

ITALIAN SENATE
17TH PARLIAMENTARY TERM

Doc. XVIII
No 150

RESOLUTION OF THE 11th STANDING COMMITTEE

(Labour, social security)

(Rapporteur BERGER)

adopted at the sitting of 28 September 2016

ON THE

PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING (CEDEFOP) AND REPEALING REGULATION (EEC) No 337/75 – (COM (2016) 532 final)

pursuant to Article 144(1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure

Sent to the President's Office on 5 October 2016

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The Committee,

having examined the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 in accordance with Article 144(1) of the Rules of Procedure;

whereas the proposal under examination provides a clear description of Cedefop's role in supporting the shaping and implementation of vocational education and training, skills and qualifications education and training policies within the scope of the existing EU policies on skills and employment;

having concluded that the proposal upholds the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity;

having noted the findings of the 14th Standing Committee,

hereby issues a favourable opinion. The Committee nevertheless points out that the proposal for a Regulation is more focussed on the organisation of the Agency than on its purpose and tasks, which are solely discussed in Article 2, although these should represent the bulk of the Regulation.

Moreover, in order to reduce administrative burdens, the work of the Inter-Institutional Working Group on EU decentralised agencies could be taken further, reducing their staffing levels and adopting structural measures to avoid overlapping between the agencies at EU level and between those agencies and the corresponding administrative bodies at national level.

Having regard to Article 2, it should be noted that Cedefop should also be able to interact with information from Eurydice, the European network on education, in order to support the European Union and the Member States in drafting policies on education and vocational training.

OPINION OF THE 7TH STANDING COMMITTEE

(EDUCATION, HERITAGE, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT)

(Rapporteur: Marcucci)

28 September 2016

The Committee, having examined the measure intended to review the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 of the Council of 10 February 1975 which established the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop);

having assessed the aims of aligning certain provisions of the existing Regulation governing Cedefop with the Common Approach on Decentralised Agencies and updating Cedefop's objectives and tasks, with particular reference to the activities already largely pursued by the Centre, such as analysing labour market trends in relation to skills and qualifications and analysing and contributing to developments related to the design and award of qualifications in the field of validating non-formal and informal learning;

having agreed that the interface between education and training and the world of work is crucial, bearing in mind that vocational training policies have evolved over time to encompass certain instruments – like those related to skills and qualifications and the validation of learning – which need to be updated;

having noted that the Centre's tasks mentioned in Article 2 include dialogue with educational institutions, taking into account the links which exist between vocational education and training and the other sectors of education and training;

having observed that the revision is also intended to provide for anti-fraud measures, to prevent and manage conflicts of interest and to provide for the establishment of an agreement between the Centre and Greece as the host country;

hereby issues a favourable opinion.

OPINION OF THE 14TH STANDING COMMITTEE
(EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES)

(Rapporteur: Liuzzi)

27 September 2016

The Committee, having examined the proposal,

whereas:

the proposal aims to revise the Founding Regulation of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) from 1975, aligning certain provisions with the Common Approach on Decentralised Agencies and updating the Centre's objectives and tasks;

having examined the Government's report, submitted pursuant to Article 6(4) of Law No 234 of 24 December 2012;

hereby issues a favourable opinion, for matters within its remit, with the following comments:

The legal basis for the proposal is Article 166(4), Article 165 (4) and Article 149 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). In this regard, given that the proposal aims to align Cedefop with the Common Approach on Decentralised Agencies, it should be pointed out that the considerable number of agencies that exist in the European Union and the need for action to standardise them offer the opportunity to consider whether a common legal basis could be identified to regulate all the agencies, such as Article 114 of the TFEU, supplemented, where necessary, by sectoral legal bases.

The need for and the added value of European action, given that the proposal is for a European agency and, as such, is not governed by national law, strengthens the case for a unitary legal basis.

Regarding the principle of proportionality and the reduction of administrative burdens, the Inter-Institutional Working Group on EU decentralised agencies should continue its work with the aim of reducing their staffing levels by 5 % over five years and, above all, adopting structural measures such as mergers, abolitions or transfers of duties with the aim of avoiding overlapping between the agencies at EU level and between the agencies and the corresponding administrative bodies at national level.

In this regard, thought could be given to replacing the words 'undertake or commission studies and carry out research' in Article 2(1)(e) of the proposal with 'undertake or alternatively commission studies and carry out research'. The possibility of externalising study and research activity should be a secondary option, to be used only when due grounds are shown to exist and only when needs cannot be met using agency staff.