

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS
OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

of 14 December 2000

concerning an action plan for mobility

(2000/C 371/03)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL;

CONVINCED that the construction of a genuine European area of knowledge is a priority for the European Community and that it is through education that Europeans will acquire the shared cultural references that are the basis of European citizenship and of a political Europe.

SURE that this belief is based on mutual discovery of our diversity and complementarity and involves increased personal contacts and exchange of knowledge and experience.

CONVINCED, that it is therefore essential to target intelligible action, shared by all of the Member States, at young people, schoolchildren, students, researchers, all those being educated and their teachers; that it is by building the Europe of intelligence that we will bring about a true feeling of being part of Europe.

AWARE that the Europe of knowledge is also an economic necessity; that in an internationalised economy increasingly founded on knowledge, openness to foreign cultures and the ability to educate oneself and work in a multilingual environment are essential to the competitiveness of the European economy.

CONVINCED that increasing the mobility of young people, schoolchildren, students, researchers, all those being educated and their teachers in Europe is thus a major political goal and that it requires simultaneous commitment and effort by the European Community and the Member States.

NOTE that to attain this goal Europe already has a wealth of resources: the Community's Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth programmes represent appreciable progress and play an essential role which will increase with the second generation of programmes.

CONVINCED that this progress must be taken further; that even if the number of people choosing mobility is on the increase, it is still small; that, for example, among students it concerns only a small percentage; that substantial obstacles remain: unequal access to information, obstacles of a financial nature, administrative difficulties as regards tax and social benefits,

complex residence procedures, disadvantages in terms of status and career.

NOTE that the Extraordinary European Council in Lisbon of 23 and 24 March 2000 recognised the urgency of removing obstacles and promoting mobility and that, in its conclusions, it invited the Council and Commission to define 'by the end of 2000, the means for fostering the mobility of students, teachers and training and research staff both through making the best use of existing Community programmes, by removing obstacles and through greater transparency in the recognition of qualifications and periods of study and training' (paragraph 26).

UNDERTAKE, to meet the great expectations of their fellow citizens, that with the support of the Commission, each in its field, and in full compliance with the principle of subsidiarity it will take the steps necessary to remove obstacles to mobility and to promote it.

CONSIDER that this Resolution, far from prejudging the substantial amount of work already done by the Commission and the Council towards providing a suitable legal framework for promoting mobility and in particular the proposal for a Recommendation on mobility which it is hoped will be adopted soon aims, on the contrary, to facilitate the implementation of Community initiatives in this area by suggesting possible specific initiatives. These initiatives will be implemented in close cooperation with all the participants and institutions concerned, in particular universities, whose participation is a key to success.

WELCOME the mobility action plan set out in the Annex which was submitted to the Ministers for Education at the Sorbonne on 30 September 2000. That plan has three major objectives:

- to define and democratise mobility in Europe;
- to promote appropriate forms of funding;
- to increase mobility and improve the conditions for it.

The measures mentioned in the Action Plan are conceived as a 'toolbox' of 42 measures divided into four main chapters which, in their individual scope and combination, are designed to identify and deal with the obstacles encountered by those who, no matter where, seek to implement a mobility measure.

The first chapter concerns actions to promote mobility through measures to train people who help to implement mobility, to develop multilingual skills and to access useful information.

The second chapter covers the funding of mobility and seeks to identify a series of measures that will mobilise all possible financial resources.

The third chapter aims to increase and improve mobility by multiplying the forms that it may take and by improving reception facilities and the organisation of timetables.

Lastly, the fourth chapter describes measures to make the most of periods of mobility and gain recognition of the experience acquired.

CONVINCED that if all Member States, with the assistance of the Commission, make use on a voluntary basis of those actions which they consider will best enable the obstacles encountered by those requesting mobility in their countries to be overcome, all agree from the outset that the following measures in the action plan are of particular importance:

- developing multilingualism,
- establishment of a portal giving access to the different European sources of information on mobility,
- recognition of periods of mobility in diploma courses,
- training of the teachers and administrative staff involved to become true mobility organisers able to provide advice and guidance and draft mobility projects,

— definition and adoption of a quality charter on reception facilities for foreign nationals on training courses,

— drawing up of an inventory of existing mobility circuits and good practices, exchanges of students, trainees and trainers,

— creating linkage between mobility funding from the Union, the Member States and local authorities, the public sector and the private sector.

PROPOSE that, as part of rolling programming instituted by the Council in its Resolution of 17 December 1999 ⁽¹⁾ and for the sake of regular assessment of progress in achieving the targets set, the Council, in collaboration with the other European institutions concerned, regularly take stock of the situation, in principle every two years.

RECALL that the plan also identifies measures of broader scope coming under larger-scale coordination within each Member State and between the Commission and the Member States' administrations.

In accordance with the conclusions of the Extraordinary European Council in Lisbon, this Resolution is submitted to the European Council in Nice.

⁽¹⁾ Council Resolution of 17 December 1999 on 'Into the new millennium': developing new working procedures for European cooperation in the field of education and training (OJ C 8, 12.1.2000, p. 6).

ANNEX

MOBILITY ACTION PLAN

Objectives and measures proposed

A. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Central objective	Adopt a European mobility strategy	Implementation
measure A	Define: establishment of a common definition of the concept of mobility and the target groups concerned — age, circuit, geographical scope, length of stay	Commission, Member States
measure B	Democratise: democratisation of access to mobility measures	Member States

B. PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES

I. PROMOTING MOBILITY IN EUROPE

Objective 11	Train people to act as contacts for mobility in Europe	Implementation
measure 111	Proper guidance: preparation of teachers and the relevant administrative staff to become mobility organisers, able to provide advice and guidance and draft mobility projects: training on the mobility circuits, the different education systems in the Union, the rights of those opting for mobility	Commission, Member States
measure 112	More exchanges: development of exchanges between mobility organisers from the countries taking part in Community programmes	Member States
measure 113	More resources: encouragement of educational establishments and universities to devote more resources to international relations in order to cope with the new demands of mobility	Member States

Objective 12	Develop multilingualism	Implementation
measure 121	Specific training: promotion of training in the relevant foreign language and culture before and during the mobility period, making use of the public sector and of private initiatives	Member States
measure 122	Instructor placements: opportunity for language teachers to go on long-term training placements abroad	Member States
measure 123	Exchange of good practice: exchange of good language-teaching practice, particularly as regards vocational or adult courses	Commission, Member States
measure 124	Common indicators: use of common indicators to evaluate the language skills of pupils, students and trainees	Commission, Member States
measure 125	Quality commitment: follow up to the Council Resolution of 31 March 1995 on improving and diversifying language learning and teaching within the education systems of the European Union (OJ C 207, 12.8.1995, p. 1)	Commission, Member States

Objective 13	Make it easier to find information on mobility	Implementation
measure 131	A 'mobility' portal site: creation of a portal site providing access to the various European sources of information on mobility	Commission, Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth
measure 132	Ad hoc forums: introduction in educational establishments and universities of electronic chat rooms for mobility organisers, students, trainees and young volunteers to exchange information	Commission, Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth

Objective 14	Draw up a mobility chart	Implementation
measure 141	Identification of circuits: joint definition of a methodology enabling each Member State which so wishes gradually to compile reliable statistics on mobility and make as full as possible an inventory of the student, trainee and instructor exchange circuits	Commission, Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth
measure 142	Programme awareness: creation of a database of all the bilateral or multilateral mobility programmes operating in Europe, perhaps limited to public programmes	Commission, Member States
measure 143	Advertising of posts: encouraging the advertising of posts for higher education teaching staff and researchers throughout the Union, using the thematic circuits, particularly EURES	Commission, Member States

II. PROMOTING THE FINANCING OF MOBILITY

Objective 21	Look into the financing of mobility: towards financial partnerships	Implementation
measure 211	A partnership framework: strengthening coordination between the various players, for example by means of a framework for partnerships: the European Union, the State, local authorities and universities, and making best use of financing	Commission, Member States
measure 212	Bigger budgets: study of possible ways of making better use of or increasing national and local mobility budgets	Member States
measure 213	Encouragement of the public sector: examine the desirability and possibility of loans at preferential rates for those intending to take a period of mobility	Member States
measure 214	Multiple partnerships: encouragement of the private sector, businesses, foundations and social partners to become involved in financing mobility (for example by means of establishing foundations, seals of approval for bank loans)	Member States, Commission
measure 215	Looking ahead: study of ways of redeploying the mobility appropriations in the Community budget and programmes when they come up for review	Commission, Member States

Objective 22	Democratise mobility by making it financially and socially accessible to all	Implementation
measure 221	An information campaign: launching of an information campaign on: — the mobility assistance available and how to apply for it; — the practical administrative aspects of mobility at the time of going abroad and during the period spent there	Commission
measure 222	Retention of benefits: assure people who take mobility that they will continue to receive the benefits provided for by national and Community provisions in force; regularly review any problems that persist and take suitable steps to remedy them	Member States
measure 223	Equal treatment: study of the possibility of offering young people opting for mobility the same preferential tariffs as young people in the host country; regularly review any problems that persist and take suitable steps to remedy them	Member States

III. INCREASING AND IMPROVING MOBILITY

Objective 31	Introduce new forms of mobility	Implementation
measure 311	Summer universities: organisation of more European summer universities for students, academic or vocational trainees and mobility organisers	Commission, Member States
measure 312	Courses on the Internet: making academic and vocational training modules available on the Internet	Commission, Member States
measure 313	Develop circuits: creation or strengthening of bilateral or multilateral exchange circuits, in particular mobility partnerships between universities	Member States

Objective 32	Improve reception facilities for people opting for mobility	Implementation
measure 321	A quality charter: definition and adoption by players of a quality charter covering reception facilities for trainees who are foreign nationals and providing in particular for the necessary means of ensuring equal reception facilities for people opting for mobility (for example one-stop information shops or free services)	Commission, Member States
measure 322	On-line information: provision of on-line information on the reception facilities for people opting for mobility	Commission, Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth

Objective 33	Simplify the mobility calendar	Implementation
measure 331	Clear dates: wide dissemination of information on university calendars and school years	Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth
measure 332	A European calendar: with due regard to the autonomy of universities, drafting of a European academic calendar showing the core periods of term time, and in appropriate cases concentration of mobility training modules in those periods	Commission, Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth
measure 333	Adoption of semesters: study of the possibility of dividing the university year into semesters and of enrolling and paying fees by semester	Member States

Objective 34	A proper status for people opting for mobility	Implementation
measure 341	Mobility as a priority: declaration by the relevant authorities that mobility is a priority which will ultimately become an important component of instruction given or received by students and trainees, by teachers right through from primary to higher education, and by instructors	Member States
measure 342	A specific youth card: creation of a European card for young people opting for mobility	Commission, Member States
measure 343	Mobility for teachers undergoing training: opportunity for teachers to take all or part of their initial or continuing training in another Member State	Member States
measure 344	One status for all: examine the possibility of extending the current higher-education post of associate member of the teaching staff to other levels and to other circuits of education, in Member States where it seems appropriate to do so	Member States

IV. GAINING MORE FROM PERIODS OF MOBILITY

Objective 41	Increase crossover opportunities by developing the system of recognition and equivalence of diplomas and training	Implementation
measure 411	Equivalence: encouragement for all universities to generalise systems of diploma equivalence, the European Community Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS), the Sorbonne and Bologna process particularly via the European Network of National Information Centres on academic mobility and recognition (ENIC network) and the National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC)	Commission, Member States, National Agencies for Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth
measure 412	An addendum: generalisation of academic and vocational diploma supplements to make them recognisable in all Member States	Member States

Objective 42	Recognise the experience acquired	Implementation
measure 421	Recognised experience: issue by the relevant authorities of the host State of a document certifying the skills acquired during the period of mobility, with particular reference to languages, and taking into account by the relevant authorities of the country of origin of periods of study or training successfully completed abroad	Member States
measure 422	An ad hoc document: generalisation of the Europass training ⁽¹⁾	Commission, Member States
measure 423	Voluntary work: taking into account of voluntary work in the Member State of origin	Member States

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision of 21 December 1998 on the promotion of European partnerships in work-linked training, including apprenticeship (OJ L 17, 22.1.1999, p. 45).

Objective 43	Gain more from periods of mobility	Implementation
measure 431	Professional incentives: examine the desirability and possibilities in national law and practice of making the best use of the experience gained by teaching staff who have taken a period of mobility	Member States
measure 432	Suitable methodology: devise a methodology for measuring the professional impact of periods of mobility	Commission, Member States