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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Promoting common values through education, training and non-formal learning - <i>Information from the Commission</i>

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 20-21 November 2017.

Promoting common values through education, training and non-formal learning

The Commission intends to make a proposal for a Council Recommendation on inclusive education and promoting common values through education, training and non-formal learning in early 2018.

Since the beginning of recent wave of terrorist attacks in Europe, the need to reinforce the commitment to our common values has become increasingly relevant. The vital role that education has to play in this was highlighted in one of the first EU-level responses, namely the Paris Declaration of 17 March 2015 on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education.

As a follow-up to the Paris Declaration, the Commission has been working closely with stakeholders and with Member States. A public consultation in summer 2017 on a potential Commission proposal for a "Council Recommendation on promoting common values through education" provided 1,124 responses, including over 200 position papers, showing that there is great interest in the initiative. The responses revealed virtually unanimous agreement (95%) that education should help young people 'understand the importance of and adhere to shared values' and that the EU should help Member States in this task (98%).

Taking into account the great variety of education systems and while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, the Recommendation could set out a number of suggestions for Member States to promote common values as defined in the EU Treaty through education, training and non-formal learning. The Recommendation also foresees to elaborate on what the EU can do to support those actions.