


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2008/0025(COD) Procedure completed
Action programme in the field of lifelong learning; Commission implementing powers Amending Decision No 1720/2006/EC	2004/0153(COD)
Subject 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture and Education	PSE BATZELI Katerina	31/03/2008
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2905	20/11/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	FIGEL' Ján	

Key events			
07/02/2008	Legislative proposal published	COM(2008)0061	Summary
21/02/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/06/2008	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
27/06/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A6-0276/2008	
02/09/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/09/2008	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0372/2008	Summary
20/11/2008	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
20/11/2008	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
16/12/2008	Final act signed		
16/12/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/0025(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Decision No 1720/2006/EC 2004/0153(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149-p4; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 150-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/6/59540

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2008)0061	08/02/2008	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0999/2008	28/05/2008	ESC	
Committee draft report		PE406.031	09/06/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE407.852	16/06/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0276/2008	27/06/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0372/2008	02/09/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)6073	17/10/2008	EC	
Draft final act		03677/2008/LEX	16/12/2008	CSL	
Follow-up document		COM(2010)0411	30/07/2010	EC	Summary

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 2008/1357 OJ L 350 30.12.2008, p. 0056 Summary

Action programme in the field of lifelong learning; Commission implementing powers

PURPOSE: to reduce the time required for awarding grants covered by the 'Lifelong learning' programme, 2007-2013.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: this proposal relates to the legislative act establishing the [Lifelong learning](#) programme 2007-2013 and its implementing powers. In order to implement the programme's objectives, namely to provide individuals with the opportunity to take part in a dynamic learning process at all stages of their lives, the Commission relies on its implementing rights as expressed through 'comitology' procedures. This is particularly pertinent in the case of selecting grant projects following calls for proposals.

To recall, the Commission's right of implementation is set out, inter alia, in Decision No 1999/468/EC. In this Decision a number of procedures

are set out including the 'management' procedure and the 'consultation' procedure. Both of these procedures involve the participation of the European Parliament. Under the consultation procedure, the Parliament has one month in which to examine a draft measure before the Commission makes a formal decision.

Under the terms of the lifelong learning programme, the 'management' procedure is applied in cases relating to selection decisions concerning large grants or those involving politically sensitive issues, namely multilateral projects and networks related to the key activity of policy cooperation and innovation, and multilateral projects and networks representing sums greater than EUR 1 000 000, only. In principle, all other decisions are not subject to a comitology procedure. Wording in the Decision, however, implies that the 'consultation' procedure should be applied to all selection decisions. The current wording can cause serious problems by delaying the adoption of decisions – some times by up to two to three months. Yet, in general, the projects affected are of a short-time frame only.

With Parliamentary consent, temporary solutions have been found in order to reduce the time required for scrutiny. Nevertheless, it is important that a long-term solution is put in place in order to prevent unnecessary delays.

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal, therefore, is to amend Council Decision 1720/2006/EC, setting up the lifelong learning programme, in order to find a definitive solution.

The wording of the amendments has been framed so that the consultative procedure will disappear and be replaced, on the basis of a Commission declaration, with a procedure whereby the Commission provides the programme committee and the European Parliament with immediate information on the selection decisions which it adopts. This arrangement is fully in line with the legislator's original intention when the Decision was being negotiated.

Upon approval, the amended Decision will make it possible to reduce, by two to three months, the time required for grants to be awarded and to ensure effective implementation of the activities and measures covered by the programme. The programme committee and the European Parliament will be informed immediately of the selection decisions. It will also help strengthen the principles of simplification and proportionality.

A similar revision of the basic instruments establishing programmes on (i) culture and (ii) youth and (iii) citizenship, is planned in parallel with this proposal.

Action programme in the field of lifelong learning; Commission implementing powers

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted a report drafted by Katerina BATZELI (PES, EL) and amended the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1720/2006/EC establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning. The Commission had proposed eliminating the advisory procedure for selection decisions in order to simplify decision-making procedures in the interests of potential beneficiaries of the grants. The committee felt that comitology was important, and that it was necessary to replace the advisory procedure with an obligation on the Commission to inform the European Parliament and the Member States without delay about any measures taken for the implementation of the Decision without the assistance of a committee.

Accordingly, a new clause states that the Commission shall inform the Committee and the European Parliament, of all other selection decisions taken by the Commission for the implementation of the Decision, within two working days of the adoption of the decisions in question. This information shall include descriptions and an analysis of the applications received, a description of the assessment and selection procedure, and lists of both the projects proposed for funding and the projects rejected for funding.

The committee added that the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the impact of the Decision 18 months after its entry into force.

Action programme in the field of lifelong learning; Commission implementing powers

The European Parliament adopted by 620 votes to 48, with 16 abstentions, a legislative resolution under 1st reading of the co decision procedure, amending the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1720/2006/EC establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning. The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Katerina BATZELI (PES, EL) on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education. The amendments were the result of a compromise between Parliament and Council.

The Commission had proposed eliminating the advisory procedure for selection decisions in order to simplify decision-making procedures in the interests of potential beneficiaries of the grants. However, Parliament considered that in order to allow selection decisions to be implemented more quickly and efficiently, it was necessary to replace the advisory procedure with an obligation on the Commission to inform the European Parliament and the Member States without delay about any measures taken for the implementation of Decision No 1720/2006/EC without the assistance of a committee.

Accordingly, a new clause states that the Commission shall inform the Committee and the European Parliament, of all other selection decisions taken by the Commission for the implementation of the Decision, within two working days of the adoption of the decisions in question. This information shall include descriptions and an analysis of the applications received, a description of the assessment and selection procedure, and lists of both the projects proposed for funding and the projects rejected for funding.

Parliament added that the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the impact of the Decision 18 months after its entry into force.

Action programme in the field of lifelong learning; Commission implementing powers

PURPOSE: to reduce the time required for awarding grants covered by the lifelong learning programme for the period 2007-2013.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision No 1357/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1720/2006/EC establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning.

CONTENT: until now, the implementing measures of [Decision No 1720/2006/EC](#) establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning were adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 9(2) of that Decision, namely in accordance with the advisory procedure established by [Council Decision 1999/468/EC](#) laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission. However, the wording of this paragraph of the Decision results in particular in selections decisions being subject to the advisory procedure and to the European Parliament's right of scrutiny.

However, these procedural requirements add two to three months to the process of awarding grants to applicants, causing many delays for recipients and providing no added value given the nature of the grants awarded.

In order to allow selection decisions to be implemented more quickly and efficiently, it is necessary to replace the advisory procedure with an obligation on the Commission to inform the European Parliament and the Member States without delay about any measures taken for the implementation of Decision No 1720/2006/EC without the assistance of a committee.

In accordance with the compromise reached at first reading between the Parliament and the Council, it is provided that the Commission shall inform the Committee (referred to in the Decision) and the European Parliament of all other selection decisions it has taken for the implementation of this Decision within two working days of the adoption of the decisions in question (for example, descriptions and an analysis of the applications received, a description of the assessment and selection procedure, and lists of both the projects proposed for funding and those rejected).

It is also provided that the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the impact of this Decision by 30 June 2010.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 30/12/2008.