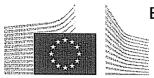
EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Brussels, 15.11.2012 C(2012) 8155 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission's Communication Supporting growth and jobs - an agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems' {COM(2011) 567 final} and apologises for the long delay in replying.

As the Opinion notes, the Communication sets out a broad and strategic agenda, whilst fully recognising that the main responsibility for delivering reforms in higher education rests with Member States and their higher education institutions. I would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its support for this agenda.

I am pleased that the Camera Deputaților shares the Commission's assessment on key issues for the modernisation agenda, such as the importance of diversity in higher education systems, of autonomy for higher education institutions and on the need for higher education to shape and stimulate entrepreneurship.

Finally, I welcome your support for a transparency instrument for ranking higher education institutions.

While the Commission Communication reviewed by the Camera Deputaților is not, as such, open to amendment, your remarks and observations will be very useful to us in taking forward the Commission's strategy for the modernisation of higher education, which foresees key actions at European level in order to deliver on this agenda, including notably through the proposed Erasmus for All EU funding programme.

I look forward to continuing our political dialogue on this and other important issues.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič Vice-President

Mr Valeriu Ştefan ZGONEA President Chamber of Deputies Palace of the Parliament Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5 RO – BUCHAREST