



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24.1.2019

C(2019) 314 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises {COM(2018) 304 final}.

In proposing these measures, the Commission has aimed to update the European Union policy framework to effectively support inclusive, equitable and quality education in emergencies and protracted crises. This is in line with the Commission's priorities and the implementation of the Consensus on Development and the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the key outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit, and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Although education is a fundamental right, access to quality education is being denied to tens of millions of children by increasingly protracted conflicts, forced displacement, violence, climate change, and disasters, leaving lost generations in their wake, affecting the stability and development of entire regions. Considering the growing needs, the European Union, based on its track record of promoting and protecting children's rights and supporting education across the world, has a crucial role to play so that children and young people affected by emergencies and crises can have improved access to and quality of education.

Reflecting on the increasing European Union support worldwide, the policy framework now sets out the Union's policy priorities, responding to increasing challenges topping the global education agenda such as funding, access, quality learning and equity to support the continuity of education in crisis contexts.

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The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților supports the holistic approach of the Communication.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's interest in exchange of experience between Member States, building on the experience of relevant Union programmes and developing new ways to strengthen cooperation systems and partnerships, such as the Education Dialogue Forum facilitated by the Education Cannot Wait Fund or regional organisations.

The Commission appreciates the Camera Deputaților's support for future-oriented education and training, the use of Information and Communication Technology, linguistic diversity, and measures that aim to reflect and minimise the impact of conflict through conflict sensitive and inclusive approaches during or in the aftermath of conflicts.

The Commission particularly welcomes the view that shortage of personal documentation should not constitute a barrier to access to education.

The Commission also welcomes the recommendations for more evidence-based policy decisions and implementation, supported by information and research, as well as increased emphasis on monitoring and ensuring the adaptation of programmes to changing realities.

The Commission has taken due note of the views expressed by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion and will be pleased to actively engage with Member States in exchanges and increased cooperation in the implementation of the Communication.

The Commission would welcome, on the occasion of the incoming Romanian Presidency, continuing exchanges with Member States to identify joint opportunities for linking humanitarian and development aid for education at the country level.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Christos Stylianides
Member of the Commission*