

DECISIONS ADOPTED JOINTLY BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

DECISION No 1357/2008/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 December 2008 amending Decision No 1720/2006/EC establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning (Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Articles 149(4) and 150(4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Decision No 1720/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 ⁽³⁾ established the action programme in the field of lifelong learning for the period 2007 to 2013.
- (2) Article 9(2) of Decision No 1720/2006/EC stipulates that measures necessary for the implementation of the programme other than those listed in paragraph 1 are to be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10(3) of that Decision, namely in accordance with the advisory procedure established by Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission ⁽⁴⁾.
- (3) This wording of Decision No 1720/2006/EC results in particular in selection decisions other than those referred to in Article 9(1) of that Decision being subject to the advisory procedure and to the European Parliament's right of scrutiny.

(4) These procedural requirements add two to three months to the process of awarding grants to applicants. They cause many delays for recipients, place a disproportionate burden on the programme's administration and provide no added value given the nature of the grants awarded.

(5) In order to allow selection decisions to be implemented more quickly and efficiently, it is necessary to replace the advisory procedure with an obligation on the Commission to inform the European Parliament and the Member States without delay about any measures taken for the implementation of Decision No 1720/2006/EC without the assistance of a committee,

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Decision No 1720/2006/EC is amended as follows:

1. Article 9(2) shall be replaced by the following:

'2. The Commission shall inform the Committee referred to in Article 10 and the European Parliament of all other selection decisions it has taken for the implementation of this Decision within two working days of the adoption of the decisions in question. This information shall include descriptions and an analysis of the applications received, a description of the assessment and selection procedure, and lists of both the projects proposed for funding and those rejected.'

2. Article 10(3) shall be deleted.

Article 2

The Commission shall report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the impact of this Decision by 30 June 2010.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 224, 30.8.2008, p. 115.

⁽²⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament of 2 September 2008 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and Council Decision of 20 November 2008.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 327, 24.11.2006, p. 45.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Strasbourg, 16 December 2008.

For the European Parliament
The President
H.-G. PÖTTERING

For the Council
The President
B. LE MAIRE
