

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2088(COS)	Procedure completed
Lifelong education and training. Memorandum		
Subject 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		06/03/2001
		PSE VAN BREMPT Kathleen	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		15/02/2001
		GUE/NGL SCHMID Herman	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2430	30/05/2002
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2408	14/02/2002
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2330	12/02/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture		

Key events			
30/10/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(2000)1832	Summary
12/02/2001	Debate in Council	2330	
14/05/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/09/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/09/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0322/2001	
23/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0525/2001	Summary
23/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/02/2002	Debate in Council	2408	Summary
09/05/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		
	Resolution/conclusions adopted by		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2088(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142; Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/14691

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		SEC(2000)1832	30/10/2000	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0019/2001 OJ C 019 22.01.2002, p. 0023	14/06/2001	CofR	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1121/2001 OJ C 311 07.11.2001, p. 0039	12/09/2001	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0322/2001	18/09/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0525/2001 OJ C 112 09.05.2002, p. 0026-0089 E	23/10/2001	EP	Summary

Lifelong education and training. Memorandum

PURPOSE : to establish a Memorandum on Education and life long learning with the aim of opening a debate and laying the foundations for a lifelong learning strategy. **CONTENT** : the Commission presented this Memorandum in response to the Lisbon European Council in March 2000 and its conclusions concerning a Europe of knowledge, which have inevitable repercussions in the field of education and training. It is also a response to the mandate given by the Lisbon and Feira European Councils, i.e. to make lifelong learning available to everyone. The aim of the Memorandum is to initiate a debate at European level and in the Member States, the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the applicant countries, on a global strategy to reach this goal. The two objectives of equal importance for lifelong learning are the promotion of active citizenship and the promotion of vocational skills in order to adapt to the demands of the new knowledge-based society and to allow full participation in social and economic life. Lifelong learning is designed to provide the people of Europe with the essential tools they require for self-development and in order to play an active part in modern society, including the skills needed in the field of new technologies. This Memorandum contains six key messages highlighting the principal elements recommended for a coherent future strategy: - to allow people to acquire or refresh the skills needed for sustained participation in the knowledge-based society; - to visibly raise levels of investment in human resources in order to give priority to Europe's most important asset - its people; - to introduce innovations in education and learning by developing effective methods for the continuum of lifelong learning; - to enhance the status of education by improving the ways in which learning participation and outcomes are understood and appreciated, particularly non-formal and informal learning; - to ensure that everyone can easily access good-quality information and advice about learning opportunities throughout Europe and throughout their lives; - to match lifelong learning opportunities as closely as possible to the needs of the people. Lifelong learning will be put into practice on the basis of shared responsibility and a partnership between the Member States and the European Commission, between the social partners, between firms and educational and training establishments, and between various fields in education and training. The aim of this process is to begin a debate that is as broad and varied as possible. By mid-2001, consultation at European level will be taking place in parallel with consultations closer to the people. The purpose of consultation is to involve the key actors in each Member State and in the EEA countries and the applicant countries. The Commission will present an action plan towards the end of 2001 which will set specific objectives and define concrete areas for action. In the meantime, work to develop indicators and benchmarks, and to identify best practice, will continue.?

Lifelong education and training. Memorandum

The committee adopted the report by Kathleen VAN BREMPT (PES, B) on the Commission memorandum. While supporting the Commission's strategy of initiating a broad social debate on lifelong learning, MEPs called for concrete policy measures to be based on the following principles: democratisation and equality, individual personality development, the individual right to lifelong learning, personal responsibility and a holistic approach to learning. The committee noted that lifelong learning may require a radical change in policy on education, training and the labour market. It pointed out that supporting measures may be needed such as the recognition and certification of experience and abilities acquired in informal learning contexts and recognition for experience acquired abroad. The report also stressed the importance of adequate funding to promote and set up lifelong learning programmes (under the ESF, ERDF, Structural Funds, EIB, etc.) and of redistributing financial

resources in order to promote lifelong education and training. MEPs said that the efforts of the Union, the Member States and the regions must be aligned by the open coordination method. The Commission was urged to announce by the end of 2001 the action plan that it envisaged in this area and to involve the European Parliament in its deliberations. The social partners were called upon to ensure that binding agreements were reached regarding the right to lifelong learning at European level. Lastly the committee advocated measures to promote lifelong learning at individual level and supported in this context the system of "individual learning accounts" as used, for example, in the UK and Sweden.?

Lifelong education and training. Memorandum

The European Parliament adopted the resolution from Mrs Kathleen Van BREMPT (PES, B) on lifelong learning. (Please refer to the previous text). ?

Lifelong education and training. Memorandum

The Council held an in-depth exchange of views on the basis of the Commission communication on making a European area of lifelong learning a reality. The subject was discussed both by the Education Ministers and by the Youth Affairs Ministers. The Feira European Council in June 2000 instructed the Member States, the Council and Commission to draw up, each within their own sphere of competence, coherent strategies and practical measures to make lifelong learning accessible to all. The subject is of particular importance for the preparation of the Barcelona European Council in March 2002. The Council was unanimous in stressing the crucial importance of lifelong learning both for the personal and professional development of European citizens and for achieving the strategic objective defined at the Lisbon European Council in 2000. In conclusion, the President observed that it had been a good discussion and announced the Presidency's intention to draw up two documents on the basis of the interventions that had been made: a document summarising the Member States' various positions which would be forwarded to the Barcelona European Council in March, and a text for submission to the next Education and Youth Affairs Council meeting on 30 May which would cover the latest lifelong learning measures. The Youth Affairs Ministers agreed to submit a contribution for the discussion initiated by the Education Ministers.?