6.12.2022

Mr Dragoş Pîslaru
Chair
Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
BRUSSELS


Dear Mr Chair,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Culture and Education has been accorded to submit an opinion to your committee. At their meeting of 1 December 2022, the coordinators decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter. They considered the matter and endorsed the opinion at that meeting.

The Cult Committee has adopted the set of amendments below so that the activities related to the European Year of Skills will serve to underscore a wider range of skills reflecting our constituents’ needs as workers and citizens. This would secure a more holistic approach to lifelong learning, beneficial to the resilience of our societies, and consequently to a favourable environment for the labour markets. I hope that they will meet the favour of your Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sabine Verheyen
Amendment 1
Proposal for a decision
Article 1

Text proposed by the Commission
The year 2023 shall be designated as the ‘European Year of Skills 2023’ (hereinafter referred to as the ‘European Year’).

Amendment
The year 2023 shall be designated as the ‘European Year of Skills 2023’ starting on 9 May 2023 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘European Year’).

Justification
This reiterates CULT request regarding the start and end date of European Years.

Amendment 2
Proposal for a decision
Article 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission
In line with principles 1, 4 and 5 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, contributing to the objectives set out in the 2020 European Skills Agenda and the EU headline targets set by the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the overall objective of the European Year shall be to further promote a mindset of reskilling and upskilling thereby boosting competitiveness of European companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, realising the full potential of the digital and green transitions in a socially fair, inclusive and just manner. More specifically, the activities of the Year will promote skills policies and investments to ensure that nobody is left behind in the twin transition and the economic recovery, and to notably address labour shortages for a better skilled workforce in the Union that is able to seize the opportunities of this process, by:

Amendment
In line with principles 1, 4 and 5 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, contributing to the objectives set out in the 2020 European Skills Agenda and the EU headline targets set by the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the overall objective of the European Year shall be to further promote a mindset of lifelong learning thereby promoting opportunities for personal development, boosting the resilience of European societies and the competitiveness of European companies, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, realising the full potential of the digital and green transitions in a socially fair, inclusive and just manner. More specifically, the activities of the Year will promote skills policies and investments to ensure that everyone can participate in social and political life and that nobody is left behind in the twin transition and the economic recovery, and to notably address labour shortages for a
better skilled workforce and gaps in the skills and competences needed for citizens to be empowered in a Union that is able to seize the opportunities of these processes, by:

_Justification_

_This broadens the target audience and the range of skills that become the focus of activities during the European Year of skills._

**Amendment 3**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Article 2 – paragraph 1**

**Text proposed by the Commission**

1. Promoting increased, more effective and inclusive investment into training and upskilling to harness the full potential of the European current and future workforce and to support people in managing job-to-job transitions, active ageing, and benefiting from the new opportunities brought by the ongoing economic transformation.

**Amendment**

1. Promoting increased, more effective and inclusive investment into lifelong learning including training and upskilling to harness the full potential of the European current and future citizens and to support people in managing job-to-job transitions, active ageing, the pursuit of personal development and social advancement and benefiting from the new opportunities brought by the ongoing economic and societal transformation.  

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_Justification_

_This broadens the target audience and the skills that become the focus of activities during the European Year of skills._

**Amendment 4**

**Proposal for a decision**  
**Article 2 – paragraph 2**
Text proposed by the Commission

2. Strengthening skills relevance by closely cooperating with social partners, public and private employment services, companies, education and training providers and developing joined-up approaches with all branches of governments.

Amendment

2. Strengthening skills relevance by closely cooperating with social partners, other civil society organisations, public and private employment services, companies, education and training providers and developing joined-up approaches with all branches of governments.

Justification

This broadens the stakeholders who define relevance of skills that become the focus of activities during the European Year of skills.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) conferences, forum discussions and further events to promote debate on the role and contribution of skills policies to achieve competitive, sustainable and fair economic growth in light of the demographic change and to mobilise relevant stakeholders to ensure access to training is a reality on the ground;

Amendment

(a) conferences, forum discussions and further events to promote debate on the role and contribution of skills policies to retain skilled workers in the EU, to achieve proficiency in basic skills, active citizenship for resilient democracies and competitive, sustainable and fair economic growth in light of major challenges such as the demographic change and to mobilise relevant stakeholders to ensure access to training is a reality on the ground;

Justification

This broadens the scope of the skills that become the focus of activities during the European Year of skills and addresses the issue of braindrain.
Amendment 6
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point g

Amendment
(g) achieving automatic mutual recognition of qualifications acquired within the EU by 2025 and promoting tools and instruments for increased transparency of qualifications, including qualifications awarded outside the Union;

Amendment 7
Proposal for a decision
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point h

Amendment
(h) promoting programmes, funding opportunities, projects, actions and networks of relevance to public, private and non-governmental stakeholders, involved in the design, dissemination and implementation of upskilling and reskilling opportunities and vocational training;

Justification
This broadens the scope of the skills that become the focus of activities during the European Year of Skills.

Amendment 8
Proposal for a decision
Article 5 – paragraph 4

Amendment
4. The Commission shall engage with social partners, labour market bodies and other civil society
representatives of organisations or bodies active in the field of skills, to assist in implementing the European Year at Union level.

organisations, labour market bodies, formal and non-formal educational providers and representatives of organisations or bodies active in the field of skills, to assist in implementing the European Year at Union level.

**Justification**

*This broadens the spectrum of those with whom the Commission engages in the implementation of activities during the European Year of skills.*