

P6_TA(2008)0286

European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion *I**

European Parliament legislative resolution of 17 June 2008 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010) (COM(2007)0797 – C6-0469/2007 – 2007/0278(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2007)0797),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 137(2) of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C6-0469/2007),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0173/2008),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Takes note of the Commission statement annexed hereto;
 3. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission.

P6_TC1-COD(2007)0278

Position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 17 June 2008 with a view to the adoption of Decision No .../2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010)

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position at first reading corresponds to the final legislative act, Decision No 1098/2008/EC.)

Statement by the Commission

The Commission attaches the greatest importance to facilitating and supporting wide participation at all levels in activities connected with the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion as a practical means of ensuring that its impact is positive and lasting.

In accordance with the Decision on the European Year, the Commission will draw up common guidelines in the Strategic Framework Document (SFD) which will set the key priorities for the implementation of activities relating to the European Year, including minimum standards in terms of participation in national bodies and actions (*see Annex, Part II, point 2 of the Decision*).

The SFD is addressed to the National Implementing Bodies (NIBs) responsible for defining the national programmes for the European Year and for selecting individual actions to be proposed for Community funding, and to other actors concerned.

In that context, the Commission will underline the importance of facilitating access by all NGOs, including small and medium-sized organisations. With a view to ensuring the widest possible access, the NIBs can decide not to request any co-financing and instead to fully fund certain actions.