



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 13.7.2022  
C(2022) 5083 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the higher education package, i.e. the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European strategy for universities {COM(2022) 16 final} and the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation {COM(2022) 17 final}.*

*To succeed, the European strategy for universities requires alignment of policy priorities and investments at European Union, national, regional and institutional levels. Implementation of this strategy will require closer cooperation with and between Member States, universities and other stakeholders. Together, we can leverage the strong and unique basis of Europe's higher education sector and bring its missions – education, research, innovation at the service of society – closer together.*

*For this reason, the Commission welcomes the adoption, on 5 April 2022, of Council Conclusions on the European strategy and the related Council Recommendation and stresses its high level of ambition.*

*Against this background, the Commission welcomes the call from the Senát to its government to further facilitate transnational cooperation between higher education institutions within the regulatory framework of the country.*

*On the funding for the implementation of the higher education package, the Commission wishes to highlight that European funding is important for universities to complement national funding. The multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU are going to invest a significant amount in the support of universities, estimated at EUR 80 billion over the programming period 2021-2027. European Union funds and programmes operate in addition to national public funding and other public and private investments. While playing a significant role in complementing such sources of funding, European Union financial support cannot replace them. It is key that Member States and actors of the higher education sector make effective use of the European*

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*Union tools and explore synergies with national, regional and local funding to mobilise European Union and national efforts.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future, especially in view of the upcoming Czech presidency of the Council of the European Union.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel  
Member of the Commission*