

The CULT Gazette

Newsletter from the European Parliament
Committee on Culture and Education

CULT Committee:
Meeting of 7 - 8 May 2007

EN

Structured dialogue with Commissioner Ján FIGEL' on the 2008 Legislative and Work programme



The Committee on Culture and Education held a discussion with **Mr Ján FIGEL'**, Commissioner responsible for Education, Culture and Youth, during which Mr Figel presented the initiatives under way or under preparation for this year and the year to come.

At the outset of his speech Mr Figel mentioned the Berlin Declaration according to which “Europe's wealth lies in the knowledge and ability of its people; this is the key to growth, employment and social cohesion.”, stressing the fact that **education** and training are the cement that binds societies together in the face of economic and demographic change.

In this context he referred to the recent launching in Berlin of the **Lifelong Learning Programme (LLL)** which is the flagship of EU funding programmes in the area of education and training.

LLL is the first European funding programme to cover the full range of learning opportunities from childhood to the old age. This programme will help millions of individuals to study, train or teach abroad, fostering interchange, cooperation and mobility between education and training institutions and systems within the EU.

The Commissioner announced the adoption of a **Communication on a European agenda for culture in a globalized world**. In this document the Commission is promoting a more horizontal approach to culture, including a clearer definition of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Culture is to be understood as a catalyst for economic growth in Europe, a fact that was also highlighted by the March 2007 European Council when referring to the importance of creative industries for European economies. With a contribution of 2,6 % to EU GDP, a higher growth rate than the average of other sectors or the economy and more than 5,8 people working in the area of culture, the sector's contribution to the Lisbon agenda culture seems to finally receive the

attention it deserves. At the same time the Commission wishes to enhance the external dimension of education, culture and youth, which could be a key to improving relations with neighbourhood countries and the world in general.

As regards the **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)**, the legislative procedure is well under way and should come to an end in the course of 2007. The EQF also receives a lot of attention from outside the Union, with Canada and Russia showing interest and Israel and Kirghizstan joining formally.

In early July, DG Education and Culture will publish a **White Paper on Sport** which intends to clarify the legal space in which sport is to be located, keeping in mind that "specificity of sport" as mentioned in the Nice Declaration does not mean exemption from existing EU rules. The paper will also analyse the economic role of sport and its social role as a means of integration. Finally it will address the issue of governance stressing the importance of autonomy and diversity of the sport world.

Preparations are being made to elaborate a formal proposal for a **European Year of Creativity and Innovation** in 2009. Mr Figel stated that "the drive in culture is coming"; he reiterated - in other terms - that "the EU is a superpower of cultural diversity".

Towards the end of 2007 the Commission intends to publish a **Communication on school education**, which will be accompanied by a public consultation, as well as a **recommendation on teacher education**. In a changing and ageing society the role of a teacher and the quality of teaching are crucial for the future development of European societies.

As for the **European Institute of Technology (EIT)** he highlighted the commitment of the German presidency to finding a principle agreement by the end of June, and then insisted on the need to find appropriate funds for the future institute.

More information: juergen.ditthard@europarl.europa.eu

"Quote of the month"

"It is never too late to learn. It is never too early to start." - Commissioner Jan Figel

Early Second Reading Agreement: Revision Of Audiovisual Media Services Directive

On Tuesday 8 May, the Committee on Culture and Education decided to accept the compromise reached by the rapporteur **Ruth Hieronymi** (EPP-ED) and the German EU Council presidency, on the reform of the Television without Frontiers Directive.

This political agreement seeks to address the significant technological and market developments of recent years while ensuring a competitive level playing field between media service providers. It establishes common minimum rules for all audiovisual media services irrespective of the transmission platform used for their delivery.

According to the new provisions, product placement is allowed in a limited range of programmes, and then only under strict rules. Product integration and thematic placement shall also be prohibited in principle. A special sign should appear at the beginning and at the end of programmes containing product placement, as well as before commercial breaks.

The principle of country of origin should be maintained and there will be more control to ensure that this principle is not being abused.



Some provisions on access for persons with disabilities have been integrated into the draft legislation as well as a special code of conduct towards children.

Advertising breaks would be allowed in films and other televised programmes every 30 minutes, except in series, serials, light entertainment programmes and documentaries. In children's programmes, advertising breaks will not be allowed unless the programmes are more than 30 minutes long. The upper limit for commercials stayed unchanged with 12 minutes an hour. The agreement also gives greater legal security to media service providers, in equitable conditions of competition.

At the **Education, Youth and Culture Council**, held on 24 May, EU ministers responsible for audiovisual policy accepted, by unanimity, this political agreement on the draft directive on the coordination of certain provisions concerning the audiovisual media services, which is to take effect by the end of 2007. During the summer, the Council will adopt its common position formalizing the political agreement, which was pre-negotiated with the EP. In accordance with the joint inter-institutional declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure, the common position will be transmitted to the EP, which is expected to adopt it without amendments.

The vote in Committee and afterwards in Plenary is planned for September/October 2007.

Plus d'info: stephanie.biasoli@europarl.europa.eu

Brèves / In Brief

Le statut des artistes dans l'Union européenne



La commission de la culture et de l'éducation a adopté à l'unanimité lors de sa réunion du 7 mai, le rapport de **Claire Gibault** (ALDE) sur le statut social des artistes.

Ce rapport vise à donner une impulsion aux autres institutions pour œuvrer à améliorer les conditions de mobilité et de travail des artistes circulant en Europe. L'accent a été mis sur l'importance de garantir les droits sociaux des artistes à travers la mise en place notamment d'un guide pratique et d'une carte européenne de sécurité sociale pour les artistes. En outre, le rapport propose d'élaborer une banque de données en liaison avec le passeport « Europass » pour faciliter la reconnaissance des qualifications dans toute l'Union européenne.

Plus d'info: stephanie.biasoli@europarl.europa.eu

Qualifications framework for lifelong learning



In the course of the meeting the Committee adopted unanimously **Mr Milan Gal'a**'s (EPP-ED) legislative opinion on the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. In addition to 8 rapporteur's amendments, there were 7 amendments tabled by the following Members: Mrs Prets, Mrs Staniszewska und Mrs De Sarnez. The opinion has been prepared under the application of the rule 47 regarding enhanced cooperation between Committees in the scope of which the EMPL Committee drafts a codecision report and Committee CULT gives its opinion.

Timetable:

7/8 May 2007
7 June 2007

vote and adoption in CULT
vote and adoption in EMPL

More information: sarka.lemanczyk@europarl.europa.eu

i2010: Digital libraries

Un second échange de vues concernant le rapport sur les bibliothèques numériques de **Marie-Hélène Descamps** (EPP-ED) a eu lieu, et a mis en évidence la singularité du projet en tant qu'instrument commun visant à préserver le patrimoine culturel européen. Les experts invités à cette réunion, Mme Elisabeth Nieggeman, Directrice de la Bibliothèque nationale allemande, Mme Agnès Saal, Directrice de la Bibliothèque nationale de France, ainsi que M. Peter Møllerup, éditeur danois, ont insisté sur la valeur ajoutée de ce projet basé sur un accès démocratique et de haute qualité aux œuvres numérisées, en rappelant la nécessité de travailler conjointement avec tous les acteurs de ce secteur, comme les éditeurs et les institutions culturelles, pour trouver un modèle économique viable permettant de rendre disponible le maximum de documents en ligne dans le souci de promouvoir le multilinguisme et la diversité culturelle.



Plus d'info: stephanie.biasoli@europarl.europa.eu

Efficiency and equity in European education and training systems

CS

V rámci květnového zasedání proběhla první výměna názorů na téma Účinnost a spravedlnost v evropských systémech vzdělávání a odborné přípravy.

Zpravodaj iniciativní zprávy, poslanec **Tomáš Zatloukal** (EPP-ED), shrnul nejprve v rámci prezentace tématu obsah sdělení Evropské Komise a zdůraznil mimo jiné, že je nutné urychlit reformy, aby se zajistila vysoká kvalita účinných a zároveň spravedlivých systémů vzdělávání a odborné přípravy.

Poslanec Takkula zmínil v rámci debaty k tématu kontext evropské identity a fakt, že je nejprve nutné vytvořit podmínky pro realizaci stanovených cílů v dané oblasti.

Během následného komentáře zástupce Evropské Komise, pana Whita, byla také zmíněna skutečnost, že se při pohledu z širší perspektivy spravedlnost a účinnost vzdělávacích systémů vzájemně nevylučuje, naopak tyto dva faktory se mohou vzájemně posilovat.

Text iniciativní zprávy bude projednán na zasedání výboru CULT v červnu 2007.

EN

A first exchange of views took place during the meeting regarding **Mr Tomáš Zatloukal's** (EPP-ED) initiative report on Efficiency and Equity in the European Education and Training Systems.

The rapporteur presented the Commission proposal identifying education and training systems as key factors in the development of EU's potential for competitiveness and for social cohesion.

In his presentation, Mr Zatloukal stressed the idea that reforms must be stepped up in order to ensure high quality education and training systems that are both efficient and equitable, and made comments on the effects of education on the economic growth.

Mr Takkula made remarks on the relation of this subject to the European identity stressing the idea that preconditions need to be created in order to reach determined goals.

On behalf of the Commission, Mr White stressed the idea that equity and efficiency are mutually reinforcing and not in competition. Comments were also made on pre-primary education which has the highest rates of return of the whole lifelong learning continuum, especially for the most disadvantaged. He also stressed the ideas that free access to higher education does not necessarily guarantee equity and that there is a strong need of a culture of evaluation within education and training systems.



	The EMPL Committee is preparing an opinion to this matter under the application of rule 47 regarding enhanced cooperation between Committees. The draft report will be presented in the Committee in the course of the June meeting.
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25/26 June 2007
tb determined 2007
tb determined 2007

Preliminary Draft Timetable /subject to change/

presentation of a draft report in CULT/setting a deadline for AM's
vote and adoption in CULT
vote and adoption in Plenary

More information: sarka.lemanczyk@europarl.europa.eu



Statistics on education and lifelong learning

The rapporteur, CULT committee Chairman **Nikolaos Sifunakis** (PES), presented his draft report on a legislative regulation concerning the production and development of statistics on education and lifelong learning. He welcomed the Commission proposal and emphasised that comparable statistical information at Community level is essential for the development of education and lifelong learning strategies and for the monitoring of progress in their implementation. Statistical production should be based on a framework of coherent concepts and comparable data in view of the establishment of an integrated European Statistical Information System on education, training and lifelong learning.

Mr. Sifunakis expects that with his proposed amendments an agreement will be reached rapidly so that the regulation can be implemented as soon as possible. The deadline for amendments was fixed for Tuesday 22nd May 2007.

More information: rita.soares@europarl.europa.eu

Auf dem Weg zu einer EU-Strategie für die Rechte des Kindes



Im Rahmen der Ausschusssitzung hat Frau **Lissy Gröner** (PES) Ihre Stellungnahme zum Thema präsentiert.

Sie unterstrich, unter anderem, folgende inhaltliche Punkte:

- den Bedarf an konkreten Projekten für Kinder wie Helplines;
- das Recht auf Bildung als eine Grundvoraussetzung für die gesellschaftliche Entwicklung der Kinder;
- die Notwendigkeit, Maßnahmen zu ergreifen, die einen geeigneten Schutz vor Gewalt darstellen;
- die Notwendigkeit, bestehende Organisationen und Netzwerke, die sich mit Kinderrechten befassen, zu unterstützen;
- die Sicherung von angemessenen personellen und finanziellen Ressourcen für die Umsetzung der Strategie.

Die Diskussion, an der Frau Novak und Herr Bono teilnahmen, betraf, unter anderem, folgende Themenbereiche:

- Schutz vor Drogen und Alkohol
- Kinder im Bereich Sport

Der federführende Ausschuss für das Thema ist LIBE. Die Abstimmung über das Dokument im Kulturausschuss ist für den 25./26. Juni geplant.

22 May 2007
25/26 June 2007
26/27 July 2007

Updated Timetable:
deadline for amendments
vote and adoption in CULT
vote and adoption in LIBE

Summary:

Lissy Gröner presented her draft opinion on the planned EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. She highlighted in particular the need to present concrete projects that are useful to children, such as helplines, measures which protect children from violence and to support existing networks and organisations that fight for children's rights. The right on education is to be considered a pre-condition for the positive development of children in our societies. Ms Gröner called for sufficient financial resources to be provided for this strategy. During the debate the need of protection against alcohol and drug abuse was raised, as was the role of sport in children's education. The Committee on Civil Liberties is the lead committee for this dossier. CULT will adopt its opinion on 25/26 June."

More information: sarka.lemanczyk@europarl.europa.eu

Equality between women and men - 2007

A first exchange of views took place during the meeting regarding **Mrs Karen Resetarits'** (ALDE) opinion on Equality between women and men - 2007.



Mrs Resetarits presented the Commission's proposal, which reports on current developments towards gender equality and orientations for gender mainstreaming of different policy areas. The document shows that equality policy is at the centre of attention, especially in the two areas of concern: growth and employment, and regarding the issue of demographic change.

Mrs Resetarits made comments on the rate of female employment and stressed the following ideas:

- even if more women are employed, this doesn't necessarily mean that they have better paid jobs;
- the salary gap between women and man should be eliminated;
- women should be offered a possibility to attend training while on/and coming back from maternal or parental leave;
- women should be encouraged to invest in their professional future;
- stereotypes linked to traditional fields of study should be fought with.

The draft opinion will be presented in the Committee in the course of the extraordinary meeting in Strasbourg on 18 June, the vote is planned for 25/26 June.

The Committee responsible is FEMM.

Draft timetable

extraordinary meeting 18/06

presentation of a draft opinion in CULT
setting a deadline for AM's
vote and adoption in CULT
vote and adoption in FEMM

25/26 June 2007

July 26/27

More information: sarka.lemanczyk@europarl.europa.eu

PRESENTATIONS IN COMMITTEE

Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Exchange of views with Mr. Gilbert GASCARD, Director of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

Programme strands delegated to the Agency



Afin de se renseigner sur les résultats de la première année de fonctionnement de la nouvelle Agence exécutive "Education, audiovisuel et culture" les Membres de la Commission ont suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt le rapport oral du directeur de l'agence, M. Gascard.

L'agence qui a été créée par la décision n° 2005/56/CE est responsable depuis le 1er janvier 2006 de la gestion des programmes de l'UE dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la culture et de l'audiovisuel. Ceci inclue notamment les nouveaux programmes pour

la période 2007-2013 (Lifelong Learning, Erasmus Mundus, Culture 2007, Jeunesse en action, L'Europe pour les citoyens, Media 2007). Le but principal de confier ces programmes à un organisme spécialisé, doté de ressources appropriées, est une meilleure gestion et une qualité plus élevée des services aux bénéficiaires.

Les tâches de gestion et d'administration des programmes sont concentrées dans les mains de l'Agence, tel que l'élaboration des appels à propositions, la sélection des projets (dans certains cas, la Commission adopte la décision relative à la sélection), la signature des accords de projet, la gestion financière, le suivi des projets (rapports intermédiaires, rapports finaux), la communication et information pour les bénéficiaires et les contrôles sur place. Dans le cas de la gestion centralisée indirecte, la responsabilité est partagée entre l'Agence exécutive et les agences nationales.

La Commission - la DG Education et Culture et la DG de la Société de l'Information et des Médias ayant la fonction des organes de tutelle - se concentre plutôt sur ses tâches politiques et institutionnelles, comme la gestion de certains volets spécifiques de programmes, l'élaboration des programmes de travail annuels, l'établissement des priorités politiques et budgétaires, l'évaluation des programmes et information à leur sujet, la surveillance de l'Agence et la présidence des comités de programmes.

Les Membres de la Commission de l'Education et de la Culture ont souligné qu'ils attendent de la création de la nouvelle génération des programmes pluriannuels en 2005/2006 les Députés une efficacité et transparence des procédures majeure et une meilleure communication avec les bénéficiaires. Le succès des nouveaux programmes et la réputation de l'Union européenne parmi les bénéficiaires potentiels - donc à la fin parmi les citoyens - dépend beaucoup de la capacité de l'administration de rendre la gestion moins bureaucratique. Vue l'importance de veiller sur le bon fonctionnement des programmes, les Députés ont souhaité qu'un contact régulier avec l'agence soit établi.

Pour plus d'information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/index_fr.htm

EUROPALIA

Presentation of the Europalia Cultural Festival 2007-2008, dedicated to the culture of Europe and its 27 Member States by Mrs Kristien DE MULDER, General Director Europalia

Mme Kristien de Mulder, Directrice générale d'Europalia, a révélé aux membres de la Commission Culture et Education, lors de la réunion du 7 mai, le contenu de la prochaine édition d'Europalia, festival culturel, qui se tiendra à Bruxelles du 3 octobre 2007 au 3 février 2008.

Le nom "Europalia" résulte de la contraction des noms « Europe » et « Opalia », fête romaine célébrant l'opulence des moissons. Dès l'origine, le dessein et l'originalité d'Europalia furent d'être un festival culturel pluridisciplinaire.

Cette édition, qui marque les 40 ans d'existence du festival, s'inscrit dans le thème de "l'unité dans la diversité". Ainsi, quatorze moments clés de l'histoire de l'art européen seront présentés dans le cadre d'un atelier au Palais des beaux-arts réunissant plus de 300 objets d'art recueillis dans 120 musées européens. La cartographie européenne, vecteur d'unité elle aussi, sera également à l'honneur à la Bibliothèque royale.

Le support filmique sera présent à travers le film 27x27x27 qui comportera des témoignages de 27 artistes venus des 27 pays membres qui présenteront ce qu'ils pensent être l'œuvre majeure de l'art européen.

Agorafolly, un autre événement du festival, donnera l'occasion à des jeunes créateurs originaires des 27 Etats Membres de l'Union européenne de construire dans les places publiques de la ville de Bruxelles, l'œuvre qui représente à leurs yeux le futur de l'Europe.

Le festival présentera à l'occasion de la présidence portugaise, une exposition autour du thème "Portugal dans le monde aux XVIe et XVIIe siècles". Pour rappel, une édition spéciale a été consacrée à ce pays en 1991.

A noter que la Bulgarie et la Roumanie, les deux nouveaux états membres, se réunissent pour l'ouverture officielle d'Europalia le 3 octobre 2007.

Le festival compte faire une grande campagne publicitaire dans toute l'Europe grâce à son site web: <http://www.europalia.eu>, et à 750 000 exemplaires de livre de programmes. Un avion spécial europalia.europa volera à destination de toute l'Europe à partir du 24.04.2007.

DELEGATIONS

Lesvos 2 - 5 May 2007

The second delegation of the CULT committee in 2007 brought 8 MEPs to the Greek isle of Lesvos, which is quite close to the Turkish border, in some places not further than 5 nautical miles. Chairman Nikolaos Sifunakis composed a programme with a variety of educational, cultural and social delights allowing his colleagues **Maria Badia i Cutchet**, **Giovanni Berlinguer**, **Lissy Gröner** and **Marianne Mikko** (all PES), **Ljudmila Novak** and **Doris Pack** (EPP-ED) and **Zdislaw Zbigniew Podkanski** (UEN) to dive into the past and present of this outskirts of the European Union.

Hosting the delegation in the "Capital of the Aegean", the **Mayor of Mytilene**, Mr Nasos Giakalis, reminded the history of the largest municipality of the Aegean area and its place at the borders of Europe. MEPs also met with both Vice Mayors, Mrs Vaso Chochlaka (responsible for education) and Mrs Eleni Petrelli (competent for culture), who were recently appointed with their respective competences. An exchange of views took place, in the presence of journalists, on how to strike a balance between nature and culture in a local context.



1. At the Museum for Industrial Olive Oil Production, Mrs Pack, Mrs Badia, Mr Berlinguer, Mrs Novak and Chairman Sifunakis
2. and 3. At the Petrified Forest Museum, Mrs Mikko, Mrs Novak, Mrs Pack, Chairman Sifunakis, Mrs Badia and Prof. Zouros

Peripheral yes, marginal no!

The delegation met with Rector Prof. Troumpis, who presented the unique academic project of the **University of the Aegean**, created 23 years ago, which he is leading. Matters such as environment, marine studies and computer sciences that were not taught before in the wider area, have been on the programme since. Nowadays, Erasmus and Socrates Programmes related agreements exist with no less than 129 universities, which underscores the European orientation of the Aegean University. In 2010, the University will put a programme for a Euro-Mediterranean agreement on energy into effect. Also, the creation of a triangle of culture involving the University of the Aegean and the universities of Alexandria (Egypt) and Jerusalem is a strategic objective for the near future. Rector Troumpis also pleaded in favour of enhancing the Ph.D. post-graduate angle, alongside the already strong master component, in the Erasmus Mundus programme, to avoid a continuing brain drain to third countries. A discussion with the Rector and both Vice-Rectors took place whereby MEPs were able to confront European policies with the realities in the field.

This place ROCKS!

On the western coast of Lesvos island, the passage of time and the lapping of the sea's waves have slowly revealed the petrified remains of plant life of the distant past. The most noteworthy concentrations of petrified trunks make up the renowned and autochthonous "**Petrified Forest**". The large number of standing petrified trunks with their root system intact provides proof that these trees were petrified in their original position. The Museum Director, Prof. Nikos Zouros, demonstrated that the purpose of the Museum, which Members found an amazing place to visit, is to deal with all issues concerning the study, research, preservation, conservation and protection of the Petrified Forest. With EU funds, the museum educational projects attract students of all levels from Lesvos, the rest of Greece and abroad.

Members also visited the **Museum of Industrial Olive Oil Production** in Lesvos in Agia Paraskevi, which has been financed by the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds. It is housed in the premises of the old communal oil-mill whereby the old machinery and equipment have been preserved and fully restored. The Museum aims at presenting the industrial heritage of the island,

not only in the oil production section but also in the wider field of technological development, as well as projecting it against its architectural, social and cultural background.

Another encounter brought MEPs into contact with the **Women's co-operative of Petra**, started by 24 women in 1983. The Co-operative was formed to increase and expand the opportunities for women to be more independent and in particular to be able to enjoy an income of their own. The project now offers holiday and restoration facilities throughout the whole village. It is not a conventional holiday centre, since it offers insight into the lifestyle of its inhabitants.

Needless to say that MEPs greatly appreciated the hospitality of all local authorities and participants in the programme which also provided for discoveries into the typical cooking and entertaining habits on the island.



Restoring a petrified trunk is a painstaking job

Summary:

Μεταξύ 2 και 5 Μαΐου επισκέφτηκε τη Λέσβο αντιπροσωπεία της Επιτροπής Πολιτισμού και Παιδείας αποτελούμενη από τον πρόεδρο της επιτροπής **Νικόλαο Σηφουνάκη** και 7 ακόμη ευρωβουλευτές: **Maria Badia i Cutchet, Giovanni Berlinguer, Lissy Gröner, Marianne Mikko** (PES), **Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack** (EPP-ED) και **Zdislaw Zbigniew Podkanski** (UEN).

Οι ευρωβουλευτές ξεκίνησαν το πρόγραμμά τους το βράδυ της Τετάρτης με επίσκεψη στο Πανεπιστήμιο Αιγαίου. Εκεί είχαν την ευκαιρία να ενημερωθούν από τον Πρύτανη κ. Ανδρέα Τρούμπη για την ιστορική εξέλιξη, οργάνωση και λειτουργία του πανεπιστημίου. Ο Πρύτανης επεσήμανε ότι το Πανεπιστήμιο Αιγαίου έχει συνάψει διμερείς συμφωνίες με 129 Πανεπιστήμια στα πλαίσια του προγράμματος Erasmus, καθώς και την προοπτική δημιουργίας ενός δικτύου συνεργασίας μεταξύ του Πανεπιστημίου Αιγαίου και των Πανεπιστημίων της Ιερουσαλήμ και της Αλεξάνδρειας.

Το πρωί της Πέμπτης οι ευρωβουλευτές συναντήθηκαν με το Δήμαρχο Μυτιλήνης κ. Νάσο Γιακαλή, την Αντιδήμαρχο Παιδείας κ. Ελένη Πετρέλλη και την Αντιδήμαρχο Πολιτισμού κ. Βασιλική Χοχλάκα. Ο Δήμαρχος της πόλης τόνισε μεταξύ άλλων τις προσπάθειες που γίνονται για τη διατήρηση και ανάδειξη του πολιτιστικού πλούτου του νησιού και ακολούθησε στη συνέχεια συνέντευξη τύπου προς τα τοπικά μέσα ενημέρωσης.

Η αντιπροσωπεία επισκέφτηκε στη συνέχεια το Μουσείο Βιομηχανικής Ελαιουργίας στην Αγία Παρασκευή όπου τους υποδέχτηκαν ο Δήμαρχος Αγίας Παρασκευής κ. Γιώργος Κυριαζής και οι υπεύθυνοι του Μουσείου. Στο μουσείο, το οποίο αποτελεί μνημείο της βιομηχανικής κληρονομιάς του νησιού, διατηρείται άριστα ο ιστορικός εξοπλισμός και παρουσιάζεται η εξέλιξη των μηχανημάτων με έμφαση στις αλλαγές που επέφερε η εισαγωγή της μηχανικής κίνησης στην ελαιοπαραγωγή. Ο δήμαρχος κ. Γιώργος Κυριαζής με την ευγενή συνδρομή του Συνεταιρισμού Γυναικών Αγίας Παρασκευής τους προσέφερε γεύμα στο χώρο του Μουσείου.

Στη συνέχεια οι ευρωβουλευτές επισκέφτηκαν το Δήμο Μήθυμνας όπου τους καλωσόρισε ο Δήμαρχος κ. Στέλιος Καραντώνης. Τους προσέφερε δείπνο στο οποίο χόρεψε ο τοπικός

σύλλογος του Μολύβου. Οι βουλευτές συνεχάρησαν το Δήμαρχο για τις προσπάθειες που γίνονται για τη διατήρηση του παραδοσιακού χαρακτήρα του Μολύβου.

Την Παρασκευή τα μέλη της αντιπροσωπείας επισκέφτηκαν το Δήμο Ερεσού όπου τους υποδέχτηκε ο Δήμαρχος κ. Σωτήρης Καρδαράς και ξεναγήθηκαν στο Μουσείο Φυσικής Ιστορίας Απολιθωμένου Δάσους στο Σίγρι. Ενημερώθηκαν από τον Διευθυντή του κ. Νίκο Ζούρο για τη πολύ σημαντική προσπάθεια που γίνεται τα τελευταία χρόνια για την προστασία και ανάδειξη του Απολιθωμένου Δάσους της Λέσβου. Εντυπωσιαστήκαν από την πλούσια φυσική ιστορία της περιοχής, αλλά κυρίως από την ύπαρξη ενός σύγχρονου περιφερειακού μουσείου το οποίο λειτουργεί με άψογο τρόπο με στόχο την προστασία, ανάδειξη, συντήρηση και προβολή του Απολιθωμένου Δάσους.

Οι ευρωβουλευτές ολοκλήρωσαν το πρόγραμμά τους στη Λέσβο επισκεπτόμενοι το Δήμο Πέτρας όπου τους υποδέχτηκε εκ μέρους του Δημάρχου κ. Παύλου Παπουτσάνη, ο Αντιδήμαρχος κ. Παρασκευάς Κελαϊδίτης. Στο δείπνο που παρατέθηκε στο Συνεταιρισμό Γυναικών, οι ευρωβουλευτές έδειξαν ιδιαίτερο ενδιαφέρον για τις δραστηριότητες του Αγροτουριστικού Συνεταιρισμού Γυναικών Πέτρας που δημιουργήθηκε το 1983 με στόχο την ενίσχυση της ανεξαρτησίας και τη διεύρυνση των οικονομικών δυνατοτήτων των γυναικών του χωριού.

HEARINGS/AUDITIONS

Audition publique sur l'Institut Européen de Technologie (2 mai 2007)

L'audition publique conjointement organisée par la commission de l'industrie, de la recherche et de l'énergie et la commission de la culture et de l'éducation le 2 mai dernier, autour de l'établissement d'un Institut Européen de Technologie, s'est conclue sur un bilan positif malgré les nombreux doutes émis par les experts quant à la structure juridique et financière de ce projet. *"L'IET doit donner aux meilleures entreprises, aux meilleures universités et aux meilleurs organismes de recherche la possibilité de travailler la main dans la main"*, a indiqué **Ján Figel**, Commissaire européen à l'éducation, la formation, la culture et la jeunesse.

En terme de financement, le débat s'est plutôt porté sur la nécessité de planifier les prélèvements sur les fonds communautaires déjà existants pour ne pas piétiner des objectifs fondamentaux tels ceux visés par les fonds structurels et chercher à impliquer les partenaires privés. Selon Horst Soboll du Comité consultatif européen pour la recherche (EURAB) ainsi que pour **Reino Paasilinna** (PSE), rapporteur pour la commission ITRE, *"l'IET est un instrument pour combler le retard de l'Europe dans le domaine de l'innovation"*. Le président de la Fédération européenne des associations nationales d'ingénieurs (FEANI), **Willi Fuchs**, a quant à lui estimé que l'IET devait être le futur vivier d'ingénieurs de haute formation, condition sine qua non pour garantir l'innovation et la compétitivité. C'est ce qu'a également souligné **Erna Hennicot-Schoepges** (EPP-ED), rapporteur pour la Commission de la culture et de l'éducation dans son projet d'avis, présenté lors de la réunion du 8 mai. Ce projet d'avis sera voté lors de notre réunion extraordinaire du 18 juin à Strasbourg.

DIVERSE INFO

Website Committee on Culture and Education:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/cult_home_en.htm