

Statement by the Committee on Cultural Affairs

2018/19:KrU5

A New EU Youth Strategy

Summary

The Committee has examined the Commission's communication on a new EU youth strategy.

The Committee proposes that the Riksdag file the statement.

The statement contains one explanatory reservation from the Sweden Democrats.

The examined document

Communication from the Commission Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy (COM(2018) 269 final).

The position of the Committee

The Committee is positive to the new youth strategy which aims to give young women and men more power over their own lives, encourage young people to be active citizens, prevent social exclusion among young people and ensure that political decisions affect young people in a more positive direction. These are values that are extremely important, particularly in a rapidly changing world with differing challenges as regards youth policy.

In light of this, the Committee would like to recall that the Swedish objectives for national youth policy that state that all young people should have good living conditions, power to shape their lives and be able to influence developments in society (Government bill 2013/14:191, Committee Report 2013/14:KrU9 Parliamentary Communication 2013/14:354). The Committee would like to particularly emphasise how important it is for young people to establish themselves in the labour market, particularly young people with more limited potential. The Committee further shares the view concerning the importance of a clear connection to the EU's eleven youth goals, particularly in order to enable adequate follow-up to be made of the efforts that have been made within the framework of the strategy.

In summary, the Committee is positive to the new common strategy for youth issues to coordinate intergovernmental efforts which, in the view of the Committee, can provide added value at the national level and which would otherwise perhaps not have been possible. The strategy can simplify the exchange of good examples and experiences within the area of youth policy among the member states. However, the Committee wishes to emphasise the fact that the EU, according to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, only has a supporting competence in youth policy and that this should not entail any harmonisation of the regulatory frameworks of the member states.

The Committee proposes that the statement be filed.