

Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| INI - Own-initiative procedure | 2002/2268(INI) | Procedure completed |
| The role of schools and school education in maximizing public access to culture | | |
| Subject 4.40.03 Primary and secondary school, European Schools, early childhood | | |

| Key players | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport | PPE-DE GRAÇA MOURA Vasco | 28/11/2002 |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 16/01/2003 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 19/02/2004 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 19/02/2004 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A5-0080/2004 | |
| 25/02/2004 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 26/02/2004 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0120/2004 | Summary |
| 26/02/2004 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |

| Technical information | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Procedure reference | 2002/2268(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/5/19029 |

| Documentation gateway | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|------------|----|---------|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A5-0080/2004 | 19/02/2004 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T5-0120/2004 | 26/02/2004 | EP | Summary |

The role of schools and school education in maximizing public access to culture

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Vasco GRAÇA MOURA (EPP-ED, P) on the role of schools and public education in maximising access to culture. The report made a number of recommendations to Member States, such as increasing investment in education and ensuring that pupils have the opportunity of learning two languages other than their own. It also criticised the tendency for history lessons to focus exclusively on 20th century events. Another suggestion was that the Commission should develop material on the history of European culture which, if approved by the Council, could be available to all Member States who wished to use it in their education systems. In the context of enlargement, MEPs also pointed out that there was a need to raise awareness within the EU Member States of the history and culture of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and vice versa. Lastly, the committee stressed that music, fine arts and theatre were a fundamental component of Europe's cultural heritage and should be given a higher priority in school education.?

The role of schools and school education in maximizing public access to culture

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Vasco GRAÇA MOURA (EPP-ED, Portugal) on schools and access to culture. (Please see the summary of 18/02/04.) Parliament regretted the fact that only 17% of 15-year-old pupils in the EU possess the basic educational skills, namely reading, writing and arithmetic, that conform to the average set by the OECD. It called on Member States, in particular those whose GDP percentage invested in education is lower than the EU average, to increase investment in human resources in the field of education. Furthermore, school education in Europe should place a greater emphasis on achieving a basic fundamental knowledge of the process of European integration. The European dimension should be present in all school disciplines and not only in those directly linked with this subject such as history, philosophy, geography, economics, literature and art. Parliament stressed the importance of Europe's cultural heritage, and felt that access to it is a fundamental precondition to the integration process and a force for the consolidation of a sense of European citizenship. It recommended that the knowledge of Europe's cultural heritage should be a natural component of the syllabus in schools throughout the EU.?