



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU
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 Council Recommendation on Learning for Environmental Sustainability {COM(2022) 11 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's support for the proposal. Following negotiations with Member States, the Recommendation was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 16 June 2022 under the title Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development¹. The points made below are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission.

The proposal is part of the Commission's concerted efforts to tackle the climate crisis and biodiversity loss and to ensure that education and training as a sector support and contribute to the goals of the European Green Deal. The proposal aims to boost cooperation between Member States on sustainability education and contribute to the creation of the European Education Area, where the green transition is one of the six priority themes. Providing formal, non-formal and informal opportunities for learning for sustainability will benefit learners from an early age through to adulthood and help achieve a greener and fairer economy and society.

The Commission acknowledges the solid progress made by Member States on learning for environmental sustainability and related agendas. The Commission welcomes Romania's effort to include environmental education in the national curriculum for

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H0627\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H0627(01))

primary and lower secondary schools, as well as the work of the Ministries of Education and Environment to develop a strategy for environmental education for the school year 2023-2024.

As the Camera Deputaților points out in its Opinion, learning for the green transition should entail the acquisition of practical skills needed on the labour market. The Opinion highlights the need for regular consultations at European Union level to share best practices in the field of environmental education. As part of the European Education Area Strategic Framework, a dedicated Working Group has been established which focuses on embedding sustainability in school education. The group, in which Romania is represented, provides a forum for mutual learning and exchange between Member States.

The Opinion also highlights the importance of developing sustainability competences, including through self-directed, online learning. Short learning courses on the green transition and micro-credentials are especially relevant in higher education, vocational training and adult learning. In this regard, a Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability was also adopted in June by the Council of the European Union².

The Commission welcomes the Opinion's focus on the need to integrate the digital and green transition in education and the key role of intergenerational learning and community involvement in promoting environmental awareness and understanding.

These views are also reflected in the Commission's proposal, which makes clear that learning for the green transition must be relevant to local contexts and traditions, experiential and interdisciplinary. As highlighted in the Opinion, learning for the green transition needs be inclusive, reaching adult learners as well as people living in rural areas.

In line with the European Union Treaties, the Commission's proposal fully respects the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and recognises that Member States are responsible for the content of teaching and the organisation of their education and training systems.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN
Member of the Commission*

² [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H0627\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022H0627(02))