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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

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PE 392.254v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-74

Draft opinion

(PE 390.719v01-00)

Jan Andersson

Adult learning: it's never too late to learn
(COM(2006)0614 – 2007/2114(INI))

Amendment by Mary Lou McDonald

Amendment 1

Paragraph 1

1. ***Stresses that adult learning is an important part of the lifelong learning strategy in which personal development, active citizenship and social inclusion is closely interlinked with the strengthening of workers' position in the labour market and their employability;***

Or. en

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 2

Paragraph 1

1. Agrees with the view that lifelong learning plays an important role for competitiveness, employability and social inclusion but also for overcoming the mismatches in the labour market and achieving the Lisbon goal of a higher participation rate for those over 50 years of age ***so as to avoid the risk of being inadequately informed, the undoubted source of social marginalisation.***

Or. it

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Amendment by Jan Jerzy Kułakowski

Amendment 3
Paragraph 1

1. Agrees with the view that lifelong learning plays an important role ***first and foremost*** for ***enhancing*** social inclusion ***and employability*** but also for overcoming the mismatches in the labour market and achieving the Lisbon goal of a higher participation rate for those over 50 years of age, ***as well as for competitiveness***.

Or. pl

Amendment by Sepp Kusstatscher

Amendment 4
Paragraph 1

1. Agrees with the view that lifelong learning plays an important role ***in the individual's personal development and in improving*** competitiveness, employability and social inclusion but also ***in*** overcoming the mismatches in the labour market and achieving the Lisbon goal of a higher participation rate for those over 50 years of age.

Or. de

Amendment by Ona Juknevičienė

Amendment 5
Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. ***Notes that adult participation in education and training remains limited in a number of Member States; calls on the Member States to increase access to adult learning by motivating, encouraging, enabling and supporting the adults, especially those who are low-skilled, to participate in formal, non-formal and informal learning;***

Or. en

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 6
Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. *Points out that adult education courses are efficient only if they are combined with incentives;***

Or. de

Amendment by Sepp Kusstatscher

Amendment 7
Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. *Underlines the diversity of ways and means of lifelong learning, whether as in-house training or extramural courses, participation in further education in the widest possible variety of education and training establishments, or indeed individual learning;***

Or. de

Amendment by Mary Lou McDonald

Amendment 8
Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. *Regrets that, despite the emphasis on the necessity of developing a broad system of adult education as part of a system of lifelong learning, which has been on the agenda since the 1970s, implementation is still weak;***

Or. en

Amendment by Elizabeth Lynne

Amendment 9
Paragraph 2

- 2. *Underlines the importance of adult learning in order to increase the employment rate, including that of people over 50, as well as to achieve the goal of creating more and better jobs in Europe; stresses that lifelong learning also carries benefits to the individual beyond equipping them for the workplace, such as improving quality of life, promoting individual development, personal fulfilment and active citizenship;***

notes that education of older generations also carries benefits for the younger generations;

Or. en

Amendment by Jan Jerzy Kułakowski

Amendment 10
Paragraph 2

2. Underlines the importance of adult learning in order to lower the unemployment rate, as well as achieve the goal of creating better jobs in Europe ***and secure the social integration of such persons.***

Or. pl

Amendment by Sepp Kusstatscher

Amendment 11
Paragraph 2

2. Underlines the importance of adult ***education and training*** in order to lower the unemployment rate, as well as achieve the goal of creating better jobs in Europe.

Or. de

Amendment by Françoise Castex

Amendment 12
Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. ***Draws attention to the responsibility particularly incumbent on companies to forecast their trained staff requirements so that the provision of adult education can be adapted to those requirements;***

Or. fr

Amendment by Maria Matsouka

Amendment 13
Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. *Maintains however that continuing education, even after retirement, can have a particularly positive effect on pensioners' quality of life, and on preserving good mental and physical health.***

Or. el

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 14
Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. *Expects the provision of adult education to be designed to ensure that employees' training also reflects the demand for skills;***

Or. de

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 15
Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. *Stresses that recognition and official approval of non-formal and informal education often provides a basis for the development of lifelong learning.***

Or. el

Amendment by Ona Juknevičienė

Amendment 16
Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. *Calls on the Member States to expand and improve investment in human capital and adapt education and training systems to new competence and labour market requirements;***

Or. en

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 17
Paragraph 2 b (new)

- 2b. *Points out that the development of national vocational qualifications frameworks must be accompanied by official approval and recognition procedures for non-formal and informal education within the European Qualifications Framework.***

Or. el

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 18
Paragraph 2 c (new)

- 2c. *Underlines the fact that European educational institutions must tackle the challenge of improving the quality, both of education and training objectives at all levels and of the assessment methods of current education provision, providing a strong basis for lifelong learning thereafter.***

Or. el

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 19
Paragraph 3

3. Points out that lifelong learning does not just increase the workers' employability, it also increases their ***geographical and vocational*** mobility which is important for the functioning of the internal market.

Or. el

Amendment by Elizabeth Lynne

Amendment 20
Paragraph 3

3. Points out that lifelong learning does not just increase the workers employability ***but that*** it also increases their ***flexibility and*** mobility, which is important for the functioning of the internal market;

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 21

Paragraph 3

3. Points out that lifelong learning does not just increase the workers employability it also increases their mobility, which is important for the functioning of the internal market; ***for this reason there is a need for the availability of reliable statistics on the school dropout rates identified in the education systems of the various countries.***

Or. it

Amendment by Jan Jerzy Kułakowski

Amendment 22

Paragraph 3

3. Points out that lifelong learning does not just increase the workers employability it also increases their mobility which is important for the functioning of the internal market ***and the related social structures.***

Or. pl

Amendment by Philip Bushill-Matthews

Amendment 23

Paragraph 3 a (new)

- 3a. Highlights the value of promoting the learning of second (and third) languages in facilitating greater worker mobility;***

Or. en

Amendment by Maria Matsouka

Amendment 24

Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that a low level of qualification implies a risk of unemployment and by

training, the individual will continue to possess or acquire the competences necessary to gain employment. ***In this context, takes the view that special emphasis should be placed on education and training in new technologies for workers and the unemployed, with technological education for those with the lowest levels of education receiving particular promotion and funding.***

Or. el

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 25

Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that a low level of qualification, ***which is the current situation of a third of the European workforce***, implies a risk of unemployment and by training, the individual will continue to possess or acquire the competences necessary to gain employment, ***in view of the increase in new jobs which require highly qualified workers***.

Or. el

Amendment by Jan Jerzy Kułakowski

Amendment 26

Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that low level of qualification implies a risk of unemployment and by training, the individual will ***(deletion)*** acquire the ***new*** competences necessary to gain employment ***and improve the quality of his or her work***.

Or. pl

Amendment by Mary Lou McDonald

Amendment 27

Paragraph 4

4. Highlights ***that one-third of the European labour force (72 million workers) remains low-skilled and that such a*** low level of qualification implies a risk of unemployment and by training the individual will continue to possess or acquire the competences necessary to gain employment;

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 28

Paragraph 4

4. Highlights that low level of qualification implies a **high** risk of unemployment and that, by training, the individual will continue to possess or acquire the competences necessary to gain employment.

Or. it

Amendment by Françoise Castex

Amendment 29

Paragraph 4 a (new)

- 4a. Accordingly draws attention to the importance to each individual of being able to validate the results and achievements of each training course and to have them recognised on the employment market;*

Or. fr

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 30

Paragraph 5

5. Stresses the importance of all citizens having **easy** access and opportunity to take part in lifelong learning programmes, and regrets in this context the fact that those with the lowest levels of initial education, older people, people in rural, **island and disadvantaged** areas, **(deletion)** the disabled **and resident migrants will find it difficult** to participate **in such programmes** in all countries.

Or. el

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 31

Paragraph 5

5. Stresses the importance that all citizens have equal access and opportunity to take part in lifelong learning programmes *with the aim of achieving real ‘active citizenship’*; regrets in this context the fact that those with the lowest levels of initial education, older people, people in rural areas, *(deletion)* the disabled *and immigrants* are the least likely to participate in all countries.

Or. it

Amendment by Jan Jerzy Kułakowski

Amendment 32

Paragraph 5

5. Stresses the importance that all citizens have equal access and opportunity to take part in life long learning programs, and regrets in this context the fact that *women*, those with the lowest levels of initial education, older people, people in rural areas, and the disabled being the least likely to participate in all countries.

Or. pl

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 33

Paragraph 5

5. Stresses the importance that all citizens have equal access and opportunity to take part in lifelong learning programmes, and regrets in this context the fact that those with the lowest levels of initial education, older people, *women*, people in rural areas, and the disabled are the least likely to participate in all countries; *they must be offered different, suitable programmes and methods.*

Or. nl

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 34
Paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. *Stresses that the Member States must ensure that they endeavour to tackle the obstacles that face sections of the population such as the disabled in education, training and lifelong learning; points out that this can be achieved through more visible opportunities for learning, through the creation of new opportunities for learning and through provision of ‘reasonable accommodation’ for disabled people.*

Or. el

Amendment by Maria Matsouka

Amendment 35
Paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. *Calls on the Member States to adopt proposals to facilitate access to lifelong learning and training, to make the necessary investments to create the required infrastructure and also to encourage older people, the underprivileged and those with lower levels of education to engage in lifelong learning.*

Or. el

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 36
Paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. *Points out that lifelong learning measures to teach language and vocational skills to migrants would be beneficial, enabling them to contribute to the development of their host country and also of their country of origin.*

Or. el

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 37
Paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. *Points out that retraining and further training to enable citizens to obtain*

qualifications is possible only if they are given time for learning, by providing either childcare facilities or periods during working hours;

Or. de

Amendment by Jamila Madeira

Amendment 38
Paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. *Points to the importance of recognising and validating skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning, as a starting point for obtaining new qualifications;*

Or. pt

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 39
Paragraph 5 b (new)

5b. *Calls on the Member States to support the use of new information and communications technologies for educational purposes, as they play a key role in ensuring equal opportunities for disabled people, facilitating their participation in lifelong learning.*

Or. el

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 40
Paragraph 5 c (new)

5c. *Asks the Commission to increase the participation of disabled people in calls for proposals in the context of the new multiannual programmes for 2007-2013, such as the 'Lifelong Learning' programme.*

Or. el

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 41
Paragraph 6

6. Underlines the importance of adult learning *for social inclusion and* to integrate migrants and increase their employability.

Or. nl

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 42
Paragraph 6

6. *Does not affect English version.*

Or. it

Amendment by Ona Juknevičienė

Amendment 43
Paragraph 6

6. Underlines the importance of adult learning to integrate migrants, increase their employability *and active participation in the labour market, and strengthen social cohesion;*

Or. en

Amendment by Mary Lou McDonald

Amendment 44
Paragraph 6

6. Underlines the importance of adult learning to integrate migrants and *improve their position in the labour market;*

Or. en

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 45
Paragraph 6 a (new)

- 6a. *Also underlines the importance in adult education, for both personal and professional purposes, of incorporating such methods as peer learning and the exchange of best practice;***

Or. nl

Amendment by Thomas Mann

Amendment 46
Paragraph 6 a (new)

- 7. *Stresses the importance of actively involving the social partners and other stakeholders, as it is only through functional social partnerships that employers and employees are able to act eyeball to eyeball; underlines the fact that in Member States without a developed structure of social partnership its creation should be given support;***

Or. de

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 47
Paragraph 7

- 7. *Stresses the importance of active participation by the social partners and other stakeholders in the scheme and the implementation of lifelong learning measures at every level.***

Or. el

Amendment by Elizabeth Lynne

Amendment 48
Paragraph 7

- 7. *Stress the importance of actively involving the social partners and other stakeholders, including social NGOs;***

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 49
Paragraph 7

7. Stresses the importance of actively involving the social partners and other stakeholders, *so as to make it possible to create useful education and training courses in partnership between several entities, either for people's first job or for career promotion, as they know that greater individual productivity promotes an improvement in individual and collective well-being and a significant saving in social security costs;*

Or. it

Amendment by Françoise Castex

Amendment 50
Paragraph 7 a (new)

- 7a. *Draws attention to the proven effectiveness of lifelong learning plans for employees, negotiated and set up as close as possible to the needs of companies (employment area, groups of companies, industrial sectors etc.);*

Or. fr

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 51
Paragraph 7 a (new)

- 7a. *Urges the Member States to ensure better coordination and cooperation between the private and public sector, so as to overcome obstacles to participation and develop comprehensive policies to promote the adult education agenda.*

Or. el

Amendment by Thomas Mann

Amendment 52

Paragraph 8

8. Underlines the importance of the ESF and other structural funds in order to achieve these goals; ***points out what a crucial and always practical contribution the ESF has been making to create more and better jobs – for 50 years now – and that in so doing it has been a highly successful EU instrument for growth, employment and the improvement of people’s living conditions.***

Or. de

Amendment by Françoise Castex

Amendment 53

Paragraph 8

8. Underlines the importance of the ESF and other structural funds in order to achieve these goals, ***and calls on the Commission to reinforce the specific programmes in this area.***

Or. fr

Amendment by Elizabeth Lynne

Amendment 54

Paragraph 8

8. Underlines the importance of the ESF and other structural funds in order to achieve ***the goal of lifelong learning for all and urges the monitoring of the structural funds to ensure that more is allocated to those who need lifelong learning most;***

Or. en

Amendment by Mary Lou McDonald

Amendment 55

Paragraph 8

8. Underlines the importance of ESF and other structural funds in order to achieve these goals ***but recognises that significant levels of additional public investment is***

necessary to reach the benchmark goal of 12,5 % participation in adult education by 2010, requiring a reorientation of the Stability Pact criteria.

Or. en

Amendment by Ona Juknevičienė

Amendment 56
Paragraph 8 a (new)

8a. *Regrets that in some Member States insufficient priority and funding is being dedicated to increasing access to adult learning opportunities, especially for older and lower-skilled workers; calls on the Member States more actively to use the Structural Funds, and in particular the European Social Fund, to support the development of infrastructure and strategies for adult learning;*

Or. en

Amendment by Jamila Madeira

Amendment 57
Paragraph 8 a (new)

8a. *Points to the need to promote quality in teaching and increase the opportunities available to adults, not least by investing in trainers and teaching via new technologies;*

Or. pt

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 58
Paragraph 9

9. Stresses that improving the delivery of adult learning is essential to raise participation. Measures to promote effective delivery include availability of learning sites, ***facilitating learning at the workplace by adjusting working hours***, childcare facilities locally, distance learning services for those in remote areas, information and guidance, tailored programmes and flexible teaching arrangements.

Or. el

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 59
Paragraph 9

9. Stresses that improving the delivery of adult learning, ***the provision of information and incentives and making it easier to combine work with family life are*** essential to raise participation. Measures to promote effective delivery include availability of learning sites, ***childcare*** facilities locally, distance learning services for ***the disabled or vulnerable*** in remote areas, ***(deletion)*** tailored programmes and flexible teaching arrangements, ***and information and guidance on lifelong learning measures and on job opportunities.***

Or. el

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 60
Paragraph 9

9. Stresses that improving the delivery of adult learning is essential to raise participation ***in the social life of the community.*** Measures to promote effective delivery include ***staff retraining,*** availability of learning sites, childcare facilities locally, distance learning services for those in remote areas, information and guidance, tailored programmes and flexible ***and modular*** teaching arrangements, ***in both education and training courses; considers that an Adult Education Officer's Portfolio should be set up, not only to describe the skills required for such a post but also to provide a supporting document for the training officer's working life.***

Or. it

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 61
Paragraph 9

9. Stresses that improving the delivery of adult learning is essential to raise participation. Measures to promote effective delivery include availability of learning sites, childcare facilities locally, distance learning services for those in remote areas, information and guidance, tailored programmes and flexible teaching arrangements; ***the content and testing of education must be tailored to vocational and practical requirements.***

Amendment by Ria Oomen-Ruijten

Amendment 62
Paragraph 9 a (new)

9a. *Points out that training measures must also be generally recognised and should contribute to professional advancement;*

Or. de

Amendment by Thomas Mann

Amendment 63
Paragraph 10

10. Urges the Member States to take appropriate measures to tackle the low employment rates of older workers and to put in place the right conditions to facilitate progress in employment, whether it is first time entry, a move back to employment or the wish to prolong working lives; ***considers it no less important to encourage companies, and create incentives for this, to employ or appoint older employees for longer, since as a rule they are highly competent, experienced, reliable and highly trained.***

Or. de

Amendment by Elizabeth Lynne

Amendment 64
Paragraph 10

10. Urges the Member States to take appropriate measures to tackle the low employment rates of older workers, ***in particular those who have had atypical career paths or lack ICT skills***, and to put in place the ***necessary*** conditions to facilitate progress in employment, whether it is first time entry, a move back to employment or the wish to prolong working lives;

Or. en

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 65

Paragraph 10

10. Urges the Member States to take appropriate measures to tackle the low employment rates of older workers and to put in place the right conditions to ***provide lifelong learning services at every level to*** facilitate progress in employment, whether it is first time entry, a move back to employment or the wish to prolong working lives.

Or. el

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 66

Paragraph 10

10. Urges the Member States to ***invest in their elderly and immigrant population; points out that, to meet the training needs of pensioners who over the next few decades will reach retirement with increasingly high qualifications, given the spread of university education, further education establishments and universities should be providing courses that will fulfil the new adult education requirements;***

Or. it

Amendment by Mary Lou McDonald

Amendment 67

Paragraph 10

10. Urges the Member States to take appropriate measures to tackle the low employment rates of older workers and to put in place the right conditions to facilitate progress in employment, whether it is first time entry, a move back to employment or the wish to prolong working lives ***but strongly disagrees with the Commission's call for the (compulsory) raising of the retirement age, which is offensive to many older people who have often worked under hard conditions for over 40 years;***

Or. en

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 68
Paragraph 10a (new)

- 10a. ***Calls on the Member States to ensure that workers who are obliged to change their job after an accident at work or illness can participate in continuing training and improve their career prospects.***

Or. el

Amendment by Jan Andersson

Amendment 69
Paragraph 11

11. Encourages the Member States to provide ***economic*** and other incentives both for workers, to ensure a longer working life and for employers to hire and keep older workers, by providing lifelong learning opportunities, by improving working conditions and quality in work.

Or. en

Amendment by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou

Amendment 70
Paragraph 11

11. Encourages the Member States to ***reinforce measures on universal access to information and*** provide fiscal and other incentives (***deletion***) for workers ***who, in parallel with their work, take part in lifelong learning programmes; stresses that tax relief measures are also needed for employers hiring and keeping*** older workers by providing lifelong learning opportunities.

Or. el

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 71
Paragraph 11

11. Encourages the Member States to provide fiscal and other incentives both for workers, ***to support re-employment with retraining,*** to ensure a longer working life, and for

employers, to hire and keep older workers, by providing lifelong learning opportunities, by improving working conditions and quality in work.

Or. it

Amendment by Ona Juknevičienė

Amendment 72
Paragraph 11 a (new)

11a. Believes that strengthening collaboration between higher education and industry is a basis for innovation and increased competitiveness; regrets that in some Member States higher education reforms are not being implemented;

Or. en

Amendment by Iles Braghetto

Amendment 73
Paragraph 12

12. Calls on the Commission to ensure that each Member State take the legal steps necessary to offer and provide access to lifelong learning for all employees or jobseekers, **updating the present standards for adult education by reviewing the current curricula for educational courses available in Europe, and integrating them with training courses; considers that the following points are priorities in this context: the evaluation of formal, non-formal and informal qualifications for admission; methods of evaluating learning, and certifying skills, that will better suit the mobility needs of workers; the acquisition of online training methods for integration with normal classroom training; the provision of medium- and long-term refresher courses more frequently than at present for those teaching and working in this sector.**

Or. it

Amendment by Jan Andersson

Amendment 74
Paragraph 12

12. Calls on the Commission to ensure that each Member State take the legal **and financial** steps necessary to offer and provide access to lifelong learning for all employees or jobseekers.

