



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.7.2018  
C(2018) 4563 final*

*Mr Radek VONDRÁČEK  
President of the  
Poslanecká sněmovna  
Sněmovní 4  
CZ – 118 26 PRAGUE 1*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Poslanecká sněmovna for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching {COM(2018) 23 final}.*

*This proposal is part of a wider initiative to strengthen European identity through Education and Culture and also responds to the European Council Conclusions of December 2017<sup>1</sup>. It demonstrates how education can help promote the common values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union to which every Member State has signed up: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The Commission believes that it is important to emphasise these values, which underpin the history and evolution of the European Union, in the current political context. The Council of the European Union has meanwhile adopted this Recommendation on 22 May 2018<sup>2</sup>.*

*The Commission acknowledges that the content of education and the organisation of education systems are within the competence of the Member States. This is why the Commission proposed a Council Recommendation, for which the follow-up is at the discretion of national and regional authorities. It builds on the commitment of Member States to the measures proposed and provides a strong basis for cooperation in this area, while fully respecting Member States' competence in the field.*

*The Commission recalls that the proposal cites the Council of Europe's Competences for Democratic Culture framework merely as a useful existing resource. There is no suggestion that the application of this framework should be legally binding.*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/32204/14-final-conclusions-rev1-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8015-2018-INIT/en/pdf>

*The Commission welcomes the support expressed by the Poslanecká sněmovna for enhancing inclusive education and for increasing the attractiveness of the teaching profession.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Poslanecká sněmovna in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics  
Member of the Commission*