



PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

DECISION

approving the Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'A New Skills Agenda for Europe' (COM (2016) 381)

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and of Articles 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

The Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this Decision:

Sole Article. Having regard to Opinion No 4c-19/1103, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 27 September 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. Points out that the steady increase in demands for skills and abilities, the new digital economy and rapid technological progress demand a bold approach to the reform of vocational training systems, since it is questionable whether the basic concepts of these systems are up to date. It therefore invites the European Commission to launch a debate on this issue as part of its planned measures to develop training in the European Union.
2. Recommends flexibility as regards formal requirements for employment at EU level, as a natural corollary of the flexibility of requirements for validation of vocational training, an objective referred to in the Communication.
3. Points out that although interdisciplinary profiles - people with the ability to combine activities in different areas - are increasingly valued by employers, this is not reflected in vocational training and affects not only labour supply but also re-training and flexicurity.
4. Supports the acquisition of digital skills at an early age but draws attention to the inherent difficulties that the primary school system would face as a result of inadequate pedagogical and methodological preparation of this objective, and calls on the European Commission to initiate a joint action at EU level to respond to this common challenge and make efficient use of educational resources.
5. Supports the inclusion in the educational system of key skills for entrepreneurship and citizenship and transversal skills, but points out that training in these skills requires more than including them in the curriculum and teaching them; calls on the European Commission to better involve civil society and the business community in setting specific objectives and concrete actions to achieve these objectives.

6. Draws attention to the fact that problem-solving skills are increasingly acquired as a result of the influence of the social and economic environment and not only as a result of education, and suggests that a debate be launched on this issue.
7. Draws attention to the fact that the digital environment and the massive increase in the volume of data has created the need for digital skills structurally different from those needed five years ago, and that trainers' knowledge therefore needs to be updated: underlines the importance of digital skills (DIGICOMP) and proposes stepping up awareness of these.
8. Draws attention to the fact that digital skills currently include legal and ethical issues related to intellectual property and to identifying and addressing unlawful commercial practices involving unauthorised access to personal data of terminal device connected to the Internet or the Internet of Things.
9. Points to the discrepancy between the need to act at EU Member State level in order to achieve a certain level of digital skills and the objective of reaching a high level in these skills throughout the whole of the Union, and the failures that differences in the level of acquisition of digital skills could create in the single market, significantly affecting the free movement of workers; to this end, recommends extending the Youth Guarantee and increasing its budget.
10. Welcomes the marking panel for digital skills (an online platform available at EU level) and the related digital plans; recommends an assessment of the progress made against the indicators set out in these plans, with the European Commission of taking responsibility for the performance and result indicators related to the actions proposed to support training in digital skills.
11. Supports the objective of suitable training of young people by universities and vocational training providers, and drawing up curricula on the basis of market needs and trends in employment demands, but points out that a harmonised legal framework is needed at EU level to enable these entities to adapt their curricula rapidly to trends in the Union market.
12. Welcomes the proposed support for student mobility, enabling students to benefit from educational experiences abroad.
13. Supports the European Commission's initiative concerning the monitoring of higher education graduates in order to support the EU Member States to improve information on how graduates are evolving on the labour market, and recommends the use of this initiative in connection with information on the business environment in the Member States, labour shortages at local level and opportunities for further or additional vocational training.
14. Reiterates the importance of dialogues between public institutions and experts in the field and of the public consultations organised at EU Member State level.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 4 October 2016 in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

THE PRESIDENT

CAMEREI DEPUTAȚILOR



Florin IORDACHE

Bucharest, 4 October 2016.

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