

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Culture and Education

2008/2331(INI)

20.1.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on a common immigration policy for Europe: principles, actions and tools
(2008/2331(INI))

Rapporteur: Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Emphasises the significance of a well-planned integration policy for the host state and for creating appropriate opportunities for the immigrants themselves; considers that the integration policy should be multidimensional, taking account of the specific situation in each of the Member States; further considers that immigration policy should promote harmonious integration and address issues such as education and training, recognition of professional qualifications, access to the labour market, social services and housing, as well as active participation in social and cultural activities;
2. Calls on the Commission to take the necessary measures to ensure financial support for the structural and cultural integration of immigrants, also including the implementation of EU programmes such as Lifelong Learning, Europe for Citizens, Youth in Action and Culture 2007; notes that teachers in most cases are ill-prepared for having large numbers of migrant children in the class and calls for better training for teachers and for adequate financial support;
3. Calls on the Member States to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers;
4. Calls on the Member States to respect and support the relevant directives: Directives 2000/78/EC, 2000/43/EC and 2004/113/EC, which seek to combat discrimination;
5. Highlights the fact that school programmes and lifelong learning play an important role in the integration process by developing skills, notably language skills; considers, too, that barrier-free participation in training programmes and lifelong learning should be a right and an opportunity for newly-arrived immigrants;
6. Considers that migrants' reception facilities should be open places designed to facilitate all activities or programmes fostering cultural exchanges between migrants and the host society; in this regard, considers it essential to grant at every stage of the reception process the right to education of children, as already provided for by several international provisions;
7. Supports the EU proposals concerning the 'Blue Card' scheme; considers, however, that such arrangements must take account of the specific socioeconomic and cultural situation of each Member State as well as the needs of their labour market, and that they must not contribute to the 'brain drain' from the countries of origin;
8. Underlines that Roma education and integration is one of the most challenging and complicated issues in European social and education policies and calls on the Commission to actively combat discrimination against the Roma community.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2009
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ivo Belet, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Věra Flasarová, Milan Gaľa, Claire Gibault, Vasco Graça Moura, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Mikel Irujo Amezaga, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, 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