Proposal for a revised EQF Recommendation
Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

Legal base

- Article 165 TFEU (education)
- Article 166 TFEU (vocational training)
Structure of the proposal

- Recommendations (to MS, to EC in cooperation with MS and stakeholders, to EC)
- Annexes:
  - Definitions
  - EQF level descriptors
  - Referencing criteria
  - Common principles on Quality Assurance
  - Common principles on credit
  - Common format for the electronic publication of information on qualifications
- Underpinning evidence: Annex III of the SWD to the Communication on Revision of the EQF
Objectives

• Strengthen the existing process of referencing

• Improve transparency, comparability and understanding of qualifications

• More consistent implementation of the EQF

• Improve dissemination and communication of the EQF

• Flexible learning pathways & seamless transitions

• In a further stage: to improve the transparency, understanding and comparability between EU and TC qualifications

• Improve governance
Continuity, the proposal:

- Core of the 2008 Recommendation maintained
- Ensures continuity of processes started at national level (setting up NQFs, referencing to the EQF)
- Stresses the EQF as a reference tool to compare qualifications and their levels
- Invites MS to reference to the EQF in a transparent manner, using a LO approach
- Invites MS to ensure that new certificates, diplomas or qualification supplements contain a clear reference to the appropriate EQF level
Main areas of change

- Strengthening referencing and improving the consistency of referencing
- Update of the 2008 Recommendation to today's reality
- Common principles on quality assurance and on credits
- Better visibility of the EQF for citizens and employers
- Comparing qualifications awarded in the EU with qualifications awarded in third countries
- No reference to international sectoral organisations using the EQF
Strengthening and improving the consistency of referencing

- **MS invited to**
  - use the EQF to compare all types and levels of qualifications
  - update their referencing on a regular basis and at a maximum interval of 5 years

- **EC, in coop with MS and stakeholders, invited to:**
  - support consistency in the implementation of the EQF across MS by developing methodologies on levelling
  - develop methodologies on the use and application of learning outcomes in qualifications
Update of the 2008 Recommendation to today's reality

- Annex I on definitions updated
- Annex II on descriptors: "Responsibility & Autonomy"
- New Annex III: referencing criteria included, updated and clarified
- Use of EQF encouraged by social partners, PES, education providers and public authorities
Common principles on quality assurance

• Referenced qualifications should comply with common principles for QA, without prejudice to national QA principles for national qualifications

• Common principles on quality assurance in Annex IV for qualifications referenced to the EQF:
  • VET, HE, non-formal and informal learning in the private sector or international qualifications
  • GE: referral to ongoing discussions under ET2020
  • Fully compatible with ESG and EQAVET
  • Builds on Annex III of the Recommendation of 2008
  • EC invited (in coop with MS and stakeholders): to explore the possibility of developing a register, outside HE, for bodies monitoring QA systems for qualifications
Principles for credit systems related to the EQF

- To improve portability of learning outcomes of qualifications across different learning settings
- To support flexible learning pathways across Europe
- Credit systems need to work together to support transitions and progression
- Credit systems for national QFs and systems should comply with common principles on credit systems, without prejudice to national decisions to make use of credit systems
- New Annex V with 7 principles
Better visibility of the EQF for citizens and employers

- **MS invited to:**
  - make the results of the referencing process publicly available at national and Union level
  - ensure that information on qualifications and their learning outcomes is accessible and published

- **New Annex VI: Indicative elements of a common format for the publication of qualifications**

- **EC invited (in coop with MS and stakeholders) to:**
  - develop a standard format for describing LOs
  - develop a standardised way of communicating about the EQF (i.e. how to present EQF levels on new certificates, diplomas and supplements)
Comparing qualifications awarded in the EU with TC qualifications

- **Context of migration agenda**
- **EC invited (in coop with MS and stakeholders) to support the step-by-step development and application of criteria and procedures to enable comparison of TC NQFs and RQFs with the EQF, in accordance with international agreements**
Recitals 23 + 24:

- (23) The Commission intends to set up a platform for cooperation between the Commission, Member States and relevant stakeholders on the implementation and monitoring of this Recommendation. This will include the tasks implemented by the EQF AG since 2008.

- (24) Member States should ensure the coordination of tasks implemented by EQF National Coordination Points since 2008.
Process issues

EC invited (in coop with MS and stakeholders) to:

- Set up peer reviews and best practice exchanges between Member States
- Ensure the development of EQF in full coherence with European cooperation in education and training under the ET 2020 strategic framework
- Ensure that the Erasmus+ programme is used to support the implementation of this Recommendation

EC invited to:

- Report on progress following the adoption of this Recommendation
- Assess and evaluate, in cooperation with the MS and after consulting the stakeholders concerned, action taken and by 2022 report to the Council
Next steps

- *Negotiations with the Council*
- *Adoption in 2017 (?)*
Thank you