



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 31.03.1995  
COM(95) 124 final

94/O199 (COD)

Amended proposal for a  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL DECISION  
establishing a  
EUROPEAN YEAR OF LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
(1996)

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 189 a (2)  
of the EC-Treaty)

### **Explanatory memorandum**

The Commission's proposal COM(94) 264 final - 94/0199(COD) was examined in first reading by the European Parliament on 16 March 1995. Among the 39 voted amendments, the Commission accepted 25, some in spirit if not verbatim (n° 1 to 8, 12, 15 to 20, 23, 27, 41, 30, 31, 32, 35 to 38). It accepted amendments n° 9, 24 and 40 in part. It cannot accept 12 amendments (n° 10, 11, 13, 14, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 33, 34, 39). The reason for rejecting the latter concerns principally the application of the principle of subsidiarity, either because they concern relationships between Member States and their internal authorities, or because they could imply a harmonization at Community level which would represent a breach of Article 126 of the Treaty.

The amendments accepted mainly concern the specification of the objectives and themes of the Year, and the means to implement them.

Initial proposal for a  
**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL**

**DECISION**

establishing a  
**EUROPEAN YEAR OF LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
(1996)**

**THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,**

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the  
European Community and particularly Articles  
126 and 127 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the  
Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic  
and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee  
of the Regions,

Whereas changes in lifestyles and in individual  
and collective patterns of behaviour generate new  
education and training requirements;

Whereas changes in the production cycle as a  
result of the introduction of new technologies  
and new configurations of work organisation  
imply radical changes in the knowledge and  
skills required of workers and entail an effort to  
favour the emergence of new jobs in order to  
bridge the widening gap between economic  
growth and the creation of jobs in Europe;

Amended proposal

Whereas the continuing adaptation of education and training systems to these new requirements is of major strategic importance to Europe whose economic competitiveness and social model are based on knowledge and knowhow;

Whereas the role of lifelong learning for the individual and the worker is becoming fundamental both in order to secure personal fulfilment and to enhance long-term employment prospects; whereas the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment stresses that education and training will undoubtedly play a crucial role in the renewal of growth, the recovery of competitiveness and the restoring of a socially-acceptable level of employment;

Whereas the continuing adaptation of education and training systems to these new requirements is of major strategic importance to Europe whose economic competitiveness and social model are based on knowledge and knowhow, and whereas the attractiveness of vocational training and its social prestige are largely dependent on recognition of the equal value of general educational and vocational training and society's recognition of skilled occupations;

**new recital**

Whereas education and training are intended to develop each individual's personality, to teach him such values of private, social and public life as solidarity, tolerance and understanding of cultural diversity, to promote the ability of the various cultural groups to communicate, and to promote the involvement of all the citizens of Europe in democratic decision-making processes;

**new recital**

Whereas, according to the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment, more than two million jobs to be created by the year 2000 will consist of new careers linked with the technological revolutions in the audiovisual sector and the information society, requiring continuing education and flexibility in initial training concepts;

Whereas the role of lifelong learning for the individual and the worker is becoming fundamental in order to enhance long-term employment prospects; whereas the White paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment stresses that education and training will undoubtedly play a crucial role in the renewal of growth, the recovery of competitiveness and the restoring of a socially-acceptable level of employment;



whereas the scale of unemployment affecting young people and adults brings risks of social upheaval and of scepticism as regards training, thus jeopardising the confidence they should have in the concept of lifelong learning;

Whereas there should be exchanges of experience and information on what the Member States have achieved in their own countries and on the many regional and local initiatives undertaken, and on the work of the Council of Europe and other international organisations involved in education and training;

**new recital**

Whereas it must be borne in mind that non-school education and training (e.g. adult education and open universities) are gaining in importance, whereas it must be ensured that everyone has access to such education and training, and whereas the promotion needed for non-school education must not be at the expense of broadly based initial training;

**new recital**

whereas continuing training which improves the trainee's prospects also forms a good opportunity for resolving social conflicts and, with appropriate concepts and actions, must help to prevent xenophobia, alcohol and drug abuse, and the associated willingness to resort to violence;

**new recital**

Whereas the Commission's White Paper on European Social Policy advocates a positive flexible approach to work and training, the raising of the skill levels of the present-day and future workforce and the examination of fiscal and other incentives with a view to investment by businesses and private individuals in continuing education for the development of lifelong learning opportunities for adults;

Whereas 1996 will be the year in which the *Leonardo da Vinci*<sup>1</sup> and *Socrates*<sup>2</sup> programmes, which constitute the second generation of Community education and training programmes, come into their own;

Whereas the Structural Funds and particularly the European Social Fund and the Community initiatives which derive therefrom, particularly *Adapt* and *Employment*, do much to enhance quality education and training;

Whereas there is a need to highlight the fundamental importance of education and training for the construction of a Europe which is economically competitive and socially anchored in solidarity and in the encouragement of individual fulfilment, through a series of activities and events concerted at European Union level under the banner of a European Year of Lifelong Learning, and thus achieve a greater impact than that achieved by existing Community programmes and which would not be feasible for actions undertaken singly by Member States;

**new recital**

Whereas existing distance and self-instruction systems, global networks (especially computer networks), interactive communication among learners and between learners and teachers and information infrastructure have an important role to play in lifelong learning; whereas existing international networks are particularly suitable for language training; whereas sound basic training is essential if they are to be integrated into the lifelong learning process;

Whereas there is a need to highlight the fundamental importance of education and training for the construction of a Europe which is economically competitive and socially anchored in solidarity, through a series of activities and events concerted at European Union level under the banner of a European Year of Lifelong Learning, and thus achieve a greater impact than that achieved by existing Community programmes and which would not be feasible for actions undertaken singly by Member States;

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision ... / /EC (JO No L...).

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament and Council Decision ... / /EC (OJ No L...).

**new recital**

Whereas an agreement on a *modus vivendi* between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission concerning the implementing measures for acts adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 189b of the EC Treaty was reached on 20 January 1995;

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

1. Actions to provide information on, create awareness of and promote lifelong learning shall be undertaken between 1 January 1995 and 31 December 1996.
2. 1996 shall be proclaimed the "European Year of Lifelong Learning".

**Article 2**

The objectives of the actions referred to in Article 1 are to:

1. make the European public aware of the importance of lifelong learning as a key factor in the personal development of individuals and for a European model of competitiveness and growth which is employment-intensive;
  2. foster better cooperation at all levels between education and training structures and the business community, particularly the SMEs;
1. make the European public aware of the importance of lifelong learning as a key factor in the personal development of individuals and in their participation in the democratic decision-making processes;



<p>3. help to establish a European area of education and training through the academic and vocational recognition of qualifications within the European Union and through the introduction of a European dimension in education and training;</p> <p>4. stress the contribution made by education and training to the equality of opportunities - and thus the importance of this equality, particularly between men and women - in access to education and training.</p>	<p>3. <u>contribute to European competitiveness and to an employment-intensive economic growth by promoting awareness amongst the social partners of the importance of creating opportunities for lifelong learning to meet the challenges of economic and social change; particular encouragement shall be given to SMEs;</u></p> <p>4. <u>raise awareness among European citizens of the initiatives taken by the European Union in the field of academic and vocational recognition of qualifications and promotion of a European dimension in education and training, particularly through the LEONARDO and SOCRATES programmes. In this context, the European Year must focus, among other things, on promoting language skills;</u></p> <p>5. <u>emphasise the importance of providing access to lifelong learning and appropriate recognised accreditation systems for all regardless of difference in sex, age, ability, ethnic, economic and social background with a view to ending the waste of talent, combating social exclusion, giving girls and women a wider choice of occupations and eliminating regional disparities.</u></p> <p>Deleted</p> <p>6. <u>Encourage parents and education authorities to shoulder their responsibility for the education and training of children and young people in a context of lifelong learning.</u></p>
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### Article 3

1. The actions referred to in Article 1 shall include general or theme-based events, the preparation and dissemination of communication products, and studies and surveys.
  2. The criteria, procedures and arrangements for the selection and financing of actions are set out in the Annex.
2. The actions should provide the means to fulfil the objectives described in Article 2. They shall highlight the importance of cooperation between education and training structures, business and the social partners; the potential of a European education and training area in the context of mobility of people receiving training and of workers; the need to ensure better access to relevant education and training actions for all regardless of gender, ethnic, economic and social background.
  3. Priority in the selection of the actions mentioned in section II of the annex will go to those which offer a practical demonstration of the advantages of education and training and a motivating incentive for individuals, enterprises and regional development alike; those highlighting education and training actions as part of a lifelong learning approach; those encouraging the social partners to promote through collective arrangements the provision of training and further training; those which show the contribution made by transnational cooperation and those which disseminate the results of Community interventions, those promoting through European, national, regional and local networks the exchange of ideas and the dissemination of good practice in relation to the provision of lifelong learning, particularly to the socially excluded and groups at risk.

#### Article 4

The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.

The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of one representative from each Member State and chaired by the Commission representative.

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

#### Article 5

Decisions on financial support to be awarded by the Community for actions proposed by the Member States shall be taken by the Commission in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 4.

#### Article 6

1. Each Member State shall designate a body responsible for the selection, coordination and the implementation nationally of the actions provided for in this Decision.

The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature composed of two representatives from each Member State and chaired by the Commission representative.

The decisions on actions to be implemented under this Decision shall be taken by the Commission in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 4.

2. Applications for financial support for the actions provided for in section II B of the Annex shall be submitted to the Commission by the Member States concerned.

#### Article 7

The Commission shall inform the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a regular basis of the activities planned under the European Year agreed on by the advisory committee. The Commission shall also ensure close cooperation with the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates programmes.

#### Article 8

The Commission shall optimise the impact of the European Year for Lifelong Learning by ensuring that in 1996 related EU programmes and/or other financial instruments, in particular the education and vocational training programmes, the European Social Fund and the EU information policy give financial support and contribute to the objectives pursued by the Year.

#### Article 9

The Commission and the Member States, each in accordance with its areas of responsibility, shall ensure that the social partners and, where they have a responsibility for education and training, regional or local authorities are involved in the planning and implementation of activities connected with the Year.



**Article 7**

The Commission shall submit, by 31 December 1997 at the latest, a report to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions, on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the actions envisaged by this Decision and shall propose follow-up arrangements.

Done at Brussels,

For the Parliament  
The President

For the Council  
The President

**Article 10**

The Commission shall submit by 31 December 1997 at the latest a report to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions, on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the actions envisaged by this Decision and shall propose follow-up arrangements.

## ANNEX

### I. General

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#### 1. Objectives and grounds for the actions

The action follows up the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment submitted by the Commission to the Brussels European Council in December 1993, in which it is recommended that the Commission should "set firmly and clearly the essential requirements and the long-term objectives for measures and policies" in the areas of education and training, and that, "one way of sending an important signal and creating added awareness in this area would be to announce and organise a "European Year of Lifelong Learning".

#### 2. Themes

Activities and events undertaken as part of the European Year of Lifelong Learning will focus on the objectives described in Article 2, viz. the development, generalisation and systematisation of continuing education and training, the importance of cooperation between education and training structures and the business community, the potential of a European education and training area in the context of mobility of people receiving training and of workers, the need to ensure better access to education and training actions - particularly from the point of view of equal opportunities for men and women.

#### 3. Criteria

Priority in the selection of the actions mentioned in Section II will go to those which offer a practical demonstration of the advantages of education and training for individuals, firms and regional development alike; those highlighting education and training actions as part of a lifelong approach; those based on Community action on education and training; and those which show the contribution made by transnational cooperation.

## II. Contents

### A. Actions wholly financed out of the Community budget

1. a) Organisation of European conferences on the abovementioned themes to launch and to close the European Year;
  - b) Organisation of meetings in the Member States in order to stress the contribution made by the European Union to the abovementioned themes;
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2. Community-wide information and promotional campaigns involving:
    - a) the designing of a logo and a slogan for the European Year of lifelong learning;
    - b) preparation of communication products e.g. video clips describing innovatory experiences in education and training; multimedia points at fairs and exhibitions; brochures and leaflets; packages (texts, pictures, graphs, diagrams, etc.) to facilitate organisation of local and regional conferences and seminars around the Year's four themes; interactive systems (CD-ROM, CD-I or telematics) to complement printed material; in addition to raising awareness these products will help to improve access by a wider public to information on the vocational recognition of qualifications, on the conditions of access to higher education in the Union, and on the projects supported by the different Community programmes and initiatives;

## Contents

1. Awareness creation actions throughout the European Union.
  - b) Organisation of meetings in the Member States in order to stress the contribution made by the European Union to the attainment of the aims of the European Year;
- 
- deleted
2. the designing of a logo and a slogan for the European Year of lifelong learning;
  3. preparation of communication products e.g. video clips describing innovatory experiences in education and training; multimedia points at fairs and exhibitions; brochures and leaflets; packages (texts, pictures, graphs, diagrams, etc.) to facilitate organisation of local and regional conferences and seminars around the Year's four themes; interactive systems (CD-ROM, CD-I or telematics) to complement printed material; in addition to raising awareness these products will help to improve access by a wider public to information on the vocational recognition of qualifications, on the conditions of access to higher education in the Union, and on the projects supported by the different Community programmes and initiatives;

<p>c) the use of the major public (television, radio, press) and specialised media (educational TV channels, specialised press) for events and promotional campaigns;</p> <p>d) organisation of European competitions (e.g. for pupils, schools, companies or local authorities) highlighting tangible experiences and achievements on one of the Year's four themes, inter alia, in conjunction with business circles, the social partners and the world of education, particularly as regards access for workers to continuing education and training;</p> <p>3. Organisation of surveys, preparatory and ex-post assessment studies as a function of the target publics for each of the themes, one of the main points being to circumscribe more accurately the expectations of these different publics, including as regards the contribution of the Union.</p> <p>B. Actions co-financed out of the Community budget</p> <p>The actions proposed for the European Year by the national authorities could qualify for modulated financing out of the Community budget according to each case, up to a maximum of 50% of the cost. These actions could relate <i>inter alia</i> to:</p> <p>a) national or regional events around the common themes established for the European Year;</p>	<p>4. <u>cooperation with the media;</u></p> <p>5. organisation of European competitions highlighting tangible experiences and achievements <u>in relation to one of the Year's objectives;</u></p> <p>6. <u>The provision of a certificate of participation to those who take part in the activities organised within the European Year for Lifelong Learning;</u></p> <p>7. Surveys, <u>in particular with a view to better defining the target groups concerned by the Year's themes and to evaluating the impact of the Year.</u></p> <p>B. Actions co-financed <u>up to 50%</u> out of the Community budget</p> <p>deleted</p> <p>1. National or regional events around the common themes established for the European Year;</p>
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<p>b) providing information on and disseminating examples of good practice;</p> <p>c) organisation of prizes and competitions at national or regional level.</p> <p>C. Actions receiving no financial aid from the Community budget</p> <p>Voluntary actions to be conducted by public or private operators, including authorisation to use the logo and priority themes of the European Year in campaigns and events.</p>	<p>2. Providing information on and disseminating examples of good practice;</p> <p>3. Organisation of prizes and competitions at national or regional level.</p>
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