

Letter dated:
11 December 2009

From:
European Affairs Committee (*Europaudvalget*)
Christiansborg
1240 Copenhagen K

To:
Mr Maroš Šefčovič
Commissioner for Education, Training and Youth
European Commission
1049 Brussels

Subject: Comments on the Commission's Green Paper on promoting the learning mobility of young people – COM(2009) 329

Dear Mr Šefčovič,

This is a joint response from the Danish Parliament's Education Committee and European Affairs Committee to the Commission's Green Paper on promoting the learning mobility of young people.

The Education Committee discussed the Green Paper at a number of meetings and agreed on its response to the Commission. This was then endorsed by the European Affairs Committee on 20 November 2009, as set out below.

Comments on the Commission's Green Paper on promoting the learning mobility of young people

A majority of the Education Committee and the European Affairs Committee (Liberal Party (V), Social Democrats (S), Conservative People's Party (KF), Socialist People's Party (SF) and the Radical Left Party (RV)) welcomes the Green Paper, which aims to involve stakeholders and the general public in a debate on boosting the opportunities for young people to enjoy learning mobility. The majority on the committees recognises the increasing importance of learning mobility and the need for the Green Paper, and considers that the Green Paper raises many relevant and specific questions and covers a number of areas in which there may be a need for new approaches.

The majority on the committees considers that the Green Paper is a good example of how the EU can help to support the Member States' action in the field of education while fully respecting their responsibility for the content of teaching and the organisation of their education systems.

The majority on the committees looks forward to the Commission's conclusions following the public consultation on the Green Paper.

A minority on the committees (Danish People's Party (DF)) takes the view that Denmark should be primarily responsible for educating Danes and is therefore not sympathetic to the Green Paper from the EU. The Danish People's Party calls for the Member States – including Denmark – to be given more control over national policies, including education policy.

Furthermore, the DF notes that learning mobility is already possible, for example under educational exchange agreements.

Minority view from the Red-Green Alliance

The Red-Green Alliance (EL) agrees that improving the opportunities for pursuing education in other countries, both within and outside the EU, is a very positive development. The EL maintains that education falls outside the EU's area of competence, and that it is for the national States to determine for themselves the structure, content and funding of education. In this connection, the EL would like to stress that education is not a product, but an extremely important public service. Nor can it accept any restrictions of this principle in Denmark.

The EL considers it crucially important that the issue of educational opportunities for students should not be limited to looking at opportunities within the EU, and that it is necessary to work actively to broaden this into a global project in which attention should not least be focused on the special needs of the poorer countries.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Dyremose
Chair, Education Committee

Anne-Marie Meldgaard
Chair, European Affairs Committee