



Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

Antwerp, 30 April 2019

Dear Mr. President,

As the decade marked by the implementation of ET 2020 and the renewed European Agenda for Research and Innovation comes to a close and a new Commission will be nominated soon, a broad reflection is being launched not only to evaluate work done, but also to assess persisting needs, new challenges and trends that require action at EU level.

The emerging European Education Area, the further development of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna process), the enhanced EU cooperation in vocational education and training (Copenhagen process), the European Research Areas (ERA), the EU programmes in education and research and the concept of European universities, require in our opinion the development of an all encompassing legal framework. Such framework should pave the way to an ambitious and successful programme of change for the next decade and beyond.

As explained in the attached documents, we feel that structural deficiencies are holding back major advancements in the higher education and research, despite the very successful execution and expansion of the EU programmes under your responsibility.

The European Association for Education Law and Policy (ELA) is an independent association, headquartered in Antwerp, gathering academics, professionals and experts of various backgrounds in higher education and research, the educational consulting and legal sector, university administrations and the public service.

A Working Group was formed in 2018 consisting of Fausto Comandè (University of Milan), Alexander Hoogenboom (Maastricht University), Peter van der Hijden (independent) and Jan De Groof (College of Europe). The first version of the Green Paper was also commented by Sacha Garben (College of Europe), Kris Grimonprez (University of Luxemburg), Kurt Deketelaere (LERU), Erwin Malfroy (Flemish Ministry of Education and Training) and Peter Kwikkers (Triasnet Consultants).

We intend to set up an open consortium of experts who could contribute to the elaboration of new legal instrumentation at EU level offer our expertise throughout the whole process. We are ready to discuss assignments and projects with you. We are looking forward to examine on possible modes of cooperation and to hearing your thoughts on the attached papers.

Kind regards,

Prof. dr. J. De Groof
Chair, The President of the European Association of Education Law and Policy
College of Europe (Bruges)

Drs. Fausto Comandè
Rapporteur, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Annexes (2)

- *Green Paper: The EU mission in education and research: Available legal tools for EU education and training policy for the next decade and beyond (with concrete proposals in annex)*
- *Towards the European Framework Law for Higher Education and Research*