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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Modernisation of Education I: Europe 2020, country analysis, Erasmus+ coordination
Country analysis

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Mr Simon J. Steen
Chairman of the European Council
of National Associations of
Independent Schools (ECNAIS)
VBS
Bezuidenhoutseweg 251-253
NL-2594 AM Den Haag
e-mail: secretariat@ecnaeis.org

Dear Mr. Steen,

On behalf of the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, we would like to thank you for your mail from 31 May 2016, informing us of the open letter you sent to the Greek authorities as regards the proposal for Article 40 of the legislation on private education in Greece.

As you certainly know the European Union (EU) has very limited competence in the field of education. Art. 165 of the Treaties (TFEU) mainly concerns the fostering of cooperation and exchanges between the Member States. Thus the rules as regards private education are established solely by the relevant national authorities.

However, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the economic adjustment programme concluded by the institutions with Greece on 19 August 2015 contains a provision on education, including independent schools (art. 4.1). It stipulates that "(...) *the authorities will ensure a fair treatment of all the education providers, including privately owned institutions, by setting minimum standards (...)*".

Therefore, the Commission and the other institutions are presently in close contact with the relevant Greek authorities in order to tackle the proposed art. 40 legislation and seek a resolution, that would be agreeable for all of the parties involved in this process.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Teutsch
Head of Unit