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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2005/0203(COD)

20.4.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008) (COM(2005)0467 – C6-0311/2005 – 2005/0203(COD))

Draftswoman: Kinga Gál

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs wishes to draw attention to the following European Parliament resolutions and Commission documents which form the background to the amendments it has proposed in this opinion:

- resolution on the situation of the Roma in the European Union, adopted 28 April 2005,
- resolution on promotion and protection of fundamental rights: the role of national and European institutions, including the Fundamental Rights Agency (2005/2007(INI)), adopted 26 May 2005,
- resolution on Anti-discrimination policies Minority protection in an enlarged Union, adopted 8 June 2005 (2005/2008(INI)),
- proposal for a Council Decision: European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period 2007-2013, as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows' (2005/0048(CNS) - COM(2005)0123),
- proposal for a Council Decision: for 2007-2013 the specific programme "Fundamental rights and citizenship" as part of the General programme "Fundamental Rights and Justice" (2005/0038(CNS) - COM(2005)0122),
- proposal for a Regulation establishing EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights (2005/0124(CNS)),
- recruitment of terrorists: communication of the Commission on the fight against factors contributing to violent radicalisation (COM(2005)0313),
- Commission Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on "Non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all - A framework strategy" (COM(2005)0224),

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

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 1
Recital 4

(4) At the heart of the European project, intercultural dialogue appears to be the tool of choice for citizens to manage the complex reality in our societies and galvanise them.

(4) At the heart of the European project, intercultural dialogue appears to be the tool of choice for citizens to manage the complex reality in our societies and galvanise them.
This reality is simultaneously shaped by the impacts of globalisation and by the process of extending an increasingly political project beyond the economic aspects of European integration. In order to answer this multi-faceted challenge, European citizens and those living in the European Union need to be prepared for effective, peaceful and prosperous coexistence, to show tolerance and to accept diversity.

Justification

When referring to the complex reality in societies, the effects of globalisation and those of the EU's political priorities (especially that of promoting European citizenship in search of reinforcing legitimacy) have to be mentioned as well. A general openness towards learning from other cultures is a precondition for addressing the situation by way of intercultural dialogue.

Amendment 2
Recital 6

(6) Intercultural dialogue is an important dimension in many Community policies and instruments in the fields of education, youth, culture, citizenship and sport, combating discrimination and social exclusion, lifelong learning, combating racism and xenophobia, policy on asylum and the integration of immigrants, audiovisual policy and research. At the same time it is an increasing factor in the European Union's external relations, particularly with regard to the candidate countries, the countries of the western Balkans and the partner countries of the European neighbourhood policy.

(6) Intercultural dialogue is an important dimension in many Community policies and instruments in the fields of education, youth, culture, citizenship and sport, combating discrimination and social exclusion, lifelong learning, combating racism and xenophobia, policy on asylum and the integration of immigrants, audiovisual policy and research.
In addition, it should be placed at the heart of new Community policies to be introduced to protect and promote the special identity of traditional ethnic, linguistic and national minorities and thus answer the specific needs of the recently enlarged Union. At the same time it is an increasing factor in the European Union's external relations, particularly with regard to the candidate countries, the countries of the

western Balkans and the partner countries of the European neighbourhood policy.

Justification

Culture is universally recognised as a fundamental component of identity. In particular, for traditional ethnic, linguistic and national minorities, preserving and promoting their peculiar cultural characteristics is essential in maintaining their distinctive identity. As a first step to achieve this goal, specific Community programmes have to be worked out that are tailored to the specific needs of these communities, different from immigrants and other groups subject to discrimination.

Amendment 3
Recital 7

(7) Building on this diversified basis of Community experiences and initiatives, involving each citizen and European society as a whole in an intercultural dialogue approach is a fundamental step.

(7) Building on this diversified basis of Community experiences and initiatives, involving each citizen and European society as a whole in an intercultural dialogue approach is a fundamental step. ***It complements measures aimed at creating a European identity, the content of which may be enriched by the principle of inclusion without assimilation. Embracing differences shapes the various aspects of belonging to a community. . The promotion of learning 'intercultural civility' must contribute to this. 'Intercultural civility' is the complement to and a necessary condition for the implementation of true equality of opportunity for all***

Justification

It is important to capture the concept of intercultural dialogue in the context of existing Community priorities and policies.

Arising from the methods and tools evolved by intercultural communication, the development of 'intercultural civility' is now a key condition for intercultural dialogue. Fruitful dialogue cannot take place unless citizens from different cultures share a certain number of basic codes encouraging mutual respect and learning from each other. The development of intercultural civility in the EU represents a major asset for its competitiveness, just as it also offers the citizen a key skill to be acquired in the context of creating true equality of opportunity for all.

Amendment 4
Recital 11

(11) It will also be important to ensure complementarity between the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and all external aspects of promoting intercultural dialogue initiatives developed within appropriate frameworks, including with those EFTA countries which are party to the EEA agreement, the countries of the western Balkans and the partner countries of the European neighbourhood policy. It will be also important to ensure complementarity with any other initiative of cooperation with third countries, in particular developing countries, relevant for the objectives of intercultural dialogue of the European Year of Intercultural *dialogue*.

(11) It will also be important to ensure complementarity between the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and all external aspects of promoting intercultural dialogue initiatives developed within appropriate frameworks, including with those EFTA countries which are party to the EEA agreement, the countries of the western Balkans and the partner countries of the European neighbourhood policy. ***Special attention should be paid to accession and candidate countries to further tackle the weaknesses identified in the process of monitoring compliance with the relevant human rights criteria during the pre-accession period.*** It will be also important to ensure complementarity with any other initiative of cooperation with third countries, in particular developing countries, relevant for the objectives of intercultural dialogue of the European Year of Intercultural *Dialogue*.

Justification

Drawing on the experience of the ten new member states joining the Union in 2004, it is important to ensure a sense of continuity between meeting the accession criteria and respecting Community legislation and policies.

Amendment 5
Article 2, paragraph 2, indent 3 a (new)

- explore the possibilities inherent in this thematic year; prepare and adopt a coherent strategy tailored to the specific situations of the Member States and paying attention to education to promote tolerance, to accepting and coexisting with diversity, and to raising awareness of the value of people who contribute to the linguistic, ethnic and religious diversity of Europe.

Justification

When designing the concept of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, it is very important to focus on asserting the principle of sustainability. This strategy, in which education plays a key role, should be duly implemented by the Member States.

PROCEDURE

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| Title | Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008) |
| References | COM(2005)0467 – C6-0311/2005 – 2005/0203(COD) |
| Committee responsible | CULT |
| Opinion by Date announced in plenary | LIBE 15.11.2005 |
| Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary | |
| Drafts(wo)man Date appointed | Kinga Gál 23.1.2006 |
| Previous drafts(wo)man | |
| Discussed in committee | 20.3.2006 19.4.2006 |
| Date adopted | 19.4.2006 |
| Result of final vote | +: 33 –: 1 0: 0 |
| Members present for the final vote | Alexander Nuno Alvaro, Roberta Angelilli, Edit Bauer, Mihael Brejc, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Giusto Catania, Jean-Marie Cavada, Carlos Coelho, Fausto Correia, Patrick Gaubert, Timothy Kirkhope, Ewa Klamt, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Barbara Kudrycka, Stavros Lambrinidis, Romano Maria La Russa, Henrik Lax, Hartmut Nassauer, Athanasios Pafilis, Lapo Pistelli, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Manfred Weber, Stefano Zappalà, Tatjana Ždanoka |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Panayiotis Demetriou, Gérard Deprez, Lutz Goepel, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Sophia in 't Veld, Bill Newton Dunn, Hubert Pirker, Marie-Line Reynaud |
| Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote | María del Pilar Ayuso González, María Esther Herranz García, Luisa Fernanda Rudi Ubeda, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra |
| Comments (available in one language only) | ... |