Basic information

2001/0116(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
European Year of People with Disabilities 2003 **Subject** 4.10.06 People with disabilities	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	LYNNE Elizabeth (ELDR)	12/09/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	WYNN Terence (PSE)	26/06/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	ANDREWS Niall (UEN)	10/07/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2357	2001-06-11
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2392	2001-12-03
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2373	2001-10-08
Development	2429	2002-05-30

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/05/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0271	Summary
11/06/2001	Debate in Council		

05/07/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/10/2001	Debate in Council		
23/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
23/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0377/2001	
15/11/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0621/2001	Summary
15/11/2001	Debate in Parliament		
28/11/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0721	Summary
03/12/2001	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
03/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/12/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0116(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 013
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/14808

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0377/2001	23/10/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0621/2001 OJ C 140 13.06.2002, p. 0393-0599 E	15/11/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0271 OJ C 240 28.08.2001, p. 0160 E	29/05/2001	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2001)0721 OJ C 075 26.03.2002, p. 0258 E	28/11/2001	Summary
	COM(2005)0486		

Follow-up document		13/10/2005	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2005)1252	13/10/2005	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1323/2001 OJ C 036 08.02.2002, p. 0072	17/10/2001	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0282/2001 OJ C 107 03.05.2002, p. 0108	15/11/2001	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2001/0903
OJ L 335 19.12.2001, p. 0015 Summary

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

2001/0116(CNS) - 03/12/2001 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a European Year of People with Disabilities in 2003. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2001/9103/EC on the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003. CONTENT : the Decision aims to designate the year 2003 as the 'European Year of People with Disabilities'. With a budget of EUR 12 million for 2002-2003, the objectives of the European Year of People with Disabilities shall be the following: - to raise awareness of the rights of people wth disabilities to protection against discrimination and to full and equal enjoyment of their rights; - to encourage reflection on and discussion of the measures needed to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities in Europe; - to promote the exchange of experience of good practice and effective strategies devised at local, national and European level; - to reinforce the co-operation between all the parties concerned, namely government, the social partners, NGOs, the social services, the private sector, communities, voluntary sector groups, people with disabilities and their families; - to improve communication regarding disability and promote a positive image of people with disabilities; - to raise awareness of the heterogeneity of people with disabilities and of the various kinds of disability; - to raise awareness of the multiple discrimination facing people with disabilities; - to pay special attention to awareness of the right to equality in education, so as to encourage and support their full integration in society and to promote the development of European cooperation between those professionally involved in the education of children and young people with disabilities, in order to improve the integration of pupils and students with special needs in ordinary or specialised establishments and in national and European exchange programmes. These measures are detailed in the Annex to this Decision. Community-wide measures (organisation of meetings at Community level, information and promotional campaigns - the development of a logo) may be subsidised up to 80% or give rise to procurement contracts financed from the general budget of the European Communities. With regard to measures at national level such as dissemination of best practice, the organisation of awards and campaigns, these may be co-financed from the general budget of the European Communities up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost. With regard to actions for which no financial aid from the Community is available, these include the Community offering moral support, including written authorisation to use the logo and other material associated with the European Year of People with Disabilities, etc. Each Member State shall be responsible for the coordination and implementation at national level of the measures provided for in this Decision. Global grants shall be awarded to only public-law bodies or bodies which have a public-service mission guaranteed by the Member States. The European Year of People with Disabilities shall be open to the participation of the following countries: EFTA/EEA, the candidate countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, the latter'sparticipation being funded by additional appropriations in accordance with procedures to be agreed with those countries. The Commission shall submit, by 31 December 2004 at the latest, on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the measures provided for in this Decision including an assessment of the long-term effects of the measures. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 19.12.2001.

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

2001/0116(CNS) - 15/11/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Liz LYNNE (ELDR, UK) concerning the 'European Year of People with disabilities', together with a number of amendments. (Please refer to the previous text).

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

2001/0116(CNS) - 28/11/2001 - Modified legislative proposal

The European Parliament proposed 52 amendments, 27 of which were accepted fully or in part by the Commission. The amendments accepted by the Commission have been incorporated into the revised proposal. Most of the amendments adopted by the Parliament and accepted by the Commission serve to reinforce or clarify the Decision's objectives, thereby improving the text. With one of the amendments, the Parliament has also asked for 90% of the eligible costs of certain Community scale measures. However, the Commission considers that the rate of 80% should be retained, given that this is the rate already agreed for the awareness measures under the Community anti-discrimination programme. The Commission is also unable to accept adjusting the funding of actions undertaken by the Member States to 60%. This proposal would reduce the multiplier effect the Commission hopes to draw from this measure. In the interests of clarity and concision, the Commission could not accept certain amendments duplicating provisions already contained in the initial proposal. Finally, the Parliament was prompting the Commission to use the Year as an opportunity to make new legislative proposal. However, these latter suggestions cannot easily be accepted in their current form, as the Commission cannot commit itself to a proposal to make further proposals. The Commission nevertheless considers that the European Year will provide an appropriate and necessary framework for discussing the Parliament's proposed initiatives.

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

2001/0116(CNS) - 29/05/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a proposal on the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003. CONTENT : throughout the Union, people with diasabilities face barriers not only in finding and keeping a job but also in finding accessible transportation, physically accessing buildings and facilities or gaining access to the technologies that would help them to become more fully involved in work and in society at large. Therefore, this proposal for a Council Decision proposes to establish a concerted pan-European platform which has the potential to attract considerable attention to a citizenship issue, at both European and national levels, and to stimulate activity that otherwise might not have taken place. Moreover, the European Year could lay the foundations for further, sustainable progress, by informing and educating the people and paving the way for new legal and policy developments. Th objectives of the European Year of People with Disabilities shall be: - to raise awareness of the rights of people with disabilities to protection against discrimination and to full and equal enjoyment of their rights as laid down, inter alia, in the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; - to encourage reflection on and discussion of the measures needed to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities in Europe; - to promote the exchange of experiences of good practice and effective strategies devised at local, national and European level; - to reinforce cooperation between all parties concerned, namely government at all levels, the private sector, communities, voluntary sector groups, people with disabilities and their families; - to highlight the positive contribution that people with disabilities make to society as a whole, in particular by putting a value on diversity and by creating a positive and accommodating environment in which diversity is celebrated; - to make people aware of the heterogeneity of people with disabilities and of people with disabilities facing multiple discrimination. The measures designed to meet these objectives may include: - the organisation of meetings and events, including the opening an closing of conferences; - information and promotion campaigns including the production of tools and aids and accessible to people with disabilities throughout the Community; - cooperation with the media; - surveys and reports; - events to provide information, in particular information on examples of good practice; - financial support for initiatives at transnational, national and regional and local level, to promote the objectives of the European Year of People with Disabilities. Lastly, the proposed budget for the European Year of People with Disabilities is limited. Subject to the final decision of the budgetary authority a total of EUR 12 million is being set aside at European level for 2002-2003.

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

2001/0116(CNS) - 13/10/2005 - Follow-up document

This report presents the findings of the final evaluation of the “European Year of People with Disabilities 2003” (EYPD). Prepared by Ramboll Management between August 2003 and October 2004, the final evaluation Report being summarised here was commissioned by DG Employment and Social Affairs. Ramboll Management is responsible for the views presented in the Report. Under the terms of the contract Ramboll were asked to examine the overall impact and relevance of the EU on the EYPD. They were asked to apply a number of criteria when undertaking their research into the EYPD, including, for example, its relevance, its consistency with the subsidiary principle, how far its objectives have been met, how effective it was overall, how efficient it was in terms of a cost/benefit ratio, the role of the different actors involved in the project, its level of synergy with other Community instruments and lastly how it complemented other Community instruments. In terms of methodology, attention was given to the implementing bodies rather than the individual projects concerned. The findings were based on interviews with Commission representatives, the Disability Advisory Committee and the relevant national authorities.

The objective of the EYPD was to achieve equal rights for people with disabilities by raising awareness at all levels and involving key stakeholders – in particular people who themselves had disabilities plus the organisations representing them. The Council Decision, establishing the EYPD set eight objectives to be met, namely to raise awareness, to stimulate debate on measures needed to promote equal opportunities, to promote the exchange of good practice, to encourage co-operation between NGO’s and public bodies, to promote the positive image of people with disabilities, to raise awareness of the heterogeneous nature of people with disabilities, to raise awareness of discrimination which people with disability face and to pay special attention to the right of children and young people with disability. Overall responsibility for the project was awarded to the European

Commission, supported by an Advisory Committee. Most of the functions, however, were de-centralised to National Co-ordinating Bodies in the Member States. They were responsible for selecting the actions that would receive support from the global grant.

The budget assigned to the EYPD amounted to EUR 12 million, later increased by EUR 780 000 following an amendment by the European Parliament. Of that amount, EUR 7.4 million was given to the Member States as global grants and for national launch events, with the remaining budget allocated to a number of Community-wide initiatives. In total more than 1 100 projects were co-financed via the global grants and included activities such as Conferences, sports-events, studies, cultural events and events designed to empower people with disabilities. A number of large celebrations for the EYPD itself benefited from funding. At Community level, the budget was used to finance actions such as the overall EU information campaign, including a “People’s march”, which made its way through the EU Member States on a bus, plus NGO information campaigns, opening and closing ceremonies, a study situation of people with disabilities in institutions, trans-national projects and the European Parliament of Disabled Persons.

The evaluator’s Report concludes by examining in detail each of the projects undertaken during the EYPD, such as the information campaign. Each conclusion is accompanied with a set of recommendations for future actions. Overall, the Report notes that an information campaign was an appropriate tool to address the challenges facing people with disabilities. In addition, the evaluation shows that the decentralised structure of the delivery mechanism supports the subsidiary principle. In its conclusions the Report states that, in light of the available evidence, the planned output and results of the EYPD were realised. Other findings note that integrating disability organisations in the Commission’s planning brought a number of benefits.

European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

2001/0116(CNS) - 13/10/2005 - Follow-up document

PURPOSE: report on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the European Year of People with Disabilities 2003

CONTENT: This report is submitted by the European Commission in accordance with Article 13 of Council Decision 2001/903/EC.

Defining priorities for the EYPD campaign and its implementation at EU level was an involved process. It required a great deal of coordination between the EU and national levels and a number of key partners had to be involved, in particular the European Disability Forum - the non-governmental umbrella organisation representing people with disabilities at European level. As an integral part of the Commission’s approach to the Year and as a fundamental principle in the area of disability, disabled people and their representatives had to be involved in all the key aspects of designing and implementing the EYPD campaign.

As much of the impetus to establish a European Year of People with Disabilities had come from disabled people themselves, and after lobbying by the European Disability Forum, the Commission intensified its relations with the European Disability Forum in 2002 and consulted this organisation and others extensively during its preparations and throughout 2003. This ensured that the views of people with disabilities were taken on board and that their own representatives were able to develop the main messages to be passed on. The Commission also wanted to use the EYPD campaign to promote its approach to disability and underline the policy issues it was considering at EU level. The flexibility of the approach adopted for the EYPD and the ownership created by the decentralised approach ensured that there was room in the campaign for all organisations to put forward their views, even if these did not necessarily coincide.

As a framework for the implementation and development of the EYPD, the Commission, in cooperation with its partner organisations (particularly the European Disability Forum) launched a specific promotional and information campaign. The principal aim of this campaign was to give a clear identity to the EYPD, both visually and in terms of a message which would reinforce the EU nature of the initiative, but which would also reinforce actions taken at national, regional and local level. The campaign was managed by PR consultants Ogilvy.

The core concept of the campaign was to catalyse a year-long march of people with disabilities across Europe. This was based on the idea that, since disabled rights are a human rights issue, those who are disabled should be put at the forefront for the campaign for change. By avoiding a traditional promotional campaign implemented from outside, the Commission sought to create ownership by disabled people of the concept of the EYPD by ensuring that they were directly involved in promoting the campaign and by encouraging their mobilisation and participation. The slogan “Get on board!” was developed for the campaign to emphasise the participative nature of the EYPD, and this was supported by a campaign bus travelling from country to country during 2003. The bus underlined the European nature of campaign, linking all the national campaigns and messages, and underlining the point that disability is an issue which concerns the whole of the EU, despite the specific inherent differences between participating countries. During 2003, the campaign bus was present at 211 events in 181 cities or towns in 16 countries and covered a distance of 45 000km.

The logo chosen for the campaign was distinctive and clearly identifiable. It was made easily available on a number of internet sites and in the current 20 Community languages, plus those of the acceding states and of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey .Under the campaign rules all organisations and individuals wishing to be involved with the EYPD campaign were encouraged to use the logo.

In order to support the whole EYPD campaign, and to provide a resource for organisations and individuals wishing to participate in the EYPD, an EU-wide website was set up. This website was fully interactive and easy to access, and all key aspects and functions were available in all Community languages. In contrast to previous European Year campaigns, the website allowed pages to be created by third parties who wished to publicise their actions or events, upload documents and create contacts. This allowed those who might not normally have the necessary facilities to be present on the internet for the duration of the EYPD. In addition to basic information on the EYPD, the website also contained links to the official EYPD sites in the participating countries and a diary and photo section, updated daily with news of the EYPD march and bus.

The Commission also launched two calls for proposals at EU level. The first concerned information campaigns at EU level to support the main EYPD campaign, and was aimed at specific populations within the overall target group of the campaign. Another key action undertaken by the Commission at EU level to support the EYPD was the Corporate Participation Programme. This programme sought to bring large companies on board the EYPD campaign by allowing them to participate in a unique venture and encouraging them to create awareness and support for the EYPD and undertake specific actions.

Although responsibility for overseeing the EYPD campaign and actions at EU level lay with the Commission's Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs, it was possible to mobilise all of the services whose work had some connection with disability issues and to ensure that the EYPD was included as a particular priority for action in 2003. This was the result in particular of the commitment of various Commissioners and Directorates-General to the aims of the EYPD and a desire to support the mainstreaming of disability issues in general.

In order to reinforce the key messages and demonstrate the commitment of the EU, many major European events and conferences also adopted the EYPD campaign as a key component, either by focusing exclusively on disability issues or by including certain disability issues within a wider programme.

A number of the EU institutions also made specific contributions to the EYPD through actions (such as newly accessible websites or accessibility reviews of their buildings) or through specific events. These included the European Parliament of Disabled People hosted by the European Parliamentand organised with the support of the European Disability Forum and the Commission. Other European organisations also made their own contributions to the EYPD through specific actions and events. The European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education (EADSNE), supported by DG EAC, organised a hearing of young people with special educational needs in the European Parliament. Young people from 22 countries had the opportunity to express their feelings, ideas and wishes concerning their education and their future.

To coordinate many of these different activities, and in particular to coordinate actions at EU level with the specific EYPD activities and campaigns at national level, the Commission established an advisory committee in January 2002. This committee continued to work until the end of 2004, coordinating the preparation of measures and financial assistance for the EYPD, overseeing the EYPD promotional and information campaign and developing the key messages in relation to disability issues. It was made up of representatives of the participating countries, observers from the then candidate countries, representatives of the European Disability Forum and other partners concerned, such as the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities. The social partners were invited to participate in this committee, but did not take up the invitation.

The committee took key decisions relating to the allocation of global grants to the participating countries to support the co-funding of EYPD projects and actions, approved key elements of the campaign such as the choice of logo (which, for the first time in an EU campaign, was chosen through a poll on the internet) and the promotional items, and adopted a series of common criteria for the selection of projects to be co-funded to ensure that the key EYPD objectives set out in the Council Decision were taken into account. This approach also sought to ensure fair treatment between those applying for co-funding in different participating countries. The committee members also performed a liaison function between the implementation of the EYPD at EU level and implementation at national level, in particular by coordinating with the work of the national coordinating bodies. The committee was also able to cooperate closely with the two EU presidencies (Italy and Greece) during 2003 and thus ensure a clear political profile for the EYPD campaign within the actions of the Presidencies. The committee played a key role in ensuring the success of the EYPD, working principally through consensus on all key decisions and benefiting from the experience and commitment of all those who participated in its work. This required extensive input and involvement from all members throughout the preparation, execution and follow-up activities for the EYPD.