Basic information

1996/2198(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Education, training, research: the obstacles to transnational mobility. Green Paper **Subject** 4.40.06 Teachers, trainers, pupils, students	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee for opinion**	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	DESAMA Claude J.-M.J. (PSE)	19/11/1996
	PETI Petitions	HEINISCH Renate Charlotte (PPE)	26/02/1997

Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2020	1997-06-26

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/10/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0462	Summary
12/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/04/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
15/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0148/1997	
13/05/1997	Debate in Parliament		
14/05/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		
26/06/1997	Debate in Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2198(COS)

Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/4/08293

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0148/1997 OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0002	15/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0233/1997 OJ C 167 02.06.1997, p. 0046-0094	14/05/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0462	02/10/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0239/1997 OJ C 133 28.04.1997, p. 0042	26/02/1997	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0393/1996 OJ C 215 16.07.1997, p. 0001	12/03/1997	

Education, training, research: the obstacles to transnational mobility. Green Paper

1996/2198(COS) - 26/02/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee endorses any initiative which adopts a critical stance towards the way the European integration process is developing. The green paper is in itself a clear recognition of the deficiencies that have blighted the integration process over the years, especially those which have a direct impact on citizens. The Committee would particularly highlight those chapters of the green paper dealing with third country nationals who legally reside in a Member State. These citizens experience additional problems on top of those which persistently affect Community nationals. All measures aimed at integrating third country citizens should be encouraged and supported, particularly with the objective of stepping up action to counter racism and xenophobia in the Union. The Committee therefore explicitly supports any measures adopted to implement line of action 6 (improving the situation of third country nationals with regard to training). It is of consummate importance to find solutions to the problems hindering the mobility of those preparing to enter the labour market. At a time when jobs are scarce and hard to come by, any attempt by the Member States to protect their national labour market must be actively opposed. The green paper does not mention this problem which may be encountered by participants in Community training programmes when they complete their period of training. The Committee considers that the Commission should highlight this aspect so that it is included in the final document. The Committee calls for line of action No. 9 also to state that a network be set up to systematically disseminate information to citizens on all Community training opportunities that are on offer. In addition to boosting the learning of Community languages in schools, the ESC calls for students to be encouraged to study subjects related to European integration and the European venture. A new line of action which the Commission should consider including is to introduce at Community level and in all EU schools a specific academic subject along the lines described above. This would be taught to all EU schoolchildren and its content would be the same across the Union. Validation and recognition of

study courses carried out in another Member State must remain a priority for the Community. It is a principle which must be extendible to vocational training and to all non-regulated studies. In the interests of improving social justice, it is essential that immediate and priority action is taken to ensure that the most disadvantaged citizens are able to benefit from the Community programmes dealt with in the green paper. The Committee calls for line of action 7 to state that the financial aid set out in the programmes should take account of the recipient's financial position or that of their family.

Education, training, research: the obstacles to transnational mobility. Green Paper

1996/2198(COS) - 14/05/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Luisa TODINI (UPE, I), Parliament welcomed the Commission Green Paper on the obstacles to transnational mobility. It strongly supports the creation of a European area of qualifications and endorses the Commission proposal for a procedure for recognition of diplomas for the occupational activities, supplementing the general rules on the recognition of diplomas (Directive 92/51/EEC). Parliament regrets the general lack of progress made with regard to the comparability of professional qualifications and considers it vital to ensure validation and certification of qualifications and skills acquired during initial vocational training or company in-house training. It calls in particular on the Member States to move towards the mutual recognition of training courses and training periods and, in view of the need for life-long learning, for the concept of trainee not to be interpreted in a narrow sense. All occupational experience acquired subsequent to a qualification should be taken into account. Parliament therefore calls for a provision to that effect to be included in Directive 89/48/EEC. Parliament calls on the Council to ensure that volunteers and trainees on placements are granted a specific legal status, for measures to be drawn up to provide volunteers taking part in the European voluntary service project and trainees with legal security as regards right of residence, social security and tax arrangements and, pending the adoption of such guarantees, for steps to be taken to make it easier for trainees to pursue their activities and remove some of the administrative constraints they face. Parliament also calls for a Community definition of apprentice, whereby the status of apprentices should be defined at a high level in such a way as to ensure that an apprenticeship is an attractive alternative to higher education, and expects that a mobility programme will be earmarked for them along the lines of Erasmus. As regards budget allocations, Parliament calls for an increase in appropriations for the Socrates programme and for a special allocation to be set aside in future for apprentice mobility. Parliament calls for the simplification of the application procedure in the context of Socrates and Leonardo and a speedier disbursement of funds for approved training projects. It recommends in particular that the Member States add funding from Socrates to that from national grants so as give students with low incomes easier access to the programmes. It also calls for efforts to be made as regards the administrative treatment of Community research grants. More specifically, Parliament calls for action to be taken to facilitate the free movement of students, in particular by: - removing obstacles to persons undergoing training in a Member State other than their own and having responsibility for children; - extending the entitlement to unemployment benefit beyond the current period of three months for unemployed persons undergoing training in another Member State; - making study grants transferrable; - defining the fiscal status of researchers moving between countries; - improving reintegration of students and grant-holders into their country of origin following their stay outside that country; - guaranteeing social security cover in host countries for students undergoing training in a Member State other than their own; - lifting the 'immediate need' condition in respect of health care for persons undergoing training in a Member State other than their own (adoption of proposal CNS96227). Parliament also calls on the Member States to introduce a more European dimension in higher education and to ensure that language teaching at an early stage becomes standard practice in all types of school, with the learning of two languages in addition to mother tongue becoming an objective in itself for Member States, and larger-scale Community support measures being developed. Efforts are also called for to improve information. In this connection, Parliament calls for the setting-up of local and regional points of contact for young people, parents, trainers and teachers, etc. so as to better provide them with information. Lastly, Parliament asks that, after it has debated the Commission recommendations to which the Green Paper will give rise, - the Council should adopt a binding timetable for implementing those recommendations, and - a coordinating committee should be set up at the Council, consisting of senior representatives from the Member States and, as observers, representatives from the Commission and the European Parliament, with the aim of facilitating transnational mobility and with the task of finding solutions to disputes concerning the recognition of qualifications and training periods.

Education, training, research: the obstacles to transnational mobility. Green Paper

1996/2198(COS) - 02/10/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: This Green Paper relates to the obstacles to transnational mobility in education, training and research in the Community. After considering these obstacles, the Commission proposes several lines of action for eliminating them, on which it is to consult all the players concerned over a six-month period. SUBSTANCE: The abolition of obstacles to the free movement of people is one of the basic objectives of the Community. Without it, it is not possible to speak of a European social area. Mobility is also one of the responses to current economic change and its consequences in relation to employment. In its Green Paper, the Commission is committed to demonstrating that, although demand for mobility continues to grow (the number of students benefiting from the Erasmus programme has risen from 3000 in 1987/88 to 170 000 in 1995/96), it has to be acknowledged that there are still too many obstacles to mobility. Five major obstacles have been identified: - an obstacle to transnational training of the unemployed: e.g. an unemployed person undergoing training in another Member State loses his rights to unemployment benefit if the training lasts longer than three months. The line of action proposed by the Commission consists in extending so as to cover unemployed persons in training Community legislation that allows job searching in another Member State for six months at least without a loss of rights and ensuring the continued right to unemployment benefits for the unemployed undergoing training in another Member State; - Statutory problems for trainees and young people doing voluntary work: e. g. a student wishing to take up a traineeship in a company in another Member State cannot find a host company, as legislation in that Member State considers him as an employee, and the company would be responsible for the social charges accordingly; a graduate undergoing unpaid traineeship in another Member State is not covered by Community-level coordination of social security systems because he is classed neither as a worker nor as a member of a worker's family. This lack of specific legal category means that he has no rights as regards social security and can sometimes lead to problems with rights of residence if the training takes more than three months. Volunteers find themselves in a similar situation if they do voluntary work for more than three months in another Member State, as their position is not recognized. The line of action proposed is to establish a legal

framework for the situation of trainees and volunteers within the EU; - territorial restriction of student grants: students entitled to grants lose them if they pursue their studies in another Member State. Line of action proposed: Remove the territoriality of grants; - the fiscal arrangements for research grants: Community research grants are implemented differently across the Community, depending on the status given to the researchers by the host country (student, employee or self-employed). This leads to divergent fiscal arrangements and affects researcher mobility (certain Member States deduct up to 50% of the value of the grant). Line of action proposed: apply the same rules to Community funded researchers in all Member States, either by exempting grants or by coordinating the rules applied in the Member States); - problems of mutual recognition of academic and vocational training: grant holders wishing to undergo training in a Member State other than their own find that the qualifications they acquire are not recognized in their countries of origin. Line of action proposed: move towards mutual recognition of placements and vocational training courses and extend the European credit transfer system (ECTS) already established in higher education to cover the vocational training sector. There are other obstacles, such as: - weaknesses in foreign language skills; - the financial position of the less well-off, for whom access to mobility is less easy; - access of legally resident third-country nationals to education and training activities in a Member State other than their host country. Lastly, the Green Paper emphasizes the urgent need for a large-scale information campaign on the issue of mobility: information for citizens and for public authorities, who are not always aware of the rules that apply to transnational mobility.