

WORKING GROUP ON EDUCATION

The delegation from the University of Tampere, Finland,

Recognizes that educational policy is essential to national self-determination and should mainly be decided at the national level, but also realizing that coordination to some extent at the EU level is necessary to ensure the free movement of people,

Regarding the draft constitution proposes that,

1. Article II-14.1 (Title II: Freedoms), be modified to read: “Everyone has the right **and equal opportunities** to education and to have access to vocational and continuing training.”
2. Article II-23 on equality between men and women should mention education.

Regarding other aspects of European educational policy,

1. Suggests that the **mutual recognition of degrees** should be developed further, to make studying abroad easier and more attractive and to enable the free movement of people within the EU. The ECTS and Diploma Supplement systems are a good start and similar systems should be encouraged also and especially in vocational training. The improved recognition of degrees should not, however, lead to the convergence of educational systems beyond what is absolutely necessary.
2. Stresses that the **equal rights and possibilities** to high quality education should be understood as a **source of competitiveness** and as a corner stone of the European economy.
3. Proposes the establishment of an **all-European student card** that would entitle students to the same discounts throughout Europe and make studying abroad easier and more attractive.
4. Realizes that the importance of **vocational training** is often underestimated even though more people with practical professions are needed in the future. Therefore, vocational training should be strongly encouraged at the European level.
5. Wishes that it would be recommended that European universities **offer more courses in English** or another European language in addition to the national

language, in which most of the courses are conducted. This would make it considerably easier for other Europeans to come and study.