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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Observatory on History Teaching in Europe
- Information from the Cyprus, French, Greek, Irish, Luxembourg, Maltese, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish delegations

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Cyprus, French, Greek, Irish, Luxembourg, Maltese, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish delegations on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' of the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 16 May 2023.

Observatory on History Teaching in Europe

Information from the Cyprus, French, Greek, Irish, Luxembourg, Maltese, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish delegations

Created in 2021 as part of a Council of Europe enlarged partial agreement, the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe brings together 16 countries, including nine Member States of the European Union. Very recently Ukraine also formally expressed its desire to join the Observatory.

The Observatory is responsible for compiling and circulating factual information on the ways history is taught in participating European countries, in order to promote teaching practices and initiatives encouraging history learning. It also aims to reinforce among younger generations universal values such as the rule of law, human rights and peace.

Current geopolitical events clearly show how the falsification of historical facts can be used to justify the most aggressive and unlawful policies. More than ever, this issue must be taken into account in the general reflection on how to transform and adapt our education systems, which aim is to develop enlightened citizens fully committed to the democratic values that are at the very foundation of the European Union.

The European Union shows the importance it attaches to history teaching through ‘Transnational History Education and Co-operation Laboratory – HISTOLAB’, a project it is carrying out jointly with the Council of Europe. In its work, which is complementary to that of the Observatory, HISTOLAB embraces innovative teaching initiatives, including tools to counter the distortion of history.

This is why we would like to encourage and invite all Member States of the European Union to engage in the momentum that has developed around history teaching and learning issues and join the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe.