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Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee of
the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P - 1249-068 LISBOA

cc. *Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES*
President of the
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P - 1249-068 LISBOA

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Commission Communication Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture – The European Commission’s contribution to the Leaders’ meeting in Gothenburg, 17 November 2017 {COM(2017) 673 final}.

This Communication sets out the Commission’s vision for a European Education Area and proposes ways to harness the full potential of education and culture as drivers for jobs, social fairness, active citizenship as well as a means to experience European identity in all its diversity.

Since then, the Commission has taken work forward as outlined and as reflected in the European Council Conclusions of December 2017¹. In January 2018, the Commission put forward a package of measures, more concretely a Digital Education Action Plan {COM(2018) 22 final}, a proposal for a Council Recommendation on Promoting Common Values, Inclusive Education, and the European Dimension of Teaching {COM(2018) 23 final}, and a proposal for a Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning {COM(2018) 24 final}. The two Council Recommendations on common values and key competences were adopted by the Education Council on 22 May 2018.

The Commission is pleased to inform the Assembleia da República that on 22 May 2018 it adopted a second package of initiatives to further boost the role of youth, education and culture policies: a Communication on building a stronger Europe: the role of youth, education and culture policies {COM(2018) 268 final}, a proposal for a Council Recommendation on promoting the automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education diplomas and the outcomes of learning periods abroad {COM(2018) 270 final}, a proposal for Council Recommendation on High-quality Childhood Education and Care systems {COM(2018) 271 final}, a proposal for a

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/32204/14-final-conclusions-rev1-en.pdf>

Council Recommendation on a comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages {COM(2018) 272 final}, a Communication on engaging, connecting and empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy {COM(2018) 269 final}, and a Communication on a new European Agenda for Culture {COM(2018) 267 final}. The Commission hopes that an agreement on the above-mentioned Council Recommendations will be reached still this year or in the first half of next year.

The Commission considers that all of these initiatives are important building blocks for the creation of a European Education Area by 2025 as outlined in the Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da República on these important topics in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Jyrki Katainen
Vice-President*