European year of intercultural dialogue 2008: respect and promote cultural diversity in Europe and develop an active European citizenship

2005/0203(COD) - 05/10/2005 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to declare 2008 the “European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue”.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

CONTENT: the Treaty of the European Union places great emphasis on creating an ever-closer union between the peoples of Europe, on encouraging a flowering of the cultures of the Member States, whilst at the same time respecting their national and regional diversity and highlighting Europe’s common cultural heritage. To fulfil many of these priorities the European Commission is proposing that 2008 be designated the “European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue”. The overall objective of the proposal will be to:

- Promote inter-cultural dialogue and encourage those living in the EU (be they citizens or temporarily residing in the EU) to make the most of living in a diverse, though dynamic, culture.

- To encourage a sense of European citizenship, which is associated with respect for cultural diversity, shared common values, a respect for human dignity, liberty, equality, non-discrimination, solidarity, democracy and the rule of law.

The Commission proposes funding for three Actions, which are to define the Year.

The first are for Community scale actions. Specifically, this will involve an information campaign promoting the objectives of the European Year. It will also include European surveys and studies the purpose of which is to assess the long-term impact of the European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue.

The second action will offer Community wide grants for a limited number of emblematic activities aimed at raising awareness – particularly among young people. The Community could support up to 80% of the costs. The third action would be for national projects that have a strong European dimension. Financing of up to 50% of the total cost is foreseen.

For more details concerning the financial implications of this proposal, please refer to the financial statement.