Basic information

2002/0165(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008 **Subject** 4.40.04 Universities, higher education 4.40.20 Cooperation and agreements in the fields of education, training and youth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	DE SARNEZ Marielle (PPE-DE)	10/09/2002

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	DE SARNEZ Marielle (PPE-DE)	10/09/2002

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	MARCHIANI Jean-Charles (UEN)	11/09/2002
BUDG Budgets	WENZEL-PERILLO Brigitte (PPE-DE)	30/07/2002
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	KOUKIADIS Ioannis (PSE)	04/09/2002
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	SCHMIDT Olle (ELDR)	05/11/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2518	2003-06-16
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2503	2003-05-05
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2545	2003-11-24

	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2461	2002-11-11

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/07/2002	Legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0401	Summary
02/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
11/11/2002	Debate in Council		
17/03/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
17/03/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0087/2003	
07/04/2003	Debate in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0145/2003	Summary
29/04/2003	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0239	Summary
16/06/2003	Council position published	08644/1/2003	Summary
03/07/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
29/09/2003	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
29/09/2003	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0336/2003	
20/10/2003	Debate in Parliament		Summary
21/10/2003	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0440/2003	Summary
24/11/2003	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
05/12/2003	Final act signed		
05/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/0165(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Committee dossier	CULT/5/19458

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0087/2003	17/03/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0145/2003 OJ C 064 12.03.2004, p. 0025-0156 E	08/04/2003	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0336/2003	29/09/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0440/2003 OJ C 082 01.04.2004, p. 0026-0091 E	21/10/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council statement on its position	10222/2003	06/06/2003	
Council position	08644/1/2003 OJ C 240 07.10.2003, p. 0001-0011 E	16/06/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2002)0401 OJ C 331 31.12.2002, p. 0025 E	17/07/2002	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2003)0239	29/04/2003	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2003)0752	27/06/2003	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2003)0694	11/11/2003	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2007)0375	02/07/2007	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2009)0695	23/12/2009	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
	Economic and Social Committee:	CES0285/2003		

EESC	opinion, report	OJ C 095 23.04.2003, p. 0035-0039	26/02/2003	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0327/2002 OJ C 244 10.10.2003, p. 0014-0023	09/04/2003	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2003/2317 OJ L 345 31.12.2003, p. 0001-0008	Summary

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 05/12/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries (Erasmus Mundus) (2004 to 2008). LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2317/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. CONTENT : the aim of this Decision, which is based on Article 149 of the Treaty - education policy - is to create European centres of higher education, thereby accelerating the process of convergence of degrees. By means of calls for proposals issued in the framework of the programme, the Community will provide financial assistance for the creation of EU masters courses involving at least three higher education institutions from three different Member States, and leading to the awarding of double or multiple degrees, scholarships for students from third countries and partnerships with third-country higher education institutions. Funding will be granted following calls for tender and calls for proposals. The programme shall be implemented over a period starting on 1 January 2004 and ending on 31 December 2008. The programme's overall aim is to enhance the quality of European higher education by fostering cooperation with third countries in order to improve the development of human resources and to promote dialogue and understanding between peoples and cultures. The programme's specific objectives are: a) to promote a quality offer in higher education with a distinct European added value, attractive both within the European Union and beyond its borders; b) to encourage and enable highly qualified graduates and scholars from all over the world, to obtain qualifications and/or experience in the European Union; c) to develop more structured cooperation between European Union and third-country institutions and greater European Union outgoing mobility as part of European study programmes; d) to improve accessibility and enhance the profile and visibility of higher education in the European Union. The Commission shall, when pursuing the objectives of the programme, observe the Community's general policy on equal opportunities for men and women. The Commission shall also ensure that no group of citizens or third-country nationals is excluded or disadvantaged. The objectives of the programme as set out in Article 3 shall be pursued by means of the following actions: a) Erasmus Mundus masters courses selected on the basis of the quality of the proposed training and hosting of students; b) a scholarship scheme; c) partnerships with third-country higher education institutions; d) measures enhancing the attractiveness of Europe as an educational destination; e) technical support measures. These actions shall be realised using the procedures described in the Annex, and through the following types of approaches, which may be combined where appropriate: a) support for the development of joint educational programmes and cooperation networks facilitating the exchange of experience and good practice; b) enhanced support for mobility, between the Community and thirdcountries, of people in the field of higher education; c) promotion of language skills, preferably providing students with the possibility of learning at least two of the languages spoken in the countries in which the higher education institutions involved in the Erasmus Mundus masters course are situated, and promotion of the understanding of different cultures; d) support for pilot projects based on transnational partnerships designed to develop innovation and quality in higher education; e) support for the analysis and follow-up of trends in, and evolution of, higher education in an international perspective. The financial framework for the implementation of the programme for the period specified is set at EUR 230 million. For the period following 31 December 2006, this amount shall be deemed to be confirmed if it is consistent for this phase with the financial perspectives in force for the period commencing in 2007. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective. Participation of EEA-EFTA States and candidate countries for accession to the European Union. The conditions and detailed rules on the participation of EEA-EFTA States and candidate countries for accession to the European Union in the programme shall be established in accordance with the relevant provisions of the instruments governing the relations between the European Community and these countries. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: - on the accession of new Member States, a report on the financial repercussions of these accessions on the programme, followed, if appropriate, by proposals to deal with those repercussions. The European Parliament and the Council shall take a decision on such proposals as soon as possible; - an interim evaluation report on the results achieved and on the qualitative aspects of the implementation of the programme by 30 June

2007; - a communication on the continuation of the programme by 31 December 2007; - an ex post evaluation report by 31 December 2009. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 20 January 2004.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 21/10/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Marielle DE SARNEZ (EPP-ED, F) and made some amendments to the common position. (Please see the document dated 29/09/03.)

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 29/04/2003 - Modified legislative proposal

Of the 65 amendments made by the European Parliament, the commission accepted 20 in full and 18 in principle. 27 amendments were rejected. The following amendments are amongst those accepted: - the name of the programme will be "Erasmus Mundus"; - the recitals will be amended to bring in the reference to linguistic diversity and a reference to the ideals of democracy and equality between men and women; - Member States are asked to ensure complentarity and coherence between this programme and similar national initiatives; - the provision for cooperation between the Commission and Member States for the purpose of the programme; - the 'European Union Masters Courses' will be called 'Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses'. The following amendments were amongst those accepted in principle: - a clause stating that, in promoting international mobility, the Community should be mindful of the phenomenon known as 'brain drain'; - the introduction of a provision encouraging the use of two languages in the context of Masters Courses but should be covered in the Annex; - Community action will be managed in a manner that is transparent, user-friendly, open and comprehensible to all; - the reference to selection procedures and a panel cannot be accepted in its present form. The Commission proposes a different form of wording referring to an Assessment Board presided by a person which it elects, composed of high level personalities from the academic world and representative of the diversity of higher education in the EU; - the wording on the use of two languages is adapted so that it is clear that this provision does not impose any requirement on the language of instruction of the Masters Courses and that it leaves in the hands of higher education institutions the decision as to how to implement this provision; Amongst those amendments not accepted are the following: - the Commission is not in a position to play a role of follow-up and recognition in promoting cooperation between higher education institutions. In particular, Member States have exclusive competence in matters of recognition; - the assumption that degrees awarded under Erasmus Mundus need to be recognised or validated once they have been awarded is false. Only Masters awarding recognised degrees will be eligible under Erasmus Mundus; - at this stage the Commission is not in a position to accept amendment 44 raising the budget of the programme to EUR 300 million; - the reference to high quality hosting arrangements imposes a specific condition on Masters Courses, which would not necessarily have a positive effect on their quality, and many would not be able to fulfil; - the indication of a 3% limit on the budget of Action 4 is not acceptable as it entails an unnecessary budget restriction on this Action. Budget allocation will be determined as provided in Article 7; - particular consideration for organisations working on behalf of the disadvantaged and equal treatment for men and women wouldplace excessive operational emphasis on a particular category of organisation and mainstreaming.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 16/06/2003 - Council position

In its common position, the Council has approved the Commission's proposal in principle, while making certain amendments which it thought desirable, and which are in many cases similar or identical to the Parliament's opinion as well as the Commission's amended proposal. As regards the amendments made by the Council to the Commission's proposal, these concern the following issues : - the name of the programme : the Council has agreed that the programme should be designated "Erasmus Mundus": - the funding and review clause : the Council believes that a financial framework of EUR 180 million is sufficient to attain the objectives of the programme, while bearing in mind the need to exercise budgetary restraint. Furthermore, in view of the fact that the programme includes the first two years of the next financial perspectives, a review clause has been introduced also. - Implementation of the programme and cooperation with Member States : Paragraph 2 has been reworded so that point (a) now makes the link between the efficient running of the programme and the removal of legal and administrative barriers. A new paragraph 3 has been added concerning inter alia information and the dissemination of results of actions whose wording is based on Article 5 (3) of the Socrates programme. - Implementing measures : the Council considers that the results of selections under Action I should be subject to the management procedure, and has adapted paragraphs 1 (b) and 2 accordingly. - Linguistic aspects : the Council has sought to recall both the importance of the linguistic diversity of the Union and the desirability for third country students to have the use of at least two EU languages. Selection Procedures : in the interests of greater clarity and consistency, a specific section on selection procedures as applied to Actions 1 - 4 has been added to the Annex. - Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses : the wording of the introductory paragraph now makes it clear that these courses are selected, but not managed at E.U. level. They have been designated Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses in line with the programme's name. - Scholarships : Greater concision has been brought to this Action without loss of content. The Council considers moreover that certain considerations should be dealt with elsewhere, as for instance the question of braindrain (Recital 12), or the balance across fields of study (Selection Procedures) Reference to equal opportunities is already made in Article 3. - Enhancing attractiveness : the Council has simplified the structure of this Action without any essential loss of content. - Other questions : the Council has also introduced other additions, modifications or clarifications to the text, concerning inter alia: - References to the Stockholm and Barcelona European

Councils; - Principles of management of the Community action; - Dialogue and understanding between cultures; - Subsidiarity; - Objectives of the Programme; - Consistency and complementarity. The Council did not accept the following Parliament amendments for the reasons stated: - Information on the programme : the Council considers thatquestions relating to information are sufficiently covered by para 3 of this article, and that it is not therefore necessary to specify an information role for the structures designated by the Member States; - Partnerships with undertakings : The Council has not accepted this amendment introducing the involvement of the business world, which is not provided for elsewhere in the programme. - Establishment of an Internet gateway : the references in this section are to the original proposal. The Council has decided that examples of eligible activities (former Actions 4.1 and 4.2) do not need to be specified, with the exception of a few general references in 4.2, since these are considered indicative and could be dealt with by the programme committee.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 17/07/2002 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to establish a programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through co-operation with third countries (Erasmus World) (2004-2008). CONTENT : the Erasmus World programme offers high-profile assistance in the form of 250 European masters courses and thousands of study grants and fellowships for nationals of third countries and for Europeans. Like the Fulbright Programme for the United States (please refer to summary CNS/2000/0263), it will help to strengthen intercultural dialogue and communicate European cultures and values more effectively to the rest of the world. Covering the period 2004-2008, Erasmus World will have a budget of EUR 200 million. The Erasmus World Programme has the following objectveis: 1) Creation of 250 inter-university masters courses with the seal and support of the European Union Erasmus World aims to create or develop a European higher education product providing both European students as well as students and invited scholars from third countries with added value. Host European postgraduate courses which already exist or are to be set up will be selected for a five-year period. They will receive funding from the Community and an "EU" seal. These "EU Masters Courses" will be an ideal structure for receiving students from third countries under the Erasmus World programme, alongside European students. At the end of the programme in 2008, around 250 "EU Masters Courses" should have been established. To qualify for the "EU" seal, these courses should involve at least three universities from three different Member States and entail recognised periods of study in at least two of the three universities. These courses will lead to diplomas that are officially recognised in the European countries taking part. They will reserve places for third-country students receiving Erasmus World scholarships. The courses will cover various fields and there will be no conditions regarding the language in which teaching takes place. 2) "Erasmus World" scholarships for 4 200 students and 1 000 visiting scholars to Europe from third countries Either directly or under partnerships between their university of origin and the universities taking part in an "EU Masters Course", postgraduate students from third countries will be able to study in Europe for up to two academic years. During their studies, they will follow courses in several Member States, like all the students enrolled in an "EU Masters Course". The scholarships, amounting on average to EUR 1 600 per month, will enable the students to come to Europe and cover their living expenses while they are there. When it comes up to speed, Erasmus World should enable over 2 000 third-country students to receive a scholarship of this kind, with around 4 200 scholarships being awarded over the life of the programme. When implementing the programme, special attention will be given to ways of avoiding a "brain drain" from the developing countries whose students are to take part in the programme. 3) the "EU Masters Courses" will receive visiting scholars from universities around the world for teaching and research assignments lasting an average of three months. Between now and 2008, Erasmus World will provide support for over 1 000 visiting scholars to Europe from third countries, who will receive anaverage grant of EUR 13 000. 4) Partnerships between the "EU Masters Courses" and universities in other continents to facilitate the mobility of 4 000 European students and 800 European scholars Erasmus World will encourage the universities taking part in an "EU Masters Course" to establish a structured cooperation with top-class universities in third countries through joint projects covering a three-year period. This cooperation on an equal footing will provide a means for the exchange of students and scholars going to third countries with Erasmus World scholarships. Between now and 2008, almost 4 000 European postgraduate students and 800 European visiting scholars should receive support under the Erasmus World Programme. This cooperation will relate to areas given high priority for higher education in Europe. 5) International cooperation : Erasmus World will provide financial support for the international promotion of European higher education (publicity material, presence at international education fairs) and for the establishment of services facilitating access of third country students to European universities (tools for language training, living conditions for third country students, etc). It should be noted that this programme does not replace, but complements in an innovative way, existing regional programmes such as TEMPUS (mainly with countries from the former USSR, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean Basin), agreements with the United States and Canada, ALFA and ALBAN (for Latin America), Asia-Link, pilot projects with Australia, etc. Compared with these programmes and with national initiatives on cooperation with third countries, Erasmus World will offer third-country students and teachers a greater opportunity for mobility and an enhanced European added value.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 02/07/2007 - Follow-up document

This report from the Commission is presented under Article 12 of the Decision 2317/2003/EC establishing the Erasmus Mundus Programme, which requires an interim evaluation of the programme. The conclusions and recommendations made by the Commission are based on extensive surveys of Erasmus Mundus participants and key stakeholders. An external evaluator was used and the scope of the interim evaluation was the period 2004- 2006, during which a number of calls for proposals have taken place to implement the programme. While Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses, scholarships and “attractiveness projects” (Actions 1, 2 and 4) commenced in the academic year 2004-2005, Partnerships

(Action 3) began one year later in 2005-2006.

Overall, the Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008 appears to have made a very positive start, generating enthusiasm amongst students and higher education institutions ("HEIs") alike. The Commission shares the overall assessment of the evaluator that the Programme has provided an important contribution to the internationalisation of European higher education. Erasmus Mundus has been a relevant and efficient tool for European HEIs in helping them to find a response to globalisation. The results of the interim evaluation show that the programme is meeting its political and operational objectives. Indeed, 323 HEIs in Europe and third countries and 2,325 third-country students participated in the programme from 2004 to 2006, underlining their overall satisfaction for the programme. The main criticism voiced is that the Programme has been less successful with European students.

With regard to **programme design**, the **main recommendations** of the evaluator are as follows:

- Scholarships should be awarded to EU students to participate in the Erasmus Mundus programme on a competitive basis. There is a need to ensure that EU students participate on a more equal footing with their counterparts from third countries. The Commission agrees with this recommendation, as a way of facilitating intra-EU mobility for EU students and will examine possible measures to improve the position of EU students, while also striving to ensure complementarity with the Erasmus programme.

- The Erasmus Mundus programme should - finance permitting - be extended to the PhD level both at the level of courses and in respect of scholarships. Issues around quality assurance in respect of PhD programmes will need to be carefully thought through. The French *co-tutelle* model should serve as a model in this regard. Particular care should be taken to avoid duplication with Marie Curie research scholarships.

- Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses should be encouraged not only to develop cooperation with higher education institutions in third countries but to enable these institutions to become fully fledged partners in the course itself. This could be achieved by bringing Masters Courses and Partnerships (Actions 1 and 3) together under a single umbrella. The Commission agrees in principle with this recommendation but feels that quality assurance is a complex exercise when it comes to HEIs located in third countries.

- The Atlantis and the EU-Canada Cooperation Programme (and pilot projects with Japan, Australia and New Zealand) should be combined with the Erasmus Mundus programme so as to improve the coherence of the Commission's approach to strengthening co-operation in the field of higher education between the EU and third countries.The Commission considers this recommendation interesting. However, the EU-US Cooperation Programme (Atlantis), which was recently renewed, has a wider remit than Erasmus Mundus, with joint masters courses being only one part of the programme.

Combining all Community higher education activities with an external dimension into a single integrated programme could, however, be an option after 2013.

- Consideration should be given to providing Erasmus Mundus students with placement opportunities on a more systematic basis. This would also contribute significantly to raising the profile of the programme among employers and wider stakeholders. However, undertaking a placement should not be made compulsory since this would not necessarily be appropriate in the case of all Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. The Commission welcomes this recommendation.

With regard to **programme management,** the main recommendations were as follows:

- The National Structures should continue to be financed largely by the Member States in order to avoid a full EU Agency structure at national level. Nevertheless, some EU financing should be made available to help co-finance promotional activities by the National Structures since their workload is likely to increase significantly in the next programming period due to the projected increase in the programme budget. The Commission should make provision for restricted calls for proposals on a thematic basis to enable the National Structures to finance specific initiatives they wish to support, such as marketing and promotional activities. Consideration could be given in the new programming period to giving the National Structures a formal role in contributing to the monitoring of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. The Commission agrees with this recommendation.

- There is a need for the European Commission to turn its attention to quality assurance once Erasmus Mundus-branded Masters Courses are actually up and running. Self-evaluation should remain the fundamental starting point for ensuring continuous course quality. In addition, a representative sample of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses should, over the lifetime of each programming period, be subject to external quality assessment. The Commission agrees with the need to ensure the quality of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and is already tackling this issue under the current programme.

- The comitology principle for Erasmus Mundus scholarships (Action 2) should be discontinued in order to speed up the finalisation of the selection process. This could accelerate the scholarship award decision by as much as 6-8 weeks. The Commission shares the concern of the evaluators about the current comitology procedure for selection decisions on scholarships, since these decisions are taken purely by universities according to criteria based on academic merit. The Commission will examine this issue when suggesting the design for a future programme.

With regard to **programme funding,** the main recommendations were as follows:

- Looking to the next programming period, the scholarship level for third-country students should not be reduced from the current level of EUR 21,000 per year. However, the Commission should also continue to monitor the scholarship level of other renowned scholarship schemes, such as the Fulbright. A universal scholarship amount should continue to be given with no differentiation either on the basis of where a given student decides to study or on the grounds of their country of origin. This is the only equitable approach and other approaches do not seem workable. Common tuition fees determined by individual Masters consortia should be retained in respect of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses. The Commission agrees with this recommendation in order to maintain globally competitive levels of funding for Erasmus Mundus scholarships.

- In the next programming period, the amount of finance allocated to each Erasmus Mundus Master consortium should be increased to reflect the true cost of administering an integrated Masters Course on a cross-border basis. The Commission has noted that the current annual grant of EUR 15,000 given to universities generally underestimates the costs of joint programmes. It will take this recommendation into account when planning for the next phase.

In its concluding remarks, the Commission states that it will take the results of the interim evaluation into account when proposing the new Erasmus Mundus programme for beyond its current programming period of 2004-2008.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 27/06/2003 - Commission communication on Council's position

The text of the common position is broadly acceptable to the Commission as it largely respects the substance of the Commission's original proposal. The Commission has two main objections to the text. - the Commission regrets that the common position seeks to reduce the budget of the programme to EUR 180 million, down from the EUR 200 million proposed by the Commission. The Commission's proposal was carefully costed. The Council has not provided any justification for its proposed 180 million euros. The reduction is arbitrary and puts in danger the internal balance of the programme and its potential impact. the Commission also regrets the inclusion of selection results for Action 1 - Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses - in Article 7.1 which provides for the measures to be adopted in accordance with the committee's management procedure. The management procedure is likely to generate considerable delays in the implementation of the programme. In general, the Commission considers that the involvement of the Committee in the adoption of decisions concerning selection results does not necessarily add greater transparency to the management of the programme; it will solely make it more bureaucratic. Experience of project selection in other education programmes (such as Socrates) suggests that the impact of the management procedure on the outcome of selections would be negligible whilst at the same time adding significantly to the length of the procedure and the workload involved. Lastly, the Commission believes that this heavy procedure is not justified by the potential risks linked to the content of Action 1 nor by its prospective financial significance. The Commission considers that the text of the common position is a good basis for a European Parliament and Council Decision.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 23/12/2009 - Follow-up document

The Commission presents its report on the ex-post Evaluation of the Erasmus Mundus Programme 2004-2008, as required under Decision 2317/2003 /EC. An external evaluator was used by the Commission. The latter considers that the balance of evidence collected for the ex-post evaluation of Erasmus Mundus suggests that the programme has been effective in achieving its stated objectives and has created a significant Community added value. Erasmus Mundus has succeeded in bringing together some of the best higher education institutions in the EU to offer **103 new and innovative joint masters programmes**, which were unlikely to have been created without the programme. These masters programmes are considered to be of high quality by both the academic staff and current and former Erasmus Mundus students consulted during the evaluation and have generally managed to attract large numbers of applications from third-country students.

In response to recommendations made by evaluators, the Commission makes the following points:

- in order to increase the participation of less-represented EU countries in the programme, the Commission is supporting a project under Action 3 (co-ordinated by the Slovak National Structure) that aims to spread information on how to participate and provide support to potential participants from new Member States. It will be possible to assess the impact of this project in the summer of 2010;
- particular attention should be paid to the level of integration in the curricula and study tracks offered. In future, applicants should be asked to explain and demonstrate more clearly the level of integration of their course and evaluators of proposals should be asked to take particular care in the analysis of integration and mobility mechanisms;
- while scholarships for EU students have been introduced under the new Erasmus Mundus programme to increase the proportion of EU students on Erasmus Mundus courses, the actual application rates and numbers of EU students selected should be monitored closely during programme implementation;
- the Commission will make every effort to raise awareness of gender balance among participants in the programme;
- in order to monitor the impact of Erasmus Mundus on the numbers of third-country students coming to Europe, improved data are required. Participating institutions should therefore be asked to provide data on the overall numbers of third country students they recruit to allow more systematic analysis of the impact of Erasmus Mundus in this respect. This information should be provided via the existing student database (managed by the Executive Agency);
- the Graduate Impact Survey should become more effective in order to interpret key trends;
- whilst the evaluator states that Erasmus Mundus should move away from the current situation in which the vast majority of third-country students on Erasmus Mundus courses receive a full scholarship the Commission deems it necessary to reflect on the future of the scholarships system. This may become separated from the support given to excellent courses, with scholarships attributed as a function of the courses' capacity to attract students;
- the Commission is concerned about the lack of a precise strategic approach in the definition of specific objectives under Action 3 (Partnerships with higher education institutions in third countries, including scholarships for students and scholars from EU countries for mobility towards third countries). This year, the Commission has decided to avoid an open call for proposals and launch a call for "clusters" to draw the best out of past Action 4 projects (projects to enhance the worldwide attractiveness of European higher education). Future calls for proposals will focus on a limited number of priority areas. The Commission will also continue funding some actions from the Erasmus Mundus Global Promotion Project to support the promotion of European higher education worldwide;
- whilst the evaluators recommend that visiting scholars should be required to contribute directly to the course for which they receive their Erasmus Mundus grant, the Commission states that scholarships were mainly intended to allow teaching or research activities related to the course. Directly contributing to the course may imply some previous participation of the scholars in the definition of the curriculum. Certain courses may already require a direct contribution, in which case this good practice could be made known to other consortia;
- graduation rates should be clearly stated to allow a more transparent analysis of the success of the course.

The Commission agrees that Erasmus Mundus has made an important contribution to the internationalisation of European higher education. The programme retains a high level of enthusiasm among co-ordinators, partners, students and scholars. The results of the evaluation show that Erasmus Mundus continues to meet its political and operational objectives, as well as the objectives of the Treaty. The fundamental quality of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses, of the institutions behind them and of the students and academics they attract, are essential to the future development of the programme.

The new programme has been designed to overcome certain structural shortcomings identified in the 2004-2008 programme, offering scholarships for EU students and allowing third country institutions to participate as full partners in joint programmes, for example. The Commission notes the findings as to where further improvements could be made, and will pay due respect to these over the remainder of the 2009-2013 programme.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 11/11/2003 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepts six amendments that contribute to clarifying and reinforcing certain aspects of the text; These concern: - adding a reference clarifying that higher professional training is part of higher education; - introducing a new recital referring to the renewal of the existing programmes and the promotion of access to Erasmus Mundus for European students; - reinforcing the notion of Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses being selected on the basis of course quality and quality of the hosting arrangements; - reinforcing references to the learning and use of two languages (without prejudice to the language of instruction) already covered in the annex. The Commission also accepts the amendment which proposes a budget of EUR 230 million for the programme; this amount is adequate for a flagship programme like Erasmus Mundus and is in line with the Commission's financial programming for the enlarged European Union.

Higher education: co-operation with third countries, Erasmus Mundus programme 2004-2008

2002/0165(COD) - 08/04/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Marielle de SARNAZ (EPP-ED, France) and made several amendments to the Commission's proposal. (Please refer to the summary dated 17/03/03.) Other amendments stated: - Member States should consider the need for the programme to receive recognition so that participating students may have the option of validating the qualification obtained, and can take their postgraduate studies further by undertaking more specialised study such as a doctorate; - a new recital states that the programme will have an impact on the visibility and perception of the EU around the world, as well as building a capital of goodwill amongst those who have participated in the programme; - the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, must ensure publicity and follow-up for the actions supported by the programme, as well as ensure the dissemination of the results of the actions; - there must be transparency in management, which is the joint responsibility of the Commission and the Member States; - an amendment to the annex, Action 4, on support to higher education institutions and non-profit organisations states that this must not exceed 3% of the total budget. Particular consideration must be given to organisations working on behalf of the less advantaged, such as women's rights organisations, in countries where there is an imbalance of equality.