



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE

### Commissioner Vassiliou at WorldSkills London 2011

Brussels, 6 October 2011 – Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, visits the UK tomorrow to raise awareness about the Commission's ['Youth on the Move'](#) initiative, aimed at encouraging young people to boost their development and skills by taking up EU-sponsored opportunities to study, train or work abroad. Last year, 27 500 Britons received EU 'mobility' grants through schemes such as [Erasmus](#) (higher education studies) and [Leonardo da Vinci](#) (vocational education and training), compared to more than 52 000 in France and 63 000 in Germany.

*"Young people in the UK are not currently making the most of the opportunities on offer to spend part of their studies or training abroad. As well as receiving a monthly grant towards their living expenses, our Erasmus and Leonardo schemes provide young people with the chance to boost their development, skills and employability. That's the message of our Youth on the Move campaign,"* said Commissioner Vassiliou.

Commissioner Vassiliou will be welcomed to the Worldskills event by chairman Chris Humphries and the UK's Youth on the Move ambassador, England rugby Sevens' winger Simon Hunt. She will see young people from more than 50 countries and regions testing their skills in professions ranging from bricklaying to hairdressing. In a speech at the event, the Commissioner will outline the EU's future priorities for vocational and higher education and lead a discussion on the advantages of taking up EU-sponsored opportunities to study, train or work abroad.

The Commissioner's visit to London will start with a reading session with children at William Davies Primary School, as part of her 'Europe loves reading' campaign to promote literacy (09:30-11.30). Mrs Vassiliou will be accompanied to the event by London MEPs Mary Honeyball (Labour), Jean Lambert (Greens) and Marina Yannakoudakis (Conservative).

After her visit to the Worldskills event (noon-15.30), which will also be attended by the MEPs, the Commissioner will meet teachers and trainers at the University of London's Institute of Education (20 Bedford Way, 16:45-17:30). The following day (8 October, 10:00-noon), Mrs Vassiliou will visit the Greek Community School at Bowes School in New Southgate.

#### **To find out more:**

[Youth on the Move](#)

[WorldSkills London 2011](#)

Contacts: Dennis Abbott: +32.2.295.92.58, Dina Avraam: +32 (0)2.295.96.67