



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

05.02.10



Contents

1. ... *European Council*
 - *Informal meeting of Heads of State or Government*
 - *Education, Youth & Culture Council*

2. ... *European Parliament*
 - *Parliament-Commission relations*

3. ... *Committee of the Regions*
 - *Empowering Europe's Youth*



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

...European Council

EUROPE 2020 strategy Presentation to Heads of State or Government

A strategy for sustainable growth and jobs

During the informal meeting of Heads of State or Government, the President of the European Commission has made a presentation on the EUROPE 2020 strategy. He spoke about the effects of the financial crisis and the implications of interdependence. President Barroso outlined the parameters on how to chart the way out of the crisis while building a new economic model for Europe in 2020.

FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/statements/pdf/20100210_en.pdf

PRESENTATION

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/statements/pdf/20102010_2_en.pdf

2993rd session of the Council of the European Union - EDUCATION, YOUTH and CULTURE – 15 February 2010

Education and training for the Europe of 2020

As a contribution to the ongoing preparations for the future "EU 2020" strategy, the Union's education ministers will hold, in public debate, an exchange of views on the role of education and training in Europe's efforts to promote growth and jobs.

Moreover, the Council and the Commission will adopt their joint progress report on the implementation of the "Education & Training 2010" work programme.

The "EU 2020" strategy which is currently under preparation will be a new strategy for growth and jobs for the period after 2010, designed to succeed the ten-year programme known as the Lisbon Strategy adopted a decade ago. In a knowledge-based economy, education and lifelong learning are bound to play a vital role.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

The joint report to be adopted focuses on progress towards agreed education and training objectives during the period 2007-2009. It is based on an assessment of national reports and performance against a set of indicators and reference levels of European average performance ("benchmarks"). The main focus is on the implementation of the 2006 recommendation on key competences. In addition, the report covers national lifelong learning strategies, reforms in the fields of vocational education and training and of higher education as well as newly identified challenges.

Further information

Joint progress report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the "Education & Training 2010" work programme:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st05/st05394.en10.pdf>

... European Parliament



Relations between the Parliament and the Commission

The European Parliament approved a set of key principles to be implemented in the cooperation agreement governing relations between the European Parliament and the Commission. Commission President Barroso endorsed MEPs' demands, reflecting the new position of Parliament under the Lisbon Treaty.

The Parliament and the Commission are currently revising the Framework Agreement that defines relations between the two institutions, including their political responsibilities, the flow of information and legislative coordination. The negotiators of the two institutions agreed on a set of key principles in late January and approved these principles this week.

The second stage of the negotiations, starting immediately after the Commission takes office, should lead by May-June 2010 to an ambitious Framework Agreement text that will be adopted by plenary.

READ ABOUT THE WHOLE SET OF AGREEMENTS

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-68606-039-02-07-901-20100208IPR68605-08-02-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

... Committee of the Regions

Empowering Europe's youth Europe's best employment and growth programme

The need to empower young people so that they can make full use of Europe's many opportunities was at the heart of the political debate at this week's plenary session of the Committee of the Regions (CoR). Local and regional politicians from all 27 EU member states discussed concrete measures for a future-oriented European youth policy and concluded that EU cooperation and funding can support cities and regions in their efforts to create the best conditions for young people to find a job and to play an active role in modern society.

Three key reports on the subject were adopted:

1. New European Strategy for Investing in Youth

The report emphasises that the new strategy should take a youth-centred approach, in which the individuals, their talents and their needs for developing their full potential, is the starting point. A "positive" youth policy should address the potential of all youth by providing favourable conditions to develop their talents and skills to live, work, and actively participate in society. In many member states, it is the regions and cities that are primarily responsible for youth policy, which realise that investing in culture, sports and education makes them more economically prosperous and safe.

2. Analphabetism and Illiteracy - a key issue for Europe's youth

Combating functional illiteracy in Europe is an issue of particular importance to the future of Europe's young people. The report on the matter states that many European children are dropping out of school and are suffering from the scourge of illiteracy. It is imperative to discuss at EU level the problems of those who cannot read or write, not least in the context of the debate on the EU 2020 strategy and the measures to combat the economic crisis. The heavy involvement of local and regional authorities and their associations in combating illiteracy should focus the other EU institutions on the need to establish a European definition of illiteracy, encompassing functional illiteracy.

3. Facilitating the mobility of young people in Europe

At a time of ever more rapid globalisation and cross-border networking of all areas of life, study and work periods abroad should gradually become the rule rather than the exception. The report underlines that periods spent abroad for learning purposes is one of the key ways in which young people can achieve personal development, obtain access to new knowledge, broaden their knowledge of languages, acquire intercultural skills and improve their employment chances.