



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 28 November 2013
(OR. en)**

**16931/13
ADD 1**

**Interinstitutional File:
2011/0371 (COD)**

**CODEC 2740
EDUC 453
JEUN 117
SPORT 107
SOC 994
RELEX 1074
RECH 575
CADREFIN 329**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing "Erasmus+": the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport and repealing Decisions No 1719/2006/EC, No 1720/2006/EC and No 1298/2008/EC (**first reading**)

- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)
- = Statement

Joint statement from France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Slovenia on the student loan guarantee facility

France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Slovenia welcome the Irish Presidency compromise proposal on the Union programme 2014-2020 dedicated to education, training, youth and sport, which will promote European citizenship and strengthen the Europe of knowledge.

France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Slovenia wish to underline that the compromise proposal clearly defines that the loan guarantee facility for Master students will be of strictly experimental nature.

However, France, Sweden, Denmark Finland, Poland, Slovenia reaffirm that the student loan guarantee facility for Masters students¹ is not a suitable answer to the democratisation and the development of international exchanges while mobility is at the very heart of the Erasmus project, one of the most emblematic European programs.

In a context of growing student debt and very high youth unemployment in Europe, we are very concerned about the choice of reducing de facto the number of student mobility grants (studies, internships) open to all categories of students, to the benefit of loans for Masters students only. Further on, we expect that the Student Loan Guarantee Facility will not lead to imbalances in mobility and "brain drain".

Given the absence of an updated impact study - in particular social - France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Slovenia have always wished the implementation of this student loan facility to remain at an experimental level, and, in accordance with the principle of equity, to include lending conditions that are more favorable than those of the market and don't lead to student over-indebtedness and don't replace grants that must remain the ideal vector for training mobility. Therefore, it would have been advisable for the share of the budget allocated to this new instrument proposed by the Commission to be limited to 2 %, as France, Sweden, Denmark Finland, Poland, Slovenia have wished to.

France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Poland, Slovenia urge the Commission to ensure that the students will be protected from the potential negative effects of this instrument. They also affirm their commitment to use all the means possible to revise and review the impacts of the implementation of the Facility, in particular in view of its experimental nature that is part of this agreement.

¹ - Recital 11; Articles 7(1)(a); 18(2)(c); 20; 21(2) and (3); 28(3)(a); and Annex 2 - of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport (2014-2020).