

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2006/0061(CNS)	Procedure completed
EC/United States agreement: renewing the cooperation programme in the field of higher education and vocational education and training		
Subject 4.40.04 Universities, higher education 4.40.15 Vocational education and training 4.40.20 Cooperation and agreements in the fields of education, training and youth		
Geographical area United States		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture and Education		29/05/2006
		PPE-DE DESCAMPS Marie-Hélène	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2768	04/12/2006
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2731	29/05/2006
European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner FIGEL' Ján	

Key events			
27/04/2006	Legislative proposal published	COM(2006)0180	Summary
15/06/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/10/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0339/2006	

14/11/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/11/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0470/2006	Summary
04/12/2006	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
04/12/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/12/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/0061(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 150
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/6/36135

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2006)0180	27/04/2006	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE376.786	20/09/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0339/2006	11/10/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T6-0470/2006	14/11/2006	EP	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2011)0653	21/10/2011	EC	Summary

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Decision 2006/910](#)
[OJ L 346 09.12.2006, p. 0033-0033](#) Summary

EC/United States agreement: renewing the cooperation programme in the field of higher education and vocational education and training

PURPOSE: to promote EU-US ties in the field of higher education and vocational education/training, through the signing and conclusion of an Agreement.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: the proposed Agreement seeks to extend an existing EU-US Agreement on higher and vocational education, which ran out at the end of 2005 (refer to CNS/2000/0263). In 2005, the Council authorised the Commission to re-negotiate an Agreement, based partly on positive responses from independent evaluators. EU-US experts and government representatives agree that the Agreement is of strategic importance for improved people-to-people relations.

The Agreement sets out general, specific and operational objectives.

The general objective of the agreement is firstly to promote mutual understanding between the EU and US in the field of language, culture and institutions and secondly to improve the acquisition of skills needed in a global, knowledge-based economy.

The specific objectives are four-fold:

- 1) Enhance collaboration between the EU and US in the field of higher education and vocational training.
- 2) Contribute to the development of higher education and vocational training organisations.
- 3) Contribute to the development of individuals for their own sake and as a means to achieve the programme's objective.
- 4) Contribute towards transatlantic exchanges.

The operational objectives are more specific and include higher education and vocational institute collaboration through the promotion of joint study and mobility programmes; encouraging mutual recognition of qualifications, study and training and where appropriate the system of credits; to support public/private collaboration and to support the mobility of professionals between the EU and US.

Put concretely, the actions pursued by the Agreement would include consortia projects with an emphasis on staff, student and the mobility of trainees. Further mobility projects would focus on promoting student mobility to institutions with a proven record of excellence, including those funded under the previous EU-US Agreement. Under this heading particular attention is given to excellence. Other actions consist of the ?Schuman-Fulbright? Individual Mobility grants and support for an Alumni Association. The programme, in particular, will complement the Erasmus Mundus programme in that it will focus on undergraduate mobility and include transatlantic exchanges in the field of vocational training.

For further information concerning the financial implications of this measure, please refer to the financial statement.

EC/United States agreement: renewing the cooperation programme in the field of higher education and vocational education and training

The committee adopted the report by Marie-Hélène DESCAMPS (EPP-ED, FR) approving the conclusion of the Agreement under the consultation procedure.

EC/United States agreement: renewing the cooperation programme in the field of higher education and vocational education and training

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Marie-Hélène **DESCAMPS** (EPP-ED, FR) and approved the conclusion of the Agreement.

EC/United States agreement: renewing the cooperation programme in the field of higher education and vocational education and training

PURPOSE: approval of an Agreement to promote EU-US ties in the field of higher education and vocational training.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America renewing the cooperation programme in higher education and vocational education and training.

BACKGROUND: in 2000, the EU and US signed an Agreement on cooperation in the field of higher education, vocational education and training. (See: [CNS/2000/0263](#)). In 2005 the Council authorised the Commission to re-negotiate the Agreement.

CONTENT: the purpose of this Decision is to approve a new Agreement between the European Community and the United States of America renewing a programme of cooperation in higher education and vocational education. The Agreement will remain in force for eight years and may be extended or amended by mutual written agreement.

In brief, the terms and conditions of the Agreement are as follows:

- The Agreement renews the 2000 Cooperation Programme in Higher Education and Vocational Training originally established in 1995.
- The general objectives of the programme will be to promote mutual understanding between the peoples of the EU and the US (including languages, cultures and institutions) and to improve the quality of human resources development in both the Community and the United States (including the acquisition of skills required for the global knowledge-based economy).
- The specific objectives of the programme will be to: enhance higher education and vocational training collaboration; contribute to the development of higher education and vocational training institutions; contribute to individual participants' personal development and to contribute to transatlantic exchanges between the EU and US citizens.
- The operational objective of the programme will be to: support collaboration; improve the quality of transatlantic student mobility; support collaboration between public and private organisations active in the field of higher education and vocational training and to support the transatlantic mobility of professionals with a view to improving mutual understanding of issues relevant to EU/US relations.
- The principles underlying the Agreement are based on full respect for the responsibilities of the Member States and the US and the autonomy of higher education and vocational education; mutual benefit from activities, broad participation and the recognition of the full cultural, social and economic diversity of both the EU and the USA.

The programme will be pursued by means of actions including:

Joint EC/US consortia projects: The purpose of which will be to support joint projects in the area of higher education and vocational education and training. Each joint consortium must be formed by a multilateral partnership of EC and US higher education and vocational training institutions and should, generally, involve the transatlantic mobility of students.

Excellence mobility projects: The purpose of which is to offer financial support to higher education or vocational consortia that have a proven track record of excellence in the implementation of joint projects. Funding will go toward student mobility.

Policy oriented measures: The purpose of which is to offer financial support to multilateral projects involving organisation that are active in the field of higher education or vocational training. Policy oriented measures may include studies, conferences, seminars, working groups, benchmarking exercises and horizontal issues such as the recognition of qualifications.

?Schuman-Fulbright? grants: The purpose of which is to provide scholarships to highly qualified professionals who want to undertake studies or training in areas of specific relevance to the EU/US relationship.

Alumni associations: The purpose of which is to support alumni associations involving students who have participated in exchanges supported by the EU/US cooperation programme in higher education and vocational training.

As far as funding is concerned, the Agreement specifies that the activities will be subject to the availability of funds. Financing will be based on an overall matching of funds between the Parties and both parties will attempt to offer Programme activities of comparable benefit and scope

ENTRY INTO FORCE: On the first day of the month following the date on which the Parties have notified each other in writing that their legal requirements have been fulfilled. The Agreement replaces the 2000 Agreement.