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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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

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.

Education Summit

At the Education Council of last February, in the framework of the adoption of the *Council Conclusions on inclusion in diversity through a high quality education for all*, Commissioner Navracsics announced his intention to follow up with an Education Summit which would include the theme Inclusion in Diversity. At the EYCS Council of last May, he informed Ministers about first concrete ideas about the Summit.

As the Summit is approaching and the details of the events have been worked out, the Commission wishes to provide further information on the date, theme and objectives of the event.

The Summit will take place on 25 January 2018 in Brussels. It will have a specific and limited focus on priority issues and will be the occasion for a high-level commitment to action.

The Summit will be centred on inequality and low achievement in basic skills. This directly reflects the Commission's repeated prioritisation of inequality to be addressed by the EU as a core challenge. The 2015 PISA results published in December 2016 have underlined the depth of the challenge that EU and Member States face in this area.

It is expected that the Summit will be a key contribution to the debate on how education can be beneficial to inclusion policies and tackling inequality in Member States. The three main themes central to the discussion will be basic skills and inclusive education, smart investment in education and what skills are needed for the decades to come. The *Education and Training Monitor* will provide the evidence-base to underpin the discussions and will also help to frame the commitments and policy responses which will materialise during the Summit.

The Summit will bring together 400+ participants, in particular: Education Ministers from the Member States, leading global speakers and representatives of key stakeholders such as teachers, learners and parents, researchers, business and civil society.