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European Union

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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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Subject: The Education Summit  
- *Information from the Commission*

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Commission on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 15 February 2018.

## **Education Summit**

The Commission wants to inform the Education Council about the outcome of the first European Education Summit that took place in Brussels on 25 January 2018.

The Education Summit was built around the broad theme of "Laying the foundations of the European Education Area: for an innovative, inclusive and values-based education". It brought together the education sector and the wider society with around 600 participants including Education Ministers, stakeholders, civil society, business representatives and academics. Around 80 speakers were involved, including Ministers, education practitioners and activists, scientists, authors, philosophers, athletes, musicians and business representatives.

This first Education Summit came at a time when education has gained political prominence at the highest EU level. It helped to highlight the role of education as a vital force for economic growth and social cohesion.

Following a high-level meeting of Member State senior officials responsible for education and training which took place on the eve of the Education Summit, the Summit allowed to advance in the discussions on the ambitious education agenda with a focus on the work towards a European Education Area by 2025. The Commission's vision of a European Education Area was set out in view of the Gothenburg Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth of 17 November 2017. The European Council conclusions of 14 December 2017 invited the Commission, the Council and the Member States to examine measures addressing the need for an inclusive, lifelong-learning-based and innovation-driven approach to education and training. The conclusions also called on the Member States, the Council, and the Commission to take work forward in relation to the initiatives that the Commission had proposed as elements of a European Education Area.

The distinguished political attendance at the Education Summit, the wide variety of participants and speakers and the combination of broad strategic panel debates and dedicated sessions on specific topics allowed for rich, open and strongly inspirational exchanges. Three broad challenges were on the centre stage at the Education Summit:

- how to support the work towards the European Education Area through the different EU instruments, such as the Erasmus+ programme and the European Structural and Investment Funds;
- how to foster social cohesion by strengthening the contribution of education to shared values and a European identity and by facilitating the acquisition of basic skills for all and ensuring that no learner is left behind, in particular by supporting teachers, and promoting early childhood education and care;
- the skills for the future, in particular those linked to the technological revolution, but also disciplines of science, engineering and mathematics as well as entrepreneurship.