



Re Political dialogue regarding 'Improving Education' and 'Investing in Young People'

Mr T. Navracsics  
European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport  
Wetstraat 200  
BE-1049 Brussels, Belgium

The Hague, 07 February 2017

Subject: Letter within the framework of the political dialogue regarding 'Investing in Europe's Youth' and 'Improving and Modernising Education'.

Dear Mr Navracsics,

The European Commission work programme (COM(2016)710) announces EU legislative proposals in the field of education, i.e. a quality framework for apprenticeships and a proposal for greater student mobility. The Communications 'Investing in Europe's Youth' (COM(2016)940) and 'Improving and Modernising Education' (COM(2016)941) also announce numerous new proposals regarding education and training.

The Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Science (*Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap, OCW*) in the House of Representatives recognises the importance of raising the standard of education in Europe. The Standing Committee agrees with the European Commission that Member States first and foremost bear responsibility for their own policy regarding education, training, young people and employment, and that the role of the EU is to support the efforts of the Member States.<sup>1</sup> The Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Science is also of the opinion that it is undesirable for the European Commission to publish proposals of a legislative nature regarding education and training, in light of the fact that, in accordance with Articles 165-166 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the role of the Union with regard to education and vocational training is limited to supporting and coordinating powers, and that decision-making in this area remains an exclusive competence of the Member States.

The Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Science looks forward to your response and would appreciate receiving a reply as soon as possible, in any case within three months of the date of this letter. Thank you in advance for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A.G. Wolbert  
Chair of the Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Science

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016)940, p.4