



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.04.2014
C(2014) 2267 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication "European higher education in the world" {COM(2013) 499 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Czech Republic's long standing support for promoting the learning mobility of young people which has a positive impact on both skills and personal development and contributes to the fight against youth unemployment.

The Commission shares the positions expressed in the Opinion of the Senát, in particular that internationalisation of education is not an end in itself but serves to increase the quality of education systems in the EU, which will in turn benefit European students and make Europe attractive as a high-quality study and research destination. The Commission agrees that this requires reform of the existing students and researchers Directives. Negotiations on this reform are ongoing and, once adopted, the new instruments will allow for more transparent treatment of non-EU nationals who wish to study and research in the European Union.

Finally, the Commission fully acknowledges the fact that Member States are mainly responsible for achieving the objectives mentioned in the Communication. The Commission will continue to support, coordinate and supplement the actions of Member States in the field of internationalisation of higher education, both through promoting policy exchanges among the Member States about these issues and by offering programme support via the Erasmus+ programme for learning mobility of students and academics and for cross-border partnerships between institutions.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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