Basic information

2003/0116(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Active European citizenship: grants to civic participation actions, 2004-2008 action programme **Subject** 1 European citizenship	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	RÜHLE Heide (V/ALE)	09/07/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets (Associated committee)	DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara (PSE)	10/07/2003
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	LAMBERT Jean (V/ALE)	10/09/2003
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	OJEDA SANZ Juan (PPE-DE)	08/07/2003
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2558	2004-01-26

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0276	Summary
27/05/2003	Additional information		Summary
01/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/2003	Vote in committee		
04/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0368/2003	
20/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0514/2003	Summary
20/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
26/01/2004	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
26/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0116(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/19676

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0368/2003	04/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0514/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0409-0484 E	20/11/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0276	27/05/2003	Summary
	COM(2007)0819		

Follow-up document		17/12/2007	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0170/2003 OJ C 073 23.03.2004, p. 0046-0050	19/11/2003	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2004/0100
OJ L 030 04.02.2004, p. 0006-0014 Summary

Active European citizenship: grants to civic participation actions, 2004-2008 action programme

2003/0116(CNS) - 26/01/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to provide a basic act for the funding of programmes actively promoting European citizenship. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2004/100/EC establishing a Community action programme to promote active European citizenship (civic participation). CONTENT : This Decision establishes a Community action programme to support bodies working in the field of active European citizenship and to promote actions in this field. The programme has the following objectives: - to promote and disseminate the values and objectives of the EU; - to bring citizens closer to the EU and its institutions and to encourage them to engage more frequently with its institutions; - to involve citizens closely in reflection and discussion on the construction of the EU; - to intensify links and exchanges between citizens from the countries participating in the programme, notably by way of town-twinning arrangements; - to stimulate initiatives by the bodies engaged in the promotion of active and participatory citizenship. The activities supported by the programme seek to support the operation and to promote the actions of the bodies pursuing the programme's objectives in accordance with the criteria set out in the Annex. This support takes the form of one of two types of grant: - either an operating grant to co-finance expenditure associated with the permanent work programme of a body which pursues an aim of general European interest in the field of active European citizenship or an objective forming part of the European Union's activities in this area; - or a grant to co-finance a specific action in this area. Support includes co-financing for the operating costs of: - the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union; - the "Our Europe" Association; - European think-tanks and organisations advancing the idea of Europe; - the activities of associations and federations of European interest; - the European Council on Refugees and Exiles; - the Jean Monnet House and the Robert Schuman House; - town twinning schemes in the EU; - the promotion of European citizenship ; - measures for civil society by means of grants to non-governmental organisation and trade union organisations; -the Platform of European Social NGO's. The programme starts on 1 January 2004 and ends on 31 December 2006. The financial reference amount for the implementation of this programme for the period 2004 to 2006 is EUR 72 million. The annual appropriations will be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective. No later than 31 December 2007, the Commission must present to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the achievement of the programme's objectives. This report must be based, inter alia, on an external evaluation report which must be available no later than the end of 2006. DATE OF APPLICATION : 1/01/04. DATE OF EFFECT : 05/02/04.

Active European citizenship: grants to civic participation actions, 2004-2008 action programme

2003/0116(CNS) - 27/05/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to provide a basic act for the funding of programmes actively promoting European citizenship. CONTENT : the European Union is committed to promoting active European Citizenship. For several years support has been provided for this commitment under headings in Part A and B

of the EU's budget. They include co-financing for the operating costs of: - the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union; - the "Our Europe" Association; - European think-tanks and organisations advancing the idea of Europe; - the activities of associations and federations of European interest; - the European Council on Refugees and Exiles; - the Jean Monnet House and the Robert Schuman House; - town twinning schemes in the EU; - the promotion of European citizenship ; - measures for civil society by means of grants to non-governmental organisation and trade union organisations; and - the operating costs of the Platform of European Social NGO's. The adoption of an EU Council Regulation on the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and the decision to base the structure of the Commission budget on an Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) approach require basic acts to be adopted for a number of grants hitherto financed under appropriations entered in administrative appropriations of the Commission section of the budget. The purpose of this Decision is to adopt an act providing a basis for grants towards the promotion of active European citizenship and is to last for a period of five years (2004-2008). The amounts provided for are largely based on those allocated in the budget of the European Union for the 2003 financial year. The total amount proposed is EUR 113.092 million.

Active European citizenship: grants to civic participation actions, 2004-2008 action programme

2003/0116(CNS) - 17/12/2007 - Follow-up document

PURPOSE: to report on the “Active European Citizenship” programme, 2004-2006.

CONTENT: an evaluation of the “Active European Citizenship” programme, which covered the period 2004-2006, found that there is a need for Community action in the field of promoting European citizenship and that the 2004-2006 programme was able to respond positively to this need. Bringing all actions together under one programme has also proved to be efficient and effective. Overall, the stated objectives of the programme have been consistently implemented through the various actions and the programme had been successful at targeting clearly defined groups. At the same time, however, the evaluation finds that the budget is not large enough to meet the programmes stated objectives. Thus, whilst the programme’s remit was broad it resources, by comparison, were not. This could risk a gulf emerging between the programmes stated objectives and its capacity to deliver.

Overall findings: Generally speaking, the report’s findings indicate that the programme was stronger on horizontal actions – those seeking to strengthen links between EU citizens, civil society organisations and municipalities than the more “vertical” actions – i.e. those bringing citizens closer to the EU. The latter, therefore, remains an important challenge for the new “Europe for Citizens” programme. (See COD/2005/0041).

According to the evaluation report, the programme’s activities have resulted in tangible results (such as publications), methodological learning, experiences and knowledge, policy lessons and greater European cooperation and awareness-raising about citizenship issues and other cultures. The programme has also succeeded in terms of capacity building.

Europe for citizens: In future, and within the context of the new Europe for Citizens programme, the Commission intends to implement four major thematic actions, namely:

1. **Strengthening citizens’ involvement:** the evaluation found that it was important to involve citizens more directly when preparing the aims, objectives and actions of the new programme. As such, the direct involvement of citizens in implementing the actions is a key feature of “Action 1” in the new programme. New types of activities, such as citizens’ panels have been adopted. Based on the result of the pilot projects, the new measures should be mainstreamed into the new programme as of 2008. In addition, the new programme includes high-visibility events to which local authorities, civil society and European citizens will be invited, where they can voice their views and opinions.
2. **Strengthening coherence and encouraging partnership:** the challenge of strengthening the internal coherence of the programme was recognised by the European Commission. The new programme reflects this challenge and as a result, the new programme seeks to offer greater coherence between the various actions.
3. **Improving national links:** it is important to promote and encourage links with national programmes, particularly in the field of active citizenship. This could be achieved through improving contacts with the national authorities who are responsible for civic participation. Such linking, the Commission notes, will have a positive impact on the sense of national ownership in the field of European citizenship. The “Programme Committee”, established under the new citizenship programme, offers the Commission a good opportunity to develop a dialogue with the Member States. Many Member States are in the process of establishing coordination and support structures for the “Europe of Citizens” programme.
4. **Enhancing programme management:** the report identifies three areas where the programme’s management could be improved: i) finance and administration; ii) monitoring and evaluation; and iii) added value, dissemination and partner search. The Commission finds these recommendations useful and, as such, has already made a number of arrangements to improve the programme’s overall management.

Conclusions: to conclude, the report confirms the important role that the “Active European Citizenship” programme has played in promoting civic partnership and shared values. The programme has offered Europeans the chance to participate in the debate, to express their opinions and to feed into the European political process. It has connected people and local communities in different countries. As a result of this analysis, the Community will continue to support and promote active European citizenship by setting aside the necessary resources to achieve these objectives.

The evaluation identified certain weaknesses in the programme and highlighted areas in need of further development. On a final point, the Commission will continue to develop and strengthen dialogue between the EU institutions and all those interested in promoting EU citizenships.

Active European citizenship: grants to civic participation actions, 2004-2008 action programme

2003/0116(CNS) - 20/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Heide RüHLE (Greens/EFA, D) and amended the proposal. The resolution was voted by 371 votes in favour, 62 against and 10 abstentions. The main amendments were as follows: - the general objective of the programme is to reduce the democratic deficit of the EU while increasing transparency; - the budget for the programme was increased to EUR 149.192.300 million; - the programme should be extended so as to provide a legal basis for Info Points, which recently had its grant cancelled. Commissioner Neil KINNOCK stated at the Plenary that the Commission does not approve amendments seeking to widen the scope of the programme. The Commission also rejects the amendment on Info Points.