

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2004/0153(COD)

19.7.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing an integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning
(COM(2004)0474 – C6-0095/2004 – 2004/0153(COD))

Draftswoman: Magda Kósáné Kovács

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Your draftsman welcomes the Commission proposal on lifelong learning, which establishes an integrated action programme incorporating the Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Guntvig programmes and the Jean Monnet programme.

The document is well-structured and seeks to take account of the specific requirements of an enlarged Europe and of European political priorities relating to education and training.

The proposal facilitates access to information and programmes, bringing European initiatives closer to citizens. It also simplifies the administration of programmes, which we welcome.

Another very positive aspect is the fact that innovation transfer and research and development - essential tools in achieving the Lisbon and Bologna objectives - are to receive more assistance.

Your draftsman is proposing a number of amendments from a civil liberties perspective, and calls on the Culture Committee to take account of them in its report.

Access to education is a fundamental right. No one should suffer discrimination based on his/her financial situation, membership of an ethnic group, physical condition, age or gender. The problem regarding persons belonging to the Roma ethnic minority group, which is more serious in the new Member States, remains a challenge to be overcome. The integrated programme could propose solutions.

The budget for the integrated programme is, despite an increase in relation to the previous programme, not particularly high, but if greater consideration is given to the way in which resources are allocated it will suffice.

- Attention needs to be paid to the way in which funds are allocated between the various action programmes, more particularly the Erasmus Mundus programme from 2009. As long as regions in the Member States show such wide disparity in terms of development, participation by third countries in this programme should perhaps not be widened too much.
- Access to lifelong learning by all age groups must be ensured, with particular attention being paid to elderly people and those (in particular women) over 40. In view of the demographic changes in Europe and the situation of women over 40 years of age in Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs), this is a very relevant issue today.
- This programme is likely to prove essential in reintegrating young mothers into the labour market.
- Your draftsman also proposes that particular attention be devoted to groups of persons in CEECs who did not learn foreign languages under the previous regime and whose mobility at an international level is limited as a result. Language training for such people could be funded under the transversal programme.

- Access by people with disabilities to mobility programmes must be ensured, bearing in mind the difficulties they face and the greater costs involved in travelling.

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 Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 16 a (new)

(16a) Radical administrative simplification of application procedures is essential for successful implementation of the programme. In the absence of an appropriate legal framework, administrative and accounting requirements should be proportional to the size of the grant.

Amendment 2
Recital 24

(24) In all its activities, the Community must eliminate inequalities, and promote equality, between men and women, as provided for in Article 3 of the Treaty.

deleted

Amendment 3
Recital 24 b (new)

(24b) Whilst respecting the subsidiarity principle, this Decision seeks to point up the fact that the right to education and

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

access to vocational and continuing training are fundamental rights. Accordingly, no-one may suffer discrimination based on his or her financial situation, membership of an ethnic group, race, religion or belief, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation.

Amendment 4
Recital 24 c (new)

(24c) The problem regarding persons belonging to ethnic minorities, in particular the Roma, which is more serious in the new Member States, remains a challenge to be overcome. The integrated programme should take note of this and propose solutions.

Amendment 5
Recital 27

(27) The special learning needs of people with disabilities should be actively addressed.

(27) The special learning needs of people with disabilities should be actively addressed. *Bearing in mind the difficulties they face and the greater costs involved in travelling, access to mobility programmes for people with disabilities should also be ensured.*

Amendment 6
Article 1, paragraph 3, point (d)

(d) to help promote creativity, **competitiveness**, employability and the growth of an entrepreneurial spirit;

(d) to help promote creativity, employability and the growth of an entrepreneurial spirit;

Amendment 7
Article 1, paragraph 3, point (d a) (new)

(da) to help promote competitiveness through highly qualified, mobile skilled workers and managers;

Amendment 8

Article 1, paragraph 3, point (f)

(f) to promote language learning and linguistic diversity;

(f) to promote language learning and linguistic diversity, ***paying particular attention to rare or minority languages;***

Amendment 9

Article 2, paragraph 2, point (b)

(b) promotion of language learning;

(b) promotion of language learning; ***English is the most commonly used working language in the European Union today and should be given priority in order to facilitate communication in the Union;***

Amendment by Herbert Reul

Amendment 10

Article 4, point (f)

(f) enterprises, social partners and their organisations at all levels, including trade organisations and chambers of commerce and industry;

(f) enterprises, ***in particular small and medium-sized enterprises***, social partners and their organisations at all levels, including trade organisations and chambers of commerce and industry;

Amendment 11

Article 5, paragraph 1, point (a)

(a) the mobility of people in lifelong learning in Europe;

(a) the mobility of people in lifelong learning in Europe, ***including individual assistance (free movers);***

Amendment 12
Article 5, paragraph 1, point (g)

(g) operating grants to support certain operational and administrative costs of organisations active in the field covered by the Integrated Programme;

(g) operating grants to support certain operational and administrative costs of organisations ***and social partners*** active in the field covered by the Integrated Programme;

Amendment 13
Article 14, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall, in cooperation with the Member States, ensure overall consistency and complementarity with other relevant Community policies, instruments and actions, in particular with the European Social Fund, with the human resource and mobility actions of the Community's Framework Programme in research and development, and with the Community's statistical programme. The Commission shall ensure an efficient link-up between the Integrated Programme and the programmes and actions in the area of education and training undertaken within the framework of the Community's pre-accession instruments, other cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations.

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Amendment 14
Article 16, paragraph 3

3. Member States shall submit to the Commission by 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2015, respectively, reports on the implementation and the impact of the Integrated Programme.

3. Member States shall submit to the Commission by 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2015, respectively, reports on the implementation and the impact of the Integrated Programme; ***the reports shall contain, in particular, the Member States' review of the activities carried out by***

national agencies in the light of the objectives set within the programme.

Amendment 15

Article 42, paragraph 2, point (e) (new)

(e) the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice;

Amendment 16

Article 42, paragraph 2, point (f) (new)

(f) the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education in Vienna;

Amendment 17

Article 42, paragraph 2, point (g) (new)

(g) the European International Training Centre in Thessaloniki.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing an integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning		
References	COM(2004)0474 – C6-0095/2004 – 2004/0153(COD)		
Committee responsible	CULT		
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	LIBE 15.9.2004		
Enhanced cooperation	No		
Draftsman Date appointed	Magda Kósáné Kovács 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:	42	
	against:	0	
	abstentions:	1	
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, Lapo Pistelli, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, Henri Weber, Stefano Zappalà		
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		