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R E P O R T

of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the implementation of a Community vocational training measure in the audiovisual sector
(COM(90) 132 final + final/2 - C 3-0221/90)

Rapporteur: Mr Michael ELLIOTT

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A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

* = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

**II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment

**I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

*** = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Procedural page	3
A. Amendments to the Commission proposal	4
DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	9
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	10

By letter of 18 July 1990 the Council consulted the European Parliament on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the implementation of a Community vocational training measure in the audiovisual sector.

At the sitting of 10 September 1990 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 26 June 1990 the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport had appointed Mr Elliott rapporteur.

At its meetings of 20/21 September 1990, 29 October 1990 (hearing with the participation of experts) and 7 November 1990 it considered the Commission proposal and draft report.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.'

The following took part in the vote: Barzanti, chairman; Siméoni, first vice-chairman; Elliott, rapporteur; Buchan, Canavarró (for Gallo), Dührkop Dührkop, Gil-Robles, Gil-Delgado (for Gangoiti Llaguno), Hoppenstedt (for Münch), Larive, Oostlander, Rawlings, Sir James Stewart-Clark and Verhagen (for Hermans).

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on External Economic Relations will be published separately.

The report was tabled on 9 November 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A

Commission proposal for a Council Decision

concerning the implementation of a Community vocational training
measure in the audiovisual sector

Commission text¹

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)

Article 2

The aim of the Community measure shall be to help, in particular by improving the skills of audiovisual professionals in the Community in economic and commercial management, to establish conditions in which undertakings in the sector can derive maximum benefit from the dimension offered by the single market.

The aim of the Community measure shall be to help, in particular by improving the skills of audiovisual professionals in the Community in economic and commercial management, to establish conditions in which all undertakings and freelance operators in the sector can derive maximum benefit from the dimension offered by the single market. Priority should be accorded to the promotion of regional projects.

¹ For full text see COM(90) 132 final + final/2 - OJ No. C 127, 23.5.1990, p.5

(Amendment No. 2)

Article 3

To attain the objective referred to in Article 2, transnational vocational training schemes in economic and commercial management shall be developed in the sectors of film and audiovisual programme production and distribution.

To attain the objective referred to in Article 2, transnational vocational training schemes in economic, commercial, technical and journalistic management shall be developed in the sectors of film and audiovisual programme production and distribution and journalistic and technical production.

Participation in such training schemes shall be open equally to professionals in the commercial and public sector areas of the audiovisual industry and to freelance operators in the industry. Every effort will be made by the Commission to ensure that women are encouraged to participate in all training schemes.

The Commission shall further ensure that people with disabilities and members of ethnic minority groups resident in the Community have access to such training schemes.

(Amendment No. 3)

Article 4

The implementation of the measures may also involve Community participation in audiovisual Eureka projects which complement or extend the measure.

The implementation of the measures may also involve Community participation in audiovisual Eureka projects which complement or extend the measure.

The Commission will examine the contribution which links with Community exchange programmes, especially LINGUA, might make to the success of the measure.

(Amendment No. 4)

Article 6

As a rule, parties to contracts with the Commission for the implementation of the measure must provide a substantial proportion of the funding, representing at least 50% of their total cost.

As a rule, parties to contracts with the Commission for the implementation of the measure must provide a substantial proportion of the funding, representing at least 50% of their total cost.

Sympathetic consideration will be given to the operation of this requirement in the case of localised regional undertakings and of non-commercial and ethnic minority undertakings in the audio-visual industry.

(Amendment No. 5)

Article 7(1a) (new)

To prepare the implementation of the measure, the Commission shall order a 'progress report on the situation of vocational training and further training in the audiovisual programme industry in the Member States of the European Community'.

This report shall show in particular what training and further training schemes exist in the individual Member States, their relevant industries, public-law institutions and other institutions and what training and financing ideas these schemes are based on.

Commission text¹

Amendments

(Amendment No. 6)

Article 7(3) fifth indent (new)

- the evaluation of the results of the progress report referred to in Article 7(1a);

(Amendment No. 7)

Article 7(3) sixth indent (new)

- the justification of the opinions of the committee including minority votes, where applicable;

(Amendment No. 8)

Article 7a (new)

The Commission will enter into joint consultation with the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with the aim of extending the scope of the measure to these territories as soon as practicable.

(Amendment No. 9)

Article 8

After the measure has been in operation for two years, the Commission shall present a report on the results achieved to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee.

At the expiry of the measure, the Commission, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7, shall send a report on the implementation and results of the programme to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee.

After the measure has been in operation for two years, the Commission shall present a report on the results achieved to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee so that they may draw up their opinions thereon.

At the expiry of the measure, the Commission, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7, shall send a report on the implementation and results of the programme to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee so that they may draw up their opinions thereon.

The committee shall be involved in drawing up the report within its terms of reference.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the implementation of a Community vocational training measure in the audiovisual sector

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(90) 132 final + final/2)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council (C3-221/90),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport and the opinions of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on Budgets (A3-0294/90),
 - having regard to the Commission position on the amendments adopted by Parliament,
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendments and in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ No. C 127, 23.5.1990, p.5

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The reason for the main vocational training element of the overall 'Media' 1992 Action Programme being set apart from the main proposals in the Commission Communication lies in the different legal base of the two parts. The main part of the action programme is based on Article 235 of the Treaties, whereas the vocational training measures are based on Article 128.

It is the intention of the Commission that there should be training initiatives linked with all major policy lines of the MEDIA Programme. The 15 M ecu provision identified under the separate Vocational Training Measure is for the special purpose of promoting training at Community level to complement what is being done at national level.

The aim will be to improve the capability of producers, managers and presenters in the audio-visual field to function more easily on a European basis, by acquiring detailed knowledge about the operations of the audio-visual industry in other Community countries. To help achieve this the Commission intend to arrange special practical seminars some of which would be particularly designed to appeal to newer and younger staff in the audio-visual sector, anxious to widen their experience. There will be a substantial multi-lingual aspect to these training schemes, aimed at improving language skills and helping create more producers and presenters able to work effectively on productions covering several different countries and available to the public in more than one language. These training provisions would draw on ideas developed during the pilot phase of the MEDIA Programme. The Commission also aims to assist in creating new networks between the audio-visual industry in the Member States to achieve better communication.

With the continued growth of cable and satellite broadcasting and the increasing production and distribution of video and audio recordings in several languages, designed for an international audience, it is urgent that these training proposals by the Commission should be progressed as quickly as possible. Understandably there is considerable enthusiasm in the audio-visual industry itself for these various training initiatives.

The funding provision of 15 M ecu is based on the Commission's assessment of actual need, but it is intended to be only seed money and a stimulus to the financing of training measures by the industry itself. A Community coordinating body would be set up through which the audio-visual industry and professional bodies involved in this field could make bids for funding of training projects. The Commission would normally meet a maximum of 50% of any such training proposal. However, it is important that the operation of this rule be considered sympathetically in the case of localised regional undertakings in the audio-visual industry and of non-commercial and ethnic minority undertakings, if a fair balance is to be kept between them and the large commercial operators. It is also essential that participation in training schemes should be open equally to professionals in the commercial and public sector areas of the audio-visual industry as well as to those working on a free-lance basis. The European Broadcasting Union is one of those established European bodies which has already expressed an interest in developing its training activities by participating in the vocational training proposals of the Commission.

Just as other Commission Education and Training Programmes are being extended after joint consultation into the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, it is most desirable that the opportunity to participate in these training initiatives in the audio-visual field should also in due course be extended to these other countries.

The Parliament in the past has criticized the limited role of women in the media and it is therefore vital that women should be given equal participation in the training schemes proposed by this measure.

There is also a need to encourage participation by people with disabilities.

Recently, there has been a growth in audio-visual undertakings based in peripheral regions of the Community, and of undertakings serving the large and heterogenous ethnic minority groups resident in it. Participation in training schemes by professionals working in these areas should also be encouraged by the Commission.

