



CULT News

Newsletter of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education

**Committee meeting, 16-17 February 2009,
Brussels**

Votes in committee

Reports

Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment

Own-initiative report (2008/2225(INI))

Rapporteur: Vasco Graça Moura (EPP-ED, PT)

The draft report on Multilingualism was adopted with amendments. The rapporteur invites the Commission and the Member States to take steps to help people in disadvantaged situations learn foreign languages.

Timetable foreseen: adoption in plenary (March II) (*)

Active Dialogue with citizens on Europe

Own-initiative report

Rapporteur: Gyula Hegyi (PSE, HU)

The Committee was unusually divided in the final vote on the draft report, on which six other committees had drawn up opinions, highlighting the divergent positions and the importance the groups attach to the issue of the EU's communication policy: 17 Members voted in favour, 1 against, and 11 (including the rapporteur) abstained.

Timetable foreseen: adoption in plenary (March II) (*)

Artistic studies in the European Union

Own-initiative report (2008/2226(INI))

Rapporteur: Maria Badia I Cutchet (PSE, ES)

The report foresees the expansion of artistic education throughout the European Union and draws attention to the impact of this type of studies on a dynamic and future-oriented market of cultural industries. The report stresses the role of artistic studies for the development of innovation and creative capacities in a knowledge-based economy. It further underlines the contribution artistic studies can make to European culture and cultural diversity.

Timetable foreseen: adoption in plenary (March II) (*)

() dates are subject to change*

Web links on Europarl

[COMMITTEE MEETING](#)

[DOCUMENTS](#): all documents published for each committee meeting

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**Next meeting agenda, 5
March 09 (9.00-12.30)**

Among the points likely to be discussed:

- Educating the children of migrants (H Takkula): vote
- Better schools (P Schmitt): vote
- Renewed social agenda (C Visser): vote
- Exchange of views with Commissioner Reding
- Public hearing on "The Role of public broadcasters"
- Coordinators' meeting

The final version of the [draft agenda](#) will be available online a few days before the meeting.

**Extraordinary meeting,
9 March 09, Strasbourg**

7.00-8.30 pm, meeting room SDM S7 (Strasbourg):

- Media Mundus (R Hieronymi): exchange of views and consideration of draft report

Opinions

2007 discharge: EU general budget, Section III - Commission

Discharge (2008/2186(DEC))

Draftswoman: Helga Trüpel (Verts/ALE, DE)

Timetable foreseen: adoption in lead committee CONT (16/03/09) (*)

Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 717/2007 (mobile telephone networks) and Directive 2002/21/EC (electronic communications)

Legislative report (2008/0187(COD))

Draftsman: Manolis Mavrommatis (EPP-ED, EL)

Timetable foreseen: adoption in lead committee ITRE (09/03/09) (*)

On-going work

Reports

Educating the children of migrants

Own-initiative report (2008/2328(INI))

Rapporteur: Hannu Takkula (ALDE, FI)

The rapporteur presented his draft report which stresses how important it is for the children of migrants to master both their mother tongue and the language of their country of residence. He also underlined that measures to improve the education of migrant children benefit society as a whole.

Timetable foreseen: deadline for amendments (18/02/09 - 12.00), adoption in committee (05/03/09), adoption in plenary (April I) (*)

Better schools: an agenda for European cooperation

Own-initiative report (2008/2329(INI))

Rapporteur: Pal Schmitt (EPP-ED, HU)

The rapporteur stressed the importance of high quality school education as means of improving literacy rates and reducing the number of early school leavers. He insisted on the need for strategies to train and retain excellent teachers, but also emphasised that parents and the wide community have important responsibilities in the education of children. Finally the rapporteur underlined that cooperation between Member States in the educational field should be at the heart of the Lisbon strategy.

Timetable foreseen: deadline for amendments (18/02/09 - 12.00), adoption in committee (05/03/09), adoption in plenary (April I) (*)

() dates are subject to change*

Hearings & Delegations in 2009

- Public Hearing on "The role of public broadcasters", 5 March (10.00-12.30), PHS P1A002 meeting room

Practical information to attend the public hearing on 5 March:

if you do not have an access badge to the EP, please send a request to ip-CULT@europarl.europa.eu by 25 February at the latest, with your first name and surname, date of birth and place of residence. We will organise your access.

- Delegation to Linz (Austria): 24-27 February

Opinions

Renewed Social Agenda

Own-initiative report (2008/2330(INI))

Draftsman: Cornelis Visser (EPP–ED, NL)

Introducing his draft opinion, the draftsman pointed out that reconciliation of family life, working life and lifelong learning requires broadening the scope of public and private childcare.

Timetable foreseen: deadline for amendments (18/02/09 - 12.00), adoption in committee (05/03/09) (*)

() dates are subject to change*

Exchanges of views

Exchange of views with Gemma Aubarell Solduga (Programme Coordinator, Anna Lindh Foundation) on Euro-Mediterranean culture policy and with the European Commission on Euro-Mediterranean cultural and audiovisual topics

Exchange of views with Vice-President Gérard Onesta on LUX prize

Presentation of the study on "European Cinema Online - Past and Present" by Philippe Kern (Managing Director, Kern European Affairs)

[P Kern's presentation](#) is available online. The [full study](#) is also available online in several languages.

Public hearing: "Youth participation in the European Union":

Exchange of views with Jillian Van Turnhout, (Member, European Economic and Social Committee), Pieter Lietaer (Staff member international youth policy, Flemish Youth Council), Tine Radinja, (President, European Youth Forum) and the European Commission, represented by Pierre Mairesse, Director, Youth, Sport and Citizenship

Different aspects of participation were discussed, ranging from involvement in decision-making processes to voter participation. While the Commission demonstrated the considerable progress made at European level, experts said that enhancing youth participation, particularly of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, still remains a challenge, both for young people themselves as for their counterparts. Its importance, though, was shown by some comments on the generally low level of knowledge concerning European issues and on the low probability of voting.

CULT meetings in 2009, Brussels

Thursday 2 April, 15.00-18.30

Thursday 30 April, 15.00-18.30 (TBC)

Constituent meetings in week 30 TBC

Wednesday 2 September, 15.00-18.30

Thursday 3 September, 9.00-12.30

Monday 5 October, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 6 October, 9.00-12.30

Monday 9 November, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 10 November, 9.00-12.30

Monday 30 November, 15.00-18.30

Tuesday 1 December, 9.00-12.30

CULT News archives

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Experts also stressed the importance not only of listening to young people, but also of taking their views into account. They advocated appropriate participatory structures from local to European level, particularly in areas affecting young people's daily lives. It was also said that young people should be involved from a very early age; in this respect, reference was made to a recent Eurobarometer showing that the younger respondents were, the more likely they were to support European integration. Existing projects illustrated the importance of new internet instruments for the involvement of young people. Several speakers also stressed that the fulfilment of young people's basic needs, such as education, healthcare, sufficient resources, and good employment prospects, is a precondition for participation - hence the importance of taking young people's concerns into account when shaping respective policies.

The experts' presentations were followed by a lively debate, in which the issue of voter participation occupied an important place. Part of the debate turned around the question of whether the voting age should be lowered to 16 in all Member States, with a view to improving young people's representation in an ageing society. One of the outcomes of this debate was that if such a measure is to be envisaged, it must be accompanied by appropriate information measures. The discussion also showed that the design of voting systems can in some cases affect voter participation. Other issues discussed during the debate were: sustainability and follow-up of actions and commitments at European level and in the Member States; the importance of political education and challenges related to the use of the internet.

Watch the [video of the hearing](#) online.

Download the presentations:

[J van Turnhout presentation](#)

[P Lietaer presentation](#)

[T Radinja contribution](#)

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