

SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC

17TH PARLIAMENTARY TERM

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No 173

RESOLUTION OF THE 11th STANDING COMMITTEE

(Labour, Social Security)
(*Rapporteur* BENCINI)
adopted in the sitting of 16 November 2016

ON THE

Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass) and repealing Decision No 2241/2004/EC (COM (2016) 625 final)

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

Sent to the President's Office on 21 November 2016

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The Committee,

having examined, pursuant to Article 144(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass) and repealing Decision No 2241/2004/EC;

whereas new information technologies and the use of social networks have led to rapid changes on the labour market, making the common framework for the transparency of skills and qualifications (Europass) no longer adequate for the needs of the labour market;

having observed that the proposal for a decision in question aims to enhance the tools which the Europass platform will be offering, making them more flexible to adapt to ongoing technological change and open to better information exchange;

having regard to the criticisms in the report drawn up by the European Policies department of the Prime Minister's Office;

having examined the observations of the 14th Standing Committee;

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

hereby issues a favourable opinion, with the following observations:

With reference to the identified legal basis, i.e. Articles 165 and 166 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which relate to the development of quality education and training in general, we would point out that this is the exclusive competence of the individual Member States, which may, however, be complemented and supported at EU level. This means that the development of the platform and the *governance* of the entire process, as set out in the document, could be hampered by the different positions of the individual Member States when it comes to education and training policy;

moreover, the establishment of a platform based on services, linked to European tools such as the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO), together with the obligatory nature of the European Decision, make the use of these tools *de facto* obligatory, creating a Europass system which lacks flexibility and is not always adaptable to the needs of Member States;

also emphasises that the scale of the tools made available in the Proposal may, in the long term, lead to a slow-down, given the different speeds of the different Member States, in the application of the Proposal;

finally, it is appropriate that the Proposal should provide for a deadline by which the Member States have to implement it, thus permitting the use of the Europass system in all the Member States of the European Union.

OPINION OF THE 7TH STANDING COMMITTEE
(EDUCATION, HERITAGE, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH,
ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT
(Rapporteur: LIUZZI)

25 October 2016

The Committee, having examined the
proposal, hereby expresses a
favourable opinion.

OPINION OF THE 14TH STANDING COMMITTEE

(EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES)

(Rapporteur: LIUZZI)

Tuesday 15 November 2016

The Committee, having examined the

proposal, whereas:

the main aim of the Proposal is to rationalise the tools with a common format (the curriculum vitae - CV Europass, the *certificate supplement*, the *diploma supplement* and the Europass mobility), as set out in the Europass decision of 2004 in order to help citizens to communicate - when looking for a job or in the context of a training course - their own skills and qualifications;

the need for an update is due to the fact that these tools have not fully unfolded their potential because they have been developed separately, with a low level of coordination and collaboration between the institutions issuing the various documents. The update provides for integration with several EU-developed services such as the EU Skills Panorama, the Ploteus portal, EURES and ESCO;

the proposal therefore transforms Europass from a document-based facility into a service-based platform, widening its scope of activity and ensuring that user needs are at the heart of the services offered. Moreover, the activities of the various centres and contact points that operate at national level (national Europass centres, national coordination points, Euroguidance points), supported financially by the EU by way of Erasmus+, are to be rationalised;

whereas the development of the services provided for in the decision is to be financed by the European Union with a contribution estimated at 2.5 million euros;

having examined the Government's report, sent on 27 October 2016 pursuant to Article 6(4) and (5) of Law No 234 of 24 December 2012,

comments favourably on the proposal, within its area of responsibility, as follows:

the legal basis is identified as Articles 165 and 166 TFEU, which relate to the development of quality education and training in general, and to vocational education and training. This is a European tool supporting, coordinating and complementing the action of the Member States. In this regard, the development of a platform based on services, linked to European transparency tools such as the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and projects such as the classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO), together with the obligatory nature of the European Decision, make the

use of these tools *de facto* obligatory, creating a Europass system which could end up being excessively rigid and unable to give the Member States the margins of flexibility that may be necessary;

the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality appear, overall, to have been complied with, as the objectives of the Proposal could not be reached by action at national level only. Moreover, the measures proposed do not extend the field of the European Union's action beyond that which is necessary to achieve the objective;

in this regard, the ambitious scale of the Proposal, intended to bring into synergy various tools at both EU and national levels, could lead, in the long term, to a slow-down due to the different rates at which different countries implement the decision. In this regard, the designation of a National Skills Coordination Point, in order to support cooperation between the national services of the Member States, is particularly relevant;

finally, it is appropriate that the Proposal should provide for a deadline by which the Member States should implement it, thus permitting the use of the Europass system in all the Member States of the European Union.

