

Executive Summary

Opinion of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture - The European Commission's contribution to the Leaders' meeting in Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

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The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the decision on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee of the Regions - Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture - The European Commission's contribution to the Leaders' meeting in Gothenburg, 17 November, considers that education is a common European interest on the medium and long-term and supports the intensification of the cooperation efforts from the Member States, starting with drawing up directions of action with the scope of creating a common European learning space.

The Chamber of Deputies supports the mobility of young people and students, the learning of foreign languages and the creation of a European higher education space, with voluntary participation, fully respecting the institutional autonomy on higher education level, and underlines that a balanced distribution of resources is necessary to reduce the existing disparities between the European regions. It also supports the mobility of artists and professionals in the field of culture, the opening of new intercultural exchanges and European projects and the opening of a program dedicated to the young entrepreneurs of the cultural sector, and it underlines the importance of the common European efforts to promote the potential of the cultural and creative industry.

The Chamber of Deputies considers that the digitalisation, automation and artificial intelligence are part of the learning process imposed by the development of societies, which contribute to the structural soundness of the Common Market and are consequently of common interest for the Member States. At the same time, it noted that sustained efforts are necessary in order to adapt the national education systems to the new requirements, in terms of the program's content, the necessary skills and the diversity of the form of organisation and preparation, fact which would benefit from a harmonization action from the Union. In this context, it reminds that the formation of digital skills is closely linked to the evolution of the development of education in the field of science and engineering and proposes to debate on this subject at the Union's level.

At the same time, it considers that the moral-ethical education, the education in the field of fine arts and music contribute to a pleasant social context, tolerant and inclusive as well as to the subsequent stimulation of creativity in engineering and wishes the strengthening of the cooperation efforts at the Union level in order to fully use this potential. In this context, it considers necessary the strengthening of the capacities of the education systems to respond in a coherent and quick way to the requirement of competences and new abilities of industry and agriculture as they are of common European interest.

The Chamber of Deputies supports the cross-border validation of training and lifelong learning certificates - known as the Sorbonne process - and recommends the institution of a similar voluntary recognition process of the qualifications of the European business sector.

As regards the identification of the existing obstacles on legal conditionality of employments on certain jobs, as a step of a form of learning which could be easily replaced by non-formal learning, or learning on the work place, the Chamber of Deputies proposes that in an inter-governmental process, with the support of the European Commission, an analysis which could be helpful for the Member States contributing to the fully exercise of the freedom of movement within the Union should be done.