

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs*

**2005/0041(COD)**

6.3.2006

## 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 for the period 2007-2013 the programme "Citizens for Europe" to promote active European citizenship  
(COM(2005)0116 – C6-0101/2005 – 2005/0041(COD))

Draftsman: Giusto Catania

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## 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:

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Text proposed by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

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Amendments by Parliament

### Amendment 1 Recital 1

(1) Union citizenship ***should be the fundamental status of nationals of the Member States.***

(1) Union citizenship, ***which complements national citizenship, seeks to strengthen and promote the European identity by involving citizens ever more closely in the European integration process, including those EU citizens resident outside the territory of the Union.***

### *Justification*

*Under the current Treaties, European citizenship is not the fundamental status of nationals of the Member States.*

### Amendment 2 Recital 2

(2) The Community should encourage European citizens to take full advantage of all aspects of the citizenship of the European Union, which is to be promoted with due regard for subsidiarity.

(2) The Community should encourage European citizens to take full advantage of all aspects of the citizenship of the European Union ***(including the rights it confers)***, which is to be promoted with due regard for subsidiarity.

### *Justification*

*From the point of view of citizenship of the Union it is important that citizens should also*

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C ... /Not yet published in OJ.

*know the rights which it confers on them. This is also important from the point of view of developing a Union in which its citizens are educated about their entitlements.*

#### Amendment 3

##### Recital 3

(3) For citizens to give their full support to European integration, greater emphasis should therefore be placed on their common values, history **and** culture as key elements of their membership of a society founded on the principles of freedom, democracy **and** respect for human rights, while respecting their diversity.

(3) For citizens to give their full support to European integration, greater emphasis should therefore be placed on their common values, history, culture **and traditions** as key elements of their membership of a society founded on the principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights **and social solidarity**, while respecting their diversity **in accordance with the principle of unity in diversity**.

#### *Justification*

*The principle of 'unity in diversity' pithily formulates the fundamental concept of the European Union, which should encourage European citizens to identify themselves as such without there being any need to fear that diversity, which is an important European value, might be jeopardised. Traditions are important values - often transcending State borders - which, together, may help to forge the European identity, based on creating unity from diversity. Social solidarity is perhaps the most characteristic value in European culture: it is an organic part of European identity, and preserving it is of the utmost importance.*

#### Amendment 4

##### Recital 4

(4) In order to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to enable them to participate fully in the construction of an ever closer Europe, there is a need to address all citizens and to involve them in transnational exchanges and cooperation activities, contributing to the forging of a sense of belonging to common European ideals.

(4) In order to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to enable them to participate fully **and at all levels** in the construction of an ever closer Europe, there is a need to address all citizens and to involve them **and their civil-society organisations** in transnational exchanges, **cultural programmes, discussions** and cooperation activities, contributing to the forging of a sense of belonging to common European ideals, **principles and values**.

#### *Justification*

*It is important that the programme should operate effectively at local, regional, national and European level, depending which level is most appropriate for the purpose of attaining the desired result. The programmes should be aimed not only at individual citizens but at their civil-society organisations as well. This often helps to achieve the desired result and may have*

*a multiplier effect. Promoting common European principles and values is also an important objective. Cultural programmes and opportunities for discussions (e.g. conferences) may also be important instruments.*

Amendment 5  
Recital 4 a (new)

***(4a) In order for citizens to become involved in the European project, they need to be informed of the specific rights deriving from European citizenship, such as those linked to the freedom to move and reside within the territory of the Member States, particularly following the entry into force of Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States<sup>1</sup>.***

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<sup>1</sup> ***OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77.***

*Justification*

*Directive 2004/38/EC is an extremely important step towards genuine freedom of movement for citizens within the EU. Citizens have the right to be informed of the practical implications of the new provisions.*

Amendment 6  
Recital 7

(7) The Council established in its Decision of 26 January 2004 a Community action programme to promote active European citizenship (civic participation), which has confirmed the need to promote sustained dialogue with civil society organisations and municipalities and to support the active involvement of citizens.

(7) The Council established in its Decision of 26 January 2004 a Community action programme to promote active European citizenship (civic participation), which has confirmed the need to promote sustained dialogue with civil society organisations and municipalities and to support the active involvement of citizens. ***The dialogue should also cover organisations representing third-country nationals resident within the European Union.***

### *Justification*

*The Commission has stated that organisations representing third-country nationals based in the European Union can also take part in projects coming under this programme.*

#### Amendment 7 Recital 7 a (new)

***(7a) The sharing of a common European citizenship should strengthen still further the relations between the citizens of the Member States and be taken into account by national and regional lawmakers, by local authorities and by those whose vocation it is to protect citizenship rights at a national level, be this the authorities responsible for security or judicial protection or for providing legal assistance, such as ombudsmen; it is therefore in the interests of the European Union to foster dialogue and exchanges of best practice between these authorities and their European-level contact networks.***

#### Amendment 8 Recital 8

(8) Civil society organisations at European, national and regional levels are important intermediaries for reaching citizens. Their transnational cooperation should therefore be encouraged.

(8) Civil society organisations at European, national and regional levels are important intermediaries for reaching citizens, ***since they defend citizens' interests***. Their transnational cooperation should therefore be encouraged.

#### Amendment 9 Article 1, paragraph 2, indent 2

– Forging a European identity, based on recognised common values, history and culture;

– Forging ***and strengthening*** a European identity, based on recognised common values, history and culture ***and European citizenship, the source of the institutions' legitimacy***;

#### Amendment 10 Article 1, paragraph 2, indent 3

– Enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens respecting **and** celebrating cultural diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue.

– Enhancing mutual understanding between European citizens - **regardless of their place of residence, and including those resident outside the territory of the Union** - respecting, celebrating **and supporting** cultural diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue.

#### *Justification*

*EU citizenship guarantees the same rights to all the citizens of the Union regardless of their place of residence. However, given the specific circumstances of those citizens resident outside EU territory, the requisite measures should be adopted to ensure they can exercise their rights of EU citizenship in full and to full effect.*

#### Amendment 11

Article 1, paragraph 2, indent 3 a (new)

**– Encouraging European citizens to regard the European Union and its institutions, policies and actions as belonging to them, and to be able to identify therewith.**

#### *Justification*

*Negative developments in the functioning of the European Union, such as the way in which the constitutional process has ground to a halt, are partly due to the fact that Europe's citizens do not sufficiently regard the European Union and its institutions, policies and actions as belonging to them and cannot identify with them as they should be able to. Helping citizens to do so is of the first importance for the future of the European Union, the deepening of integration and the creation of a Citizens' Europe.*

#### Amendment 12

Article 1, paragraph 2, indent 3 b (new)

**- ensuring that national, regional and local, elective, administrative and public-assistance institutions, take greater account of the requirements relating to European citizenship.**

#### Amendment 13

Article 2, point (b a) (new)

*(ba) promote the exchange of experiences relating to European citizenship between local, regional and national elective bodies and between the authorities responsible for providing citizens with judicial protection and administrative assistance, by stepping up cross-border cooperation and the creation of European contact networks and strengthening existing ones;*

Amendment 14  
Article 2, point (d)

(d) Encourage the balanced integration of citizens and civil society organisations from all Member States, contributing to intercultural dialogue and bringing to the fore both Europe's diversity and unity, with particular attention to the activities with Member States that have recently joined the European Union.

(d) Encourage the balanced integration ***and cooperation*** of citizens and civil society organisations, ***associations and citizens' networks*** from all Member States, contributing to ***facilitating European integration and to*** intercultural dialogue and bringing to the fore both Europe's diversity and unity, with particular attention to the activities with Member States that have recently joined the European Union ***and to the development of, and support for, closer relations between their citizens and civil-society and minority organisations.***

*Justification*

*In addition to integration, cooperation - as interaction - is important. It is important to develop and support closer relations between the citizens of Member States which have recently acceded and also between their civil-society and minority organisations, which will also reflect a Europe of Diversity and the values and goals of the Constitutional Treaty. See also the justification for Amendment 13.*

Amendment 15  
Article 3, paragraph 1, point (- a) (new)

***(- a) support for cross-border cooperation between the national authorities responsible for protecting citizens' rights, and support for initiatives or networks connecting constitutional courts, supreme courts, courts of appeal, councils of state, supreme law councils and ombudsmen.***

Amendment 16

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (b), indent 2

– structural support for organisations of civil society at European level;

– structural support for organisations of civil society, ***associations and networks*** at European level;

*Justification*

*See justification for the amendment to Article 2, point (d).*

Amendment 17

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c), indent 1

– high visibility events, such as commemorations, awards, European-wide conferences;

– high visibility events, such as commemorations, ***concerts***, awards, European-wide conferences;

*Justification*

*Concerts help to develop a shared sense of belonging.*

Amendment 18

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c), indent 2

- studies, surveys and opinion polls;

- studies, ***research***, surveys and opinion polls;

*Justification*

*Research into citizenship is an important activity that should be funded as part of the Together for Europe action.*

Amendment 19

Article 3, paragraph 1, point (c a) (new)

***(ca) Active European Remembrance, consisting of:  
- support for projects to commemorate the victims of Nazi and Stalinist mass deportation and mass extermination as well as the victims of the dictatorship and civil wars in Spain, Greece and Portugal.***

### *Justification*

*The countries of Southern Europe experienced dictatorial regimes and civil wars in the 20th century, which have to large extent common characteristics. The stabilisation of democracy in Spain, Greece and Portugal was very much achieved thanks to their accession to the European Community. Community action aiming at the preservation of the memory of the main sites and the victims of these historical periods would demonstrate EU support for its citizens and give more visibility to this programme. Due to the common characteristics between the dictatorial regimes in these three states, projects under this action will have a transnational element.*

### Amendment 20

#### Article 5

The programme shall be open to all stakeholders promoting active European citizenship, in particular to **local communities**, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizen's groups and other civil society organisations such as non-governmental organisations, platforms, networks, associations and federations, trade unions.

The programme shall be open to all stakeholders promoting active European citizenship, in particular to **community groups and local authorities**, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), **organisations dealing with minorities**, citizen's groups and other civil society organisations such as non-governmental organisations, **organisations for EU citizens resident outside the territory of the Union**, platforms, networks, associations and federations, trade unions **associations for third-country nationals resident in the European Union and European networks connecting the national authorities responsible for safeguarding citizens' rights**.

### *Justification*

*In the spirit of the values and goals of the Constitutional Treaty, too, we may say that Europe's minorities are an important factor for a Europe of 'Unity in Diversity'. The above instruments will promote a sense of community in Europe and transfrontier cooperation which will enrich the European identity. As this cannot be done so effectively at Member-State level, it will at all events generate added value in European policy and cooperation, in the spirit of the subsidiarity principle.*

### Amendment 21

#### Article 6

The programme may cover joint activities with international organisations competent in the field of active citizenship, such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO, on the basis of joint contributions and in

The programme may cover **or include** joint activities with international organisations competent in the field of active citizenship - **and within this field, particularly European citizenship** - such as the Council of Europe

accordance with the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and various rules of each institution or organisation.

and UNESCO, on the basis of joint contributions and in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and various rules of each institution or organisation.

Or. hu

*Justification*

*The programme may not only cover the above forms of cooperation, but may include them. Within active citizenship, of course, the issue of European citizenship is particularly important to the programme.*

Amendment 22  
Article 9, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall ensure the coherence and the complementarity between this programme and instruments in other areas of action of the Community, especially education, vocational training, culture, sport, fundamental rights and freedoms, social inclusion, gender equality, combating **discrimination**, research and the Community external action, in particular in the context of the European Neighbourhood policy.

1. The Commission shall ensure the coherence and the complementarity between this programme and instruments in other areas of action of the Community, especially education, vocational training, culture, sport, fundamental rights and freedoms, social inclusion, gender equality, combating **all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia**, research and the Community external action, in particular in the context of the European Neighbourhood policy.

Amendment 23  
Article 11, paragraph 2

2. Financial aid shall take the form of grants to legal persons. Grants may in certain cases be awarded to natural persons under the terms of Article 114(1) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002.

2. Financial aid shall take the form of grants to legal persons **or European associations of national public institutions operating in the field of the protection of citizens**. Grants may in certain cases be awarded to natural persons under the terms of Article 114(1) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002.

Amendment 24  
Article 13, paragraph 2

2. The Commission shall ensure regular, external and independent evaluation of the programme.

2. The Commission shall ensure regular, external and independent evaluation of the programme **and shall report to the relevant**

***European Parliament committees on a regular basis.***

Amendment 25

Annex, Part I, Action 1, paragraph 1

This action forms that part of the programme directed specifically at activities involving citizens, either directly or indirectly. These activities fall under two types of measures as follows:

This action forms that part of the programme directed specifically at activities involving citizens ***of the Union***, either directly or indirectly, ***be they resident within or outside the Union***. These activities fall under two types of measures as follows:

*Justification*

*EU citizenship guarantees the same rights to all the citizens of the Union regardless of their place of residence. However, given the specific circumstances of those citizens resident outside EU territory, the requisite measures should be adopted to ensure they can exercise their rights of EU citizenship in full and to full effect.*

Amendment 26

Annex, Part I, Action 1, paragraph 4

Under this measure, a variety of projects of transnational and cross-sectoral dimension, directly involving citizens, will be supported. The scale and scope of such projects will depend on the developments within the society and will explore, through innovative approaches, the possible responses to the identified needs. The use of new technologies, in particular Information Society Technologies, shall be encouraged. Those projects will gather citizens from different horizons, who will act together or debate on common European issues, hereby developing mutual understanding as well as raising awareness of the process of European integration.

Under this measure, a variety of projects of transnational and cross-sectoral dimension, directly involving citizens ***of the Union, including those resident outside the territory of the EU***, will be supported. The scale and scope of such projects will depend on the developments within the society and will explore, through innovative approaches, the possible responses to the identified needs. The use of new technologies, in particular Information Society Technologies, shall be encouraged. Those projects will gather citizens from different horizons, who will act together or debate on common European issues, hereby developing mutual understanding as well as raising awareness of the process of European integration.

*Justification*

*EU citizenship guarantees the same rights to all the citizens of the Union regardless of their place of residence. However, given the specific circumstances of those citizens resident outside EU territory, the requisite measures should be adopted to ensure they can exercise their rights of EU citizenship in full and to full effect.*

Amendment 27  
Annex, Part I, Action 2, paragraph 3

Civil society organisations need to exist and to be able to operate and cooperate at European level in a large number of fields of general interest (e.g. common values and heritage, voluntarism, social issues). This measure will provide them with the capacity and stability to act as transnational catalysts for their members and for civil society at European level. The strengthening of transeuropean networks is an important element of this area of work. Grants may be awarded on the basis of a multi annual work programme bringing together a range of themes or activities.

Civil society organisations need to exist and to be able to operate and cooperate at European level in a large number of fields of general interest (e.g. common values and heritage, voluntarism, social issues, **integration**). This measure will provide them with the capacity and stability to act as transnational catalysts for their members and for civil society at European level. The strengthening of transeuropean networks **and European associations** is an important element of this area of work. Grants may be awarded on the basis of a multi annual work programme bringing together a range of themes or activities.

Amendment 28  
Annex, Part I, Action 2, paragraph 4

Structural support may be provided directly to **two** bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest : the Platform of European Social NGOs **and** the European Movement.

Structural support may be provided directly to **three** bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest : the Platform of European Social NGOs, the European Movement **and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles.**

Amendment 29  
Annex, Part I, action 2, paragraph 5

Civil society organisations, such as non-governmental organisations, trade unions, federations, think tanks etc., can, through debate, publications, advocacy, and other concrete transnational projects, involve citizens or represent their interests. Introducing or building on a European dimension in the activities of civil society organisations will enable them to enhance their capacities and reach wider audiences. Direct cooperation among civil society organisations from different Member States

Civil society organisations, such as non-governmental organisations, **European associations, networks, associations of third-country nationals**, trade unions, federations, think tanks, **organisations for EU citizens resident outside the territory of the Union**, etc., can, through debate, publications, advocacy, and other concrete transnational projects, involve citizens or represent their interests. Introducing or building on a European dimension in the activities of civil society organisations will

will contribute to mutual understanding for the different cultures and point of views and to the identification of shared concerns and values. While this may be in the form of single projects, a longer-term approach will also ensure a more sustainable impact and the development of networks and synergies.

enable them to enhance their capacities and reach wider audiences. Direct cooperation among civil society organisations from different Member States will contribute to mutual understanding for the different cultures and point of views and to the identification of shared concerns and values. While this may be in the form of single projects, a longer-term approach will also ensure a more sustainable impact and the development of networks and synergies.

#### *Justification*

*See justifications for previous amendments.*

#### Amendment 30 Annex, Part I, Action 3, paragraph 1

Given the focus on citizens and the variety of initiatives in the field of active citizenship, comprehensive information on the various activities of the programme, on other European actions related to citizenship and on other relevant initiatives needs to be provided through an Internet portal and other tools.

Given the focus on citizens and the variety of initiatives in the field of active citizenship, comprehensive information on the various activities of the programme, on other European actions related to citizenship and on other relevant initiatives needs to be provided through an Internet portal and other tools. ***In particular, the provision of information on Directive 2004/38/EC, the deadline for the transposition of which in the Member States is 30 April 2006, shall be treated as a priority.***

#### *Justification*

*See justification for the amendment inserting a Recital 4a.*

#### Amendment 31 Annex, part I, action 3 a (new)

##### ***ACTION 3a: ACTIVE EUROPEAN REMEMBRANCE***

***Under this action the following types of project may be supported:***

***- projects for the preservation of the main sites and memorials associated with the***

*mass deportations, the former concentration camps and other large-scale martyrdom and extermination sites of Nazism, as well as archives documenting those events and for keeping alive the memory of the victims at those sites;*  
*- projects for keeping alive the memory of those who, under extreme conditions, rescued people from the Holocaust;*  
*- projects for the preservation of the former concentration camps and memorials relating to the victims of European dictatorships and civil wars in Spain, Greece and Portugal, as well as archives documenting those historical periods, and other activities for keeping alive the memory of the victims;*  
*- projects for the commemoration of the victims of mass exterminations and mass deportations associated with Stalinism, as well as the preservation of the memorials and archives documenting those events.*  
*Projects under this action should be of transnational significance or have a transnational element and should support understanding among the peoples of Europe of the principles of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights.*

#### *Justification*

*The countries of Southern Europe experienced dictatorial regimes and civil wars in the 20th century, which have to large extent common characteristics. The stabilisation of democracy in Spain, Greece and Portugal was very much achieved thanks to their accession to the European Community. Community action aiming at the preservation of the memory of the main sites and the victims of these historical periods would demonstrate EU support for its citizens and give more visibility to this programme. Due to the common characteristics between the dictatorial regimes in these three states, projects under this action will have a transnational element.*

#### *Amendment 32*

*Annex, Part I, Action 3, paragraph 4 a (new)*

*The selection criteria laid down and the*

*classification table applied shall be made available to all interested operators. Funding applications shall be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:*

- consistency with the programme's objective;*
- quality of the planned activities;*
- probable multiplier effect of such activities on the general public;*
- geographical impact of the activities carried out, in terms of both territorial outreach and the number of countries involved;*
- involvement by citizens in the organisation of the bodies concerned.*

*Where two or more projects are of equal quality, priority shall be given to applicants operating on a non-profit basis (voluntary organisations, non-profit bodies, public institutes, etc.).*

*Irrespective of whether they have been granted financial support or not, applicants shall be entitled to receive relevant information on the reasons for the final decision.*

#### *Justification*

*The selection procedure needs to be transparent. What is more, it is important for priority to be given to organisations operating on a non-profit basis, since they are the epitome of active citizenship.*

## PROCEDURAL PAGE

<b>Title</b>	Proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision establishing for the period 2007-2013 the programme "Citizens for Europe" to promote active European citizenship
<b>References</b>	COM(2005)0116 – C6-0101/2005 – 2005/0041(COD)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	CULT
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	LIBE 10.5.2005
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>	
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Giusto Catania 6.6.2005
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>	
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	21.2.2006                      -                      -
<b>Date adopted</b>	21.2.2006
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ :    40 - :    3 0 :    0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Alexander Nuno Alvaro, Edit Bauer, Johannes Blokland, Mihael Brejc, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Michael Cashman, Giusto Catania, Jean-Marie Cavada, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Carlos Coelho, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Rosa Díez González, Antoine Duquesne, Kinga Gál, Patrick Gaubert, Lilli Gruber, Livia Járóka, Timothy Kirkhope, Ewa Klamt, Barbara Kudrycka, Romano Maria La Russa, Henrik Lax, Sarah Ludford, Claude Moraes, Hartmut Nassauer, Athanasios Pafilis, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Antonio Tajani, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, Manfred Weber, Stefano Zappalà, Tatjana Ždanoka
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Gérard Deprez, Camiel Eurlings, Evelyne Gebhardt, Genowefa Grabowska, Sophia in 't Veld, Jean Lambert, Katalin Lévai, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Rainer Wieland
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Iratxe García Pérez
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	...