



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.11.2018  
C(2018) 7751 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 Commission proposals for a Council Recommendation on a comprehensive approach to language teaching and learning {COM (2018) 271 final}; a Council Recommendation on high quality early childhood education and care {COM (2018) 272 final}; and a Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education diplomas, and the outcomes of learning periods abroad {COM(2018) 270 final}.*

*The Commission proposals follow up on the Rome Declaration of March 2017, the discussions during the Social Summit in Gothenburg, and the conclusions of the European Council in December 2017, where Heads of State and Government expressed their willingness to do more in the areas of education and culture, recognising that these areas are key to building inclusive and cohesive societies, and to sustaining our competitiveness.*

*The proposals are part of the Commission's work towards a European Education Area by 2025, "a Europe in which learning, studying and doing research would not be hampered by borders. A continent, where spending time in another Member State – to study, to learn, or to work – has become the standard and where, in addition to one's mother tongue, speaking two other languages has become the norm. A continent in which people have a strong sense of their identity as Europeans, of Europe's cultural heritage and its diversity."<sup>1</sup>*

*The Commission welcomes the Poslanecká sněmovna's support for a new and comprehensive approach to learning languages so that more young people comfortably speak two languages in addition to the language of schooling. The Commission is aware of the ambitious character of its proposal. Furthermore, the Commission takes note of*

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<sup>1</sup> Communication Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture The European Commission's contribution to the Leaders' meeting in Gothenburg, 17 November 2017, COM(2017) 673 final.

*the Poslanecká sněmovna's concern for the diversity of learners. It supports the idea to promote the cooperation between language teachers and teachers of other subjects, which is fully in line with the concept of "language aware schools" contained in the Commission proposal.*

*The Commission takes note of the situation in the Czech Republic concerning access to early childhood education and care services. As demonstrated by research, access to high quality early childhood education and care services supports the early development of children and is particularly beneficial to those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Commission therefore aims to encourage and support Member States in improving both accessibility and quality of such services.*

*The Commission also welcomes the position of the Poslanecká sněmovna with regard to the proposed automaticity of mutual recognition of qualifications and outcomes of study periods abroad. The Commission recalls that it will establish a user-friendly Union-level online information service of upper secondary education and training qualifications giving access to higher education in Member States. This will help overcome the remaining barriers to the "free movement of learners" and the creation of a genuine European learning space. The information service will build on existing online platforms and will be created in close cooperation with Member States.*

*The Commission hopes that these explanations reply to the points raised in the Opinion of the Poslanecká sněmovna and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics  
Member of the Commission*