



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Culture and Education*

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**2010/2211(INI)**

13.4.2011

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Special Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources for a Sustainable European Union after 2013

on investing in the future: a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe  
(2010/2211(INI))

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## **SUGGESTIONS**

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Special Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary Resources for a Sustainable European Union after 2013, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

### **Structure and duration of MFF**

1. Notes that the existence of small headings, such as Heading 3b in the current MFF, hampers the reallocation of funds between programmes; urges that small headings and sub-headings be reviewed in the next MFF;
2. Underlines the importance of striking the right balance between predictability and flexibility in multiannual expenditure; believes that a seven-year MFF would achieve this; takes the view that a five-plus-five-year MFF might also be satisfactory, provided that it included a comprehensive mid-term review with full involvement of Parliament;

### **European added value: in general**

3. Points out that the current education, youth, media and culture funding programmes generate European added value by pooling resources and enhancing cooperation; underlines that these programmes contribute to the EU's economy and notes that they were developed according to the needs of the sectors concerned, have high implementation rates and produce noticeable leverage and spill-over effects;
4. Recalls that one of the five Europe 2020 headline targets is to reduce the share of early school-leavers to less than 10% and increase the share of the younger generation with a degree or diploma or proper professional training to at least 40%; is concerned that no national programmes yet exist to achieve these objectives; underlines that education, training and youth mobility – and also mobility in adult education and professional training – are essential for creating and safeguarding jobs and reducing poverty, and are thus crucial for both Europe's short-term economic recovery and its longer-term growth and productivity; points out that unemployment among young people up to the age of 25 in the EU is currently almost 20%; recalls that EU policy initiatives in cooperation with the Member States have helped to modernise education and training policies;
5. Underlines that education, training, mobility and investment in R&D are important cornerstones for innovation, employment and economic growth in Europe;
6. Takes the view that EU programmes play an important role in steering national policies in the direction agreed at inter-governmental level, and towards the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy; recalls that EU policy initiatives have helped to modernise education and training policies and institutions within the Member States;
7. Stresses the importance of the educational, cultural, creative and media sectors, which are important elements of the economic value chain, in achieving the Europe 2020 targets relating to employment, productivity and social cohesion; notes that, beyond their direct contribution to GDP, the cultural and creative industries have a positive spill-over effect

on other sectors of the economy such as tourism, enterprise and digital technologies; takes the view that EU policy initiatives and programmes in these areas have demonstrable 'European added value';

### **European added value: individual programmes**

#### *Lifelong Learning*

8. Notes that the Lifelong Learning Programme contributes in a broad sense to the individual development of European citizens by organising mobility schemes at EU level and thus maximising synergies; notes that the Member States would not be able to finance similar actions unaided, and that the programme therefore facilitates access to learning mobility for all EU citizens; notes that international experience and multilingualism are increasingly valued on labour markets; is therefore convinced that studying abroad improves employment prospects;
9. Notes that the programme's Erasmus sub-programme has an implementation rate of close to 100%; recalls the well-documented evidence that Erasmus considerably facilitates study abroad and provides students with a wider range of skills, and that this, in turn, significantly improves subsequent employment prospects for those students participating in Erasmus and thereby contributes substantially to Europe's competitiveness;
10. Notes that the Comenius, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig sub-programmes promote partnerships and exchanges of best practices across Europe, helping both educators and learners to acquire new skills; acknowledges that they therefore bring to school, adult and vocational education a better understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity, and improve the skills base of Europeans, thereby directly contributing to an increase in Europe's competitiveness; takes note of the success of the Erasmus Mundus programme (2009-2013) in establishing partnerships with universities outside the EU and highlighting the distinctive characteristics of European higher education capable of attracting gifted young people with a view to increasing the EU's competitiveness at world level;
11. Underlines that the internationalisation of education is of socio-cultural and economic importance; recognises that European universities are losing ground as centres of excellence and believes that measures should be taken to attract top talent from outside the EU; insists that the Commission boost cross-border mobility of researchers, students, scientists and teachers, in and outside the EU;

#### *Culture 2007*

12. Notes that the Culture 2007 programme plays a unique role in supporting cross-border and European-wide cooperation in the cultural sphere, fostering mobility and Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity; recalls its significant economic spill-over effects; underlines the transversal character of culture and supports it as a vital element in the EU's external relations;
13. Highlights that the programme reaches a wide audience, plays a special role in developing citizenship and social inclusion and therefore fully supports the process of European integration;

14. Notes that the programme is very differentiated between many categories of beneficiaries and actions, which ensures, in part, its successful implementation;

#### *Youth in Action*

15. Recalls that the Lisbon Treaty encourages the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe; takes the view that the Youth in Action programme contributes to this and reinforces the renewed EU Youth Strategy (2010–2018);

#### *Europe for Citizens*

16. Recalls that the Europe for Citizens programme supports European civic participation through transnational cooperation projects (such as town-twinning partnerships) and thereby contributes to the development of active European citizenship; stresses that voluntary work is fundamental to active citizenship and democracy, giving concrete expression to European values such as solidarity and non-discrimination, thereby contributing to the harmonious development of European society; reiterates the importance of renewed commitment to voluntary work as part of the Europe for Citizens programme;

#### *MEDIA*

17. Stresses the important role that the MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes have played in strengthening the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry and increasing its worldwide audiences; notes, in particular, that since national support mechanisms apply mainly to the production phase, these programmes have demonstrated significant European added value by supporting cross-border (and indeed global) distribution of European audiovisual works; insists therefore that these programmes be maintained/renewed as individual programmes, thereby guaranteeing their added value and visibility;
18. Recognises that digitisation of the sector is important for the MEDIA programmes;

#### *Future sports programme*

19. Recalls the importance of sport for health, economic growth and jobs, tourism and social inclusion, and the fact that Article 165 TFEU gives the EU new competences in this field; welcomes the Commission communication entitled ‘Developing the European Dimension in Sport’ (COM(2011)0012) as a first step in assessing the added value of sport, and in particular of everyday exercise, and focusing on the societal, economic and organisational dimension of sport;

#### **Budgetary consequences**

20. Considers that the allocation of adequate resources to education, a component of the Europe 2020 Strategy, could contribute significantly to the achievement of its objectives;
21. Notes that EU education, youth, media and culture programmes are successful in that they enjoy high implementation rates and generate clear European added value, which can be

measured in economic terms, strengthening the sense of European identity and belonging, and calls for adequate funding, meaning a substantial increase in the resources;

22. Calls for adequate funding for an ambitious programme in the field of sport, in line with the Union's new responsibilities in this area;
23. Underlines the importance of maximising synergies and multiplier effects between different parts of the budget, in particular between structural policies, on the one hand, and lifelong learning, youth and cultural projects, on the other;
24. Considers it necessary to take measures for the public promotion of cultural, educational, youth and mass-media programmes.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	12.4.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 27 -: 2 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Magdi Cristiano Allam, Maria Badia i Cutchet, Zoltán Bagó, Malika Benarab-Attou, Lothar Bisky, Piotr Borys, Jean-Marie Cavada, Silvia Costa, Santiago Fisas Ayxela, Mary Honeyball, Petra Kammerevert, Emma McClarkin, Marek Henryk Migalski, Katarína Neved'alová, Doris Pack, Chrysoula Paliadeli, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Marietje Schaake, Marco Scurria, Joanna Senyszyn, Hannu Takkula, László Tőkés, Helga Trüpel, Gianni Vattimo, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Sabine Verheyen, Milan Zver
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Ivo Belet, Nadja Hirsch, Seán Kelly, Iosif Matula