



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.7.2018
C(2018)4562 final*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Commission proposals concerning the Digital Education Action Plan – {COM(2018) 22 final}, a Council Recommendation on Promoting Common Values, Inclusive Education, and the European Dimension of Teaching – {COM(2018) 23 final}, and a Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning – {COM(2018) 24 final}.

These proposals are part of a broader package of measures responding to the Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017¹, which called for 'a Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent'. The Recommendations also give effect to the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which holds that 'Everyone has the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning in order to maintain and acquire skills that enable them to participate fully in society and manage successfully transitions in the labour market'². The Council of the European Union has meanwhile adopted these Recommendations on 22 May 2018³.

In full respect of the competences of the Member States and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, the proposed initiatives aim to facilitate mutual learning and enhance trust between Member States.

The Commission thanks the Senát for its comments regarding lifelong learning and the new challenges facing education systems, such as cyber-bullying and fake news. The Commission reiterates the importance of lifelong learning and equipping people with a

¹ Declaration of the leaders of 27 member states and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/25/rome-declaration/pdf>

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/social-summit-european-pillar-social-rights-booklet_en.pdf

³ <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8701-2018-COR-1/en/pdf>
<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8015-2018-INIT/en/pdf>
<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8299-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

level of knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to be active and socially integrated citizens with jobs that respond to the changing demands of society and the economy in the context of technological revolution and globalisation.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát supports the inclusion of common values, such as democracy, in education and is convinced that teaching common values at school can help to counteract tendencies supporting authoritarian forms of government.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senát in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*