Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

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The Committee adopted a report by Pierluigi CASTAGNETTI (EPP, I) on the promotion of European pathways in work-linked training, including apprenticeship. The Commission proposal had a dual aim: 1) to define the content and common principles for periods of training in another Member State in the context of work-linked training and apprenticeship ("European Pathways") and 2) to make these periods of training more transparent and visible by means of formal recognition ("EUROPASS Training" certificate). The setting-up of "European pathways" and "EUROPASS Training" was to support the development of work-linked training and apprenticeship in Member States. According to the rapporteur, the Council has taken on board some amendments put forward by the Parliament in the first reading, such as evaluation of the measures implemented under the decision and the role of SMEs. However, the Common Position focuses almost exclusively on the EUROPASS, neglecting the European pathways. The rapporteur argued that the "EUROPASS Training" must comply with commonly agreed principles which guarantee its quality and promote the ultimate objective, mobility. Mr. CASTAGNETTI stressed the importance of the Commission's coordinating role in the monitoring of the actions carried out under the decision. Each Member State should facilitate access to the EUROPASS Training by disseminating information on training opportunities in another Member State, on the provisions in force in other Member States and, where appropriate, on the working conditions and health and safety risks and procedures.