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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014
	- Outcome of the European Parliament's first reading,
	(Strasbourg, 11 to 14 March 2019)

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapporteur, Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ (EPP, CZ), presented a report on the proposal for a Regulation on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education. The Committee on Culture and Education submitted one hundred fifty-nine amendments to the proposal for a Regulation (amendments 1-10, 12-15, 17, 19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-47, 49-52, 54-56, 58, 61-62, 64-68, 70-83, 85-86, 92-112, 114-117, 119-159, 53, 57, 59, 60, 63, 69, 84, 87-91, 113, 118, 11, 16, 18, 20, 24, 32, 48). In addition:

• the EUL/NGL political group submitted seventeen amendment (amendments 197, 198, 199, 191D, 200, 201, 202, 192, 203, 187, 188, 193, 194, 189, 195, 196, 190D);

7351/19 ED/ev

GIP.2 EN

- the EFDD political group submitted twenty-seven amendments (amendments 172, 173, 174D, 175D, 176, 177D, 178, 179, 180D, 182D, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167D, 168, 169, 170D, 171);
- the DEVE Committee submitted ten amendments (amendments 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 204, 205, 206, 207)

II. VOTE

When it voted on 12 March, the plenary adopted amendments 1-10, 12-15, 17, 19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-47, 49-52, 54-56, 58, 61-62, 64-68, 70-83, 85-86, 92-112, 114-117, 119-159, 53, 57, 59, 60, 63, 69, 84, 87-91, 113, 118, 11, 16, 18, 20, 24, 32, 48 to the proposal for a Regulation.

The Commission's proposal as thus amended constitutes the Parliament's first-reading position which is contained in its legislative resolution as set out in the Annex hereto¹.

7351/19 ED/ev 2 GIP.2 EN

The version of the Parliament's position in the legislative resolution has been marked up to indicate the changes made by the amendments to the Commission's proposal. Additions to the Commission's text are highlighted in *bold and italics*. The symbol " indicates deleted text.

European Solidarity Corps programme ***I

European Parliament legislative resolution of 12 March 2019 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme and repealing [European Solidarity Corps Regulation] and Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 (COM(2018)0440 – C8-0264/2018 – 2018/0230(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0440),
- having regard to Article 294(2) and Articles 165(4), 166(4) and 214(5) of the Treaty on the
 Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal
 to Parliament (C8-0264/2018),
- having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 17 October 2018²,
- having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 6 December 2018³,
- having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education and the opinions of the Committee on Development, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Regional Development (A8-0079/2019),
- 1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;

² OJ C 62, 15.2.2019, p. 201.

³ OJ C 86, 7.3.2019, p. 282.

- 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. This common value guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Amendment

(1) The European Union is built on solidarity, among its citizens and among its Member States. This common value, enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union, guides its actions and provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future societal challenges, which young Europeans are willing to help address by expressing their solidarity in practice.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Given the significant increase in humanitarian crises and global

emergencies, and with a view to enhancing the promotion of solidarity and the visibility of humanitarian aid among Union citizens, there is a need to develop solidarity between Member States and with third countries affected by man-made or natural disasters.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1b) Humanitarian aid is based on the principles of impartiality, neutrality and non-discrimination, which are embedded in international humanitarian law and Union law. Humanitarian aid provides a needs-based emergency response aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering, maintaining human dignity and providing protection for vulnerable groups affected by man-made or natural disasters. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness through capacity and resilience building activities are also essential elements of humanitarian aid.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

In its Communication 'A European Solidarity Corps' of 7 December 2016¹⁸, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

Amendment

In its Communication 'A European Solidarity Corps' of 7 December 2016¹⁸, the Commission emphasised the need to strengthen the foundations for solidarity work across Europe, to provide young people with more and better opportunities for solidarity activities covering a broad range of areas, and to support national, regional and local actors, in their efforts to cope with different challenges and crises. The Communication launched a first phase of the European Solidarity Corps whereby different Union programmes were mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job opportunities to young people across the Union.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Within the context of this Regulation, solidarity is understood as a sense of responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone to commit oneself to the common good, which is expressed through concrete actions without consideration of return service.

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

¹⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Solidarity Corps (COM(2016)0942 final).

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4b) Providing assistance to people and communities outside the Union which are confronted with disasters or which are particularly vulnerable to disasters and in need of humanitarian aid, based on the fundamental principles of neutrality, humanity, independence and impartiality, is an important expression of solidarity.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4c) Participating volunteers and organisations implementing actions under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps should abide by the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4d) There is a need to further develop solidarity with victims of crises and disasters in third countries and to raise both awareness levels and the visibility of humanitarian aid and volunteering in general as a lifelong activity among Union citizens.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4e) The Union and the Member States have committed to implement the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals thereof, both internally and through external actions.

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4f) In its conclusions of 19 May 2017 on operationalising the humanitarian-development nexus, the Council recognised the need to strengthen resilience by better linking humanitarian assistance and development cooperation and to further strengthen the operational links between the complementary approaches of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and conflict prevention.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers.

Amendment

(5) Young people should be provided with easily accessible, *inclusive and meaningful* opportunities to engage in solidarity activities, which could enable them to express their commitment to the benefit of communities while acquiring useful experience, *knowledge*, skills and competences for their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, thereby improving their employability. Those activities should also support the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and workers *and a multicultural exchange*.

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality, *in the sense that* they should *respond to* unmet societal needs, contribute to strengthening communities, offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge and competences, be financially accessible to young people, and be implemented in safe and healthy conditions.

Amendment

The solidarity activities offered to young people should be of high quality; they should aim to tackle unmet societal needs, enhance solidarity and contribute to strengthening communities and democratic participation. They should offer young people the opportunity to acquire valuable knowledge skills and competences. *They should* be financially accessible to young people and be implemented in safe, *inclusive* and healthy conditions. Dialogue with local and regional authorities and European networks specialised in urgent social problems should be encouraged in order to best determine unmet societal needs and ensure a needs-oriented programme. Solidarity activities should not have a negative impact on existing jobs or traineeships and should contribute to reinforcing the corporate social responsibility commitments of companies, while not replacing them.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity

Amendment

(7) The European Solidarity Corps provides a single entry point for solidarity

activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service¹⁹ and the EU Aid Volunteers²⁰. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-towork transition under the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network, are also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate.

activities throughout the Union and beyond. Consistency and complementarity should be ensured with other relevant Union policies and programmes. The European Solidarity Corps is built on the strengths and synergies of predecessor and existing programmes, notably the European Voluntary Service¹⁹ and the EU Aid Volunteers²⁰. It also complements the efforts made by Member States to support young people and ease their school-towork transition under schemes such as the Youth Guarantee by providing them with additional opportunities to make a start on the labour market in the form of traineeships or jobs in solidarity-related areas within their respective Member State or across borders. Complementarity with existing Union level networks pertinent to the activities under the European Solidarity Corps, such as the European Network of Public Employment Services, EURES and the Eurodesk network and relevant civil society organisations, including social partners and networks representing young people and volunteers, is also ensured. Furthermore, complementarity between existing related schemes, in particular national solidarity schemes, such as volunteering, civil service and mobility schemes for young people, and the European Solidarity Corps should be ensured, building on good practices where appropriate, to mutually enhance and enrich the impact and qualities of such schemes and build upon good practices. The European Solidarity Corps should not substitute national schemes. Access for all young people to national solidarity activities should be ensured. The Commission should develop practical guidelines on the complementarity of the programme with other union Programmes and sources of funding and on synergies between them.

7351/19 ED/ev 11 ANNEX GIP.2 EN

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing

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'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1-17).

'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 50–73).

²⁰ Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps ('EU Aid Volunteers initiative') (OJ L 122, 24.4.2014, p. 1-17).

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The certification of sending and hosting organisations, carried out in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 375/2014, should not be duplicated under the Programme and equivalence should be recognised when implementing this Regulation from 2021 onwards.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in solidarity-related areas as well

Amendment

(9) The European Solidarity Corps opens up new *non-formal and informal learning* opportunities for young people to carry out volunteering, traineeship or job activities in

7351/19 ED/ev 12 ANNEX GIP.2 EN as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact.

solidarity-related areas as well as to devise and develop solidarity projects based on their own initiative. These opportunities contribute to enhancing their personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. The European Solidarity Corps also supports networking activities for European Solidarity Corps participants and organisations as well as measures to ensure the quality of the supported activities and to enhance the validation of their learning outcomes. It will thus also contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and raising awareness of its positive impact. It should also contribute to strengthening communities and supporting existing organisations that implement solidarity actions.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) These activities should be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship -, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and nature protection, climate action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and non-food items. health and wellbeing, creativity and

Amendment

(10) These activities should *have a clear* European added value and be to the benefit of communities while also fostering the individual's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development. It should be possible for those activities to take the form of volunteering, traineeships and jobs, projects or networking activities, developed in relation to different areas, such as education and training, employment, gender equality, entrepreneurship – in particular social entrepreneurship -, citizenship and democratic participation, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, social inclusion, inclusion of people with disabilities, environment and nature protection, climate

culture, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before, during and after the solidarity activity.

action, disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery, agriculture and rural development, provision of food and nonfood items, health and wellbeing, culture, including cultural heritage, creativity, physical education and sport, social assistance and welfare, reception and integration of third-country nationals, with a focus on overcoming the challenges faced by migrants, territorial cooperation and cohesion, and cooperation across borders. Such solidarity activities should include a solid learning and training dimension through relevant activities that can be offered to participants before. during and after the solidarity activity.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship and employability. Volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Amendment

(11) Volunteering activities (both within and beyond the Union) constitute a rich experience in a non-formal and informal learning context which enhances young people's personal, socio-educational and professional development, active citizenship, democratic participation and employability. Volunteering should be based on a written volunteering agreement and volunteering activities should not have an adverse effect on potential or existing paid employment, nor should they be seen as a substitute for it. The Commission and the Member States should cooperate regarding volunteering policies in the youth field via the open method of coordination.

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Traineeships and jobs in solidarityrelated areas can offer additional opportunities for young people to make a start on the labour market while contributing to addressing key societal challenges. This can help foster the employability and productivity of young people while easing their transition from education to employment, which is key to enhancing their chances on the labour market. The traineeship activities offered under the European Solidarity Corps follow the *quality* principles outlined in Council Recommendation on *establishing* a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. *The* traineeships and jobs *offered* constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market and are accompanied by adequate post-activity support. The traineeship and job activities are facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, and are remunerated by the participating organisation. As participating organisations, they should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors.

Amendment

(12) *Easily accessible* traineeships and jobs should be clearly separated from volunteering, both from a financial and an organisational point of view. Traineeships should never lead to job substitution. Paid traineeships and jobs, however, can represent an incentive for disadvantaged young people and young people with fewer opportunities to participate in solidarity-related activities that they might not otherwise be able to access while giving a clear European added value in contributing to addressing key unmet social challenges and to strengthening local communities. Traineeships can ease the transition of young people from education to employment and can help foster the employability of young people, which is key to achieving their sustainable integration into the labour market. The traineeships and jobs offered constitute a stepping stone for young people to enter the labour market. *Traineeships and jobs* offered under the European Solidarity Corps should always be paid by the participating organisation hosting or employing the participant. Traineeships should be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable law of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and should follow the principles outlined in the Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships²¹. *Jobs should be based on* an employment contract in accordance with the national law or applicable collective agreements, or both, of the

participating country where the job is being carried out. Financial support to participating organisations offering jobs should not exceed twelve months. The participating organisations should apply for funding via the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps in view of intermediating between the young participants and employers offering traineeship and job activities in solidarity sectors. Traineeships and jobs should be accompanied by adequate preparation, on-the-job training and post-placement support in relation to the participation of the participant. Traineeships and jobs could be facilitated by relevant labour market actors, in particular public and private employment services, social partners and Chambers of Commerce, as well as the member organisations of EURES, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{21a} in the case of cross-border activities.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

²¹ Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1).

²¹ Council Recommendation of 10 March 2014 on a Quality Framework for Traineeships (OJ C 88, 27.3.2014, p. 1).

^{21a} Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets, and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 107, 22.4.2016, p. 1).

Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Efforts should be made to ensure that traineeships and jobs are open to the participation of all young people, in particular to young people with fewer opportunities, including young people with disabilities, social or cultural disadvantages, migrants and residents in isolated rural areas and the outermost regions of the Union.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment or setting up associations, non-governmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and youth sectors.

Amendment

(13) Young people's spirit of initiative is an important asset for society and for the labour market. The European Solidarity Corps contributes to fostering this aspect by offering young people the opportunity to devise and implement their own projects aimed at addressing specific challenges to the benefit of their local communities. These projects are an opportunity to try out ideas to develop innovative solutions to common challenges through a bottom-up approach and support young people to be themselves drivers of solidarity actions. They also serve as a springboard for further engagement in solidarity activities and are a first step towards encouraging European Solidarity Corps participants to engage in self-employment and continue to be active citizens either as volunteers, trainees or as employees in associations, nongovernmental organisations or other bodies active in the solidarity, non-profit and

youth sectors. The European Solidarity Corps should essentially create an atmosphere in which young people are increasingly motivated to engage in solidarity activities and serve the public interest.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) Volunteers can contribute to strengthening the Union's capacity to provide needs-based and principled humanitarian aid and can contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the humanitarian sector where they are adequately selected, trained and prepared for deployment so as to ensure that they have the necessary skills and competences to help people in need in the most effective way, and provided that they can count on sufficient on-site support and supervision. Therefore, highly skilled, highly trained and experienced coaches or mentors on the ground play an important role in contributing to the effectiveness of the humanitarian response as well as towards supporting volunteers.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of useful practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect feedback from participants and participating organisations on the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(14) Young people and organisations participating in the European Solidarity Corps should feel that they belong to a community of individuals and entities committed to enhancing solidarity across Europe. At the same time, participating organisations need support to strengthen their capacities to offer good quality activities to an increasing number of participants. The European Solidarity Corps supports networking activities aimed at strengthening young people and participating organisations' engagement in this community, at fostering a European Solidarity Corps spirit, as well as at encouraging the exchange of best practices and experience. These activities also contribute to raising awareness about the European Solidarity Corps among public and private actors as well as to collect detailed and meaningful feedback from participants and participating organisations on various stages of the implementation of the European Solidarity Corps. *Feedback* should include questions regarding the Programme's objectives in order to better evaluate their fulfilment.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) Ensuring successful implementation of the Programme requires increased visibility and awareness and further promoting the funding opportunities available through information campaigns,

including an annual European Solidarity Corps Information Day, and dynamic means of communication, with a strong focus on social media, ensuring the largest possible awareness among the target groups, both individuals and organisations.

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of the activities and other opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering training, language support, insurance, administrative and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Security and safety of the *volunteers* remain of paramount importance and volunteers should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and non-international armed conflicts.

Amendment

(15) Particular attention should be given to ensuring the quality of, and the aim of inclusiveness to be achieved through, the activities and *the* opportunities offered under the European Solidarity Corps, in particular by offering adequate online or offline training, language support, reasonable accommodation, insurance, simplified administrative procedures and pre- and post-activity support to participants as well as the validation of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired through their European Solidarity Corps experience. Support measures should be developed and provided in collaboration with youth organisations and other non-profit and civil society organisations in order to tap into their expertise in the field. Security and safety of the participants as well as of the intended beneficiaries remain of paramount importance. All activities should comply with the 'do no harm principle'. Participants should not be deployed to operations conducted in the theatre of international and noninternational armed conflicts. or to facilities that contravene international human rights standards. Activities

involving direct contact with children should be guided by the 'best interests of the child' principle and should entail, where appropriate, the carrying out of background checks on participants or the adoption of other measures with a view to ensuring the protection of children.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15a) In line with the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child (2017) and Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Union and the Member States are to promote and support the transition from institutionalisation of vulnerable people, such as persons with disabilities and children, to family and community-based care. In that context, the Programme should not support measures or initiatives that hamper the commitment to end institutionalisation or any placement that would be harmful to children or persons with disabilities.

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(15b) The Union's principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination should be fully respected at all stages of the implementation of the Programme, including the identification and selection of participants and organisations.

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²².

Amendment

(16) To ensure the impact of European Solidarity Corps activities on the personal, educational, social, cultural, civic and professional development of the participants, the knowledge, skills and competences that are the learning outcomes of the activity should be properly identified and documented, in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, as recommended in Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of non-formal and informal learning²². **To** ensure that registered candidates are offered appropriate solidarity activities, the learning outcomes of solidarity activities should be made available to them before they choose to participate. To that end, the use of effective instruments at Union and national level for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, such as Youthpass and Europass, should be encouraged, as appropriate.

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of nonformal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

²² Council Recommendation of 20 December 2012 on the validation of nonformal and informal learning (OJ C 398, 22.12.2012, p. 1–5).

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) National agencies should also encourage young volunteers to become ambassadors of the Programme in order to share their experiences through youth networks, educational establishments and workshops. Former volunteers or ambassadors could also contribute to the training of future candidates.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities during all stages of the solidarity experience. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

(17) A quality label should ensure compliance of the participating organisations with the values, principles and objectives of the Union as well as with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps, as regards their rights and responsibilities, and safety standards, during all stages of the solidarity experience, including the preactivity and post-activity phases. Obtaining a quality label is a precondition for participation but should not automatically lead to funding under the European Solidarity Corps. Quality labels should be

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed *periodically and could* be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled.

Amendment

(18) Any entity willing to participate in the European Solidarity Corps should receive a quality label provided that the appropriate conditions are fulfilled. To ensure the effective compliance of participating organisations with the principles and requirements of the European Solidarity Corps as regards their rights and responsibilities, separate quality labels should be put in place for volunteering in solidarity activities, volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations, and for traineeships and jobs, and should also vary depending on the function of the participating organisation. The process that leads to the attribution of a quality label should be carried out on a continuous basis by the implementing bodies of the European Solidarity Corps. The attributed quality label should be reassessed regularly and **should** be revoked if, in the context of the checks to be performed, the conditions that led to its attribution were found to be no longer fulfilled. The administrative process should be reduced to a minimum in order to avoid discouraging smaller organisations.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Recital 19 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19a) As a general rule, grant requests should be submitted to the national agency of the country in which the participating organisation is based. Grant requests for solidarity activities organised by Europe-wide or international organisations, solidarity activities of volunteering teams in priority fields identified at the European level, and solidarity activities in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries should be submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) established by Commission Implementing Decision 2013/776/EU^{1a}.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

^{1a} Commission Implementing Decision 2013/776/EU of 18 December 2013 establishing the 'Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency' and repealing Decision 2009/336/EC (OJ L 343, 19.12.2013, p. 46).

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity.

Amendment

(20) Participating organisations may perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they will carry out activities related to receiving the participants. including the organisation of activities and providing guidance and support to participants during the solidarity activity as well as feedback after the activity, as appropriate. In a support function they will carry out activities in relation to the sending and the preparation of participants before departure, during and after the solidarity activity, including training and guiding participants to local organisations after the activity in order to increase opportunities for further solidarity experiences. National agencies should also encourage volunteers to become ambassadors for the Programme and share personal experiences through youth networks and educational establishments, thus contributing to the promotion of the Programme. To that end, national agencies should provide volunteers with support.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(20a) In order to support solidarity activities among young people, participating organisations should be public or private entities or international organisations, non-profit or profit making, and may include youth

organisations, religious institutions and charity associations, secular humanistic organisations, NGOs or other actors from civil society. The Programme should only provide funding to cover the non-profit part of the activities of participating organisations.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) The scaling-up of European Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture.

Amendment

Solidarity Corps projects should be facilitated. At the same time, accurate and continually updated information regarding those opportunities should be provided for potential beneficiaries.

Specific measures should be put in place to help promoters of European Solidarity Corps projects to apply for grants or develop synergies through the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds and the programmes relating to migration, security, justice and citizenship, health and culture

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy access to the European

Amendment

(23) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be continuously developed in order to ensure easy, *barrier-free and user*

7351/19 ED/ev 27 ANNEX GIP.2 EN Solidarity Corps *and to provide* a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and post-activity support as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future.

friendly access to the European Solidarity Corps, in compliance with the standards established by Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a}. The European Solidarity Corps **Portal provides** a one-stop shop for both interested individuals and organisations as regards, inter alia, registration, identification and matching of profiles and opportunities, networking and virtual exchanges, online training, language and pre-activity and post-activity support, feedback and evaluation mechanism as well as other useful functionalities, which may arise in the future. While a one-stop shop provides the advantage of integrated access to diverse activities, individuals may encounter physical, social and other obstacles in accessing the European Solidarity Corps Portal. In order to overcome such obstacles, participating organisations should provide participants with registration support.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be further developed taking into account the European Interoperability Framework²³, which gives specific guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services and is implemented in the Member States and other member of

Amendment

(24) The European Solidarity Corps Portal should be further developed taking into account the European Interoperability Framework²³, which gives specific guidance on how to set up interoperable digital public services and is implemented in the Member States and other member of

^{1a} Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (OJ L 327, 2.12.2016, p. 1).

the European Economic Area through National Interoperability Frameworks. It offers public administrations 47 concrete recommendations on how to improve governance of their interoperability activities, establish cross-organisational relationships, streamline processes supporting end-to-end digital services, and ensure that both existing and new legislation do not compromise interoperability efforts.

the European Economic Area through National Interoperability Frameworks. It offers public administrations 47 concrete recommendations on how to improve governance of their interoperability activities, establish cross-organisational relationships, streamline processes supporting end-to-end digital services, and ensure that both existing and new legislation do not compromise interoperability efforts. Additionally, the Portal should be built in accordance with the standards established by Directive (EU) 2016/2102.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24a) In order to enhance the transparency of the implementation process and increase the Programme's effectiveness, the Commission should regularly consult key stakeholders, including participating organisations, on the implementation of the Programme.

²³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - European Interoperability Framework – Implementation Strategy (COM(2017) 134 final).

²³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - European Interoperability Framework – Implementation Strategy (COM(2017) 134 final).

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(24b) In order to ensure the proper functioning of the Programme and the timely deployment of the Programme's actions, it is essential that mechanisms are put in place within the Programme's work programmes to guarantee that offers are presented to registered candidates within a reasonable and relatively predictable amount of time. Periodic information and updates on available placements and actively involved participating organisations should therefore be sent to registered candidates in order to stimulate their engagement with the Programme after their registration, while also offering them the opportunity to directly get in touch with the actors involved in the field of solidarity at both the national and European level.

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation Recital 27 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(27a) The Union's principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination suggest that Union citizens and long-term residents in the Union of all walks of life and ages should be able to engage as active citizens. In view of the specific challenges of humanitarian action, participants in the EU Aid Volunteers

initiative should be at least 18 years of age and may represent a wide variety of profiles and generations whose skills are relevant to the successful conduct of such humanitarian operations.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. Special measures should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible. and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals. administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment

(28) Special attention should be given to ensuring that the activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, in particular those with fewer opportunities, as further detailed in the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy developed and applied within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. Special measures, such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised guidance, should be in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of a number of rural areas and of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. To that end, young people with fewer opportunities should, without prejudice to the possibility to participate full-time and in a country other than the country of residence, also have the possibility to participate part-time or in the country of residence, and should benefit from other measures aimed at facilitating their participation in the Programme. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper

functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. This should resolve, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits, as well as the issuing of a European Health Insurance Card in the case of cross-border activities within the European Union.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation Recital 28 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28a) Particular attention and support should be given to the capacity of hosting partner organisations in third countries and the need to embed the activities of volunteers within the local context and to facilitate volunteers' interaction with local humanitarian actors, the hosting community and civil society.

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the United Nations

Amendment

(29) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and achieve the United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of 25 % of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate action and to the achievement of an overall target of *at least* 25 % of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives *over the 2021-2027 period of the Multiannual Financial Framework, and an annual target of 30 % as soon as possible and not later than 2027*. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation Recital 30 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(30a) An adequate part of the budget should be dedicated to the exchange of best practices among Member States and the development of youth networks.

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'³¹, the Programme

Amendment

(35) In line with the Commission's communication on 'A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the Union's outermost regions'³¹, the Programme

should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

with the EU's outermost regions

(COM(2017) 623 final).

should take into account the specific situation of these regions. Measures will be taken to increase the outermost regions' participation in all actions, *including reinforced publicity*. Such measures will be monitored regularly and evaluated.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36

Text proposed by the Commission

(36) In compliance with the Financial Regulation, the Commission should adopt work programmes and inform the European Parliament and the Council thereof. The work programme should set out the measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them should be adopted by implementing acts in accordance with the examination procedure.

Amendment

(36) Given that the Programme is implemented over a seven-year period, it is necessary to provide for adequate flexibility to enable the Programme to adapt to changing realities and political priorities for the implementation of solidarity activities. As such, this Regulation does not set out in detail how the actions will be designed and it does not prejudge political priorities or respective budgetary priorities for the next seven years. Instead, the secondary policy choices and priorities, including details of specific actions, to be implemented through the different activities should be determined through an annual work programme in compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} (the Financial Regulation). The

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership

³¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment bank on A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU's outermost regions (COM(2017) 623 final).

work programme should also set out the measures needed for their implementation in line with the general and specific objectives of the Programme, the selection and award criteria for grants, as well as all other elements required. Work programmes and any amendments to them should be adopted by means of a delegated act. To ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level and ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council.

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation Recital 38

Text proposed by the Commission

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and

Amendment

(38) Appropriate outreach, publicity and dissemination of the opportunities and

^{1a} Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018).

results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, national and local level. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the Programme, *including*, when relevant, *with* the support of other key stakeholders

results of the actions supported by the Programme should be ensured at European, regional, national and local level. The Programme should be promoted through dynamic means of communication, with special focus on social media, in order to reach out to a large number of potential candidates. Special attention should be paid to social enterprises encouraging them to support the European Solidarity Corps activities. The outreach, publicity and dissemination activities should rely on all the implementing bodies of the Programme, on Union websites, Union programmes associated with the European Solidarity Corps, and should, when relevant, *involve* the support of other key stakeholders.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should *preferably* work closely together in partnership with nongovernmental organisations, youth organisations and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions

Amendment

(39) In order to better achieve the objectives of the Programme, the Commission, Member States and national agencies should preferably work closely together in partnership with nongovernmental organisations, social enterprises, youth organisations, organisations representing people with disabilities, and local stakeholders having expertise in solidarity actions, including volunteer infrastructure and support agencies such as volunteer centres.

Proposal for a regulation Recital 40

Text proposed by the Commission

(40) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, provided that these are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment

(40) In order to ensure greater efficiency in communication to the public at large and stronger synergies between the communication activities undertaken at the initiative of the Commission, the resources allocated to communication under this Regulation should also contribute to covering the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union *in a barrier-free way*, provided that these are related to the general objective of this Regulation.

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation Recital 42

Text proposed by the Commission

(42) In order to ensure sound financial management and legal certainty in each participating country, each national authority should designate an independent audit body. Where feasible, and in order to maximise efficiency, the independent audit body could be the same as the one designated for the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation].

Amendment

(42) In order to ensure sound financial management, *cost optimisation* and legal certainty in each participating country, each national authority should designate an independent audit body. Where feasible, and in order to maximise efficiency, the independent audit body could be the same as the one designated for the actions referred to in Chapter III of [New Erasmus Regulation].

Proposal for a regulation Recital 43

Text proposed by the Commission

(43) Member States should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme. This includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits. In line with Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council³², Member States are encouraged to establish fast-track admission procedures.

Amendment

(43) Member States should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the Programme. This includes resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits *and other legal difficulties that could prevent young people's access to the Programme*. In line with Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council³², Member States are encouraged to establish fast-track admission procedures.

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation Recital 45

Text proposed by the Commission

(45) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should

Amendment

deleted

³² Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

³² Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council³³.

³³ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011. Laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55 28.2.2011 p.13).

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation Recital 48

Text proposed by the Commission

(48) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³⁵. In particular, this Regulation seeks to ensure full respect for the right to equality between men and women and the right to non-discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to promote the application of Articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Amendment

(48) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³⁵. In particular, this Regulation seeks to ensure full respect for the right to equality between men and women and the right to non-discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, *socioeconomic background* and to promote the application of Articles 21 and 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

³⁵ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).

³⁵ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391).

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) 'solidarity activity' means a highquality *temporary* activity contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps, which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations;

Amendment

(1) 'solidarity activity' means a high-quality inclusive and adequately funded activity addressing important societal challenges to the benefit of a community or of society as a whole, contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps which may take the form of volunteering, traineeships, jobs, solidarity projects and networking activities in various fields, including those referred to in paragraph 13, ensuring the European added value and compliance with health and safety regulations and international human rights standards;

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) 'registered candidate' means an individual aged between 17 and 30 years and who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Amendment

(2) 'registered candidate' means an individual aged between 17 and 30 years who is legally residing in a participating country and who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal to express the interest to engage in a solidarity activity but is not yet participating in such activity;

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) 'participant' means an individual aged between 18 and 30 years, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment

(3) 'participant' means an individual aged between 18 and 30 years *who is legally residing in a participating country*, who has registered in the European Solidarity Corps Portal and *who* takes part in a solidarity activity under the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 56

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) 'young people with fewer opportunities' means young people facing some obstacles that prevent them from having effective access to opportunities under the Programme for economic, social, cultural, geographical or health reasons or for reasons such as disabilities and educational difficulties;

Amendment

(4) 'young people with fewer opportunities' means people who need additional support due to various obstacles arising from, for example disability, health problems, educational difficulties, their migrant background, cultural differences, their economic, social and geographical situation, including people from marginalised communities or at risk of facing discrimination based on any of the grounds enshrined in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) 'participating organisation' means any public or private entity, whether local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label;

Amendment

(5) 'participating organisation' means any public or private entity, whether non-profit or profit making, local, regional, national or international, that has been attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label, in a host function, in a support function, or in both functions, ensuring that the entity is able to implement the high-quality solidarity activities in accordance with the objectives of the Programme;

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) 'volunteering' means *a* solidarity activity *taking place as voluntary unpaid* activity for a period of up to 12 months;

Amendment

(6) 'volunteering' means an optional solidarity activity consisting in the performance of an activity for the public benefit that contributes to the achievement of public welfare, which a participant performs in his or her free time and of his or her free will, without an entitlement to remuneration, for a period of up to 12 months;

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) 'traineeship' means a solidarity activity for a period from *two* to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(7) 'traineeship' means a paid solidarity activity that takes the form of work practice within a participating organisation for a period from three to six months, renewable once and for a maximum duration of 12 months, that is offered and paid by the participating organisation hosting the European Solidarity Corps participant and that involves a learning component to gain relevant skills and experience;

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) 'job' means a solidarity activity for a period from 2 to 12 months, paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant;

Amendment

(8) 'job' means a decently paid solidarity activity for a period from three to 12 months, which includes a learning and training component, is based on a written agreement and is offered and paid by the participating organisation employing the European Solidarity Corps participant, not replacing or substituting an existing employment opportunity;

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 –point 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) 'solidarity project' means an unpaid in-country solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

Amendment

(9) 'solidarity project' means an unpaid in-country *or cross-border* solidarity activity for a period of up to 12 months, carried out by groups of at least five European Solidarity Corps participants, with a view to addressing key challenges within their communities while presenting a clear European added value;

Amendment 62

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) 'quality label' means the certification attributed to a participating organisation willing to provide solidarity activities under the European Solidarity Corps, in the role of a host and/or in a support function;

Amendment

(10) 'quality label' means the certification attributed, on the basis of varying specific requirements depending on the type of solidarity activity provided, to a participating organisation willing to provide solidarity activities under the European Solidarity Corps, in the role of a host and/or in a support function, that certifies that the organisation is able to ensure the quality of solidarity activities, during all stages of the solidarity experience, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Programme;

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity *and* democracy in the Union and abroad, *addressing* societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment

1. The general objective of the Programme is to promote solidarity as a value, mainly through volunteering, enhance the engagement of a generation of young people more likely to engage in solidarity activities and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities as a means to contribute to strengthening social cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and abroad, to support communities and respond to societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with particular effort to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities.

Amendment 64

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Amendment

2. The specific objective of the Programme is to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible *and inclusive* opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities *inducing positive societal changes* in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences *for personal, educational, social, cultural, civic and professional development,* as well as facilitating their *continuous engagement as active citizens,* employability and transition into the labour

market.

Amendment 65

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Feedback provided by participants and participating organisations shall also include an evaluation of the fulfilment of the Programme's objectives.

Amendment 66

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges, as referred to in Article 6;

Amendment

(a) participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges as referred to in Article 6 and efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

Amendment 67

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10.

Amendment

(b) participation of young people and people with expertise in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities (European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps) as referred to in Article 10 and actions inside and outside the Union aimed at building hosting organisations' capacity for humanitarian aid in third countries as referred to in Article 11.

Amendment 68

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The operational objectives and corresponding policy priorities of the actions to be implemented through the activities under the strands referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article shall be specified in detail in the annual work programmes to be adopted pursuant to Article 18.

Amendment 69

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8;

Amendment

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8, which shall be of high quality;

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) their *approach* to involve young people from different backgrounds;

Amendment

(d) their *inclusiveness and their effective ability* to involve young people from different backgrounds, *including young people with disabilities*;

Amendment 71

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Annual work programmes adopted pursuant to Article 18 shall include a list of activities which are potentially harmful to participants, beneficiaries and society, or inappropriate for participants, and which shall not be carried out in the framework of the Programme or which shall be subject to special training, background checks or other measures.

Amendment 72

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer *good* quality projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

Amendment

(a) reinforcing the capacities of the participating organisations to offer *high* quality, *easily accessible and adequately funded* projects to an increasing number of European Solidarity Corps participants;

Amendment 73

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and participating organisations;

Amendment

(b) attracting newcomers, both young people and *those with some experience in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and* participating organisations;

Amendment 74

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) facilitating the access of people with disabilities to all activities offered;

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities; and

Amendment

(c) providing opportunities to give feedback on solidarity activities as well as to promote the Programme as an ambassador; and

Amendment 76

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) measures to protect beneficiaries of solidarity activities, including the targeted training of participants who undertake their solidarity activities for the benefit of vulnerable groups, including children, and background checks of participants working with children;

Amendment 77

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ab) measures aimed at promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities, in particular for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, such as

appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised support;

Amendment 78

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ac) measures aimed at ensuring capacity building and administrative support for participating organisations;

Amendment 79

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the development and maintenance of *a* quality *label* for entities willing to provide solidarity activities for the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment

(b) the development and maintenance of *the* quality *labels* for entities willing to provide solidarity activities for the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 80

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of *the* European Solidarity Corps Portal and other relevant online services as well as *the* necessary IT support systems and web-based tools.

Amendment

(d) the establishment, maintenance and updating of *an accessible* European Solidarity Corps Portal *in at least all official languages of the Union* and other relevant online services as well as necessary IT support systems and webbased tools *which shall comply with the accessibility requirements of Directive* (EU) 2016/2102.

Amendment 81

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) measures to encourages social enterprises to support Programme activities or to allow employees to engage in volunteering activities in the framework of the Programme;

Amendment 82

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(db) the development of a clear and detailed procedure addressed to participants and participating organisations, establishing the steps of, and timeframes for, all phases of the

solidarity activities;

Amendment 83

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Actions implemented under the strand 'Participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges' shall in particular contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity and democracy in the Union and abroad, while also responding to societal challenges with particular effort to promote social inclusion.

Amendment

1. Actions implemented under the strand 'Participation of young people in solidarity activities addressing societal challenges' shall in particular contribute to strengthening cohesion, solidarity, *citizenship* and democracy in the Union and abroad, while also responding to societal challenges with particular effort to promote social inclusion *and equal opportunities*.

Amendment 84

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8;

Amendment

(b) traineeships and jobs, as referred to in Article 8, which shall be of high quality;

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering as referred to in Article **4.1, point (a)** shall include a learning **and** training **component**, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering as referred to in point (b) of Article 4(1) shall include a solid education and learning dimension, and online and offline training tailored to the activity in question to take place before and during the activity, shall strive for a clear impact on identified community needs shall not substitute traineeships or jobs, shall not be equated with employment and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement in accordance with relevant national law. Such an agreement shall ensure the adequate legal, social and financial protection of the participant.

Amendment 86

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Volunteering *may* take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) *or* in the country of residence of the participant (incountry).

Amendment

2. Volunteering shall as a rule take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border). Volunteering may take place in the country of residence of the participant (incountry), but shall only be open to the participation of young people with fewer opportunities and shall include the participation of participants residing in a country other than the country in which the activity is taking place.

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. A traineeship as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on a written traineeship agreement in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate, and taking into account the principles of the Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.

Amendment

A traineeship *shall* be *paid and* based on a written traineeship agreement concluded at the beginning of the traineeship in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework of the country where the traineeship takes place, as appropriate. *The traineeship agreement* shall indicate the educational objectives, the working conditions and the duration of the traineeship, the remuneration which the participant is to receive and the rights and obligations of the parties and shall take into account the principles of the **Quality Framework for Traineeships** (2014/C 88/01). Traineeships shall not substitute jobs.

Amendment 88

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. A job as referred to in Article 4.1, point (b) shall be based on an employment contract in accordance with the national regulatory framework of the participating country where the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed 12 months in cases when the duration of the employment contract exceeds 12

Amendment

2. A job shall be based on a written employment contract which respects all the terms and conditions of employment as established in the national law, applicable collective agreements, or both, of the country in which the job is being carried out. The financial support to participating organisations offering jobs shall not exceed twelve months in cases

months.

when the duration of the employment contract exceeds *twelve* months.

Amendment 89

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a learning and training component.

Amendment

3. Traineeships and jobs shall include a solid education and learning component before and during the activity, to help the participant gain relevant experience with a view to developing competences useful for the participant's personal, educational, social, civic and professional development.

Amendment 90

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Traineeships and jobs *may* take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) *or* in the country of residence of the participant (in-country).

Amendment

4. Traineeships and jobs shall as a rule take place in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border). Traineeships and jobs may take place in the country of residence of the participant (in-country), but shall only be open to the participation of young people with fewer opportunities and shall include the participation of participants residing in a country other than the country in which the activity is taking place.

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. An adequate budget shall be allocated to fund the reasonable accommodation enabling the effective participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, in accordance with Article 27 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and with Council Directive 2000/78/EC^{1a}.

Amendment 92

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Actions implemented under the strand 'European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps' shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected

Amendment

1. Actions implemented under the strand 'European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps' shall in particular contribute to providing needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity *in the context of natural or man-made disasters* and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of

Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16).

communities.

communities that are vulnerable, fragile or affected by natural or man-made disasters, and to facilitate the transition from the humanitarian response to long-term sustainable and inclusive development.

Amendment 93

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. **The actions** under this Chapter shall be carried out in compliance with the humanitarian aid principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Amendment

2. Actions under this Chapter shall be carried out in compliance with the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, promoting the fundamental humanitarian aid principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence while reiterating the Union's firm commitment to a needs-based approach, without discrimination between or within affected populations, and respecting international law.

Amendment 94

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Union's humanitarian aid is delivered in situations where other instruments related to development cooperation, crisis management and civil protection might operate. The European

Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall work in a coherent and complementary manner and avoid overlaps with relevant Union policies and instruments, in particular with the Union's humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Amendment 95

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. In promoting a coherent international response to humanitarian crises, the actions under this Chapter shall be in accordance with those coordinated by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Amendment 96

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. The European Humanitarian Aid Corps shall contribute to strengthening the gender perspective in Union humanitarian aid, promoting adequate humanitarian responses to the specific needs of women. Special attention shall be paid to cooperation with women's groups

and networks in order to promote the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian aid and to draw on their capacities and expertise to contribute to recovery, peace building, disaster risk reduction and resilience of affected communities.

Amendment 97

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. The specific terms of deployment shall be set out, in close consultation with the hosting organisations, in an agreement between the sending organisation and the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, including rights and obligations, the duration and location of deployment and the tasks to be carried out.

Amendment 98

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) solidarity projects;

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- 3a. On the basis of a prior assessment of needs in third countries, this Regulation shall support actions aimed at strengthening humanitarian aid capacity in order to enhance local preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and to ensure that volunteers' work has an effective and sustainable impact on the ground, including:
- (a) management of risks associated with natural disasters, preparedness and response, coaching, training in volunteer management, and other relevant areas for staff and volunteers from hosting organisations;
- (b) exchange of best practices, technical assistance, twinning programmes and exchange of staff and volunteers, creation of networks and other relevant actions.

Amendment 100

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 3 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3b. The Commission shall continue, maintain and update the EU Aid Volunteers database, regulate access thereto and use thereof, including with regard to the availability and suitability of EU Aid Volunteers, thus enabling the continued participation of returning volunteers. The processing of personal

data collected in or for that database shall be carried out, where relevant, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1a} and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{1b}.

^{1b} Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

Amendment 101

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations *as referred to in Article 4.1, point (a)* shall include a learning and training *component*, shall not substitute traineeships or jobs and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment

1. Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations shall include adequate learning and training, including before the placement, linked to the projects in which young volunteers will be involved, with due emphasis on the humanitarian aid principles referred to in Article 10(2) and the 'do no harm

^{1a} Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

principle', and it shall not substitute traineeships or jobs and shall be based on a written volunteering agreement.

Amendment 102

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The EU Aid Volunteers initiative shall foster the participation of local volunteers from third countries.

Amendment 103

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Volunteering under this strand may only take place *in third countries*:

Amendment

2. Volunteering under this strand may only take place:

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- 2a. On the basis of a prior assessment of the needs in third countries by sending and hosting organisations, and other relevant actors, the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps shall support actions aimed at:
- (a) strengthening the hosting organisations' capacity for humanitarian aid in third countries in order to enhance local preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and to ensure the effective and sustainable impact of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps' work on the ground through disaster risk management, preparedness and response, the transition from humanitarian response to sustainable local development, coaching, and training in volunteer management;
- (b) the exchange of best practices, technical assistance, twinning programmes and the exchange of staff and volunteers.

Amendment 105

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. Assessing the level of risk with regard to the safety and security of volunteers shall be a priority, in particular in countries or areas considered to be unstable or where there are immediate

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. Communication campaigns on the European Solidarity Corps pertaining to the EU Aid Volunteers initiative shall be carried out primarily on the territory of the Union and shall focus on work undertaken by volunteers and humanitarian aid workers under the humanitarian aid principles of humanity, independence, neutrality and impartiality that inform their actions.

Amendment 107

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – paragraph 2 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2d. Volunteering shall meet the real needs and gaps identified at local level by the host organisations.

Amendment 108

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 11a

Identification and selection of candidate volunteers

- 1. On the basis of a prior assessment of needs in third countries, the Commission shall identify and select candidate volunteers for training in cooperation with national agencies and host organisations.
- 2. The identification and selection of candidate volunteers shall be carried out in accordance with Article 14, respecting the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and equal opportunities.
- 3. The age limits referred to in Articles 2 and 15 shall not apply to volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations under this Article.

Amendment 109

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 11b

Training of candidate volunteers

- 1. Building on existing programmes and procedures, the Commission shall establish a training programme to prepare candidate volunteers to support and complement humanitarian aid actions.
- 2. Candidate volunteers who have been identified and selected in accordance with

the application procedure shall be eligible to participate in the training programme implemented by qualified organisations. The individual scope and content of the training to be undertaken by each volunteer candidate shall be determined in consultation with the certified host organisation according to needs, taking into account the previous experience of the volunteer candidate and the planned volunteering location.

3. The training programme shall include an assessment of the readiness of candidate volunteers to be seconded to support and complement humanitarian aid activities in third countries, as well as to meet local needs.

Amendment 110

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 1 260 000 000 in current prices.

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 1 112 988 000 in 2018 prices [EUR 1 260 000 000 in current prices].

Amendment 111

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems.

Amendment

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Programme, such as preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, including corporate information technology systems. An adequate amount of the budget shall also be dedicated to the exchange of best practices among Member States and the development of youth networks.

Amendment 112

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 29 to amend this Regulation to allow for flexibility and adaptation of the indicative budgetary breakdown by activities under Article 12a. The delegated acts adopted under this Article shall reflect the new political priorities by readjusting the breakdown respecting a maximum margin of 20 %.

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 12a

Breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11

The indicative breakdown of the budget dedicated to activities under Articles 7, 8, 9 and 11 shall be as follows:

- (a) for volunteering in solidarity activities and solidarity projects, as specified in Articles 7 and 9: 86 %;
- (b) for traineeships and jobs, as specified in Article 8: 8 %; and
- (c) for volunteering in support of humanitarian aid operations, as specified in Article 11: 6 %.

Amendment 114

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement.

Amendment

2. The Programme may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants, prizes and procurement. In order to simplify requirements for beneficiaries, lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate funding shall be used to the maximum possible extent.

Proposal for a regulation Article 14 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The financial contributions made by and expected from third countries to the Programme shall, once sufficient information is available, be reported to both arms of the budgetary authority as part of the annual or interim reporting of the Programme.

Amendment 116

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. Participants moving to another country shall be guaranteed the full health care they enjoy in their Member State of residence, not merely urgent health care. Health care shall be provided both through the public health services of the Member State in which the activity is carried out and, in the absence of such services or in the event of a clear case of non-compliance with the quality standards of the Member State of residence, through private health services in the Member State in which the activity is carried out.

Amendment 117

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1b. When implementing this Regulation, the Commission, the Members States and other participating countries shall promote social inclusion and equal access conditions, including for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities.

Amendment 118

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities and international organisations, provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label.

Amendment

The European Solidarity Corps shall be open to the participation of public or private entities, whether non-profit or profit making, and international organisations, including youth organisations, religious institutions, charity associations, secular humanistic organisations, NGOs or other actors from civil society, provided that they offer solidarity activities, that they have legal personality under the law of the country in which they are registered and provided that they have received a European Solidarity Corps quality label. *The quality* label shall certify that the activities can meet the objectives under Article 3 and provide the actions under Article 4.

Amendment 119

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 - paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. An application from an entity to become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps on the basis of the principles of equal treatment; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; avoidance of job substitution; provision of high quality activities with learning dimension focusing on personal, socioeducational and professional development; adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements; safe and decent environment and conditions; and the 'noprofit principle' in compliance with the Financial Regulation. The above principles ascertain whether its activities meet the requirements of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

An application from an entity to 2. become a European Solidarity Corps participating organisation shall be assessed by the competent implementing body of the European Solidarity Corps on the basis of the principles of equal treatment; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; avoidance of job substitution; provision of high quality, easily accessible and inclusive activities with clear added value for identified community needs, a learning dimension focusing on personal, socioeducational and professional development; adequate training, working and volunteering arrangements; safe and decent environment and conditions; and the 'noprofit principle' in compliance with the Financial Regulation. The above principles ascertain whether its activities meet the requirements and objectives of the European Solidarity Corps. *The quality* label shall only be attributed to organisations committing to comply with these principles.

Amendment 120

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and *may* be revoked.

Amendment

3. As a result of the assessment the entity may be attributed the European Solidarity Corps quality label. The *specific requirements to be fulfilled in order to obtain a quality label shall vary depending on the type of solidarity activity and the function of the entity. The*

obtained label shall be re-assessed periodically and in the event that the label is misused or of failure to comply with the principles set out in paragraph 2, the label shall be revoked. Any entity which substantially changes its activities shall inform the competent implementing body for reassessment.

Amendment 121

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. Participating organisations that have been attributed a quality label shall have access to a platform to easily search for suitable applicants in order to make the process easier for both participants and participating organisations to engage in solidarity activities.

Amendment 122

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4b. Participating organisations shall facilitate the promotion of the Programme by offering former participants the possibility to share their experiences and act as ambassadors to the potential next generation of participants in the Programme by means of a network.

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Participating organisations shall 5a. perform several functions in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. In a host function they shall carry out activities related to making offers for solidarity activities to registered participants, selecting and receiving the participants, including the organisation of activities, providing guidance and support to participants during all the phases of the solidarity activity, providing a safe and convenient working environment for participants, and providing feedback to the participant after the activity, as appropriate. In a support function they shall carry out activities in relation to the sending, the preparation and the support of participants before departure, and during and after the solidarity activity, including training participants and guiding them to local organisations after the activity. Organisations in a support function can also provide administrative and logistical support to participants in solidarity projects.

Amendment 124

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Any public or private entity established in a participating country as well as international organisations may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in Articles 7, 8 and 11, a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to Article 9, natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants.

Amendment

Any public or private entity established in a participating country as well as international organisations may apply for funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the activities referred to in Articles 7, 8 and 11, a quality label shall be obtained by the participating organisation as a pre-condition for receiving funding under the European Solidarity Corps. In the case of the solidarity projects referred to Article 9, natural persons may also apply for funding on behalf of informal groups of European Solidarity Corps participants. *As a general* rule, the grant request shall be submitted to the national agency of the country in which the organisation is based. Grant requests for activities organised by Europe-wide or international organisations, activities of volunteering teams in priority fields identified at European level and activities in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries shall be submitted to the EACEA.

Amendment 125

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Work programme

Annual work programme

Amendment 126

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – paragraph -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The secondary policy choices and priorities, including details of specific actions outlined in Articles 4 to 11, shall be determined on an annual basis through a work programme as referred to in Article [110] of the Financial Regulation. The annual work programme shall also set out details concerning the implementation of the Programme. In addition, the work programme shall give an indication of the amount allocated to each action and of the distribution of funds between the Member States and third countries associated to the Programme for the actions to be managed through the national agency. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 29 to supplement this Regulation by adopting annual work programmes.

Amendment 127

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The *interim evaluation* of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, *but* no later than *four years after the start of the programme implementation*. It shall also be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

Amendment

2. The *mid-term review* of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme. *The Commission shall submit the mid-term review to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of*

the Regions no later than *30 June 2024*. It shall also be accompanied by a final evaluation of the predecessor programme.

Amendment 128

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission shall, where necessary and on the basis of the midterm review and implementation reports submitted by Member States, submit legislative proposals for the amendment of this Regulation. The Commission shall appear before the competent committees of the European Parliament to report on the mid-term review, including with respect to its decision as to whether it is necessary to amend this Regulation.

Amendment 129

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences,

Amendment

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin *thereof* and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the actions and their results) by providing *prompt*, coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences,

including the media and the public.

including, the media and the public.

Amendment 130

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

Amendment

2. The Commission, in cooperation with national authorities and national agencies in participating countries and relevant Union-level networks, shall implement information and communication actions relating to the Programme, and its actions and results. Financial resources allocated to the Programme shall also contribute to the corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, as far as they are related to the objectives referred to in Article 3.

Amendment 131

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to the effective outreach as well as dissemination and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in respect of actions and activities managed at

Amendment

3. The national agencies referred to in Article 23 shall develop a consistent strategy with regard to *information and* the effective outreach, as well as dissemination *to all potential beneficiaries* and exploitation of results of activities supported under the actions they manage within the Programme, shall assist the Commission in its general task of disseminating information concerning the Programme, including information in

7351/19 ED/ev 78
ANNEX GIP.2 EN

national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country. respect of actions and activities managed at national and Union level, and its results, and shall inform relevant target groups about the actions and activities undertaken in their country.

Amendment 132

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. Participating organisations shall use the brand name "European Solidarity Corps" for the purposes of communication and dissemination of information related to the Programme.

Amendment 133

Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The national agency shall regularly consult the beneficiaries of the Programme (individuals and organisations) in order to collect their feedback on the Programme, to assess the the quality of the activity, and how the activity evolves, on the basis of Commission guidelines and shall provide support to participants in the event of difficulties and in order to improve the implementation of the Programme at national level based on their feedback and expertise.

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies;

Amendment

(a) lay down the internal control standards for the national agency concerned and the rules for the management of the Union funds for grant support by the national agencies, taking into consideration the simplification requirements and not imposing additional burden on participants and participating organisations;

Amendment 135

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) include the requirement to organise regular meetings and training with and for the network of national agencies in order to ensure the coherent implementation of the Programme across all participating countries;

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Commission shall organise regular meetings on the implementation of the Programme with a representative number and type of networks representing young people and volunteers and other relevant civil society organisations, including social partners and networks relevant to the Programme's activities.

Amendment 137

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Where the Commission cannot accept the yearly management declaration or the independent audit opinion thereon, or in the event of unsatisfactory implementation by the national agency of the Commission's observations, the Commission may implement any precautionary and corrective measures necessary to safeguard the Union's financial interests in accordance with point (c) of Article 131(3) of the Financial Regulation.

Amendment 138

Proposal for a regulation Article 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 24a

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

At Union level, the EACEA shall be responsible for managing all stages of the grant for the Programme's project actions, as listed in Article 7, submitted by Europe-wide or platform organisations, for activities of volunteering teams in priority fields identified at European level and activities in support of humanitarian aid operations in third countries.

EACEA shall also be responsible for the accreditation (i.e. quality label) and monitoring of Europe-wide or platform organisations, organisations in charge of implementing national schemes or Union shared management funds and organisations wishing to carry out activities supporting humanitarian aid operations.

Amendment 139

Proposal for a regulation Article 25 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Audits on the use of the Union contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union Institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to [Article 127] of the Financial Regulation.

Amendment

1. Audits on the use of the Union contribution carried out by persons or entities, including by others than those mandated by the Union institutions or bodies, shall form the basis of the overall assurance pursuant to Article [127] of the Financial Regulation and shall be carried out in accordance with the same criteria in all Member States.

Proposal for a regulation Article 26 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

Amendment

2. National agencies shall be responsible for the primary controls of grant beneficiaries for the actions of the European Solidarity Corps which are entrusted to them. Those controls shall *be proportionate and adequate and shall* give reasonable assurance that the grants awarded are used as intended and in compliance with the applicable Union rules.

Amendment 141

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, instruments and programmes at Union level, in particular the Erasmus programme, as well as to existing networks at Union level relevant to the activities of the European Solidarity Corps.

Amendment

1. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, instruments and programmes at Union level, in particular the Erasmus programme, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and Rights and Values Programme, as well as to existing networks at Union level relevant to the activities of the European Solidarity Corps.

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall *also* be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, programmes and instruments at national level in the participating countries. To this end, the Commission, national authorities and national agencies shall exchange information on existing national schemes and priorities related to solidarity and youth, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity Corps, on the other hand, with a view to build on relevant good practices and achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Amendment

The actions of the European Solidarity Corps shall *not substitute and* shall be consistent with and complementary to the relevant policies, programmes and instruments at national, regional and local level in the participating countries. To this end, the Commission, national authorities and national agencies shall exchange information on existing national schemes and priorities related to solidarity and youth, on the one hand, and actions under the European Solidarity Corps, on the other hand, with a view to build on relevant good practices and achieve efficiency and effectiveness.

Amendment 143

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. In order to maximise the effectiveness of Union funding and the impact of the Programme, the relevant authorities at all levels shall seek to establish synergies across all relevant programmes in a coherent manner. Such synergies shall not lead to funds being used to pursue objectives other than those set out in this Regulation. Any synergies

and complementarity shall result in simplified application procedures at the implementation level accompanied by relevant implementation guidelines.

Amendment 144

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps in third countries referred to in Article 11 shall be in particular consistent with and complementary to other areas of Union external action, in particular humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy, enlargement policy, neighbourhood policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Amendment

3. The actions of the European Solidarity Corps in third countries referred to in Article 11 shall be in particular consistent with and complementary to other areas of Union external action, in particular humanitarian aid policy, development cooperation policy, *security policy*, enlargement policy, neighbourhood policy and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Amendment 145

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in *Article* 19 shall be conferred on the Commission for the duration of the Programme.

Amendment

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in *Articles 12, 18 and* 19 shall be conferred on the Commission for the duration of the Programme.

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The delegation of power referred to in *Article* 19 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

Amendment

3. The delegation of power referred to in *Articles 12, 18 and* 19 may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.

Amendment 147

Proposal for a regulation Article 29 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to *Article* 19 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Amendment

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to *Articles 12, 18 and* 19 shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by two months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.

Proposal for a regulation Annex – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Indicators for monitoring and reporting:

The Programme shall be closely monitored in order to measure the extent to which the general objective and the specific objectives have been achieved, as well as to monitor its output, results and impact. To that end, a minimum framework of indicators is laid down to serve as a basis for a future detailed programme for monitoring the output, results and impact of the Programme, including an extended set of qualitative and quantitative indicators:

Amendment 149

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background; *and*

Amendment

(b) percentage of participants from a fewer opportunities background;

Amendment 150

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- (c) number of organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps Quality Label.
- (c) number of organisations holding a European Solidarity Corps Quality Label;

Amendment 151

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) number of participants in jobs (incountry and cross-border) broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment;

Amendment 152

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) number of participants in solidarity projects broken down by country, age, gender, professional background and educational attainment;

Amendment 153

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cc) number of organisations whose quality label has been revoked;

Amendment 154

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cd) number of organisations holding a quality label broken down by country and funding received;

Amendment 155

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ce) number of participating young people with fewer opportunities. Result indicators (Composite indicators);

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cf) number of participants reporting positive learning outcomes;

Amendment 157

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cg) percentage of participants whose learning outcomes have been recognised through a certificate such as Youthpass, or another type of formal recognition of their participation in the European Solidarity Corps;

Amendment 158

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ch) overall satisfaction rate of participants with regard to the quality of activities; and

Proposal for a regulation Annex I – paragraph 1 – point c i (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ci) number of people supported directly or indirectly through solidarity activities.