


Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	2008/0023(COD) Procedure completed
Youth in Action programme (2007-2013); Commission implementing powers Amending Decision No 1719/2006/EC	2004/0152(COD)
Subject 4.40.10 Youth 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
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2848	14/02/2008
European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner FIGEL' Ján	

Key events			
07/02/2008	Legislative proposal published	COM(2008)0056	Summary
14/02/2008	Debate in Council	2848	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	A6-0274/2008	
02/09/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/09/2008	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T6-0369/2008	Summary
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	2008/0023(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amending Decision No 1719/2006/EC 2004/0152(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/6/59262

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2008)0056	07/02/2008	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0998/2008	28/05/2008	ESC	
Committee draft report		PE406.028	09/06/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE407.845	09/06/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0274/2008	27/06/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0369/2008	02/09/2008	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2008)6073	17/10/2008	EC	
Draft final act		03680/2008/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 2008/1349 OJ L 348 24.12.2008, p. 0113 Summary

Youth in Action programme (2007-2013); Commission implementing powers

PURPOSE: to reduce the time required for awarding grants covered by the 'Youth in Action' programme, 2007-2013.

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

BACKGROUND: this proposal relates to the legislative act establishing the [Youth in Action](#) programme 2007-2013 and its implementing powers. In order to implement the programme's objectives, namely to promote active citizenship, to encourage tolerance and to foster understanding between young people, 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 Youth in Action programme, the 'management' procedure is applied in cases relating to the 'European Youth Forum' only. 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 other measures. 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 1719/2006/EC, setting up the Youth in Action 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.

The proposed amendment will mark a return to the system in force under the Youth programme from 2000-2006, which provided for the committee and the European Parliament to be informed immediately of the same decisions as those currently under discussion. 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) education and (ii) citizenship and (iii) culture, is planned in parallel with this proposal.

Youth in Action programme (2007-2013); Commission implementing powers

Following an exchange of views, the Council adopted key messages in the field of education and training addressed to the European Council on 13 and 14 March in Brussels. The key messages highlight a number of actions and issues that need to be drawn to the attention of the European Council at this critical stage for the implementation of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs. They mainly concern the implementation of lifelong learning strategies and invite Member States to take concrete action to: (i) address the lack of progress on youth literacy and reduce the number of early school leavers; (ii) improve achievement levels among migrants; (iii) make the teaching profession more attractive to the best graduates; (iv) encourage more adults to take advantage of education and training opportunities, namely:

- the knowledge triangle (education, research, innovation): Member States must particularly emphasise the crucial role of education and training in promoting creativity and innovation;
- intercultural dialogue: underlining the importance of equipping individuals with the competences needed to engage in such a dialogue;
- transnational mobility, which should become common practice in higher education and be developed further in the field of vocational education and training.

In addition, the Council invited the Commission to submit by the end of 2008 a proposal for an updated strategic framework for European cooperation in the field of education and training. The debate covered the following items in particular:

- the importance of basic skills and teacher training;
- the effectiveness of the open method of coordination and the role of peer learning, indicators and benchmarks, particularly with regard to the EU strategy for the post-2010 period;
- the particular issue of early school leaving, and the means that can be used to address this problem, including increased support for disadvantaged schools, closer teacher-parent cooperation, mentoring schemes and special attention for the children of migrants.

Youth in Action programme (2007-2013); 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 1719/2006/EC establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 to 2013.

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.

Youth in Action programme (2007-2013); Commission implementing powers

The European Parliament adopted by 601 votes to 47, 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 1719/2006/EC establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 to 2013. 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 1719/2006/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.

Youth in Action programme (2007-2013); Commission implementing powers

PURPOSE: to reduce the time required for awarding grants covered by the 'Youth in Action' programme, 2007-2013.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision No 1349/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1719/2006/EC establishing the 'Youth in Action' programme for the period 2007 to 2013.

CONTENT: until now, the measures necessary for the implementation of Decision [1719/2006/EC](#) establishing the 'Youth in Action' programme were to be adopted in accordance with Article 9(3) 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 selection decisions being subject to the advisory procedure and to the European Parliament's right of scrutiny. Yet these selection decisions mainly concern projects of limited duration whose life cycle is incompatible with lengthy decision-making procedures and do not involve politically sensitive decision making.

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 1719/2006/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 25 June 2010.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 25/12/2008.