



Parlamentul României
Senat

Bucharest, 13 March 2018

Courtesy translation

**OPINION
of the ROMANIAN SENATE**

***regarding 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***

COM (2017) 673 final

The Romanian Senate examined 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 – COM (2017) 673 final - according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 1).

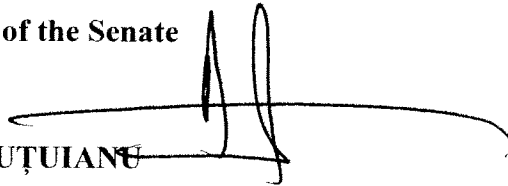
Based on the report of March 7, 2018 of our permanent Committee on European Affairs, the plenum of the Senate, during its session of March 12, 2018, decided as follows:

- (1) Welcomes the European Commission's contribution to the discussions at the Gothenburg meeting on the future of the EU, initiated at the Bratislava Summit and shaped by the European Commission's White Paper, which covered the following issues:
 - strengthening mobility and increasing the number of Erasmus+ beneficiaries (doubling the number of participants is considered a realistic target);
 - improving language learning in Europe;
 - recognition of higher education diplomas;
 - promoting creative industries and facilitating their access to capital and financing;
 - establishing a European Governance School at the European University Institute in Florence;
 - promoting European identity and values through the Euronews news channel, for the operation of which the EU financially contributes and transforming it into a genuinely European television channel;
 - at the same time, the document briefly outlines the activities of the EU to safeguard and strengthen Europe's cultural heritage and to support cultural and creative sectors.
- (2) Supports:
 - strengthening European policies on culture and education in order to identify new ways of cooperating which can provide young people the necessary linguistic and digital skills in the labor market.
 - the mobility of young people and students, language learning and the creation of a European Higher Education Area, with voluntary participation and full respect for institutional autonomy at the higher education level. It also underlines the idea that a balanced distribution of resources is essential to reduce existing disparities between European regions.

- the mobility of artists and professionals in cultural area in order to open up new intercultural exchanges and joint European projects and for a program dedicated to young entrepreneurs and professionals in the cultural area.
- (3) Appreciates and highlights the importance of strengthening European efforts to harness the potential of cultural and creative industries.
- (4) Recommends either mutualisation through supporting a part of the education and training expenditure from the common budget or other compensatory measures, taking into account the significant losses incurred by the less developed EU Member States due to the excessive migration of qualified and highly qualified staff.

p. President of the Senate

Adrian ȚUȚULIANU

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke with a vertical loop on the left side and a smaller loop on the right side, crossing the horizontal line.