

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Culture and Education

2008/2213(INI)

22.1.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on better careers and more mobility: A European partnership for researchers
(2008/2213(INI))

Rapporteur: László Tőkés

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Emphasises that in order to have a world class European research system through an inclusive partnership between the Commission and the Member States, all partners at regional, national and European levels need to contribute fully;
2. Stresses that particular attention should be paid to PhD students as in general they represent the very beginning of research careers; the mobility of the young researchers, especially in networks of excellence, would increase their potential to contribute to the development of European research;
3. Calls on all concerned parties to take urgent measures to create appropriate conditions for young scientists and further to motivate researchers to base and develop their careers in the EU as the current brain-drain is of great concern;
4. Furthermore, in the context of the need for a contribution by all partners, stresses the importance on the one hand of the determination of Member States to participate in the process, and on the other of the responsibility of the Commission to assist the process and action between all partners, by producing and disseminating support material, precise information and enabling the exchange of best practices;
5. Recalls that only by including the views of researchers, national research institutions and stakeholders in research policy can a Member State draw up a comprehensive National Action Plan leading to a comprehensive European partnership;
6. Stresses that female researchers are in a minority within the European Union, accounting, on average, for just 35% of researchers working in the government and higher education sectors and only 18 %, on average, of researchers working in the private sector, and that there is still a major shortage of women in senior positions in science and research;
7. Stresses that by promoting the mobility of researchers, in particular at the beginning of their careers, in all twenty-seven Member States, all partners should contribute to maximising the benefits of diversity and strengthening multilingualism in the EU;
8. Reiterates the importance of the recently adopted European Qualifications Framework (EQF) to promote lifelong learning, and calls on the Commission to encourage and assist Member States in drawing up their own National Qualifications Frameworks in order to relate to the EQF by 2010;
9. Appreciates the value of existing European tools to open recruitment of researchers, such as the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, tools that - despite their non-binding nature - are indispensable and will greatly contribute to open and transparent recruitment once transposed in all twenty-seven Member States;

10. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to improve the existing social security legislation, dismantle bureaucratic hurdles, reinforce the European Job Mobility Portal (Eures) and foster awareness of the possibilities and advantages of working abroad among the wider public, as stated in the European Job Mobility Action Plan¹.

¹ Commission Communication of 6 December 2007: 'Mobility, an instrument for more and better jobs: the European Job Mobility Action Plan (2007-2010)' (COM(2007)0773).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2009
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ivo Belet, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Věra Flasarová, Milan Gaľa, Vasco Graça Moura, Lissy Gröner, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Manolis Mavrommatis, Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack, Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, Pál Schmitt, Hannu Takkula, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gyula Hegyi, Nina Škottová, László Tőkés, Ewa Tomaszewska, Cornelis Visser
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Maria Berger