1

This Regulation shall apply to the production of statistics in **three** domains:

- (a) Domain 1 shall cover statistics on education and training systems;
- (b) Domain 2 shall cover statistics on participation of adults in lifelong learning;

(c) Domain 3 shall cover other statistics on education and lifelong learning, such as statistics on human capital, social and economic benefits of education, not covered by Domains 1 and 2.

This Regulation shall apply to the production of statistics in **two** domains:

- (a) Domain 1 shall cover statistics on education and training systems; ***and***
- (b) Domain 2 shall cover statistics on participation of adults in lifelong learning ***as well as the supply of supplementary information on both education and lifelong learning processes aimed at supporting and complementing the specific areas referred to in Domains 1 and 2.***

Justification

Both Domain 1 and 2 already supply a wide range of data. There is no justification for an additional Domain that should only contribute to complicate the legislative process.

Amendment 11
Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1, indents 1 and 2

- the regular delivery of statistics on education and lifelong learning by the Member States, within specified deadlines for ***the*** Domains 1 and 2;

- the use of other statistical information systems and surveys, to provide additional statistical variables and indicators on education and lifelong learning, corresponding to Domain 3;

- the regular delivery of statistics on education and lifelong learning by the Member States, within specified deadlines for Domains 1 and 2; ***in connection with which the use of other statistical information systems and surveys, to provide additional statistical variables and indicators on education and lifelong learning, must be taken into account.***

Justification

Information collected within the scope of both Domain 1 and 2, provided that these two domains already represent a wide target, is enough to supply the required data.

Amendment 12

Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1, indent 3

- the development, improvement **and** updating of standards and manuals on statistical frameworks, concepts and methods.

- the development, improvement, updating **and comparability** of standards and manuals on statistical frameworks, concepts and methods.

Justification

For the production of Community statistics having regard to the principles of effectiveness and efficiency, it is absolutely essential for Member States to draw up comparable standards and manuals on statistical frameworks, concepts and methods of data collection and processing. This is the only means of ensuring that the production of statistics can be based on an overall framework constructed from consistent concepts and comparable data.

Amendment 13

Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1, indent 5

- the improvement of the dissemination, accessibility and documentation of statistical information.

- the improvement of the **collection, processing**, dissemination, accessibility and documentation of statistical information.

Justification

The collection and processing of data are the essential foundations for the appropriate dissemination, accessibility and documentation of statistical data.

Amendment 14

Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph 2

Available capacities within the Member States for data collection and processing and development of concepts and methods **will** be taken into account **by the Commission**.

Available capacities within the Member States for data collection and processing and development of concepts and methods **must** be taken into account.

Justification

At this point reference should not be made exclusively to the Commission since, for example, the Statistical Programme Committee should also be involved in implementation and monitoring.

Amendment 15

Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph 3

Where appropriate, special attention and consideration shall be given to regional and gender dimensions of the data collected.

The collection of statistical data must be arranged by specific categories with account being taken of particular age groups, gender dimensions, regional features and disadvantaged categories in order to facilitate targeted procedural approaches.

Justification

The collection of data by specific category is indispensable since:

- *the required development of strategies in the fields of education, training and lifelong learning for the enhancement of the quality of human capital can thereby be enabled efficiently and effectively.*
- *targeted measures can be devised for special categories so that they are given better opportunities for LLL activities and their job opportunities are enhanced accordingly.*
- *certain categories require special attention in order to promote greater social cohesion through strategies of education, training and lifelong learning that are adapted to them and to prevent discrimination, social marginalisation, disadvantaged status and racism.*

Amendment 16

Article 4, paragraph 2

Whenever possible, the Commission (Eurostat) shall seek cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and other international organisations with a view to ensuring international comparability of data and to avoid duplication of efforts, in particular as regards the development and improvements of statistical concepts and methods and the delivery of statistics by the Member States.

The Commission (Eurostat) shall seek cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and other international organisations with a view to ensuring international comparability of data and to avoid duplication of efforts, in particular as regards the development and improvements of statistical concepts and methods and the delivery of statistics by the Member States.

Justification

The Commission must strive for enhanced cooperation, particularly with the OECD, since the purpose of this regulation is better implementation of the Lisbon objectives. The objectives of the Lisbon Strategy in turn reflect the international environment which is recorded by the OECD in particular.

Amendment 17

Article 4, paragraph 3

Whenever significant new data requirements or insufficient quality of data are identified and before any data **collection**, the Commission (Eurostat) shall institute pilot studies **to be completed on a voluntary basis** by the Member States. Such pilot studies shall be carried out in order to assess the feasibility of the relevant data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents.

Whenever significant new data requirements or insufficient quality of data are identified and before any data **examination**, the Commission (Eurostat) shall institute pilot studies **in** the Member States. Such pilot studies shall be carried out in order to assess the feasibility of the relevant data collection, taking into consideration the benefits of the availability of the data in relation to the collection costs and the burden on respondents.

Justification

Pilot studies to verify the feasibility of special data collections are absolutely necessary. They should therefore be required of all Member States. A pilot study carried out on a voluntary basis might not produce a satisfactory result depending on circumstances.

Amendment 18

Article 5, paragraph -1 (new)

In order to improve the usefulness of statistics and speed up their collection and evaluation, interconnections between existing infrastructures shall be continuously expanded. In particular, the Member States and the Commission, within their respective areas of competence, are to encourage the increasing use of electronic data collection, electronic data transmission and automatic data processing.

Justification

Electronic data collection, data transmission and automatic processing make for efficient and effective production of Community statistics.

Amendment 19

Article 5, paragraph 1

When necessary for the production of Community statistics, Member States shall transmit the micro data of individuals to the Commission (Eurostat) in accordance with the provisions on transmission of data subject to confidentiality set out in

Member States shall transmit the micro data of individuals to the Commission (Eurostat) in accordance with the provisions on transmission of data subject to confidentiality set out in Regulation (EC) No 322/97 and in Regulation (Euratom, EEC)

Regulation (EC) No 322/97 and in Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 1588/90. Member States shall ensure that the transmitted data do not permit the direct identification of the statistical units (individuals).

No 1588/90. Member States shall ensure that the transmitted data do not permit the direct identification of the statistical units (individuals).

Justification

This paragraph deals in substance with the procedure for transmission of confidential data from Member States to the Commission. It is not necessary, therefore, to refer to a particular requirement concerning confidential data for the production of Community statistics. If a reference is to be retained, a precise definition needs to be given of when a requirement exists.

Amendment 20

Article 5, paragraph 1 a (new)

Member States shall transmit their data electronically, in conformity with the appropriate technical format and the interchange standard so as to comply with the procedure laid down in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 322/97.

Justification

Both the paragraphs proposed for Article 5 dealing with data transmission are inspired by those in Regulation 1552/2005. It would be illogical not to include them in this text since they deal with very similar matters.

Amendment 21

Article 5 a, title and paragraph 1 (new)

Article 5a

Quality control

Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure the good quality of the data that they transmit. Member States shall keep an accurate record of possible breaches of methodological requirements.

Justification

Ensuring satisfactory quality of data is indispensable for the process of data collection in the light of the regulation's stated objective.

Amendment 22
Article 5 a, paragraph 2 (new)

The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data transmitted with particular regard to ensuring the comparability of the data between Member States.

Justification

The suitable quality of data transmitted is the prerequisite for the comparability of statistical data between individual Member States.

Amendment 23
Article 5a, paragraph 3 (new)

The quality requirements for the data to be collected and transmitted for the production of Community statistics on education and lifelong learning and all necessary measures for assessing and improving the quality of data shall be determined in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 7(2).

Justification

This proposal is based on Article 9 of Regulation 1552/2005 and it would be illogical not to include the same provisions.

Amendment 24
Article 6, paragraph 3, point (c)

c) for Domain 3, the specific context of implementation of the sources used after due examination of need and non-availability of the statistics required in existing sources. ***deleted***

Justification

Implementation of sources for Domain 3 shall be carried out under the scope of both Domain 1 and 2.

Amendment 25
Article 7, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Committee may organise seminars or other meetings of experts which it considers will facilitate implementation of this Regulation and take the necessary measures relating to information, publication and dissemination.

Or. el

Amendment 26

Article 7 a, title and paragraph 1 (new)

Article 7a

Report on implementation

By ... * and after consulting the Statistical Programme Committee, the Commission shall forward a report on the implementation of this Regulation to the European Parliament and to the Council. In particular, the report shall:

(a) assess the benefits accruing to the Community, the Member States and the users of the statistics;

(b) identify areas for potential improvement and amendments considered necessary in the light of the results obtained.

****5 years after entry into force of this Regulation.***

Justification

It is extremely important that the Commission forward to Parliament and the Council a report on implementation and progress with the production and development of Community statistics. The report should provide the basis here for improvements and possible amendments. Implementation of the Lisbon objectives can be properly achieved only through continual improvement of the statistical bases.

Amendment 27

Article 7 a, paragraph 2 (new)

After issuing its report, the Commission may propose measures to improve the implementation of this Regulation.

Amendment 28

Annex, domain 1, point 1

The aim of this data collection is to provide comparable data on key aspects of education and training systems, specifically on the participation and completion of education programmes, as well as on the cost and type of resources dedicated to education and training.

The aim of this data collection is to provide comparable data on key aspects of education and training systems, **strategies and procedural approaches**, specifically on the participation and completion of education **and training** programmes, as well as on the cost and type of resources dedicated to education and training.

Justification

The Commission text is couched in too general terms as regards the objective of data collection. The strategies and procedural approaches in particular are the key elements for implementing the Lisbon Strategy. In addition, domain 1 deals with education and training systems so that the text must refer not only to education programmes but to education and training programmes.

Amendment 29
Annex, domain 1, point 2

The data collection shall cover all domestic educational activities regardless of their ownership or sponsorship by the institutions concerned (whether public or private, national or foreign) and of the education delivery mechanism. Correspondingly, the coverage of the data collections shall extend to all student types and age groups.

The data collection shall cover all domestic educational activities regardless of their ownership or sponsorship by the institutions concerned (whether public or private, national or foreign) and of the education **and training** delivery mechanism. Correspondingly, the coverage of the data collections shall extend to all student types and age groups, **without prejudice to the breakdown provided in the third subparagraph of Article 4(1)**.

Justification

For the sake of consistency, reference must also be made here to education and training and not only to education until such time as the definition issue has been clarified.

Amendment 30
Annex, domain 1, point 4

Data and metadata shall be supplied annually, if not otherwise specified, within the deadlines **agreed between** the Commission (Eurostat) **and** the national

Data and metadata shall be supplied annually, if not otherwise specified, within the deadlines **fixed by** the Commission (Eurostat) **after consulting** the national

authorities.

authorities.

Justification

In view of the foreseeable difficulties with achieving agreement between the 25 Member States, the power to fix deadlines should be vested in the Commission.

Amendment 31

Annex, domain 2, point 1

The aim of this data collection shall be to provide comparable data on participation and non participation of adults in lifelong learning.

The aim of this data collection shall be to provide comparable data on ***existing types of lifelong learning activity and on*** participation and non participation of adults in lifelong learning ***and to supply supplementary information on both education and lifelong learning processes, aimed at supporting and complementing specific measures covered by Domains 1 and 2.***

Justification

The aim of this data collection must also be to provide comparable data about existing lifelong learning opportunities. As part of the Lisbon Strategy, these can, where necessary, be expanded and improved alongside the development of new strategies and measures.

Amendment 32

Annex, domain 2, point 2

The statistical unit shall be the individual, covering ***at least the population age range of 25-64*** years. In the case of the collection of information through a survey, proxy answers should be avoided, wherever possible.

The statistical unit shall be the individual, covering population ***above 15 years of age***. In the case of the collection of information through a survey, proxy answers should be avoided, wherever possible.

Justification

There is no justification for a range of age. A broader perspective of both education and lifelong learning processes should be adopted. This can be justified, either by an early entrance of youth on the working life and on lifelong learning process, or by a late retirement of elder population.

Amendment 33

Annex, domain 2, point 3

Microdata shall be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) on participation in learning activities and on the characteristics of these learning activities. Socio-demographic information shall also be collected. Information on self-reported skills and participation in social and cultural activities shall also be collected primarily as explanatory variables useful for further analysis of the participants and non participants' profiles.

Microdata shall be transmitted to the Commission (Eurostat) on participation in ***lifelong*** learning activities and on ***the subject, the characteristics and the costs*** of these ***lifelong*** learning activities. Socio-demographic information shall also be collected. Information on self-reported skills and participation in social and cultural activities shall also be collected primarily as explanatory variables useful for further analysis of the participants and non participants' profiles.

Justification

Comprehensive data needs to be collected for the purposes of drawing up strategies and measures in the field of lifelong learning. Not only data about the activities in this field should therefore be collected and taken into consideration but also the subject of such activities (meaning, for example, language courses, IT courses, etc.) and their cost.

Amendment 34
Annex, domain 3

1. Aim

deleted

The aim of this data collection shall be to provide further comparable data on education and lifelong learning to support specific policies at the Community level not included in domains 1 and 2.

2. Scope

Other statistics on education and lifelong learning could in particular refer to the following aspects:

(a) statistics on education and economy, required at the Community level for monitoring policies on education, research, competitiveness and growth;

(b) statistics on education and the labour market, required at the Community level for monitoring employment policies;

(c) statistics on education and social inclusion, required at the Community level for monitoring policies on poverty and social inclusion.

For the domains listed in this section, the necessary data will mostly be acquired through existing statistical or other data sources (e.g. in the area of social or economic statistics).

Justification

Data and goals to carry out under the scope of Domain 3 can also be obtained in a less confusing and in a more transparent way under the scope of both Domains 1 and 2.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning
References	COM(2005)0625 – C6-0422/2005 – 2005/0248(COD)
Committee responsible	CULT
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	EMPL 13.12.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Thomas Mann 14.12.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	20.4.2006 21.6.2006
Date adopted	22.6.2006
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 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, Kathy Sinnott, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Mihael Brejc, Françoise Castex, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Marianne Mikko, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Patrizia Toia
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Małgorzata Handzlik
Comments (available in one language only)	...

PROCEDURE

Title	Statistics on education and lifelong learning	
References	COM(2005)0625 - C6-0422/2005 - 2005/0248(COD)	
Date submitted to Parliament	6.12.2005	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	CULT 13.12.2005	
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	BUDG 13.12.2005	EMPL 13.12.2005
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	BUDG 23.3.2006	
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Nikolaos Sifunakis 23.1.2006	
Date adopted	27.8.2007	
Result of final vote	+: 22	-: 1
	0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ivo Belet, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Věra Flasarová, Milan Gaľa, Ovidiu Victor Ganț, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Ruth Hieronymi, Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Sándor Kónya-Hamar, Manolis Mavrommatis, Ljudmila Novak, Christa Prets, Pál Schmitt, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Hannu Takkula, Salvatore Tatarella, Thomas Wise	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gyula Hegyi, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Reino Paasilinna, Christel Schaldemose	