



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 23.1.2018
C(2018) 215 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Communication on School development and excellent teaching for a great start in life {COM(2017) 248 final}.

The Commission is committed to supporting Member States in devising and implementing reforms to their school education systems with a view to achieving high quality learning for all young people. To this end, the Commission outlined in its Communication how and where European Union assistance can be most effective.

The Commission fully acknowledges that the responsibility in the field of education resides with the Member States (Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). Its proposals for European Union action respect these competences and responsibilities. They outline how the European Union can complement, support and assist Member States in their actions.

The Commission agrees that there is still ample room for improving the evidence base for policy-making as well as for enhancing opportunities for the exchange of experiences and mutual learning through the open method of coordination on shared policy challenges in the areas mentioned in the Opinion of the Camera Deputaților, e.g. bullying, school assessment, student participation, physical and citizenship education. The Commission looks forward to continuing the cooperation in these areas with the interested Member States, and will take them into consideration when reviewing the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training beyond 2020.

The Commission also shares the Camera Deputaților's view that education is undergoing deep structural changes due to digital technologies and the increasing importance of non-formal education settings, diversified teaching methods and individual learning plans. To respond to these challenges, the Commission plans to adopt a proposal for a Council Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning in early 2018, which will revise and update the existing Recommendation on key competences for lifelong

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learning¹ to ensure that the Recommendation remains a relevant tool for education and training development.

The Commission further wishes to reiterate its commitment to support science, technologies, engineering and maths in education by promoting best practices and boosting cooperation of higher education institutions, the world of research and businesses with schools. In this context, the Commission tries to address the issues of gender gaps and stereotypes in these areas, by using the funding opportunities offered under the Erasmus+ programme.

The Commission is also of the view that, in an area which stands for approximately between 4% and 7% of public expenditure, it is important to address questions of effectiveness and efficiency of spending and to engage in exchanges that could help Member States improve in this respect. The Camera Deputaților's proposal for a summit "to discuss the role of education in integrating school leavers and graduates into the labour market and supporting their business initiatives" has been noted, and the Commission is looking forward to further discussion on this topic.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

¹ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning (2006/962/EC), OJ L 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10–18.