

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Culture and Education

2005/2082(INI)

26.1.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on International Trade

on Transatlantic economic relations
(2005/2082(INI))

Draftswoman: Marie-Hélène Descamps

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that the 'cultural key' can help to enhance transatlantic relations and thus serve to foster partnership and mutual comprehension between Europeans and Americans;
2. Calls on the European and American partners to take account, in their economic relations, of the role and special features of the culture and education sectors;
3. Calls, therefore, for the establishment of a transatlantic dialogue on the subject of culture (including the audiovisual sector) and education which will encourage regular exchanges of good practice and past experience, particularly with regard to:
 - action to combat piracy and forgery,
 - introducing better legal methods of distributing audio and audiovisual content over the Internet and ensuring their compatibility with copyright and authors' rights and remuneration,
 - awareness of the American and European cinematic heritage - especially awareness of European films in America, where they are less widely shown - as a means of promoting mutual understanding;
 - measures to promote more balanced film distribution and prevent unfair competition or abuse of a dominant market position in certain markets within the European Union together with the removal of any de jure or de facto barriers to the distribution of European audiovisual material in the United States;
 - the establishment of suitable mechanisms to develop and strengthen cultural tourism between the two continents,
4. With regard to education calls for the dialogue to focus, in particular, on:
 - enhancing mutual recognition of professional qualifications, particularly in the arts disciplines, with a view to facilitating the mobility of 'cultural actors' and exchanges of artists and performers,
 - promoting research and exchanges by university teachers, research staff and students in fields which help to consolidate economic and scientific relations between the European Union and the United States, bearing in mind in particular their cooperation programme in higher education and vocational education and training¹;
 - awareness of the importance of a knowledge-based society and the consolidation of

¹ OJ L71 of 13.3.2001, p.8

life-long learning;

5. Mindful of Articles 133(5) and 151 of the EC Treaty, considers that the special nature of the audiovisual sector makes it essential for transatlantic exchanges to take place on the basis of respect for the European Union's cultural and linguistic diversity;
6. Calls for the implementation of suitable measures to promote cultural diversity and step up exchanges, in accordance with Articles 133(6) and 151(4) of the EC Treaty.
7. Calls on the European Institutions to raise the awareness of their American partner regarding measures by the European Union in support of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

PROCEDURAL PAGE

Title	Transatlantic economic relations
Procedural number	2005/2082(INI)
Committee responsible	INTA
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	CULT 9.6.2005
Enhanced cooperation - date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Marie-Hélène Descamps 16.6.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	23.11.2005 29.11.2005
Date adopted	23.1.2006
Result of final vote	+: 25 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Christopher Beazley, Ivo Belet, Giovanni Berlinguer, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Jolanta Dičkutė, Milan Gaľa, Claire Gibault, Vasco Graça Moura, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Bernat Joan i Mari, Manolis Mavrommatis, Doris Pack, Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, Christa Prets, Matteo Salvini, Pál Schmitt, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Hannu Takkula, Henri Weber, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emine Bozkurt, Alejandro Cercas, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Catherine Trautmann, Jaroslav Zvěřina
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...