

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Date: Wednesday 16 June 2004

Time: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Venue: Committee Rooms 1, National Assembly Building

European Union Documents: April 2004 – June 2004

Purpose

1. To consider recent European Union (EU) documents related to the ELL portfolio deposited in the UK Parliament.

Background

2. Scrutinising EU documents deposited in the UK Parliament is a new regular item for the Committee, following agreement by the Panel of Chairs of a system for more proactive scrutiny of European legislation by subject committees.

3. At its meeting on 25 February 2004, the Committee agreed to consider EU deposited documents at alternate meetings. This information is provided by the Members' Research Service.

Deposited Documents

4. Details of four EU documents deposited in the UK Parliament between 19 April 2004 and 8 June 2004, considered to be of interest, are attached.

5. Members may wish to seek information from the Minister on the likely impact of these proposals in Wales and whether the Assembly Government has scope to influence the proposals. The Committee may wish to identify for future scrutiny those items where there is scope for influence, with a view to making representations to the Assembly Government, UK Government and/or European Commission.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is invited to consider the attached documents and seek further information from the Minister about the implications of the proposals for Wales. Where there is scope to influence, the Committee may wish to identify items for future scrutiny.

Peter Black AM

Committee Chair Contact: Chris Reading, Committee Clerk

ELL Committee - To note for information

This paper describes and summarises the main points of each of the following European proposals deposited in the UK Parliament between 14 April 2004 and 8 June 2004

Title	Commentary
<p>COM(2004) 337 final - Communication from the Commission to the Council:</p> <p>Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth. Proposed common objectives for voluntary activities among young people in response to the Council Resolution of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European co-operation in the youth field</p> <p>EU Ref: 9182/04</p> <p>http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004_0337en01.pdf</p> <p>Date of Deposit: 12/5/2004</p>	<p>In November 2001, the European Commission published a White Paper "A New Impetus for European Youth" which set out the challenges and policy considerations for a coherent youth policy. The White Paper proposed a new framework to strengthen European co-operation between Member States and to recognise the needs of young people in policy developments. Four thematic priorities were identified in the White Paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participation *Information *Voluntary activities *Greater Understanding of Youth
<p>COM(2004) 336 final - Communication from the Commission to the Council:</p> <p>Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth. Proposed common objectives for a greater understanding and knowledge of youth, in response to the Council Resolution of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European co-operation in the youth field</p> <p>EU Ref: 9183/04</p>	<p>Common objectives on participation by and information for young people were agreed in November 2003. The Commission are now proposing common objectives for voluntary activities among young people and a greater understanding of youth.</p> <p>Commission proposal for common objectives on voluntary activities among young people.</p> <p>The proposal suggests that the council should adopt the "global objective" of "encouraging voluntary activities amongst young people in order to develop</p>

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2004/com2004_0336en01.pdf

Date of Deposit: 12/5/2004

active citizenship." It then proposes four "sub-objectives" in order to achieve this -

* Improve visibility of youth voluntary activities in order to encourage more applications and improve quality

*Facilitate the participation of young people in volunteering by removing existing obstacles

*Promote voluntary activities in order to encourage citizenship

*Guarantee formal recognition of youth voluntary activities.

The proposal suggests "lines of action" which could be pursued by the Commission and/or Member States to achieve these four goals.

Commission proposal for common objectives on greater knowledge and understanding of young people

The Commission suggests that the Council should adopt the "global objective" of "developing knowledge in order to anticipate the future needs of young people". It proposes four "sub objectives" in order to achieve this -

*Identify existing knowledge in the areas of youth participation, information and voluntary activities

*Identify existing knowledge in other areas of youth policy e.g. discrimination and education and training, employment, health

*Ensure quality and comparability of knowledge of youth policy

*Promote exchange of information on youth policy

The proposal suggests "lines of action" which could be pursued by the Commission and/or Member States to achieve these four goals.

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the

recognition of professional qualifications

- Consolidated and annotated text

EU Ref: 8726/04

[http://www.wales.gov.uk/
keypubassemeuropeancomm2/content/
euleg040504/8726-04.pdf](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubassemeuropeancomm2/content/euleg040504/8726-04.pdf)

Date of Deposit: 5/5/2004

COM(2004) 317 final – Amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications.

EU Ref: 8722/04

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/
com2004_0317en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2004/com2004_0317en01.pdf)

Date of Deposit: 27/4/2004

AIM OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

* Consolidation of the 15 existing Directives on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications

* Contribution to the flexibility of labour markets, particularly by facilitating the provision of services.

* Simplification of the existing rules regarding the recognition of professional qualifications and the administration of the recognition system

* Better administration and improved information and advice for citizens.

This concerns amendments to a proposal originally concerning certain craft, industrial and commercial activities, doctors, nurses responsible for general care, dental practitioners, veterinary surgeons, midwives, pharmacists and architects.