



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 May 2008

8935/08

**CULT 60
EDUC 127
SOC 251
COMPET 156
RECH 150**

REPORT

from : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
to : Council

No. Cion prop. : 7755/08 CULT 32 EDUC 85 SOC 184 COMPET 111 RECH 104
No. prev. doc. 8637/08 CULT 52 EDUC 117 SOC 232 COMPET 142 RECH 139

Subject : Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning
the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009) (LA)
- *General approach*

The Commission adopted the above proposal on 28 March 2008.

The text resulting from the examination of the proposal by the Permanent Representatives Committee is attached in annex. The text meets with the agreement of all delegations, although IT maintains a general scrutiny reservation.

The Council, after verifying the status of this outstanding reservation, is invited to reach an agreement on this file in the form of a general approach. Such a general approach would form a solid basis for the incoming Presidency to engage in contacts with the European Parliament with a view to exploring the possibility of an agreement in first reading.

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

concerning the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009)

Text with EEA relevance

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 149 and 150 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee²,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions³,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty⁴,

Whereas:

- (1) Europe needs to strengthen its capacity for creativity and innovation for social and economic reasons in order to respond effectively to the development of the knowledge society: innovative capacity is closely linked with creativity as a personal attribute, and to be harnessed to full advantage it needs to be widely disseminated throughout the population. This requires an approach based on lifelong learning.
- (2) Education and training systems should cater sufficiently and at all appropriate levels for the development of key competences to support creativity and innovation, with a view to finding innovative and original solutions in personal, occupational and social life.

¹ OJ C , , p. .

² OJ C , , p. .

³ OJ C , , p. .

⁴ OJ C , , p. .

- (3) The Lisbon European Council (23-24 March 2000) concluded that a European framework should define the new basic skills to be provided through lifelong learning as a key measure in Europe's response to globalisation and the shift to knowledge-based economies, and emphasised that people are Europe's main asset.
- (4) The Commission Communication "Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning a Reality" and the subsequent Council Resolution of 27 June 2002 on lifelong learning⁵ identified the provision of "the new basic skills" as a priority and stressed that lifelong learning must cover learning from pre-school to post-retirement age
- (5) The Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning⁶ identified, in particular, "mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology", "learning to learn", "digital competence", a "sense of initiative and entrepreneurship", "cultural awareness and expression" and "social and civic competences".
- (6) At its meeting of 8/9 March 2007 the European Council noted that education and training are prerequisites for a well-functioning knowledge triangle (education/research/innovation) and play a key role in boosting growth and jobs. It called for particular attention to be given to stimulating the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises, including those in the cultural and creative sectors, in view of their role as drivers of growth, job creation and innovation.
- (7) Declaring a European Year of Creativity and Innovation is an effective way of helping to meet the challenges facing Europe by raising public awareness, disseminating information about good practices and promoting research and policy debate. By creating an environment for simultaneously promoting these objectives at European, national, regional and local levels, it can achieve greater synergy and critical mass than disparate efforts at different levels.

⁵ OJ C 163, 9.7.2002, p. 1.

⁶ Recommendation 2006/962/EC, OJ L 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10.

- (8) As the promotion of creativity and of a capacity for innovation through lifelong learning falls within the objectives of existing programmes, in particular the Lifelong Learning Programme⁷, such a Year can be implemented by using that programme within the existing margins which it provides for setting funding priorities on an annual or multiannual basis; programmes and policies in other fields, such as enterprise, cohesion, rural development, research and the information society, also contribute to promoting creativity and a capacity for innovation and may support the initiative within their respective legal frameworks.
- (9) Since the objectives of this Decision cannot be sufficiently achieved by Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, as provided for in Article 5 of the Treaty.
- (10) In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as provided for in the same Article, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Subject

The year 2009 shall be designated as the “European Year of Creativity and Innovation”.

⁷ Decision No 1720/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 (OJ L 327, 24.11.2006, p. 45).

Article 2

Objectives

1. The overall objective of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation shall be to support the efforts of the Member States to promote creativity, through lifelong learning, as a driver for innovation and as a key factor for the development of personal, occupational, entrepreneurial and social competences and the well-being of all individuals in society.
- 2.⁸ The specific objectives of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation shall be to highlight, *inter alia*, the following factors which can contribute to promoting creativity and a capacity for innovation:
 - a) providing an environment which is favourable to innovation, flexibility and adaptability in a rapidly changing world and creative management of diversity; all forms of innovation, including social and entrepreneurial innovation, should be taken into account;
 - b) stimulating aesthetic sensitivity, emotional development, lateral thinking and intuition and fostering creativity in all children from the earliest stages of development, including pre-school care;
 - c) raising awareness of the importance of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for personal development, as well as for economic growth and employment; and fostering entrepreneurial mindsets, particularly among young people;
 - d) promoting education in basic as well as advanced mathematic, scientific and technological skills conducive to technological innovation;
 - e) fostering openness to change, creativity and problem-solving as competences conducive to innovation which are transferable to a variety of occupational and social contexts;

⁸ Delegations consider the list of specific objectives in this paragraph to be too long and invite the Presidency, in its informal contacts with the European Parliament, to explore ways of streamlining the text. Point (j) creates a particular difficulty in its current formulation and other points, in particular points (f), (l) and (m), may also need to be examined.

- f) broadening access, and reducing disparities in access, to a variety of creative forms of self-expression, throughout formal education, and particularly during young people's most formative years, so that the personal development of some is not hindered;
- g) raising awareness among people that creativity, knowledge and flexibility are important in a time of rapid technological changes and global integration for a prosperous and fulfilling life; and equipping people to improve their career opportunities in all areas where creativity and a capacity for innovation play an important role;
- h) promoting closer links between arts, business and schools and universities;
- i) developing creativity and innovative capacity through non-formal and informal youth activities;
- j) encouraging those who are not on the labour market to develop their creative potential for personal fulfilment and those who seek employment to enhance their attractiveness on the labour market;
- k) promoting design as a creative activity which significantly contributes to innovation, as well as innovation management and design management skills, including basic notions of protection of intellectual property;
- l) highlighting openness to cultural diversity as a means of fostering intercultural communication and artistic cross-fertilisation; and
- m) developing creativity and innovative capacity in private and public organisations through training, and encouraging organisations to make better use of the creative capacities of individuals, employees as well as of customers or users.

Article 3

Content of measures

The measures to be taken to achieve the objectives set out in Article 2 shall include the following activities at European, national, regional or local level linked to the objectives and themes of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation:

- a) conferences, events and initiatives to promote debate and raise awareness of the importance of creativity and a capacity for innovation;

- b) information and promotion campaigns to disseminate key messages;
- c) identification of examples of good practice and dissemination of information about promoting creativity and a capacity for innovation;
- d) surveys and studies on a Community or national scale.

In addition to activities co-financed by the Community in accordance with Article 6, the Commission or the Member States may identify other activities as contributing to objectives of the Year and permit the use of the name of the Year in promoting those activities insofar as they contribute to achieving the objectives set out in Article 2.

Article 4

Cooperation with the Member States

Each Member State shall appoint a national coordinator responsible for organising its participation in the European Year of Creativity and Innovation [...]. The coordinator shall ensure the coordination at national level of activities relating to the European Year of Creativity and Innovation.

Article 5

Coordination at European level

The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators in order to coordinate the implementation of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation at European level and to exchange information on implementation thereof at national level.

Article 6

Funding

Without prejudice to the support that may be given to the Year by programmes and policies in other fields such as enterprise, cohesion, research and the information society, cofinancing at European level of activities within the framework of the Year shall be in accordance with the priorities and rules applying to existing programmes in the field of education and training, and in particular the Lifelong Learning Programme.

Article 7

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 8

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the European Parliament
The President
[...]

For the Council
The President
[...]