

# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2161(INI)	Procedure completed
A youth policy in the European Union		
Subject 4.40.10 Youth		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
17/07/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
22/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0100/1999</a>	
09/03/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0149/1999	Summary
09/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2161(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/4/10343

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0100/1999</a> <a href="#">OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0006</a>	23/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0149/1999 <a href="#">OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0016-0048</a>	09/03/1999	EP	Summary

The committee has unanimously approved the draft report by Mrs Armelle Guinebertière (UPE, F) on a youth policy for Europe. The committee reaffirms that a more enthusiastic, widespread, and lasting involvement of young people in the process of Community integration can play a fundamental role in the political, cultural, social and economic development of the Union itself and recalls the conclusions adopted by the Heads of State and Government in Vienna, in which they stated that 'Member States and the institutions of the European Union also need to address the concerns of the young people of Europe in a more general fashion, thus sending a positive political message to citizens'. The report calls on the Member States, since they bear the main responsibility for bringing about an effective youth policy, to pursue a comprehensive policy in this area, fund it more generously and frame their individual youth policies in a coherent, coordinated and complementary manner. The report welcomes the achievements of Community policies in the field of education and training. The socio-economic situation of young people, however, causes it particular concern (increasing violence, juvenile delinquency and the problem of disadvantaged young people). A great deal still needs to be done by the European Commission and the Member States. Consequently, the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media hopes that the programme for young people, which essentially comprises a combination of the Youth for Europe and European Voluntary Service programmes, will receive financial backing commensurate with its importance. Better social integration of young people in difficulties is essential; in particular, this aim can be achieved through innovative projects and through sport, which is a major factor of social integration and contributes to the fight against racism. In the realm of education, the report emphasises the need to combat educational failure by providing more generous support for second-chance schools. The committee also believes that rapid moves must be made towards the validation of knowledge acquired through informal education and the recognition of such knowledge in the labour market. It also wished to stress the importance of health education in schools and to encourage preventive measures to combat drugs and alcohol and the provision of good, universal sex education. The committee reaffirms its support for the development of a European network of youth passes, calling on the Member States that have not yet done so to implement the system of youth passes as soon as possible. It also calls for an information policy aimed specifically at young people with a view to encouraging them to play their own active part in combating all forms of discrimination. Further action should be taken to support the integration of young foreigners. There is also a need to devise measures for education in citizenship and training in democracy. The national employment plans must also be reinforced by means of action plans for young people, particularly with a view to tackling the problem of disadvantaged young people. The committee considers that the Ministers responsible for youth policies in the Member States should meet on a more sustained and regular basis. It believes that the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference offers a good opportunity to enshrine in the founding treaties the aim of coordinating the Member States' youth policies. It calls for the Commission and the Member States to organise more systematically forms of consultation of young people on policies that affect them, incorporating this consultation into the mainstream political process. The committee also calls on the Member States to include a representative of youth organisations on their lists of candidates to serve on the Economic and Social Committee, and it asks the Committee of the Regions to encourage regional- and local-authority representatives to set up regional youth councils. In short, the aim is to create a genuine partnership with young people. The report calls on the European Commission to ensure that all young people have access to information about the EU institutions and the workings of the Union and to continue and extend the approach of grouping together information networks aimed at young people. It calls on the Member States and the Commission to introduce 'one-stop help desks' for young people needing information or assistance and to establish a specific 'Europe 15-25' youth structure. Finally, a youth website on the Internet, administered by the Commission, is a necessary complement to the aforementioned efforts which would facilitate dialogue with young people in general. This website can reach young people who would otherwise be excluded, especially those who are most isolated and do not belong to clubs or organisations. The interactive nature of this site would make it a forum for consulting young people and obtaining their opinions. ?

## A youth policy in the European Union

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The Parliament adopted its report on youth policy, drafted by Ms. Armelle GUINEBERTIERE (UPE, France), without debate. It calls on the Member States, since they bear the main responsibility for bringing about an effective youth policy to pursue a comprehensive policy in this area, fund it more generously, and frame their individual youth policies in such a way as to make for coherence, co-ordination and complementarity. It points out that the socio-economic situation of young people unfortunately also raises concerns in addition to the specific problem of education and training and that there is a lack of properly co-ordinated consideration of these political priorities at European level. It hopes that the programme for young people, which essentially concerns a combination of the Youth for Europe and European Voluntary Service programmes, will receive financial backing commensurate with its importance and will allocate a greater proportion of funding to supporting initiatives put forward by young people themselves. It calls on the Commission and the Member States to comply with the Vienna conclusions on employment policy in the Union by giving consideration to comprehensive professional integration measures that can, for example, promote partnerships with EU businesses liable to provide young Europeans with employment. It encourages the Member States and the Commission to: - pursue a coherent policy by taking the necessary steps to combat educational failure and to reduce the number of young people dropping out of the educational system without basic qualifications and to provide more generous support for second chance schools; - move rapidly towards the validation of knowledge acquired through informal education and recognition thereof on the labour market. It calls on the Member States to promote health and sex education in schools. It calls on the Commission and the Member States more systematically to organise forms of consultation for young people on policies that affect them in order to involve them in the decision-making process and subsequently ensure that their proposals are taken up. It also calls on the Commission to ensure that all young people have access to information about the EU institutions and the workings of the Union, since this would deepen their understanding of Europe and pave the way for their involvement in European policies, especially youth policy. ?