



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 26/03/2009
C/2009/2191

Dear Mr Auken,

The European Commission is grateful to the Danish Parliament for its contribution to the Green paper "Migration and mobility – challenges and opportunities for EU education systems" (COM (2008)423) adopted by the Commission on 3 July 2008. In particular, the Commission welcomes the fact that the majority of the Danish Parliament explicitly supports the initiative.

The Commission fully recognises that decisions related to the organisation and content of education systems are competence of Member States. The European Community, as indicated in Art. 149 of the Treaty is to "contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action". In order to fulfil this role, the Community may foster exchanges of information and experiences on issues common to the education systems of the Member States. The promotion of such exchange is exactly the purpose of the Green Paper.

The Commission would therefore like to reassure the Danish Parliament, in particular with reference to the concerns expressed by the Danish People's Party, that the Green Paper does not aim at prescribing solutions that should apply to all, but simply at opening a reflection and a possibility for peer review in a field which most Member States are finding particularly challenging. The Commission supports Member States in achieving their goals set for their education systems: the Spring 2006 European Council focused on the need to improve the equity and efficiency of national education systems, while the Spring 2008 European Council asked Member States to address the problem of educational disadvantage for migrant pupils.

Mr Sven Auken
Formanden for Europaudvalget
Folketinget

The Commission will now proceed to the analysis of the approximately one hundred contributions which have been received as a result of the consultation launched through the Green Paper and will publish a synthesis of the results in summer 2009. This will be followed by a conference in the second semester of 2009 which will provide the opportunity to bring together the key stakeholders and to discuss possible scenarios for future action.

As requested, the Commission will send the Danish Parliament its analysis of the results of the consultation on the Green Paper and any conclusions it draws about possible future action.

Yours sincerely

*Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission*