



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Directorate-General for Education and Culture  
Youth, Sport And Citizenship  
Head of Unit

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Mr. Karsten Lucke M.A.  
Europa-Haus  
Postfach 1204  
D 56464 Bad Marienberg

**Subject: Your letter from 3 November 2009  
"A letter to Europe" – European youth gathering  
Europe Haus Marienberg (October 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 2009)**

Dear Mr. Lucke,

On behalf of Commissioner Šefčovič, I would like to thank you and all 64 participants in the international youth seminar "Active Democracy" for the letter you sent to the Commission.

We read your letter with great interest. It provides fresh input into many topics which are currently discussed by the European institutions. In reply to your letter, we would like to highlight some of the most recent developments.

In his *Political Guidelines for the next Commission*, President Barroso put youth mobility and its role in promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and multilingual learning high on the political agenda. President Barroso's Guidelines also include a clear statement regarding migration and immigration, a topic which you specifically address in your letter.

In April 2009, the European Commission adopted the Communication "*An EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering*". This Communication outlines the European Commission's and Member States' strategy in the field of youth for the nine years to come. [http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1458\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1458_en.htm)

On 27 November 2009, EU Youth Ministers are expected to endorse this EU Youth Strategy with a *Council Resolution*. The Resolution will put a specific focus on the following areas: education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, participation, voluntary activities, social inclusion, youth in the world, creativity and culture. We would like to invite you to consult the above mentioned website for further information by the end of this month.

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[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture)  
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Some complementary policies and programmes for your interest:

- *Youth in Action programme*: Many projects of the European Commission's "Youth in Action" programme - which involves per year about 130 000 young people in 7000 projects - address better participation and involvement of young people in society. The programme also contributes to fostering common understanding in a diverse society and to fighting racism.
- *Migration*: You may be aware of the Green Paper on "Migration and Mobility: challenges and opportunities for EU education systems". We recommend the following web site for further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news490\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news490_en.htm)

- Cooperation between "East" and "West": The *European Neighbourhood Policy*, which applies to the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea, offers the European Union's neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon mutual commitment to common values such as democracy and human rights.

[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/policy\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/policy_en.htm)

- Relations with Russia are developed through a *Strategic Partnership*:

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/russia/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/russia/index_en.htm)

- In the field of youth, both the Council of Europe and the European Commission develop cooperation with their neighbours in youth work, youth research and youth policy within the framework of their *partnership in the field of youth*.

<http://youth-partnership.coe.int/youth-partnership/>

These elements respond to a certain extent to your proposals and may provide input to your further discussions.

We thank you for your commitment and wish you and all young people involved in the project all the best for the continuation of your work.

Yours sincerely,



Sergej Koperdak  
Head of Unit