



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Culture and Education

2011/0217(COD)

1.3.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the European Year of Citizens (2013)
(COM(2011)0489 – C7-0217/2011 – 2011/0217(COD))

Rapporteur: Marie-Christine Vergiat

PA_Legam

AMENDMENTS

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 amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a decision

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Article 20(1) of the Treaty provides for citizenship of the Union as additional to national citizenship of the respective Member States, stipulating that every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. The second paragraph of Article 20 specifies that citizens of the Union shall enjoy the rights and be subject to the duties provided for in the Treaties, and that they shall have, inter alia, the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States. The right of Union citizens to free movement and residence is further enshrined in Article 21 of the Treaty.

Amendment

(1) Article 20(1) of the Treaty provides for citizenship of the Union as additional to, ***and not a replacement of,*** national citizenship of the respective Member States, stipulating that every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union. The second paragraph of Article 20 specifies that citizens of the Union shall enjoy the rights and be subject to the duties provided for in the Treaties, and that they shall have, inter alia, the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States. The right of Union citizens to free movement and residence is further enshrined in Article 21 of the Treaty.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision

Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Citizens and the associations that represent them are central to the functioning of the Union, as provided for in Articles 10 and 11 of the Treaty on European Union, which underline the importance of all aspects of participatory democracy.

Amendment 3
Proposal for a decision
Recital 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1b) The essential rights of Union citizenship are also connected to the European dimension of education, in particular through the promotion of multilingualism and the mobility of students, teachers, persons undergoing vocational training and their instructors, as specified in Articles 165 and 166 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a decision
Recital 1 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1c) In the interest of its citizens, the Union should take the cultural dimension into account in all the measures it introduces, so as to encourage mutual respect between cultures, promote diversity, protect the common cultural heritage and improve knowledge of the history of the European peoples, as provided for in Article 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Amendment 5
Proposal for a decision
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty strengthened the status of Union citizenship and complemented the rights

(2) The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty strengthened the status of Union citizenship and complemented the rights

attached to it, including by introducing a new right, the Citizens' Initiative, which enables one million *citizens*, from *a significant number* of Member States, to ask the Commission to present a proposal in any of the EU's areas of responsibility.

Amendment 6
Proposal for a decision
Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) The rights inherent to citizenship of the Union are incorporated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. According to the Charter's Preamble, the Union 'places the individual at the heart of its activities, by establishing a citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice'. Chapter V of the Charter sets down "Citizens' rights", including, in its Article 45, the right of every citizen of the Union to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States.

Amendment 7
Proposal for a decision
Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

attached to it, including by introducing a new right, the Citizens' Initiative, which enables *at least* one million *eligible signatories coming* from *at least one quarter* of *all* Member States, to ask the Commission to present a proposal in any of the EU's areas of responsibility.

Amendment

(3) The rights inherent to citizenship of the Union are incorporated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. According to the Charter's Preamble, the Union 'places the individual at the heart of its activities, by establishing a citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice'. Chapter V of the Charter sets down "Citizens' rights", including, in its Article 45, the right of every citizen of the Union to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States *and, in its Article 41, the right to write to the institutions of the Union in one of the languages of the Treaties and to receive an answer in the same language.*

Amendment

(3a) As stated in the Charter's Preamble, the Union is founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity, which are of fundamental importance for the exercise of citizenship. The Union should also contribute to the preservation and development of those common values,

while respecting the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe, and help to uphold freedom of expression and information, the right to education, the freedom of the arts and of research and academic freedom.

Amendment 8
Proposal for a decision
Recital 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3b) The UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 20 October 2005 (the Convention) provides that cultural diversity plays an important role in the full realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and in maintaining social cohesion. Under Article 10 of the Convention, the Member States and the Union are committed to encouraging and promoting understanding of the importance of the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, inter alia, through educational programmes and programmes intended to raise public awareness.

Amendment 9
Proposal for a decision
Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Since it was set up, the Council of Europe has played a leading role in the educational and cultural domain by promoting and establishing European cultural networks and through intercultural dialogue and the promotion of linguistic diversity. The Union should therefore develop synergies with the Council of Europe's work in this field and, in particular, the recommendations

made in the Council of Europe's Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education of May 2010 should be promoted in connection with a European Year of Citizens in 2013.

Amendment 10
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) Since the Treaty of Maastricht, which specified the means whereby the Union could play a role in the fields of education, culture and youth policy, the main aim of the programmes set up by the Commission has been to encourage meetings and exchanges between citizens living in the Union and to promote dialogue and mutual understanding and respect. In the context of the European Year, those programmes should be developed to take account of the cultural and educational aspects of Union citizenship.

Amendment 11
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6b) Education, provided it is accessible to all, plays a vitally important role in the formation of future citizens by enabling them to acquire a solid basis of general knowledge, including an informed understanding of European integration and of the history and cultures of the European peoples. In this respect civic education is essential as a means of enabling individuals to participate fully in democratic, social and cultural life and regard themselves as true citizens of the Union from as early an age as possible.

Amendment 12
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6c) Non-formal and informal education play a vitally important role in both the teaching and the exercise of citizenship, as it promotes individual empowerment, solidarity and mutual understanding and strengthens social cohesion. The European Year of Citizens should be seen, therefore, as building on the European Year of Volunteering 2011 . In this context, it is important to encourage recognition of the commitment of volunteers, to validate the skills and expertise acquired in this field and to remove obstacles relating to cross-border activities, including those involving third countries and their nationals, particularly those living in the Union. Obtaining recognition for European association status is also important and could, moreover, facilitate the development of cross-border projects.

Amendment 13
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6d) The exercise of citizenship is predicated on the full and unimpeded exercise of social, economic and cultural rights, and also requires the recognition of cultural diversity and the development of cultural activities in which all members of the public can take part, including the most vulnerable groups (such as people with disabilities, people of immigrant descent and people who are socially and economically disadvantaged).

Amendment 14
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6e) Freedom of thought, expression and information, and media pluralism and independence, are essential principles for the exercise of citizenship. The communications policy of the Union institutions, and in particular that of the Commission, should take greater account of the need to inform, and be understood by, as many people as possible. The Commission should liaise more closely with representatives of local, regional and national authorities, the information offices of the Union institutions in the Member States, representatives of civil society and the media, including local and regional media, to help increase citizens' understanding of the impact of European policies on national and local policies and to enable them to assume ownership of such policies.

Amendment 15
Proposal for a decision
Recital 6 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6f) Since 1979, when the first direct elections were held, the European Parliament has acted as a direct interface between citizens and the Union. The Members of the European Parliament have played a crucial role in communicating the rights and benefits of Union citizenship and in bringing citizens' concerns to the fore in the formulation of policy.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) In particular, free movement and workers' mobility help addressing the consequences of demographic change on the labour market, while also increasing the employability of people **and** improving the competitiveness of European industries. At the same time, free movement either enables, as an essential condition, or stimulates the exercise by citizens of a broad range of rights available to them under Union law, such as their rights as consumers to access goods and services or their rights as passengers and tourists. Facilitating free movement has therefore the potential to enhance citizens' possibilities to fully benefit from the single market, whilst being a key driver for growth.

Amendment

(7) In particular, free movement and workers' mobility help addressing the consequences of demographic change on the labour market, while also increasing the employability of people, improving the competitiveness of European industries, **and, in the long term, supporting research and innovation in the Union**. At the same time, free movement either enables, as an essential condition, or stimulates the exercise by citizens of a broad range of rights available to them under Union law, such as their rights as consumers to access goods and services or their rights as passengers and tourists. Facilitating free movement has therefore the potential to enhance citizens' possibilities to fully benefit from the single market, whilst being a key driver for growth. **Moreover, it is socially and culturally enriching and helps people to overcome language barriers.**

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States is highly valued by Union citizens as a core individual right deriving from Union citizenship. As such, it demonstrates and promotes a better understanding of the value of European integration, as well as citizens' participation in shaping the European Union. When extending aspects of their lives beyond national borders by

Amendment

(8) The right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States is highly valued by Union citizens as a core individual right deriving from Union citizenship. As such, it demonstrates and promotes a better understanding of the value of European integration, as well as citizens' participation in shaping the European Union. When extending aspects of their lives beyond national borders by

travelling to other Member States or settling there, citizens become aware and take advantage of the broad array of rights granted to them under Union law in cross-border situations. Exercising the right to free movement and residence therefore contributes to making Union citizenship a tangible reality in the daily life of citizens.

travelling to other Member States or settling there, citizens become aware and take advantage of the broad array of rights granted to them under Union law in cross-border situations. ***To enable people to exercise those rights, however, more information points – with associated, transparent and easily accessible websites – should be established, in particular in border regions.*** Exercising the right to free movement and residence therefore contributes to making Union citizenship a tangible reality in the daily life of citizens.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) Despite the fact that the right to free movement and residence is firmly anchored in primary Union law and substantially developed in secondary law, a gap still remains between the applicable legal rules and the reality confronting citizens when they seek to exercise this right in practice. Aside from an uncertainty over the advantages of being mobile, Union citizens perceive too many practical obstacles with regard to living ***and*** working elsewhere in the Union.

Amendment

(9) Despite the fact that the right to free movement and residence is firmly anchored in primary Union law and substantially developed in secondary law, a gap still remains between the applicable legal rules and the reality confronting citizens when they seek to exercise this right in practice. Aside from an uncertainty over the advantages of being mobile, Union citizens perceive too many practical obstacles with regard to living, working ***and studying*** elsewhere in the Union. ***This is particularly apparent in those regions close to the internal borders, where it is especially common for people to live in a different Member States from the one in which they work. With a view to strengthening economic and social cohesion, information about "cross-border jobs" –therefore needs to be made more transparent and accessible. Facilitating access, through more regular arrangements for exchanging information between Member States in ways that are clearer and more easily understandable to job seekers, is also urgently necessary in***

relation to the recruitment of skilled workers.

Amendment 19
Proposal for a decision
Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9a) The mobility of students and research workers is strongly encouraged, inter alia, under the Lifelong Learning programme. Serious obstacles to mobility remain, however, particularly in terms of social rights, financial resources and sociocultural stereotyping, and the mutual recognition of diplomas and qualifications is still a work in progress.

Amendment 20
Proposal for a decision
Recital 9 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9b) Freedom of movement for those working in the cultural sector, including artists, plays a decisive role in the discovery of different forms of cultural expression and mutual understanding and respect. The exercise of that freedom should be generally facilitated, therefore, for example by introducing ad hoc procedures and working towards recognition at European level of a statute for artists.

Amendment 21
Proposal for a decision
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11) Given that the right to free movement significantly improves individuals' lives, it

(11) Given that the right to free movement significantly improves individuals' lives, it

is vital that information about the existence of this right and the conditions for exercising it is available as broadly as possible. As all Union citizens are potential beneficiaries of this right, awareness raising efforts should be made across the Union.

Amendment 22
Proposal for a decision
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Awareness of the electoral rights guaranteed to Union citizens is of primary importance in this respect. Union citizens should be fully aware of their right to vote and stand as candidates in the municipal and European Parliament elections in their Member State of residence. At the same time, political participation can contribute to the integration of Union citizens into the society of their chosen Member States of residence.

Amendment 23
Proposal for a decision
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) Enhanced citizens' awareness of the benefits of these rights for them individually and for society can also contribute to a stronger sense of belonging **and adherence** to the Union.

is vital that ***easily accessible, transparent*** information about the existence of this right and the conditions for exercising it is available as broadly as possible. As all Union citizens are potential beneficiaries of this right, awareness raising efforts should be made across the Union.

Amendment

(15) Awareness of the electoral rights guaranteed to Union citizens is of primary importance in this respect. Union citizens should be fully aware of their right to vote and stand as candidates in the municipal and European Parliament elections in their Member State of residence. ***From childhood onwards, they should learn about the history of Europe and its peoples and about the Union institutions, to enable them to play a full role in participatory European processes.*** At the same time, political participation can contribute to the integration of Union citizens into the society of their chosen Member States of residence.

Amendment

(16) Enhanced citizens' awareness of the benefits of these rights for them individually and for society can also contribute to a stronger sense of belonging to the Union, ***and sharing in a cultural heritage that binds people together, and can strengthen adherence to it.***

Amendment 24
Proposal for a decision
Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) A European Year of Citizens in 2013 will provide a very timely opportunity to raise the awareness of the general public about the rights attached to Union citizenship and thus to contribute to the objective of facilitating the exercise of the right to free movement.

Amendment

(17) A European Year of Citizens in 2013 will provide a very timely opportunity to raise the awareness of the general public about the rights ***and duties*** attached to Union citizenship, ***to identify obstacles to the effective exercise of those rights***, and thus to contribute to the objective of facilitating the exercise of the right to free movement, ***in particular by ensuring the participation of representatives of civil society. Particular efforts should be made to involve those representing young people, students, teachers, cultural workers and the media, given the broad sections of the public to which they have access.***

Amendment 25

Proposal for a decision
Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) The year 2013 will be the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Union citizenship by the Treaty of Maastricht, which entered into force on 1st November 1993. The European Year of Citizens will be marked by the follow up to the EU Citizenship Report and of an action plan toward completing the removal of remaining obstacles standing in the way of citizens' enjoyment of their rights as Union citizens. This European Year will give visibility to Union citizenship and its concrete benefits for individuals, including by demonstrating the tangible impact of Union policies in citizens' lives, in particular in terms of removing obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights.

Amendment

(18) The year 2013 will be the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Union citizenship by the Treaty of Maastricht, which entered into force on 1 November 1993. The European Year of Citizens will be marked by the follow up to the EU Citizenship Report and of an action plan toward completing the removal of remaining obstacles standing in the way of citizens' enjoyment of their rights as Union citizens. This European Year will give visibility to Union citizenship and its concrete benefits for individuals, including by demonstrating the tangible impact of Union policies in citizens' lives, in particular in terms of removing obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights ***and of***

sustaining open, transparent and regular dialogue with organised civil society, thus encouraging people to involve themselves in public life and decision making, while highlighting the core values that Europe's citizens share.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a decision Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) This European Year should make full use of existing participatory tools and the rights enshrined in Articles 10 and 11 of the Treaty on European Union to stimulate citizens' involvement in the process of implementing the 2013 action plan for the removal of obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights and, more broadly, in defining Union policies that give concrete effect to their rights. European civil society organisations will have a central role in this respect.

Amendment

(21) This European Year should make full use of existing participatory tools and the rights enshrined in Articles 10 and 11 of the Treaty on European Union to stimulate citizens' involvement in the process of implementing the 2013 action plan for the removal of obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights and, more broadly, in defining Union policies that give concrete effect to their rights. European civil society organisations will have a central role in this respect. ***Practice-based organisations and projects rooted in civil society should therefore receive particular support.***

Amendment 27

Proposal for a decision Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) ***Union funding for other*** activities than those funded under the budget of the European Year ***may be given through*** existing Union programmes or the Structural Funds, ***in particular*** the "Europe for Citizens" ***programme and the*** "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship" ***programme,***

Amendment

(25) Activities ***other*** than those funded under the budget of the European Year ***which contribute to the achievement of its objectives and are funded under*** existing Union programmes or the Structural Funds, ***such as*** the "Europe for Citizens", "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship", ***"Lifelong Learning", "Youth in Action" and Culture and MEDIA programmes,*** ***should be further developed in parallel with the European Year,***

Amendment 28
Proposal for a decision
Article 2 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The general purpose of the European Year shall be to *enhance awareness* of the rights attached to Union citizenship, *in order to help* citizens *make full use of their right to move and reside freely within the territory* of the Member States. In this context, the European Year shall focus, among others, on the opportunities for civic participation *and* access to rights *by* Union citizens *residing in another Member State than their own, by* students, workers, consumers, and providers of goods and services *across the Union*.

Amendment

The general purpose of the European Year shall be to *develop and promote greater public understanding of the concept of Union citizenship in all its various aspects, including its cultural and educational aspects, and to identify obstacles to the effective exercise* of the rights attached to Union citizenship, *with the aim of enabling* citizens *to exercise all their rights and participate fully in the democratic life* of the Member States *and the Union*. In this context, the European Year shall focus, among others, on the opportunities for civic *and political* participation, access to rights, *exchanges and mobility available to all* Union citizens, *including in particular* students, workers, consumers, and providers of goods and services, *whatever the Member State in which they live*.

Amendment 29
Proposal for a decision
Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

– to raise Union citizens' awareness of their right to move and reside freely within the European Union and more generally the rights guaranteed to Union citizens in cross-border situations, including their right to participate in the democratic life of the Union;

Amendment

– to raise Union citizens' awareness of their right to move and reside freely within the European Union and more generally the rights guaranteed to Union citizens in cross-border situations, including their right to participate in the democratic life of the Union, *in particular their right to vote and their right to stand as candidates in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections in their Member State of residence, allowing them to*

identify and address obstacles to their enjoyment of those rights;

Amendment 30

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– to raise Union citizens' awareness of the European Parliament and the scope of its powers in the legislative process, and the directly representative role of locally elected Members of the European Parliament;

Amendment 31

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– to raise Union citizens' awareness of direct democracy tools, such as the Citizens' Initiative and public consultations and to encourage their active engagement in the political life of the Union. Public consultations shall be conducted in all official languages and in a proactive manner involving cooperation with civil society organisations so as to significantly increase participation levels;

Amendment 32

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– to create greater public awareness, particularly among young people, of Union programmes in the field of education and culture and thereby facilitate their access to Union citizenship,

primarily by ensuring that as many people as possible take part in such programmes;

Amendment 33

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– to develop communications networks and tools to provide information in all the European languages about the policies adopted at European level and their impact on everyday life, including those networks and tools which serve to reinforce dialogue with Union institutions and influence policy-making;

Amendment 34

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– to encourage young people to participate in the formulation of local, national and European policies by, for example, developing on-line and other platforms that enable their voice to be heard;

Amendment 35

Proposal for a decision

Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– to offer a suitable opportunity for people working in the cultural sector to engage with the public in educational and cultural settings or centres, including those situated in remote areas, to show the role played by cultural activities in the exercise of citizenship;

Amendment 36
Proposal for a decision
Article 2 – paragraph 2 – indent 3

Text proposed by the Commission

– to stimulate a debate about the impact and potential of the right to free movement, as an inalienable aspect of Union citizenship, ***in particular*** in terms of strengthening societal cohesion and mutual understanding between ***Union citizens and the bond between citizens and*** the Union.

Amendment

– to stimulate a debate about the impact and potential of the right to free movement, as an inalienable aspect of Union citizenship, ***but also to create greater awareness of the remaining obstacles to the exercise of that right, with particular regard to its potential*** in terms of strengthening societal cohesion, ***cultural diversity*** and mutual understanding ***and respect*** between ***all those who live in*** the Union.

Amendment 37
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

– information, education and awareness raising campaigns targeted at the general public and more specific audiences;

Amendment

– information, education and awareness raising campaigns targeted at the general public and more specific audiences, ***in collaboration with local, regional and national authorities and civil society associations and organisations, particularly those operating at Union level;***

Amendment 38
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 2

Text proposed by the Commission

– exchange of information, sharing of experience and good practices of national, regional, local administrations and other organisations;

Amendment

– exchange of information, sharing of experience and good practices of national, regional ***and*** local administrations, ***associations, non-governmental organisations*** and other organisations;

Amendment 39
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 3

Text proposed by the Commission

– conferences and events to promote debate and raise awareness of the **importance and** benefits of the right to free movement and residence and more generally **citizens'** rights **as Union** citizens;

Amendment

– conferences and events – ***in association with representatives of civil society, and open to the widest possible cross-section of the public*** – to promote debate and raise ***public*** awareness of ***European history and integration, Union policies and their impact on everyday life***, the benefits of the right to free movement and residence – ***including a campaign promoting youth mobility*** –, ***opportunities for exchanges, particularly in the cultural and educational field***, and, more generally, ***the rights of citizens living in the Union***;

Amendment 40

Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– ***partnerships between regions to promote European Year actions***;

Amendment 41
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 4

Text proposed by the Commission

– use of the existing multilingual participatory tools to ***stimulate citizens' contributions in giving tangible effect to*** their rights and ***more generally in achieving*** the objectives of the European Year;

Amendment

– use ***and dissemination*** of the existing multilingual participatory tools to ***help citizens to understand*** their rights and ***be able to exercise them, in accordance with*** the objectives of the European Year;

Amendment 42

Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– improved use of easily accessible online communication tools by the Union institutions to facilitate inter-active communication with citizens;

Amendment 43

Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 5

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– strengthening of the role and visibility of the multilingual Europe Direct and Your Europe web portal as key elements of a ‘one-stop-shop’ information system on Union citizens' rights;

– strengthening of the role and visibility of the multilingual Europe Direct and Your Europe web portal, ***including information on the mobility among Union students***, as key elements of a ‘one-stop-shop’ information system on Union citizens' rights;

Amendment 44
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– strengthening the role and visibility of the Europeana web portal, of European projects accorded the European Heritage Label and of the European Capital of Culture programme, with a view to enabling citizens to extend their knowledge of European history and integration and promoting mutual understanding;

Amendment 45

Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 6

Text proposed by the Commission

– strengthening of the role and visibility of problem solving tools, such as SOLVIT, to allow Union citizens to better make use of and defend their rights.

Amendment

– ***a significant*** strengthening of the role and visibility of ***efficient*** problem solving tools, such as SOLVIT, to allow Union citizens to better make use of and defend their rights;

Amendment 46

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– the development of more extensive contacts with the media, particularly local and regional media, to establish a basis for more direct communication between the public and the institutions, and further development of projects and initiatives aimed at promoting the provision of information about the Union to the general public;

Amendment 47

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – indent 6 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– strengthening of the efforts to develop tools for improving academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study, thereby removing obstacles to the mobility of students and job-seekers.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Public authorities, at all levels of

governance, in cooperation with non-governmental organisations, shall organise programmes enabling nationals of other Member States living in their territory to gain the necessary knowledge to participate fully in the social, economic, cultural, and political life of the host Member State.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. Public authorities shall offer effective help to enable migrant workers to register and satisfy fully, without undue burden, procedural requirements essential to allowing them to participate fully in the economic life of the host Member State. It is crucial that Citizenship of the Union confers tangible rights.

Amendment 50

Proposal for a decision Article 4 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall cooperate with the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union to ensure the visibility of European Year actions.

Amendment 51

Proposal for a decision Article 4 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall convene meetings of representatives of European organisations or bodies active in the *field*

The Commission shall convene meetings of representatives of European organisations, *civil society associations* or

of defending citizens' rights and stakeholders to assist the Commission in implementing the European Year at Union level.

bodies active in the *fields* of *citizenship and* defending citizens' rights, *education and culture*, and stakeholders, to assist the Commission in implementing the European Year at Union level.

Amendment 52
Proposal for a decision
Article 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 4a
Budget
The European Year shall be endowed with a budget of EUR 5 million.

Amendment 53
Proposal for a decision
Annex – point A – paragraph 2 – bullet point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

• Production and dissemination of audiovisual and print material which reflect the messages outlined in Article 2;

• Production and dissemination of audiovisual and print material *and of targeted promotional items* which reflect the messages outlined in Article 2;

PROCEDURE

Title	European Year of Citizens (2013)	
References	COM(2011)0489 – C7-0217/2011 – 2011/0217(COD)	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	LIBE 13.9.2011	
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	CULT 13.9.2011	
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Marie-Christine Vergiat 12.9.2011	
Discussed in committee	20.12.2011	24.1.2012
Date adopted	29.2.2012	
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 3 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Malika Benarab-Attou, Lothar Bisky, Piotr Borys, Jean-Marie Cavada, Silvia Costa, Lorenzo Fontana, Mary Honeyball, Petra Kammerevert, Emma McClarkin, Emilio Menéndez del Valle, Marek Henryk Migalski, Katarína Neveďalová, Gianni Pittella, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Marietje Schaake, Marco Scurria, Emil Stoyanov, Hannu Takkula, László Tőkés, Helga Trüpel, Gianni Vattimo, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Milan Zver	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Heinz K. Becker, Nadja Hirsch, Seán Kelly, Iosif Matula, Georgios Papanikolaou, Olga Sehnalová, Rui Tavares	
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez	