



21.1.2019

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ivana Maletić

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## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Solidarity Corps is the new EU initiative which promotes solidarity as a basic EU value among its citizens and among its Member States, and creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.

The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge skills and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions. The rapporteur specially emphasised that the solidarity activities offered to young people should target those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Volunteering activities, both within and beyond the Union, constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. The rapporteur stressed that participants in voluntary activities should be fully compensated for their costs related to the volunteering activity, such as accommodation, local transport, pocket money, meals, transportation from their place of residence to the place of the voluntary and back.

The European Solidarity Corps offer young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local and regional communities. These projects are a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. Furthermore, European Solidarity Corps projects are the first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations, social enterprises or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label as a precondition for participation. The rapporteur emphasised that the attributed quality label should be reassessed at least every two years and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national, regional and local level. In that manner, special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. In order to better achieve the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, social enterprises, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions.

This proposal introduces several simplifications for individuals, organizations and at institutional level. The rapporteur proposes further simplifications of existing financial procedure, by giving preference to the simplified cost option, in order to simplify requirements for the beneficiaries. The rapporteur agrees with proposal for laying down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies, but taking into consideration the simplification requirements and not imposing additional burden on participants and participating organisations.

## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

### Amendment 1

#### Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(1) The European Union is ***built on*** solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. ***This*** common ***value*** ***guides*** its actions and ***provides the necessary unity*** to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

*Amendment*

(1) The European Union is ***founded on common values and*** solidarity, among its citizens and its Member States, ***and between generations***. These common values guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges ***at European and international level***, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

### Amendment 2

#### Proposal for a regulation Recital 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016<sup>18</sup>, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities

*Amendment*

(3) In its Communication ‘A European Solidarity Corps’ of 7 December 2016<sup>18</sup>, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities

for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

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<sup>18</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national, **regional** and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

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<sup>18</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

### Amendment 3

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

*Amendment*

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible **and inclusive** opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which **will** enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities, **including local communities**, while acquiring useful experience, **knowledge**, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability **at national, regional, European and where appropriate at cross-border or international level**. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

### Amendment 4

#### Proposal for a regulation

##### Recital 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

*Amendment*

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality **and target especially those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)**, in the sense that they should respond to unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening **local** communities **and social cohesion**, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge, **skills** and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe, **inclusive** and healthy conditions.

## **Amendment 5**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Recital 7**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service<sup>19</sup> and the EU Aid Volunteers<sup>20</sup>. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment

*Amendment*

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service<sup>19</sup> and the EU Aid Volunteers<sup>20</sup>. It also complements the efforts made by Member States, **regions and cities** to support young people and ease their school-to-work transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of

Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

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<sup>19</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

<sup>20</sup> Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1-17).

Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

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<sup>20</sup> Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1-17).

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 9

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of

##### *Amendment*

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity **programmes and** projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and

their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

## Amendment 7

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 10

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

##### *Amendment*

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities **and supported by the local and regional authorities**, while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, **IT and new technologies**, developed in relation to different areas, such as **formal and non-formal** education and **informal learning, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, and** training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship –, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items, health and wellbeing, creativity and culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid **education and** learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.



## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 11

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

*Amendment*

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, ***exchanges of good practices, and, the perspectives of employability on the labour market.*** Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. ***Participants in volunteering activities should be adequately compensated for their costs related to the volunteering activity including accommodation, local transport, pocket money, meals, transportation from their place of residence to the place of the volunteering activity and back.*** The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 13

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to ***try out***

*Amendment*

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local ***and regional*** communities ***taking account of specific***

*ideas* and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

*local, regional and cross-border factors where necessary*. These projects are an opportunity to *develop innovative solutions to key challenges* and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations, *social enterprises* or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

## Amendment 10

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 15

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

*Amendment*

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, *access to personal support service*, insurance, administrative, *pre-* and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the volunteers remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

## Amendment 11

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Recital 17

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

*Amendment*

(17) A quality label should ensure ***effective and continuous*** compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience, ***including preparation and follow up phases***. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

**Amendment 12**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Recital 18**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed periodically and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

*Amendment*

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed ***at least every four years*** and could be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

**Amendment 13**

**Proposal for a regulation  
Recital 21**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(21) The scaling-up of European Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture.

(21) The scaling-up of European Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. ***At the same time, accurate and continually updated information regarding these opportunities should be provided for potential beneficiaries.*** Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture

#### **Amendment 14**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 23**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

*Amendment*

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy ***and user-friendly*** access to the European Solidarity Corps and to provide a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

#### **Amendment 15**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 28**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to

*Amendment*

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to

all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. ***Accordingly, the monitoring of the programme shall report upon the extent to which participation meets the aspiration to reflect the diverse make up of society in terms of minority groups, (dis)ability, social/financial disadvantage and the regional origin of the participants.*** Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

## **Amendment 16**

### **Proposal for a regulation Recital 38**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national and local level. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies

#### *Amendment*

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national, ***regional*** and local level. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the

of the Programme, including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders.

implementing bodies of the Programme, including, when relevant, with the support of other key stakeholders.

## Amendment 17

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 39

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should *preferably* work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions

#### *Amendment*

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with non-governmental organisations, *social enterprises*, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions, *including volunteer infrastructure and support agencies such as volunteer centres*.

## Amendment 18

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 41

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(41) In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of this Regulation, the Programme should make maximum use of existing management arrangements already in place. The implementation of the Programme should therefore be entrusted to existing structures, namely the Commission and the national agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation]. The Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

#### *Amendment*

(41) In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation of this Regulation, the Programme should make maximum use of existing management arrangements already in place. The implementation of the Programme should therefore be entrusted to existing structures, namely the Commission and the national agencies designated for the management of the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation]. The Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps *and actively involve them in the decision making*

*process.*

## Amendment 19

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(1a) “volunteer” means a person who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal, carries out activities benefiting society, of their own free will;**

## Amendment 20

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 2 – paragraph 1 –point 9

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(9) ‘solidarity project’ means an unpaid in-country solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps **participants**, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

(9) ‘solidarity project’ means an unpaid in-country **or cross-border** solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants **or by a participating organisation**, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

## Amendment 21

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 3 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible **and inclusive** opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad, **with emphasis on candidate and potential**

well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

*candidate countries* while improving and properly validating their **knowledge and** competences as well as facilitating their employability.

## Amendment 22

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point d

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(d) their approach to involve young people from different backgrounds;

*Amendment*

(d) their **inclusive** approach to involve young people from different **and disadvantaged** backgrounds, **including those facing barriers to fully participate in the programme**;

## Amendment 23

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality of volunteering, traineeships or jobs, including training, language support, complementary insurance, support before or after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass that identifies and documents the competences acquired during the solidarity activities for participants, and capacity building and, administrative support for participating organisations;

*Amendment*

(a) measures aimed at ensuring the quality **and accessibility** of volunteering, traineeships or jobs, including training, language support, complementary insurance, support before or after the solidarity activity as well as the further use of Youthpass that identifies and documents the competences acquired during the solidarity activities for participants, and capacity building and, administrative support for participating organisations;

## Amendment 24

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**(aa) measures aimed at promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities;**



## Amendment 25

### Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

*Amendment*

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a) ***shall be focused and have an impact on identified community needs***, shall include a learning and training component, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement. ***Such agreement shall ensure an adequate legal and social protection of the participant. Participants in volunteering activities shall be adequately compensated for their costs related to the volunteering activity.***

## Amendment 26

### Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***The simplified cost option shall be given preference, in order to simplify requirements for the beneficiaries.***

## Amendment 27

### Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***When implementing this Regulation, the Commission, the Members States and other participating countries shall promote social inclusion and equal access conditions, including for the participation***

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## **Amendment 28**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 16 – paragraph 3**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed ***periodically*** and may be revoked

*Amendment*

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed ***at least every four years*** and may be revoked ***in case of misuse***.

## **Amendment 29**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 20 – paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the start of the programme implementation. It shall ***also*** be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

*Amendment*

2. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the start of the programme implementation. It shall be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

## **Amendment 30**

### **Proposal for a regulation**

#### **Article 21 – paragraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent,

*Amendment*

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin ***thereof*** and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the actions and their results) by providing ***prompt,***

effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including, the media and the public.

## Amendment 31

### Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

*Amendment*

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, ***its target public, its duration*** and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

## Amendment 32

### Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3

*Text proposed by the Commission*

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to the effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

*Amendment*

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to ***information and the effective outreach, as well as dissemination to all potential beneficiaries*** and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

## Amendment 33

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point a

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies;

*Amendment*

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies, ***taking into consideration the simplification requirements and not imposing additional burden on participants and participating organisations.***

## Amendment 34

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 25 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Audits on the use of the Union contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union Institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to [Article 127] of the Financial Regulation.

*Amendment*

1. Audits on the use of the Union contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to Article [127] of the Financial Regulation ***and shall be carried out in accordance with the same criteria in all Member States.***

## Amendment 35

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 26 – paragraph 2

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants

*Amendment*

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall ***be proportionate and adequate and shall*** give

awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

#### **Amendment 36**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***1a. The Commission shall take appropriate measures ensuring that, when actions financed under this Regulation are implemented, the financial interests of the Union are protected.***

#### **Amendment 37**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background; ***and***

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background;

#### **Amendment 38**

##### **Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

***(ba) percentages for gender balance, minority groups, (dis)ability and regional origin of the participants.***

## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Title</b>	Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme
<b>References</b>	COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD)
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date announced in plenary	CULT 2.7.2018
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	REGI 2.7.2018
<b>Rapporteur</b> Date appointed	Ivana Maletić 20.6.2018
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	21.11.2018
<b>Date adopted</b>	17.1.2019
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 28 –: 1 0: 5
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Pascal Arimont, Franc Bogovič, Rosa D’Amato, Tamás Deutsch, Aleksander Gabelic, Iratxe García Pérez, Michela Giuffrida, Krzysztof Hetman, Marc Joulaud, Sławomir Kłosowski, Constanze Krehl, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Martina Michels, Iskra Mihaylova, Andrey Novakov, Younous Omarjee, Konstantinos Papadakis, Mirosław Piotrowski, Stanislav Polčák, Liliana Rodrigues, Fernando Ruas, Monika Smolková, Ruža Tomašić, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Monika Vana, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Derek Vaughan, Kerstin Westphal, Joachim Zeller
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Ivana Maletić, Bronis Ropè, Maria Gabriela Zoană
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Damiano Zoffoli

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

28	+
ALDE	Iskra Mihaylova, Matthijs van Miltenburg
ECR	Sławomir Kłosowski, Mirosław Piotrowski, Ruža Tomašić
PPE	Pascal Arimont, Franc Bogovič, Tamás Deutsch, Krzysztof Hetman, Marc Joulaud, Ivana Maletić, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Andrey Novakov, Stanislav Polčák, Fernando Ruas, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Joachim Zeller
S&D	Aleksander Gabelic, Iratxe García Pérez, Michela Giuffrida, Constanze Krehl, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Liliana Rodrigues, Monika Smolková, Derek Vaughan, Kerstin Westphal, Maria Gabriela Zoană, Damiano Zoffoli

1	-
NI	Konstantinos Papadakis

5	0
EFDD	Rosa D'Amato
GUE/NGL	Martina Michels, Younous Omarjee
VERTS/ALE	Bronis Ropè, Monika Vana

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention