



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*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 on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing ‘Erasmus’: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 {COM(2018) 367 final}.

The Erasmus+ programme and its forerunners are now in their 31st year of implementation and more than 9 million people have directly benefitted from them so far. The Commission has put forward this new proposal to continue and expand the current Erasmus+ programme as well as to respond to the Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017¹, which called for ‘a Union where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent’.

The general objective of the programme is to support the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport, through formal and informal learning, in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion and to strengthening European identity. As such, the programme shall be a key instrument for building a European Education Area, supporting the implementation of the European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training, advancing youth policy cooperation under the Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and developing the European dimension in sport.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaților for a stronger Erasmus programme and agrees that the new programme should be even more inclusive and accessible to people from different backgrounds. In order to reach new and more diverse learners, the Commission proposes to increase school pupils’ mobility, mobility of learners in vocational education and training and youth mobility. The programme will also focus on smaller organisations, in particular community-based grassroots organisations that work directly with disadvantaged learners of all ages. Providing more

¹ Declaration of the leaders of 27 member states and of the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission;
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/03/25/rome-declaration/pdf>

flexible mobility formats, such as short-term and group activities, and virtual and blended mobility will help reach more and more diverse learners.

The Commission also agrees with the Camera Deputaţilor that the next Erasmus programme should continue to promote participation in democratic life and European awareness. Therefore, the Camera Deputaţilor's support to the DiscoverEU initiative is very valuable. This initiative fits well with the European Union's ambition to promote learning mobility, active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of young people. It promotes informal learning through the discovery of heritage sites, places of historic interest, traditions and culture in Europe. It is also an opportunity for self-discovery and self-development.

The Commission would also like to inform the Camera Deputaţilor that the proposal recognises the importance of training in scientific research and harnessing the opportunities of the digital society. Europe needs more investments in digital skills and forward-looking fields, such as climate change, clean energy, artificial intelligence, robotics, data analysis, arts/design, etc. The programme can make a meaningful contribution to growth and social cohesion by stimulating innovation and bridging Europe's knowledge, skills and competences gap. Focused actions will help the Union unleash its potential for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship in the digital and knowledge-based economy.

The Commission further confirms that the proposal offers strong synergies with other Union instruments which could also be used for infrastructure investments in the field of education. The proposal also supports transnational and international cooperation in the fields of education, training, youth and sport including with neighbourhood countries.

Finally, the Commission takes note of the recommendations of the Camera Deputaţilor for the implementation of the future Erasmus programme. In parallel to the ongoing negotiations on the proposal, the Commission is preparing the ground for the implementation of the future programme, with the aim of ensuring that it will be simpler and more user-friendly. During this process, the Commission will cooperate closely with the National Agencies which are operational in all countries participating in the current programme.

Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in time for a seamless transition from the current programme to the future one.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*