



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27 SEP. 2011
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Dear President,

The European Commission thanks the Bundesrat for its opinion on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on policies to reduce early school leaving (ESL) {COM(2011)19} and welcomes its support for the initiative.

The Commission shares the Bundesrat's views that the implementation and monitoring of measures against early school leaving will play an important role in the coming years. The Commission intends to establish a European expert group later in 2011 which will accompany the implementation of the Council Recommendation and will focus its work on identifying and exchanging successful, efficient and effective practices. Experiences made in Germany are highly relevant and will enrich the debate at European level.

The main focus of the Recommendation is to foster the development of evidence-based, comprehensive, and cross-sectoral policies against early school leaving. To analyse the main factors influencing early school leaving is the foundation of any successful policy or measure in this area. The Commission agrees with the Bundesrat's opinion that the methods used to establish the necessary evidence-base have to be proportionate and must respect national legal and administrative requirements.

Regarding the future usage of EU funding schemes such as the EU Programmes in fields of lifelong learning, youth and research, the Commission would like to reassure the Bundesrat that the next generation of programmes will continue to allow the support of education and training priorities other than related to the Europe 2020 target to reduce the number of early school leavers.

I look forward to continuing this fruitful exchange of information.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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