



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.11.2018  
C(2018)7874 final*

*Mr Liviu DRAGNEA  
President of the Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Communication “Building a stronger Europe: the role of youth, education and culture policies” {COM(2018) 268 final}.*

*In this Communication the Commission strengthens the youth, education, training and culture dimension of the European project. This will help build a Union that has the confidence to tackle future challenges. The Commission is delivering an ambitious set of actions to boost people’s resilience in a world of diversity, mobility, migration, globalisation and technological change.*

*The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților’s support in promoting awareness of the European Union and fighting the spread of fake news and disinformation.*

*The Commission shares the Camera Deputaților’s view of the potential for stimulating and extending international collaboration in the field of education thanks to recently concluded trade treaties. Right conditions for international cooperation to flourish are necessary to continue to attract the most talented students and remain competitive in an increasingly globalised education landscape. This is why the Commission has taken the necessary steps to ensure that the Union’s interests regarding educational services are adequately safeguarded in trade agreements negotiated and concluded by the Union.*

*The Commission joins the Camera Deputaților in recognising the profound effects of technological change on culture sectors. In this context, safeguarding cultural diversity, strengthening the rights of European authors and creators, and improving their position in the global and digital economy have become a shared priority for the European Union and Member States alike. The Commission would like to recall the important initiatives launched under the Digital Single Market Strategy<sup>1</sup>, such as the revision of the copyright and audio-visual media services directives and the Regulation on fairness and transparency in online platform trading.*

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Staff Working Document A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe - Analysis and Evidence (SWD(2015) 100 final).

*The Commission agrees that a stronger Europe must embrace a knowledge economy, promote entrepreneurship and champion sustainable development. All people – both youngsters and adults – need to be equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to thrive in the rapidly-changing environments of today's societies. As these complex challenges span different sectors, the above-mentioned Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning was brought forward together with the Commission's Communication proposing a new Youth Strategy 2019-2027<sup>2</sup>, and a New European Agenda for Culture<sup>3</sup>.*

*Diversity is indeed the bedrock of our European societies as it shapes our traditions and informs our opinions. The European Year of Cultural Heritage, which is marked by Europe-wide events throughout 2018, has helped put the spotlight on what brings Europeans together rather than what keeps them apart.*

*The Commission shares the Camera Deputaților's recognition of the importance of developing Europe's cultural and creative sectors. The Commission proposal establishing the future Creative Europe programme post 2020<sup>4</sup> will give more cultural and creative organisations and, for the first time, individuals the opportunity to benefit from its actions. The Commission also shares the interest of the Camera Deputaților in innovative cross-over actions, which is why the proposal also contains a reinforced cross-sectoral strand, which will address the use of emerging technologies.*

*Education has to be fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century as well as the needs and aspirations of each individual learner. High-quality education systems that offer innovative and inclusive learning and embrace forward-looking pedagogical practices are central to paving the way for a European Education Area. In this context, the Education and Training 2020 Strategic Framework forms the bedrock of cooperation between Member States at Union level. Moreover, the Commission has proposed the future Erasmus programme post 2020<sup>5</sup> as a valuable tool to strive for innovative and inclusive education offering learners and education institutions a wide array of mobility and cooperation opportunities.*

*The Commission remains strongly committed to further empowering the young generation in the Eastern Partnership region. In order to nurture societal resilience, foster pluralism, democratic values and mutual understanding, the current Erasmus+ and Creative Europe programmes offer significant mobility, exchange and joint projects opportunities. The 5<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit of November 2017 endorsed a new Youth and Education Package, which will contribute to creating the right conditions for youth to study, work, participate in society and fulfil their potential.*

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<sup>2</sup> Commission Staff Working Document Results of the open method of coordination in the youth field 2010-2018 (SWD(2018)168 final) and Commission Staff Working Document Situation of young people in the European Union (SWD(2018)169 final).

<sup>3</sup> Commission Staff Working Document A New European Agenda for Culture - Background Information (SWD(2018)167 final).

<sup>4</sup> COM(2018) 366 final.

<sup>5</sup> COM(2018) 367 final.

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics  
Member of the Commission*