Basic information

2015/2139(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values **Subject** 4.45 Common cultural area, cultural diversity 8.30.10 Principles common to the Member States, EU values	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture and Education	WARD Julie (S&D)	04/05/2015
	Shadow rapporteur HÖLVÉNYI György (PPE) KRASNODĘBSKI Zdzisław (ECR) TOOM Jana (ALDE) MICHELS Martina (GUE/NGL) MARAGALL Ernest (Verts/ALE) ADINOLFI Isabella (EFDD)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	NAVRACSICS Tibor

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/07/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/12/2015	Vote in committee		
21/12/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0373/2015	Summary
18/01/2016	Debate in Parliament		
19/01/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0005/2016	Summary

19/01/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/01/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2139(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/8/03828

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE565.021	25/09/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE567.797	28/10/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0373/2015	21/12/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0005/2016	19/01/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2016)220	01/06/2016	

Role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values

2015/2139(INI) - 21/12/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted the own-initiative report by Julie WARD (S&D, UK) on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values.

Members argued that a European Union approach should take stock and resume the excellent work initiated during the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and encouraged all stakeholders to **establish an up-to-date, clear, policy-related definition of intercultural dialogue**. They stressed that a genuine intercultural and interfaith dialogue encourages positive and cooperative interactions, promotes understanding and respect between cultures, increases diversity and respect for democracy, liberty, human rights as well as tolerance for universal and culture specific values. Members advocated that the EU, acting as global peace actor, **should include culture and cultural exchanges and enhance education in EU external relations and development policy**.

Intercultural, interfaith and value-based approach: Members advocated that fostering an intercultural, interfaith and value-based approach in the educational field should be encouraged in order to address and promote mutual respect, integrity, ethical principles cultural diversity, social inclusion and cohesion, including through exchange and mobility programmes for all. Intercultural dialogue may significantly contribute to the improvement of democracy and the development of greater and deeper inclusivity and **sense of belonging**.

Enhancing the teaching of intercultural dialogue: Members considered that increasing public investment in inclusive, quality and accessible formal, non-formal and informal education is the **first step to providing equal access and opportunities for all**. Formal, non-formal and informal education and access to lifelong learning not only provide knowledge, skills and competences, but should also help learners to develop ethical and civic values and become active, responsible, open-minded members of society. Members stressed the importance of participation in sports and volunteering activities in stimulating the development of civic, social and intercultural competences.

Members encouraged mobility specifically for teachers from primary and secondary levels in order to share experiences. The role and importance of the Erasmus+ programme which fosters a European awareness among young people and creates a sense of common belonging and a culture of intercultural dialogue was emphasised.

Members also noted the **essential role of teachers** in strengthening – in cooperation with families – social ties, generating a sense of belonging and helping young people to develop ethical and civic values.

Support to NGOs, human rights organisations: Members recognised the need to provide sustainable and structural support to NGOs, human rights organisations, youth organisations and training institutions to **challenge extremism** through social cohesion and inclusion, active citizenship and empowerment and participation of youth.

As regards the combat against discrimination, Members affirmed the need, when dealing with the issue of intercultural dialogue and education, to keep a gender perspective and to take into account the needs of people suffering multiple forms of discrimination, including people with disabilities, people identifying as LGBTI and people from marginalised communities. Member States are called upon to involve marginalised communities, migrants, refugees and host communities as well as faith and secular communities in respectful and empowering inclusion processes.

Diplomacy and intercultural dialogue: Members called on the Commission to mainstream cultural diplomacy and intercultural dialogue **in all EU external relations instruments** and in the EU development agenda. They called furthermore on the EU and the Member States to strengthen cooperation with other European and international organisations such as the United Nations and its related agencies, in particular UNESCO, UNICEF and UNHCR and called for more cooperation with national cultural institutes.

Cultural identity and refugees: Members invited the Member States and the Commission to **prevent extremism**, such as xenophobia, racism and all forms of discrimination and marginalisation through community cohesion measures that are able to successfully challenge economic and social inequalities. They recommended that the EU cooperate in making learning and schooling accessible for refugee children by continuing to support programs on access to education in humanitarian crises and to ensure the integration of migrant students in Europe. In parallel, Members stressed the **family role** in the preservation of cultural identity, traditions, ethics and the value systems of society, and stressed that the introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family.

Intercultural dialogue as a strong and committed political objective of the EU: Members called on the Commission and the Council to adopt intercultural dialogue as a strong and committed political objective of the EU and therefore guarantee EU support. They encouraged the Commission and the Member States to further prioritise initiatives directed towards supporting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and education, and to fully exploit EU financial instruments, programmes and initiatives, such as the Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe and Horizon 2020 programmes, EU neighbourhood policy and external relations instruments.

Role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values

2015/2139(INI) - 19/01/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 554 votes to 147, with 12 abstentions, a resolution on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values.

Parliament took stock of the excellent work initiated during the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and called on all stakeholders to establish an **up-to-date, clear, policy-related definition of intercultural dialogue**.

Intercultural and interfaith dialogue: Parliament advocated that fostering an intercultural, interfaith and value-based approach in the educational field should be encouraged in order to address and promote mutual respect, integrity, ethical principles cultural diversity, social inclusion and cohesion, including through exchange and mobility programmes for all. The EU, acting as global peace actor, should include culture and cultural exchanges and enhance education in EU external relations and development policy.

It called for **interfaith dialogue** to be taken into account as a component of intercultural dialogue, a precondition for peace, and an **essential tool of conflict management**, focusing on the dignity of the individual and on the need to uphold human rights around the world, with particular reference to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and religious minorities' right to protection.

It stressed that a genuine intercultural and interfaith dialogue encourages positive and cooperative interactions, promotes understanding and respect between cultures, increases diversity and respect for democracy, liberty, human rights as well as tolerance for universal and culture specific values. In an amendment adopted in plenary, Parliament insisted on the importance of the timely integration and education of segregated communities.

Members stated that intercultural dialogue may significantly contribute to the improvement of democracy and the development of greater and deeper inclusivity and **sense of belonging**.

Enhancing the teaching of intercultural dialogue: the resolution considered that increasing public investment in inclusive, quality and accessible formal, non-formal and informal education is the **first step to providing equal access and opportunities for all**. Formal, non-formal and informal education and access to lifelong learning not only provide knowledge, skills and competences, but should also help learners to develop ethical and civic values and become active, responsible, open-minded members of society. It also stressed the importance of participation in sports and volunteering activities in stimulating the development of civic, social and intercultural competences.

Parliament encouraged mobility specifically for teachers from primary and secondary levels in order to share experiences. The role and importance of the Erasmus+ programme which fosters a European awareness among young people and creates a sense of common belonging and a culture of intercultural dialogue was emphasised.

Parliament also noted the **essential role of teachers** in strengthening – in cooperation with families – social ties, generating a sense of belonging and helping young people to develop ethical and civic values.

Support to NGOs, human rights organisations: Parliament recognised the need to provide sustainable and structural support to NGOs, human rights organisations, youth organisations and training institutions to **challenge extremism** through social cohesion and inclusion, active citizenship and empowerment and participation of youth.

As regards the combat against discrimination, Members affirmed the need, when dealing with the issue of intercultural dialogue and education, to keep a gender perspective and to take into account the needs of people suffering multiple forms of discrimination, including people with disabilities, people identifying as LGBTI and people from marginalised communities. Member States are called upon to involve marginalised communities, migrants, refugees and host communities as well as faith and secular communities in respectful and empowering inclusion processes.

Diplomacy and intercultural dialogue: Parliament called on the Commission to mainstream cultural diplomacy and intercultural dialogue **in all EU external relations instruments** and in the EU development agenda. It called furthermore on the EU and the Member States to strengthen cooperation with other European and international organisations such as the United Nations and its related agencies, in particular UNESCO, UNICEF and UNHCR and called for more cooperation with national cultural institutes.

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Intercultural dialogue as a strong and committed political objective of the EU: Parliament called on the Commission and the Council to adopt intercultural dialogue as a strong and committed political objective of the EU and therefore guarantee EU support. It encouraged the Commission and the Member States to further prioritise initiatives directed towards supporting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and education, and to fully exploit EU financial instruments, programmes and initiatives, such as the Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe and Horizon 2020 programmes, EU neighbourhood policy and external relations instruments.