

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Culture and Education*

**2008/2098(INI)**

18.9.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the European Job Mobility Action Plan (2007-2010)  
(2008/2098(INI))

Rapporteur: Tadeusz Zwiefka

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the key role of lifelong learning in enhancing workers' job-to-job mobility, in improving the educational level of the population as a whole, in keeping knowledge up to date and in reducing the risk of exclusion for workers between jobs;
2. Stresses the need to distinguish the specific mobility of artists from that of workers in the Union in general, in terms of the nature of the performing arts and the irregularity and unpredictability resulting from a particular employment regime;
3. Believes that, as student and teacher mobility are essential elements of job mobility, more attention should be paid to initiatives like the Bologna Process and the Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and other programmes when it comes to the implementation of the European Job Mobility Action Plan (2007-2010);
4. Calls for balance to be ensured between flexibility, mobility and security for workers and employers and for existing legislation and administrative procedures related to this to be improved;
5. Calls on the Member States actively to promote foreign language education (especially for adults), given that linguistic barriers are one of the main remaining hurdles to mobility of workers and their families;
6. Recalls that flexibility and mobility are two elements that are inseparable from the exercise of artistic professions;
7. Considers that mobility of workers of both genders with families (e.g. children and dependent relatives) depends to a great extent on the availability and affordability of services (e.g. care for children and senior citizens, education facilities, day centres, special services); considers, at the same time, that job mobility should promote personal fulfilment and improve quality of life and work;
8. Insists on the need to implement the initiative on credit transfer in vocational education and training (ECVET) and also on the need for recognition and validation of skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning, with a view to all accredited training being validated in the different Member States, and the need for active promotion of implementation of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) in all Member States;
9. Emphasises that women with children are less mobile than men and calls for appropriate measures to be taken to offset that imbalance;
10. Emphasises that the special status and needs of young students and workers should be considered in the framework of European Employment Services (EURES) - which network needs to be promoted and strengthened; emphasises also the fact that many

individuals working in the culture and education sectors are self-employed workers;

11. Stresses that artists both inside and outside the EU frequently find their mobility impaired by problems in obtaining short-stay visas, and that this limits their access to employment;
12. Underlines the need for comparable and reliable statistics on the mobility flows of workers, students, teachers and researchers in order to improve the Commission's knowledge of mobility, as well as its monitoring of the above-mentioned Action Plan;
13. Calls for the strong engagement and commitment of European schools and universities and of governments in significantly boosting job mobility, for example through their participation in the network of stakeholders foreseen by the Commission in its Communication;
14. Believes that cooperation between private or public companies and educational institutions should be strengthened;
15. Calls for firms to support worker mobility, e.g. through flexible working hours or tele-working.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	10.9.2008
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 16 -: 1 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ivo Belet, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Milan Gaľa, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Manolis Mavrommatis, Ljudmila Novak, Dumitru Oprea, Pál Schmitt, Helga Trüpel, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Mary Honeyball, Cornelis Visser, Tadeusz Zwiefka