



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.11.2012

C(2012) 8159 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the proposed regulation "Erasmus for all" {COM(2011) 788 final} and welcomes the positive assessment issued in this regard.

The Commission fully shares the conviction expressed by the Bundesrat that particular attention should be given to youth unemployment and that qualifications are an essential factor to tackle the problem and to promote economic growth and social integration.

The Commission agrees with the idea that mobility opportunities should be expanded for apprentices and welcomes national best practices in this regard aimed at promoting youth employment.

The Commission also welcomes the Bundesrat's favourable comments regarding the proposed increase in funding, which represents an opportunity for reinforcing actions which present a real added value at EU level. The Commission would like to reassure the Bundesrat that due attention will be paid to avoiding excessive imbalances between the Member States in the area of mobility.

The Commission would like to reassure the Bundesrat that the programme "Erasmus for all" will contribute to all sectors of education (higher education, vocational education and training, school as well as informal and non-formal learning), in a lifelong learning perspective, while ensuring a balanced distribution of funding between the different sectors as well as an important simplification of the administrative management.

Finally, the Commission takes note of the Bundesrat's concerns about the use of implementing acts in the Commission proposal, as well as of the request to ensure that all such provisions of the Regulation are in line with the Treaty.

*Mr Georg KEUSCHNIGG
President of the
Austrian Bundesrat
Dr.-Karl-Renner-Ring 3
A – 1017 WIEN*

The Commission would like to reassure the Bundesrat that the provisions on implementing powers and delegated acts included in the Commission proposal "Erasmus for All" apply to well identified cases and are fully in line with articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Austrian Bundesrat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*