

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2004/0152(COD)

14.7.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council creating the "YOUTH IN ACTION" programme for the period 2007-2013 (COM(2004)0471 – C6-0096/2004 – 2004/0152(COD))

Draftsman: Luis Francisco Herrero-Tejedor

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

General Objectives of the Programme:

The Draftsman generally welcomes the “Youth in Action” programme which gives opportunities to develop solidarity amongst young people and promotes an active citizenship. The current Youth programme included among its four general aims encouraging “young people’s initiative, enterprise and creativity so that they may take an active role in society and, at the same time, to stimulate recognition of the value of informal education acquired within a European context”. The proposal presented by the Commission does not include this aim amongst its general aims (Article 2) but within the specific one of promoting the active citizenship of young people (Article 3.1.f).

In real terms this disappearance is observed in the disappearance from the proposal for a new programme of previous action 3.2 Future Capital, which encouraged the realisation of projects by ex-volunteers of the European Voluntary Service. This permitted the transferral of what had been learnt during the Voluntary Service to the local community through the planning of a personal project, including professional or business start up projects thereby promoting professional and entrepreneurial spirit. It is not clear to the Draftsman why this action is now not included in the new proposal.

Article 4(2) European Voluntary Service

'The aim of this action is to step up young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union.'

The annex contains a breakdown of the measures coming under this item that is not sufficiently clear and is not duly motivated in the proposal for a decision, despite the fact that the measures account for one third of the total resources set out in the Commission proposal. Specifically, the annex refers to:

'2.2. European voluntary service (groups)

This measure supports volunteer projects with the same characteristics as those described in point 2.1 above which allow groups of young people to take part collectively in European-level or international-level activities in the fields of culture, sport, civil protection, the environment, development aid, etc.

In principle, it is open to young people aged between 18 and 30.

Depending on the tasks to be implemented and the situation in which the volunteers are deployed, certain types of project may call for the selection of candidates with specific skills.'

It should be pointed out first of all that, contrary to the Commission's claims, the projects do not have the same characteristics. Given that they follow on from the current group EVS measures, the projects will be headed by a large coordinating organisation (which will not be

conducive to participation by and partnership with local organisations), they are of short duration (and therefore will not have the educational impact of long EVS projects in terms of cultural adjustment, personal development, etc.), and they are expensive (around € 4 000 for a project lasting two months or so, as against € 4 500 for a six-month project).

The other possibility is for this action to cover the arrangement referred to in Article III-321 of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe¹; however, in view of the deadlines and pre-requisites for the establishment of the corps, it is unlikely to be operational in 2007.

The Commission should be asked for a more detailed explanation of why such a large amount of money has been allocated to this sub-action and to supply the findings of any studies (assessments of the impact of completed group EVS projects) that support its proposal.

Action 2 (European Voluntary Service) has been allocated a budget (€ 291 500) similar to that of Action 1 (Youth for Europe, € 310 000). Since Action 1 is not only able to reach a far greater number of young people, but is also more accessible for less-advantaged young people, the draftsman proposes that the indicative breakdown budget reflect this situation. A part of the budget for Action 2 should therefore be transferred to Action 1.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission²

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment by Maria Carlshamre

Amendment 1

Recital 2

The *Treaty on* European Union is *based* on the principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the promotion of young people's active citizenship should contribute to the development of these values.

(2) The European Union is *founded* on the principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms *and equality between men and women*, and the promotion of young people's active citizenship should contribute to the development of these values.

¹ 'In order to establish a framework for joint contributions from young Europeans to the humanitarian aid operations of the Union, a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall be set up. European laws shall determine the rules and procedures for operation of the Corps.'

² Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 2 and 3
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (g)

g) facilitating participation in the programme by young people with the *least* opportunities;

g) facilitating participation in the programme by young people with the *fewest* opportunities, ***including young people with disabilities;***
(*This amendment applies throughout the text. Adopting it will necessitate corresponding changes throughout.*)

Amendment 4
Article 6, paragraph 5

5. The participating countries shall take appropriate measures ***to remove obstacles to the mobility of participants, so that the latter have access to health care, retain their social protection and are able to travel and reside in the host country. This applies in particular to the rights of entry, residence and free movement. Countries participating in the programme shall, if necessary, take appropriate measures to ensure that beneficiaries from third countries are admitted to their territory.***

5. The participating countries shall ***endeavour to*** take appropriate measures ***so that participants in the programme may have access to health care in accordance with the provisions of Community law. The Member State of origin shall endeavour to take appropriate measures so that participants in the European Voluntary Service may retain their social protection. The participating countries shall also endeavour as far as possible to adopt such measures as they deem necessary and desirable to remove legal and administrative obstacles to access to this programme.***

Justification

The Commission's proposed wording implies that Member States would have to change systems, which can only be changed under other treaties and not under Article 149.

Amendment 5
Article 8, paragraph 5

5. The Commission and the participating countries shall ensure that the actions supported under the programme are properly publicised.

5. The Commission and the participating countries shall ensure that the actions supported under the programme are properly publicised. ***They will take appropriate measures to disseminate information***

through the use of the most appropriate tools and, with the aid of the National Agencies, target information about the programme towards smaller organisations, especially at regional and local level.

Justification

To enable greater participation, the draftsman asks that the visibility of the programme be increased through improving the quality of information available to young people and their access to it through the use of the most appropriate tools to disseminate information (in the case of young people this would be the TV, the Internet and mobile phones).

Asks also that the national agencies themselves take steps to ensure that information on the programme reaches those smaller organisations, particularly at regional and local level, in keeping with the spirit of increasing decentralisation.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council creating the "YOUTH IN ACTION" programme for the period 2007-2013
References	COM(2004)0471 – C6-0096/2004 – 2004/0152(COD)
Committee responsible	CULT
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	LIBE 15.9.2004
Enhanced cooperation	No
Draftsman Date appointed	Luis Francisco Herrero-Tejedor 5.10.2004
Discussed in committee	16.3.2005 13.6.2005 13.7.2005
Date amendments adopted	13.7.2005
Result of final vote	for: 44 against: 0 abstentions: 2
Members present for the final vote	Alexander Nuno Alvaro, Roberta Angelilli, Alfredo Antoniozzi, Edit Bauer, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Giusto Catania, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Carlos Coelho, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Rosa Díez González, Antoine Duquesne, Kinga Gál, Lilli Gruber, Adeline Hazan, Lívia Járóka, Timothy Kirkhope, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Stavros Lambrinidis, Henrik Lax, Sarah Ludford, Edith Mastenbroek, Jaime Mayor Oreja, Hartmut Nassauer, Bogdan Pęk, Lapo Pistelli, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, Manfred Weber, Stefano Zappalà, Tatjana Ždanoka.
Substitutes present for the final vote	Richard Corbett, Panayiotis Demetriou, Gérard Deprez, Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Luis Francisco Herrero-Tejedor, Sophia in 't Veld, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Jean Lambert, Katalin Lévai, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Herbert Reul, Marie-Line Reynaud, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides.
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Markus Pieper