

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2057(INI)	Procedure completed
The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism		
Subject		
3.30.08 Press, media freedom and pluralism		
4.10.13 Sport		
4.40 Education, vocational training and youth		
4.45 Common cultural area, cultural diversity		
7.30.08 Action to combat racism and xenophobia		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	 YENBOU Salima	23/03/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 POLLÁK Peter	
		 GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	
		 SEMEDO Monica	
		 DA RE Gianantonio	
		 KRUK Elzbieta	
		 KIZILYÜREK Niyazi	
European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner GABRIEL Mariya	

Key events			
20/05/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/02/2022	Vote in committee		
15/02/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0027/2022	Summary
07/03/2022	Debate in Parliament		

08/03/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/03/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0057/2022	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2057(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/06040

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE700.403	11/11/2021	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE702.954	08/12/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0027/2022	15/02/2022	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0057/2022	08/03/2022	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2022)271	14/07/2022	EC	

The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted an own-initiative report by Salima YENBOU (Greens/EFA) on the role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected those from racial and ethnic minority communities, giving rise to, highlighting and exacerbating inequalities including in culture, media, education and sport.

General context

Members stressed that racism exists in all areas of our daily life and can take many forms. They called for a zero-tolerance approach to this issue. Members welcomed the inclusion of a dedicated section on education and specific references to media, sport and culture in the EU anti-racism action plan. Adequate funding should be provided to achieve the plans commitment.

Culture

Noting that racism is deeply embedded in society and intertwined with its cultural roots, heritage and social norms, the report stressed the important role that culture can and must play in combating discrimination and racism and promoting social inclusion, diversity, equality and tolerance.

Education

The report acknowledged the decisive role of education and training in tackling structural racism and discrimination, building inclusive societies, debunking prejudices and stereotypes, and promoting tolerance, understanding and diversity.

Members highlighted the role of the new European Education Area in the fight against all forms of discrimination inside and outside the classroom. They also underlined the fact that particular elements of European history continue to have a lasting impact on today's society. Therefore, they suggested that the educational curricula be revised to explain the history of our societies through a focused and contextualised approach and work to eradicate the stereotypes that are leading to the discrimination witnessed today.

Member States are called on to:

- attach greater emphasis to education about the history of the EU in order to foster cohesion;
- refrain from making budget cuts to education programmes, as doing so may leave less room for discussions on cross-cultural awareness and anti-racism.

Media

The report recalled that the media have a responsibility to reflect societies in all their diversity and regrets the lack of racial and ethnic diversity at many media outlets. Members called on the cultural and media sectors to eschew practices that perpetuate or reinforce negative

stereotypes about ethnic and racial minorities and encourages them to show members of these communities performing positive roles.

Sport

Highlighting that sports clubs and federations have a crucial role to play in combating racism, Members welcomed the provision of EU and national funding to enable those in poverty, especially minorities and children, to take part in sporting activities. They insisted on a zero-tolerance approach to racism, hate speech, violence and other racist behaviour in sport and urged the Commission, the Member States and sports federations to develop measures to prevent such incidents and to adopt effective penalties and measures to support victims.

The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism

The European Parliament adopted by 495 votes to 109, with 92 abstentions, a resolution on the role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism.

General context

Parliament stressed that racism exists in all areas of our daily life and can take many forms. It called for a zero-tolerance approach to this issue. Members welcomed the inclusion of a dedicated section on education and specific references to media, sport and culture in the EU anti-racism action plan. Adequate funding should be provided to achieve the plan's commitment.

The Commission and the Member States should adopt a comprehensive approach and provide sufficient funding and resources to achieve the plan's objective.

Regretting that only 15 Member States have national action plans against racism and racial discrimination, Parliament urged the Commission to publish common guiding principles for the implementation of such plans. It called for these plans to contain specific objectives that reflect the full diversity of society in the fields of culture, education, media and sport.

Member States are urged to reach a common position as soon as possible on the proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Culture

Noting that racism is deeply embedded in society and intertwined with its cultural roots, heritage and social norms, the resolution stressed the important role that culture can and must play in combating discrimination and racism and promoting social inclusion, diversity, equality and tolerance.

The Commission is called on to:

- promote initiatives that foster greater diversity in the participation of racialised communities and individuals in the cultural sector, including through the use of funding from all relevant programmes;
- test, share and exchange participatory tools and best practices, which can demonstrate the effects of promoting inclusion and non-discrimination and to combat racism through culture.

Education

Parliament acknowledged the decisive role of education and training in tackling structural racism and discrimination, building inclusive societies, debunking prejudices and stereotypes, and promoting tolerance, understanding and diversity.

Members highlighted the role of the new European Education Area in the fight against all forms of discrimination inside and outside the classroom. They also underlined the fact that particular elements of European history (such as colonialism, slavery and genocide, in particular the Holocaust) continue to have a lasting impact on today's society. Therefore, they suggested that the educational curricula be revised to explain the history of our societies through a focused and contextualised approach and work to eradicate the stereotypes that are leading to the discrimination witnessed today.

Member States are invited to:

- attach greater importance to the teaching of EU history in order to foster cohesion;
- promote minority languages, cultures and history in school curricula, museums and other forms of cultural and historical expression, and recognise the contribution of their cultures to the European heritage;
- combat prejudice in school textbooks, teaching materials, films and information programmes for children and young people, as well as in sport;
- combat racial and ethnic segregation in schools by putting in place inclusive policies that aim to prevent marginalised groups of learners from being placed in segregated schools, educational institutions or classrooms.

Media

Members recalled that the media have a responsibility to reflect societies in all their diversity and regret the lack of racial and ethnic diversity at many media outlets. They called on the cultural and media sectors to eschew practices that perpetuate or reinforce negative stereotypes about ethnic and racial minorities and encourages them to show members of these communities performing positive roles.

The Commission should ensure that the definition of hate speech, both offline and online, and the criminalisation of hate crime is fully and correctly transposed into the national laws of Member States, and to launch infringement procedures where necessary.

Sport

Highlighting that sports clubs and federations have a crucial role to play in combating racism, Members welcomed the provision of EU and national funding to enable those in poverty, especially minorities and children, to take part in sporting activities. They insisted on a zero-tolerance approach to racism, hate speech, violence and other racist behaviour in sport and urged the Commission, the Member States

and sports federations to develop measures to prevent such incidents and to adopt effective penalties and measures to support victims.