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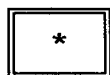
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SESSION DOCUMENTS

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10 April 1991

A3-0092/91



R E P O R T

of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 87/569/EEC concerning an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life

(COM(90) 467 final - Doc. C3-0396/90

Rapporteur: Mrs Mary BANOTTI


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
A Series: Reports - B series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions.

- C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

 = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

 = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of the majority of the Members of Parliament

 = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

 = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of the majority of the current Members of Parliament

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By letter of 26 November 1990 the Council consulted the European Parliament on the Commission proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 87/569/EEC concerning an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life (COM(90) 467 final).

At the sitting of 10 December 1990 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment for their opinions.

At its meeting of 19 December 1990 the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport appointed Mrs Banotti rapporteur.

At its meetings of 29 January 1991, 26 February 1991, 18 March 1991 and 4 April 1991 it considered the Commission proposal and draft report.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unopposed with 1 abstention.

The following took part in the vote: Barzanti, chairman; Banotti, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Buchan, Canavaro (Rule 111(1)), Dillen (for Le Pen), Dührkop Dührkop, Elliott, Fontaine, Harrison (for Galle), Hermans, Hoppenstedt (for Estgen), Kellett-Bowman (for Rawlings), Lambrias (for Formigoni), Maibaum (for Gallo), Müller (for Gangoiti Llaguno), Oostlander, Pack, Roth, Sir Jack Stewart-Clark and Vecchi (for De Giovanni).

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment are attached.

The report was tabled on 9 April 1991.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A

Commission proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 87/569/EEC concerning an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life

Commission text¹

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)
Eleventh recital a (new)

Whereas it is necessary to ensure that the concerns of young workers and the young unemployed are adequately addressed in the context of the Petra II programme;

(Amendment No. 2)
Twelfth recital

Whereas there is a need to respond to new challenges facing initial vocational education and training, in particular by raising its status, adapting its content, increasing its coherence and flexibility, stimulating cooperation between its providers, strengthening apprenticeship and work-based training, improving vocational guidance and attracting more girls and young women into technical and scientific fields;

Whereas there is a need to respond to new challenges facing initial vocational education and training, in particular by raising its status, adapting its content, increasing its coherence and flexibility, stimulating cooperation between its providers, encouraging involvement and financial support by industry, strengthening apprenticeship and work-based training, improving vocational guidance and attracting more girls and young women into technical and scientific fields;

(Amendment No. 3)
Twelfth recital a (new)

Whereas the success of the PETRA Programme is dependent on good preparation, in particular language training, and therefore in allocating funds to each Member State due account of this should be taken by individual national PETRA agencies;

¹ For full text see COM(90) 0467 final, OJ No. C 322, 21.12.1990, p. 21

(Amendment No. 4)
Fifteenth recital a (new)

Whereas the PETRA programme may contribute to an improvement in the quality of education, particularly in the backward regions of the Community;

(Amendment No. 5)
ARTICLE 1(1)
Article 1(1)

1. Article 1 is replaced by the following text:

"Article 1

1. A programme is hereby adopted for a three-year period from 1 January 1992 to support and supplement, through measures at Community level, the policies and activities of the Member States in doing their utmost to ensure that all young people in the Community who so wish receive two or more years' vocational training leading to recognized vocational qualifications, in addition to their full-time compulsory education.

1. Article 1 is replaced by the following text:

"Article 1

1. A programme is hereby adopted for a three-year period from 1 January 1992 to support and supplement, through measures at Community level, the policies and activities of the Member States in doing their utmost to ensure that all young people in the Community who so wish receive two or more years' vocational training leading to recognized vocational qualifications in all Member States, in addition to their full-time compulsory education.

(Amendment No. 6)
ARTICLE 1(1)
Article 1(2)(b)

(b) add a Community dimension to vocational qualifications, taking account of the need to promote comparability of these qualifications between the Member States;

(b) add a Community dimension to vocational qualifications, taking account of the need to promote comparability of these qualifications between the Member States and consequently their mutual recognition;

(Amendment No. 7)

ARTICLE 1(1)

Article 1(2)(c)

- (c) stimulate and support practical cooperation and the development of training partnerships, both transnationally and within each Member State, between training providers, industry and other promoters of local and regional development, so as to achieve a more effective use of training resources, improve the transfer of experience and increase awareness of the European aspects to be taken into account in the development of initial vocational training;
- (c) stimulate and support practical cooperation and the development of training partnerships, both transnationally and within each Member State, between training providers, industry and other promoters of local and regional development, so as to achieve a more effective use of training resources, improve the transfer of experience, particularly for the benefit of backward regions, and increase awareness of the European aspects to be taken into account in the development of initial vocational training;

(Amendment No. 8)

ARTICLE 1(1)

Article 1(2)(d)

- (d) develop opportunities for young people in technical and vocational education or other forms of initial training, and for young workers, to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States, so as to add a European dimension to their training and increase their mobility at Community level;
- (d) develop opportunities for young people in technical and vocational education or other forms of initial training, not excluding any form of vocationally oriented education and training - and for young workers, young job seekers, and the young unemployed to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States, so as to add a European dimension to their training or work experience and to increase their mobility at Community level;

(Amendment No. 9)

ARTICLE 1(1)

Article 1(2)(e) a

(e)a reduce social and economic imbalances between young people in different regions of Europe;

(Amendment No. 10)
ARTICLE 1(1)
Article 1(2)(e)b (new)

(e)b support in particular those groups of young people disadvantaged because of their social, ethnic or specific cultural background;

(Amendment No. 11)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 3(1)

1. support for transnational cooperation between initiatives of the kind set out in Article 2, including specific assistance to those involving young people in their planning, organization and implementation, which encourage the personal and vocational development of young people in vocational and technical education or other forms of initial training, and of young workers, who have left the education and training system, through cooperative or integrated vocational education, training and guidance measures. Such cooperation shall in particular promote within the Community:

1. support for transnational cooperation between initiatives of the kind set out in Article 2, including specific assistance to those involving young people in their planning, organization and implementation, which encourage the personal and vocational development of young people in vocational and technical education or other forms of initial training, and of young workers, young job seekers and the young unemployed, who have left the education and training system, through cooperative or integrated vocational education, training and guidance measures. Such cooperation shall in particular promote within the Community:

(Amendment No. 12)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 3(1)

After the first indent, add a new indent:

- preparatory language training for young people in initial training and for young workers.

(Amendment No. 13)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 3(2), first indent

- supporting national contact points or centres, to create a network for the exchange of guidance data, and to explore effective methods for the transfer of up-to-date guidance information throughout the Community;
- supporting national contact points or centres, to create a network for the exchange of guidance data, and to explore effective methods for the transfer of up-to-date guidance information throughout the Community involving small and medium-sized enterprises and including cooperative enterprises;

(Amendment No. 14)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 3(3a) (new)

actively encouraging industry's involvement in the programme, particularly with regard to assisting with the costs of disadvantaged young people;

(Amendment No. 15)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 3a (new)

1. In implementing the programme,
the Member States shall ensure

- that a period spent by young
people in vocational training in
another Member State in the context
of this programme is recognized as
an integral part of their training
in their country of origin;

- that participants in exchanges can
return after the end of their stay
to their original training course or
job.

2. The Commission shall further
ensure

- in cooperation with the Advisory
Committee, that the financial
position of potential exchange
participants, or their financial
position in the activity to which
their training mainly leads, is not
adversely affected by their
participation in the programme;

- that the Member States adapt their
legislation in such a way that
current legislation on the working
environment and rules on safety
provisions ensure a high degree of
protection for trainees and
regulations on social security do
not constitute an obstacle to
periods of training in another
Member State.

(Amendment No. 16)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 4(2)

Before 30 June 1993 and before 30 June 1995, the Member States shall send to the Commission a report on the steps taken to implement the common framework of guidelines laid down in Article 2, including information on current arrangements to promote initial vocational training.

Before 30 June 1993 and before 30 June 1995, the Member States shall send to the Commission a detailed report on the steps taken to implement the common framework of guidelines laid down in Article 2, including information on current arrangements to promote initial vocational training.

The report shall state in detail the extent to which the objectives set out in Article 1 on the two or more years of vocational training have been achieved and, if the objectives have not been achieved, what difficulties were encountered by the Member State.

(Amendment No. 17)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 4a (new)

4a. Before the end of 1992, the Council will adopt, on the basis of a Commission proposal and after consultation of the European Parliament, the necessary arrangements to ensure that young people in vocational training and young workers benefit from a social insurance scheme during the period of their placement abroad.

(Amendment No. 18)
Article 1(3)
Article 6(1)

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of two representatives from each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. Twelve representatives of both sides of industry, appointed by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the organizations representing both sides of industry at Community level, shall participate in the work of the committee as observers.

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of two representatives from each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. Twelve representatives of both sides of industry, European teachers' organizations and Community-level youth organizations, appointed by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the organizations representing both sides of industry teachers and youth organizations, shall participate in the work of the committee as observers.

(Amendment No. 19)
Annex
Action A I.1.2(d)

(d) develop opportunities for young people in technical and vocational education or other forms of initial training, and for young workers, to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States, so as to add a European dimension to their training and to increase their mobility at Community level;

(d) develop opportunities for young people in technical and vocational education or other forms of initial training, and for young workers, young job seekers, and the young unemployed to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States, so as to add a European dimension to their training and to increase their mobility at Community level; this aim shall be pursued while avoiding any sexual or social discrimination, the 'disadvantaged' young worker to be defined as 'young people disadvantaged by their social environment, the fact that they are unemployed, or physical, intellectual or social handicaps', who deserve priority in the implementation of the programme.

(Amendment No. 20)

Annex

Action A I.1.2(e), second indent

- improving training opportunities for disadvantaged young people;
- improving training opportunities for all disadvantaged young people, including those from ethnic minority groups resident in the Community and young persons with disabilities, inter alia by encouraging industry to assist participants with their costs;

(Amendment No. 21)

Annex

Action A I.1.2.(e)a (new)

(e)a reduce social and economic imbalances between young people in different regions of Europe;

(Amendment No. 22)

Annex

Action A I.1.2.(e)b (new)

(e)b to support in particular those groups of young people disadvantaged because of their social, ethnic or specific cultural background;

(Amendment No. 23)

Annex

Action A I.1.3.(a)

(a) all forms of vocational training, below university level, following the completion of the period of full-time compulsory education, or general education at (upper) secondary level, and providing a structured training programme, part of a programme or complementary elements to it, in order to enable young people to gain a recognized vocational qualification;

(a) all forms of vocational training, below university level, following the completion of the period of full-time compulsory education, or general education at (upper) secondary level, and providing a structured training programme, part of a programme or complementary elements to it, in order to enable young people to gain a recognized vocational qualification in all Member States;

(Amendment No. 24)
Annex
Action A I.1.5, second indent

- young workers up to the age of 25, i.e. young people who are already in employment and who wish to complement their initial training with a period of work experience abroad.

- young workers, young job seekers and the young unemployed up to the age of 28 who want to develop their vocational knowledge and enrich their practical experience through an exchange activity which provides a work experience abroad.

(Amendment No. 25)
Annex
Action A I.1.5, last paragraph

The programme does not concern young job seekers and young unemployed as they represent major target groups for the actions implemented within the framework of the Community's Structural Policies and, in particular, the EUROFORM initiative.

Deleted

(Amendment No. 26)
Annex
Action A I.2.6., first indent

6. The Community's support is aimed at stimulating transnational cooperation in particular through:

- training or work experience placements abroad for young people in initial training and their trainers, and for young workers,

6. The Community's support is aimed at stimulating transnational cooperation in particular through:

- training or work experience placements abroad for young people in initial training and their trainers, and for young workers, young job seekers and the young unemployed,

(Amendment No. 27)
Annex
Action A I.2.7., first paragraph

7. In the case of young workers, the implementation of training and work experience placements in another Member State shall build on the experience of the Third Joint Programme for Exchange of Young Workers. In particular these placements shall provide new vocational or training experience for the participants which will:

7. In the case of young workers, young job seekers and the young unemployed, the implementation of training and work experience placements in another Member State shall build on the experience of the Third Joint Programme for Exchange of Young Workers. In particular these placements shall provide new vocational, training or work experience for the participants which will:

(Amendment No. 28)
Annex
Action A I.2.7., second indent

- promote their awareness of the working world, and

- promote their awareness of the working world and of living conditions, social relations and the general culture of the host country, and

(Amendment No. 29)
Annex
Action A I.2.7., last paragraph

The duration of such placements shall normally be three months, but they may last up to one year where, by the nature of the work experience and its training objectives, a longer period is required.

The duration of such placements shall normally be three months, but they may last from three weeks up to one year where, by the nature of the work experience or training objectives or the needs of the participants, a shorter or longer period is required.

(Amendment No. 30)
Annex
Action A I.2.1.7 a (new)

To encourage confidence in the Programme, both the employment held and the wages received by a young worker prior to participation shall be guaranteed on his or her return from the period abroad.

(Amendment No. 31)
Annex
Action A I.2.1.9

9. It is the responsibility of the training institutions/initiatives or, in the case of young workers, the young people themselves or their employers, to organize their exchanges/placements. Member States shall make the necessary arrangements to assist in the identification of potential partners or placements, to help match supply and demand and to ensure adequate preparation, organization and 'on-the-spot' support. Each Member State shall designate one (or more) competent agency (agencies) responsible for coordinating and implementing this part of the programme at national level, in accordance with specific guidelines agreed at Community level.

9. It is the responsibility of the training institutions/initiatives or, in the case of young workers, the young people themselves or their employers, to organize their exchanges/placements. Member States shall make the necessary arrangements to assist in the identification of potential partners or placements, to help match supply and demand and to ensure adequate preparation, organization and 'on-the-spot' support. Each Member State shall designate one (or more) competent agency (agencies) responsible for coordinating and implementing this part of the programme at national level, in accordance with specific guidelines agreed at Community level.

Special attention shall be paid to small and medium-sized enterprises which should be given greater opportunity to engage in mutual exchange programmes whereby one SME would exchange a worker or a group of workers with another SME. An opportunity to engage in such exchanges would minimize pressures upon the SME that could not otherwise spare the absence of a worker for an extended period of time. Special attention shall also be paid to cooperatives and non-profit-making bodies.

The agency or agencies referred to above shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the availability of exchanges/placements is known to all disadvantaged young people.

(Amendment No. 32)
Annex
Action A I.3.12, second indent

- justified travel costs, up to 75%,
- justified travel costs, up to 75% for all participants and up to 90% for those with disabilities and those who qualify, or whose families qualify, for income support in the countries of origin.

(Amendment No. 33)
Annex
Action A I.3.12, third indent

- the costs of preparatory language training,
- the costs of preparatory language training, which shall be sufficient to ensure that initial lack of language skills shall not be a barrier to any potential participant,

(Amendment No. 34)
Annex
Action A I.3.13.

13. In calculating the aid to each Member State, quantitative objectives will be assigned in relation to the number of young people from 15 to 25 years in its population. Inspired by models applied in the ERASMUS and COMETT programmes and taking into consideration the need to ensure a balanced flow of exchanges in the Community, the calculation will also take account of:
- the gross domestic product of each Member State
 - the geographical distance between Member States.
13. In calculating the aid to each Member State, quantitative objectives will be assigned in relation to the number of young people from 15 to 28 years in its population. To ensure a balanced flow of exchanges in the Community, and to ensure that preference is given to disadvantaged groups, the calculation will take into account the geographical distance between Member States, and the necessity of promoting balanced economic development of the different regions of the Community. Steps will have to be taken to ensure that the levels of the grants awarded do not lead to unwarranted disparities between the Member States.

(Amendment No. 35)

Annex

Action B II.1.17

After last indent, add new indent

- providing support for specific research on how the programmes can reach disadvantaged young people.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament
on the Commission proposal for a Council decision
amending Decision 87/569/EEC concerning an action programme for a
vocational training of young people and their preparation
for adult and working life

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(90) 0467 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council (C3-0396/90),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment (A3-0092/91),
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendments and in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ No. C 322, 21.12.1990, p. 21

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In the lead up to 1992, the initial training of young people is a major priority of the Community. In order to assist the Community in this effort, the Commission is proposing to consolidate and significantly expand the existing PETRA programme from 1992-1994. The Commission is proposing three major changes to the original PETRA programme.

1. This new PETRA programme aims to provide for the first time at Community level the framework for young people in initial vocational education or training to participate on a large scale in vocational exchanges and work placements abroad. The Commission proposal therefore responds to one of the main points of the Parliament's resolution of 16 February 1990 on Community education and training programmes¹ in offering the opportunity to complement the exchange programmes which ERASMUS/COMETT/TEMPUS make possible at the higher education level.
2. The proposal gives practical effect to the Commission's Memorandum on the Rationalisation and Coordination of Vocational Training Programmes 'at Community level presented in August 1990 in that it represents the first example of an integration of two Community programmes in the education and training field. The Young Workers Exchange Programme, which currently involves more than 4,000 young workers each year, will, in future, be fully integrated within PETRA. Overall, it is proposed that 100,000 vocational exchanges of young people in initial training (80,000) and young workers (20,000) be carried out over the three years of the programme 1992-1994 (Action A). The Commission has set targets of 16,000 trainee exchanges in 1992, 36,000 in 1993, and 48,000 in 1994. The Commission believes that this would represent some 2 % of young people in initial vocational training. Funding is expected to grow over the three years of the programme, 41.3 Mecus in 1992, 60.9 Mecus in 1993 and 75.3 Mecus in 1994. The Commission proposal foresees an average of three weeks for training placements for young people in initial vocational training and an average of three months for young workers.
3. A much greater emphasis will be placed on the organisation of vocational guidance and counselling (Action B). This will be provided for through networking the exchange of European guidance data by means of national contact points and bilateral or multilateral seminars for guidance personnel will also be funded. From rather uncertain beginnings PETRA has developed into an interesting and valuable programme. Vocational education and training systems are often very rigid, with little flexibility of approach or openness to new ideas and those involved frequently lack linguistic ability and experience of vocational education systems in other Member States. For these reasons a programme that encourages an opening up of vocational education and training is particularly valuable for both trainers and trainees and the proposed extension of aims to include some support for guidance activities is especially welcome. In addition, the imbalance of Community support between that for university students

¹ OJ No. C 68, 19.3.1990, p. 175

(ERASMUS, COMETT, TEMPUS) is finally being rectified through this new PETRA programme. There is little doubt, that because PETRA involves the opening up of vocational training activity to new experiences, it can have an immediate impact on the life chances of the young people involved. However, a number of concerns with the details of the PETRA proposals arise

- a) The basis for allocating funding to Member States chosen by the Commission is 'inspired' by the ERASMUS and COMETT models. This may not prove to be advantageous to peripheral countries like Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Greece. In particular, the choice of 'geographical distance between Member States' does not reflect commercial reality as regards the cost of travel. For example, travel costs from Ireland to most Member States are considerably higher than those incurred by Member States on mainland Europe. The use of GDP figures as a criterion will also be devastating to peripheral countries like Ireland. In 1992 the total funding for trainee placement is 23.2 Mecus; with 1.5 % GNP this would mean an allocation of 350,000 Ecus, which is less than Ireland receives at present. A similar scenario would occur for other peripheral Member States.

A better approach would be that, in calculating the totals to be allocated to Member States, the average cost of exchanges involving the Member State, including travel costs, would be taken into account in the allocation as would the need to ensure that a representative number of exchanges would take place.

- b) There is a danger that as PETRA becomes a programme with considerable resources, it could end up being targetted at the more 'advantaged' young people in vocational training, at the expense of the disadvantaged. This may arise particularly when only up to 75 % of travel costs of young people will be funded by the Commission. A large number of young people in vocational training come from less well-off backgrounds and would not be in a position to fund the balance of 25 %. It is extremely important, therefore, that disadvantaged young people continue to receive priority within PETRA. In addition many further education institutions will be aware of ERASMUS and anxious to capitalise on the availability of similar opportunities within PETRA. It may be necessary to introduce some form of 'quota' across all levels of vocational education and training in all Member States, in order to ensure a uniformity of approach and more particularly, that disadvantaged young people receive priority.

- c) The experience of national PETRA agencies to date regarding exchanges of trainees suggests strongly that there is a need for extensive back-up services for trainees before, during and after the exchange takes place. Unlike third level students, many trainees would have little experience of travelling or of living in another country. It is hard to envisage how small agencies involved in such exchanges - and the proposals envisage negotiation of contracts at the level of individual training centres - could establish and maintain an exchange programme which entails language training, orientation, finding suitable partnerships and even the simple job of travel arrangements and finding accomodation for trainees. A substantial degree of support at national or regional level would be necessary if the programme is to reach the genuinely disadvantaged. The Commission proposes that 20 % of the average total contribution would be allocated for this purpose, but as this figure covers all costs, it is

essential that this amount is not diluted in the final proposals, thereby disproportionately affecting the disadvantaged, the very group PETRA is trying to target.

- d) The Young Workers Exchange Programme caters for both young people in employment and the unemployed. Following its incorporation into PETRA, the Commission states that the unemployed will in future be catered for under the Commission's new programme EUROFORM. Currently about 50 % of the participants in the Young Workers Exchange Programme are unemployed. This group should continue to qualify under the new programme. The Commission has indicated that the definition of 'worker' under the programme might be the same as that used for the EC's FORCE Programme i.e. 'any person having active links with the labour market'. This definition includes the unemployed. It is still unclear exactly how the expanded PETRA Programme and EUROFORM will 'complement' each other. It is important that this issue be clarified by the Commission as soon as possible.
- e) The EC Regulations on Social Security for Migrant Workers lay down rules which determine where you pay social insurance if you move from one Member State to another. Exchange workers are not covered by these regulations therefore all matters of social insurance are decided at national level. It would be better if were covered by a specific EC Regulation in order that all trainees be treated equally.
- f) In all the talk of exchanges of trainees, Action A initiatives involving the exchanges of trainers, the development of training modules and emerging joint certification activities must not be marginalised. These exchanges will have a major impact on national systems of vocational education and training, therefore their long-term benefits will be significant.
- g) As the exchanges of trainees involves the co-operation of numerous small businesses throughout the European Community, it is imperative that the Commission instigate a publicity campaign in all the Member States, aimed specifically at this economic sector, highlighting the advantages they will gain through participation in PETRA.
- h) In the same way that PETRA should compliment the EUROFORM Programme, policies specifically designed to promote vocational training for the long term unemployed, young women, through NOW and the handicapped through HORIZON should have a reference point in PETRA.
- i) The diploma qualifications each trainee receives after participating in a PETRA programme should give credit for the exchange participation and form part of a recognised vocational qualification.

Finally, a European work placement or training course as envisaged in PETRA, provides an opportunity for a young person to experience 'real' life in another country. The challenge this presents stretches capabilities and often forces young people for the first time to analyse their own culture, social and moral values, work ethics and so on. Often this results in the strengthening of the young person's own cultural identity and a respectful appreciation of others, regardless of differences.

By reaching out to the disadvantaged PETRA gives a chance to many marginalized by our modern society. It can truly be called a programme of 'A People's Europe'.

Lastly, the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport calls on the Commission to ensure that there is close coordination between the PETRA programme, CEDEFOP's activities and the other Community and non-Community initiatives in this area, so that, in particular, European guidance activities for young people tie up with those for adults.

OPINION IN THE FORM OF A LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr BARZANTI, chairman of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport

Brussels, 4 March 1991

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets on a proposal for a Council decision amending Decision 87/568/EEC concerning an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life (COM(90) 467 final - C3-396/90)

Dear Barzanti,

At its meeting of 1 March 1991 the Committee on Budgets considered the above subject.

The committee gave its backing to this proposal while pointing out that a proportion of the administrative appropriations required for implementing the programme was contained in a mini-budget.

The Committee on Budgets would ask the committee responsible have the Commission to ascertain that the appropriations will be available under the financial perspective for 1992 and, as the case may be, subsequently.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas von der VRING

The following were present for the vote: von der Vring, chairman; Lamassoure, first vice-chairman; Arias Canete, Böge, Colom I Naval, Desama, Goedmakers, Onur (for Ferri) and Zavvos.

O P I N I O N

(Rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure)

of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment
for the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport
Draftsman: Mrs Tove NIELSEN

At its meeting of 28 September 1990 the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment appointed Mrs Tove NIELSEN draftsman.

At its meetings of 8 February and 26 February 1991 it considered the draft opinion.

At the meeting of 27 February 1991 it adopted the conclusions unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: van Velzen, chairman; De Vitto, vice-chairman; Nielsen, draftsman; von Alemann, Brok, van Dijk, Donnelly (for Alvarez de Paz), Hughes, Marques Mendes, McCubbin (for Buron), McMahon, Megahy, O'Hagan, Pagoropoulos, Peter, Pronk, Salisch, Sandbæk and Wilson.

I. Introduction

In the 1990s all Member States of the EEC will be faced with a number of similar problems in the field of basic vocational training. The completion of the Single Market will require vocational training schemes to be better adapted to technological and industrial change. Only with a highly qualified work force will the EC be able to exploit the opportunities offered by the Single Market and to be competitive on the world market. Basic vocational training in the Member countries therefore needs to be improved. At the same time it is necessary to introduce a European dimension into vocational training courses to make full use of the potential of the Single Market.

With these two principal aims in mind, and in response to requests from the European Parliament and the Council, the Commission has submitted a proposal for the consolidation and expansion of the PETRA I and the Young Workers Exchange Programme known as PETRA II.

II. Substance of the Commission proposal

The main changes proposed in PETRA II concern:

1. The length of basic vocational training - increased from a minimum of one year to two years.
2. A considerable increase in the number of those participating in exchanges and in the budget made available for them - 100 000 exchanges in the proposed three-year period, at a cost of ECU 177.4 m (as compared with ECU 52 m for PETRA I).
3. The existing Young Workers' Exchange Programme is integrated into PETRA II, with exchanges concentrating on longer stays.
4. Projects for young people seeking work and the young employed are to be implemented in future as part of the Community's structural policy, in particular the EUROFORM initiative.

III. Observations

The European Parliament has on many occasions drawn attention to the need to adapt and update vocational training schemes¹ and has deplored the fact that exchange programmes at Community level have mainly been aimed at university level schemes, such as ERASMUS and COMETT, largely disregarding young people in vocational training².

The Commission's initiative is therefore very welcome, and your rapporteur can fully support the programme's objectives and substance, but has proposed a number of amendments, mainly aimed at making it more specific in terms of a social and labour market policy.

¹ See, inter alia, OJ No. C 68/1990, p. 155.

² OJ No. C 68/1990, p. 175

Your rapporteur is also pleased to see that provision is made for the young unemployed in the Euroform programme, provided that this change helps to improve their employment opportunities. Your rapporteur therefore considers that it would be useful if the Commission, in its evaluation report on the Euroform programme, could submit a comparative study of the results of PETRA I and Euroform.

IV. Conclusions

The Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and the Working Environment calls on the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)

Article 1(1)

A programme is hereby adopted for a three-year period from 1 January 1992 to support and supplement, through measures at Community level, the policies and activities of the Member States in doing their utmost to ensure that all young people in the Community who so wish receive two or more years' vocational training leading to recognized vocational qualifications, in addition to their full-time compulsory education.

A programme is hereby adopted for a three-year period from 1 January 1992, or possibly later, to ensure adequate preparation time for the implementation of the programme, to support and supplement, through measures at Community level, the policies and activities of the Member States in doing their utmost to ensure that all young people in the Community who so wish receive two or more years' vocational training leading to recognized vocational qualifications, in addition to their full-time compulsory education.

(Amendment No. 2)

Article 1(2)(d)

develop opportunities for young people in technical and vocational education or other forms of initial training, and for young workers, to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States, so as to add a European dimension to their training and to increase their mobility at Community level;

develop opportunities for young people in technical and vocational education or other forms of initial training, - not excluding any form of vocationally oriented education and training - and for young workers, to benefit from periods of training or work experience in other Member States, so as to add a European dimension to their training and to increase their mobility at Community level;

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 3)
Article 3a(1) (new)

In implementing the programme, the Member States shall ensure

- that a period spent by young people in vocational training in another Member State in the context of this programme is recognized as an integral part of their training in their country of origin;

- that participants in exchanges can return after the end of their stay to their original training course or job.

(Amendment No. 4)
Article 3a(2) (new)

The Commission shall further ensure

- in cooperation with the Advisory Committee, that the financial position of potential exchange participants, or their financial position in the activity to which their training mainly leads, is not adversely affected by their participation in the programme;

- that the Member States adapt their legislation in such a way that current legislation on the working environment and rules on safety provisions ensure a high degree of protection for trainees and regulations on social security do not constitute an obstacle to periods of training in another Member State.

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 5)
Article 4(2)

Before 30 June 1993 and before 30 June 1995, the Member States shall send to the Commission a report on the steps taken to implement the common framework of guidelines laid down in Article 2, including information on current arrangements to promote initial vocational training.

Before 30 June 1993 and before 30 June 1995, the Member States shall send to the Commission a detailed report on the steps taken to implement the common framework of guidelines laid down in Article 2, including information on current arrangements to promote initial vocational training.

The report shall state in detail the extent to which the objectives set out in Article 1 on the of two years or more of vocational training have been achieved and, if the objectives have not been achieved, what difficulties were encountered by the Member State.

(Amendment No. 6)
Article 5

As from the 1992 budgetary year the appropriations necessary to finance the Community contribution to the actions provided for in Article 3, including measures to ensure technical assistance at central or decentralised level, continuing monitoring and evaluation, and other supplementary measures concerning information on the programme and concertation with policy makers and the social partners, shall be authorized in the annual budgetary procedure.

As from the 1992 budgetary year the appropriations necessary to finance the Community contribution to the actions provided for in Article 3, including measures to ensure technical assistance at central or decentralised level, continuing monitoring and evaluation, and other supplementary measures concerning information on the programme and concertation with policy makers and the social partners, shall be authorized in the annual budgetary procedure and allocated among the measures to be funded in accordance with the summary of expenditure.

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 7)
Article 6(1)

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of two representatives from each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. Twelve representatives of both sides of industry, appointed by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the organizations representing both sides of industry at Community level, shall participate in the work of the committee as observers.

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of two representatives from the Member States and twelve representatives of both sides of industry. These twelve representatives shall be appointed by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the organizations representing both sides of industry at Community level. A balanced representation shall be ensured. A representative of the Commission shall chair the committee.

