Basic information

1999/0208(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
European Year of Languages 2001 **Subject** 4.40.08 Language learning, regional and local languages 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	GRAÇA MOURA Vasco (PPE-DE)	07/12/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	IIVARI Ulpu (PSE)	07/12/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2270	2000-06-08
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2349	2001-05-28
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2330	2001-02-12

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/10/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0485	Summary
13/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
28/03/2000	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
28/03/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0099/2000	

12/04/2000	Debate in Parliament		
13/04/2000	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0174/2000	Summary
24/05/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0321 	Summary
08/06/2000	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		Summary
17/07/2000	Final act signed		
17/07/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/09/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		
12/02/2001	Debate in Council		
28/05/2001	Debate in Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0208(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 150 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0099/2000 OJ C 040 07.02.2001, p. 0006	28/03/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0174/2000 OJ C 040 07.02.2001, p. 0161-0430	13/04/2000	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	14757/2001 OJ C 050 23.02.2002, p. 0001-0002	14/02/2002	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1999)0485 	13/10/1999	Summary

	OJ C 056 29.02.2000, p. 0062 E		
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2000)0321 OJ C 311 31.10.2000, p. 0259 E	24/05/2000	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2002)0597	04/11/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1129/1999 OJ C 051 23.02.2000, p. 0053	08/12/1999	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0465/1999 OJ C 156 06.06.2000, p. 0033	17/02/2000	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2000/1934
OJ L 232 14.09.2000, p. 0001 Summary

European Year of Languages 2001

1999/0208(COD) - 04/11/2002 - Follow-up document

This report from the Commission on the implementation and results of the European Year of Languages 2001 is organised in two parts. Part 1 deals with descriptive information on the structures and content of the Year as well as conclusions on its implementation. Part 2 deals with the political and strategic results of the Year. Firstly, 2001 was designated the European Year of Languages 2001 by the European Union and the Council of Europe, with the general aim of encouraging language learning by all persons residing in Europe. 45 European countries participated in the Year and its implementation in the EU Member States and EEA countries was the responsibility of the European Commission. At a national level the implementation was undertaken by a network of Co-ordinating Bodies, appointed by national authorities. As regards the budget, it was EUR 11 million and it was allocated to co-financed projects, an information campaign, events to mark the launch and closing of the Year at European and national levels and a Eurobarometer survey. Two points were identified during the year to act as focal points: a Week of Adult Language Learners in May and a European Day of Languages in September. These instruments were defined to provide stimulation for activities to be organised on a wide scale. 190 co-financed projects took place at local, regional, national and transnational levels. Projects typically included 3 or 4 different types of activities, such as festivals, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, open-days, mini language courses and competitions. The majority of them included a web-site and publications which were widely distributed. The projects covered over 60 languages, with a good balance between official languages, regional and minority languages, languages of pre-accession countries and sign languages. Each project on average reached more than 12 000 people. The selection included a small number of media initiatives which reached several million television views and radio listeners. Concerning, the information campaign, it had three main elements: a press and communications campaign; the production of a logo, publications and promotional items and a European web-site. Overall , the European Year of Languages succeeded in creating a framework to encourage grassroots activity with a common European identity. This common framework was flexible enough to accommodate national context and priorities, both in terms of the objectives pursued and in terms of the instrument chosen. The Year fulfilled its objectives. It supported the promotion of a large number of languages and different types of language featured side by side in activities as well as in strategic and political developments. In addition to raising awareness of the general public, the Year was an opportunity for national and regional authorities and NGOs to debate language teaching and learning. The proposal that European school leavers should have as a minimum "Mother Tongue plus 2 languages" appears in many policy statements and was endorsed at a European level by the Barcelona Council. The report states that the experience of the European Year has demonstrated conclusively that all languages present within the communities can be promoted in an integrated fashion. Consideration needs to be given to the notion of mainstreamingthe

promotion of regional and minority, sign and immigrant languages and of developing a more integrated approach to enable the skills of bilingual citizens to be valued and promoted. Lastly, at European level, the year provided a stimulus for the future developments defined through a series of resolutions and opinions passed by the European Parliament, the Committee of Regions and the Council. The Commission will present, in mid-2003, a Communication on an Action Plan to promote linguistic diversity and language learning, using resources available within existing Community programmes and activities.

European Year of Languages 2001

1999/0208(COD) - 13/04/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted its resolution on the proposal for a European Year of Languages in 2001. Parliament's rapporteur was Mr. Vasco Graça Moura (EPP/ED, P). Parliament adopted a number of amendments including : - a reference to the value in terms of civilisation and culture embodied therein, ackowledging the principle that all languages must be recognised to have equal value and dignity and encouraging multilingualism; - a reference to the advantages of competencies in several languages as being a key element of professional, as well as personal, development; - how the programme should be accessible to all citizens whatever their social situation; - greater emphasis on innovative teaching and learning methods: - Member States may designate one or more appropriate bodies to organise its participation in the Year; - a Committee, as referred to in Articles 3 and 7 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, and it will draw up its own rules of procedure; - applications for co-financing actions shall include information enabling the outcome to be assessed on the basis of factual criteria; - it shall be ensured that calls for proposals are made in sufficient time and circulated as widely as possible; - importance of actions under this Decision to also be consistent with Community actions and initiatives in the field of culture; - for actions which may be financed up to 100% from the Community budget, as a guideline, such actions may be allocated 40% of the total budget: - the Community-wide information campaign should include, among other things, the setting up of an interactive Web site and the dissemination of information on projects; - surveys and studies on a Community-wide scale should be undertaken with the possible aim of better defining the situation in Europe with regard to languages (including sign languages and the classical languages), their use (including in scientific and university research) and language teaching and learning and the acquisition of related skills; - there should be evaluation studies concerning the effectiveness and impact of the European Year, examining best practice in the field of language teaching and training and disseminating the results throughout the Member States; - actions which may be co-financed by the Community budget, as a guideline, may be allocated 60% of the total budget.

European Year of Languages 2001

1999/0208(COD) - 24/05/2000 - Modified legislative proposal

This amended proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council in relation to the European year of languages 2001 contains in full the 37 amendments adopted by the European Parliament. These take into account the textual changes requested during the discussions by the responsible bodies within the Council, in order to reach agreement at first reading. The particular aim of the European Parliament amendments was to develop the following aspects in greater detail: - the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity in the construction of Europe; - groups which could be targeted more specifically; - co-operation with the Council of Europe; - the description of certain activities in an annex, and the insertion of guide percentages for budget take-up for the various types of action. The Commissions amendments relate to: - the acknowledgement of the principle that all languages must be recognised to have equal value and dignity and encourage multilingualism; - promote and encourage lifelong learning of languages and related skills, where appropriate starting at pre-school and primary school age. In conclusion, the Commission shall submit, by 31 December at the latest, a detailed report containing factual information to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of every action provided for in this Decision.

European Year of Languages 2001

1999/0208(COD) - 17/07/2000 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a European Year of Languages 2001. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 1934/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year of Languages 2001. CONTENT : the year 2001 has been designated as the 'European Year of Languages'. During this year, information and promotional measures will be undertaken on the theme of languages, with the aim of encouraging language learning by all persons residing in the Member States. These measures will cover the official languages of the Community, together with Irish, Letzeburgesch, and other languages in line with those identified by the Member States for the purposes of implementing this Decision. The objectives of the European Year of Languages shall be: 1) to raise awareness of the richness of linguistic and cultural diversity within the European Union, taking into account that all languages have equal value; 2) to encourage multilingualism; 3) to bring to the notice of the widest possible public the advantages of conjecture in several languages, as a key element in personal and professional development; 4) to encourage the lifelong learning of languages, starting at preschool and primary school age, by all persons residing in the Member States, whatever their age, background or social situation; 5) to collect and disseminate information about the teaching and learning of languages, and about skills, methods and tools, including those developed within other Community measures and initiatives and that those are developed in the framework of other Community measures and initiatives and/or facilitate communication between users of different languages. Furthermore, the measures designed to meet the objectives set out above include, in particular: - the use of a common logo and of slogans together with the Council of Europe; - a Community-wide information campaign; - the organisation of meetings, competitions, prizes and other activities. It should be noted that part of the measures will enjoy 100% Community support and the rest will be 50% co-financed by the Community. In addition, each Member State shall designate one or more appropriate bodies to be responsible for participation in the European Year of Languages, the coordination and implementation at national level of the measures provided for in this Decision. The Commission shall be assisted by this Committee made up from the Member States representatives. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, shall ensure that there is consistency between the measures provided for in this Decisions and other Community measures and initiatives, in particular those in the field of education and training and culture. As regards the budget, it has been set at EUR 8 million. With regard to international cooperation, the Commission may cooperate with relevant international organisations. In particular, there shall be close cooperation and coordination

as well as joint initiatives with the Council of Europe, inorder to strengthen links between the peoples of Europe. Lastly, the Commission shall submit, by 31.12.2002 at the latest, a detailed report containing objective information to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of all the measures provided for in ths Decision. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 14.09.2000.

European Year of Languages 2001

1999/0208(COD) - 13/10/1999 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to establish a European Year of Languages 2001 in order to raise awareness among the EU population of the advantages of understanding and speaking other languages, and of the various possibilities which exist for learning to do so. CONTENT : the need for Community action in the areas of education and vocational training generally is recognised in Articles 149 and 150 of the EC Treaty, which form the legal basis for the proposed European Year of Languages 2001. Article 149 specifies as an area for Community action "developing the European dimension in education, particularly through the teaching and dissemination of the languages of the Member States". Both Articles provide for cooperation with the competent international organisations. Article 149 specifies in this respect "in particular the Council of Europe", which has already adopted a decision designating 2001 the European Year of Languages. The key message of the European year of Languages will be that language learning can and should be enjoyable and that it carries with it great benefits, both personal and economic. The main specific objectives of the European Year of Languages are : - to raise awareness of the richess of linguistic diversity within the European Union; - to bring to the notice of the widest possible public the advantages of competencies in a range of languages , as a key element in personal development, in intercultural understanding, in making full use of the rights conferred by European citizenship and in enhancing the economic potential of individuals, enterprises and society as a whole; - to encourage the lifelong learning of languages and related skills by all persons legally residing in the Member States, whatever their age, background or previous educational experiences and achievements; - to collect and disseminate information about the teaching and learning and/or facilitate communication between users of different languages. Furthermore, the European Year of Languages aims to reach everybody living in Europe. An important multiplier effect is achievable through certian Community-wide actions which can achieve significant media coverage as well as through smaller-scale actions targeting particular groups, countries or regions. As regards the budget, EUR 8 million is felt to be the minimum necessary for the European Year to attain the critical mass necessary to reach a significant proportion of the European public. It is important to note that this amount is in addition to the EUR 4 million already earmarked under the Commission's preliminary draft budget to cover preparatory activities in 2000. Moreover, it is proposed that there should be an advisory committee to assist the Commission with the implementation of the Decision. The proposed Decision requires each Member State to set up a coordinating body to assist in the management of the Year. Among the responsibilities of such bodies will be to advise on the suitability of projects from the country concerned. The Commission, assisted by thecommittee, will then make the final decision on the attribution of funding.

European Year of Languages 2001

1999/0208(COD) - 08/06/2000

As the Council was able to approve all the amendments put forward by the European Parliament in its first reading, the Council agreed without debate a proposal to designate 2001 as the European Year of Languages. This is the first time that agreement has been reached after a first reading under co-decision, following the simplified procedures introduced by the Amsterdam Treaty. The European Year of Languages will have a budget of EUR 8 million.