



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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President of the
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*Mr Pío GARCÍA-ESCUADERO MÁRQUEZ
President of the Senado
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Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their 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 Commission has put forward this proposal not only to ensure the continuity of the current Erasmus+ programme, now in its 31st year of implementation, of which more than 9 million people have directly benefitted so far, but also as a response 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 proposed Regulation also seeks to support the vision to work towards a European Education Area, to be achieved 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’². In addition, the proposal constitutes a concrete follow-up to the call of the European Council Conclusions of 14 December 2017 to take forward work with a view

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>

² Commission Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture {COM(2017) 673 final}.

to 'stepping up mobility and exchanges, including through a substantially strengthened, inclusive and extended Erasmus+ programme'³.

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. 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, with its underlying sectoral agendas, advancing youth policy cooperation under the Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and developing the European dimension in sport.

The Commission welcomes the Cortes Generales' assessment that this proposal complies with the subsidiarity principle. The very nature of the objectives of the Programme and the type of activities that it foresees to reach them, such as transnational mobility or European-level cooperation projects, imply that individual Member States could not achieve these goals on their own.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Cortes Generales in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/32204/14-final-conclusions-rev1-en.pdf>