



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Călin POPESCU-TARICEANU
President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3,
sector 5
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat 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 general objective of the programme is to support the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport, in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion and to strengthening European identity. The programme shall be a key instrument in the work towards a European Education Area, by 2025, namely ‘a Europe in which learning, studying and doing research would not be hampered by borders. A continent, where spending time in another Member State – to study, to learn, or to work – has become the standard and where, in addition to one’s mother tongue, speaking two other languages has become the norm’¹.

The Commission takes good note of the point made by the Senat regarding the categorisation in cost categories of the countries participating in the programme and wishes to clarify that the issue is not covered by the Regulation. It will be addressed by the Commission, assisted by the relevant working groups, including representatives of Member States and of National Agencies, as part of the preparation of the implementation of the future programme.

Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, on the proposal for the new Erasmus programme are currently under

¹ Commission Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture {COM(2017) 673 final}.

way. 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 looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*