



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.2.2019  
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*Mr Roberto FICO  
President of the  
Camera dei Deputati  
Piazza Montecitorio  
IT – 00100 ROME*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera dei Deputati for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing 'Erasmus': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 {COM(2018) 367 final}.*

*Over the past three decades, more than 9 million people have directly benefitted from Erasmus+ and its predecessors. The Commission has put forward this new proposal to continue and expand the current Erasmus+ programme as well as to respond to the Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017<sup>1</sup>, which called for 'a Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent'.*

*The general objective of the programme is to support the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion and to strengthening European identity.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera dei Deputati for a stronger Erasmus programme. It agrees with the Camera dei Deputati that the international dimension of the programme should be boosted to offer more opportunities for mobility, cooperation and policy dialogue with third countries, including the Mediterranean countries. Building on the successful implementation of international higher education and youth activities so far, the Commission indeed proposes to step up international mobility activities as well as to extend them to other sectors, such as vocational education and training.*

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<sup>1</sup> Declaration of the Leaders of 27 Member States and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission:  
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/25/rome-declaration/pdf>

*The Commission thanks the Camera dei Deputati for its support for an increased budget for the future Erasmus programme. Indeed, the Commission aims to triple the number of beneficiaries with the proposed budget by boosting traditional actions enabling people to learn abroad and by offering additional opportunities for short-term mobility, group mobility, blended mobility and virtual mobility.*

*The Commission agrees with the Camera dei Deputati that more staff in education, training, youth and sport should have the opportunity to go abroad for a period of time. This is why its proposal does indeed support the individual mobility of teachers.*

*The Commission further agrees that the future Erasmus programme should be able to satisfy the large and growing demand for learning abroad. For all types of mobility activities the grant level should be optimised, including by ensuring higher grants for certain categories of students and learners, such as those taking a Master's Degree.*

*Finally, the Commission agrees with the Camera dei Deputati that "DiscoverEU" should be accessible for young persons from all backgrounds, including those with fewer opportunities. This is why the Commission has foreseen flexible formats - short trips or trips with a group of friends - as well as additional travel budget for young people coming from remote areas and young people with special needs. For the future, the Commission is exploring ways how to further promote the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, for example by seeking partnerships with reliable local partners to offer additional support and services.*

*The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Camera dei Deputati and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics  
Member of the Commission*