

Commitments

made at the hearing of

TIBOR NAVRACSICS

Commissioner for Education, Culture,
Youth and Sport



In his answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee for Culture and Education, commissioner-designate Tibor Navracsics made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Culture are presented in this document¹.

Education

Modernisation of education systems

"I want to help modernise our education systems, from early childhood to post-graduate studies. I want to ensure we have motivated and well-trained teachers, whose work is recognised and valued across society. I want our schools and universities to embrace new technologies and new ways of teaching and learning."

"This means putting pressure on our governments to invest in their teachers and the new technologies of the classroom, and to modernise their teaching methods and curricula. Even when our Member States have to repair their public finances, it is vital that they protect their investment in education and training."

"I want our universities to become the best in the world."

"I will continue in delivering well-target country specific recommendations to Member States on the need to address structural weaknesses in their educational policies. I will work closely with all relevant colleague Commissioners to achieve the necessary integrated approach towards education policies."

Europe 2020 strategy

"I want to make sure we reach our targets under the Europe 2020 strategy: more students completing higher education, and fewer pupils leaving school early."

ERASMUS+

"I am honoured to take responsibility for the new programme – Erasmus+. I want us to work together to make sure it gets the funding it deserves. In the case of Erasmus+ I have to develop close cooperation with Marianne Thyssen – but we also have to pull together as institutions."

Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness agenda

"My aim is to contribute to the strategic agenda of the Commission by strengthening education's

role and its contribution to Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness agenda of the President-elect."

OECD

"I think we have to work together with the OECD in the education evaluation system."

The Bologna System

"I think the Bologna system is a success. However, it has to be refined. The experience of many Member States shows, that if the system is implemented without flexibility, it results in certain case a too stiff system. The system should be refined, made more flexible and more sophisticated."

EIT and Marie Skłodowska Curie actions

"We will continue to invest in the European Institute of Innovation and Technology – the EIT – and our Marie Skłodowska Curie actions."

The JRC

"I will put the JRC at the service of all the policy areas we deal with."

Culture

Cultural and creative industries

"I want to ensure that our cultural and creative industries can flourish in the digital world. "

Trade negotiations

"I commit to you that no trade negotiation anywhere in the world will undermine the role of culture and the crucial importance of public support. "

Copyright

"Any reform of our copyright regime will promote not only our artists and creators but also the cultural diversity that is the very core of Europe's identity."

Jobs, Growth and Competitiveness agenda

"I will work on how to maximise the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to Europe's strategies for jobs and growth."

Unlawfully removed cultural objects

"I do not know the dossier, but I can promise to get familiarised with it and if I become a commissioner to look after what steps can possibly be made and I will inform you."

Youth

Youth unemployment

"I will work closely with my colleague, Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, so that together we do everything possible to fight youth unemployment."

Youth Guarantee

"With your support, and working alongside our Member States, we can help young people make the transition to the world of work. We will achieve this by modernising our education and training systems so that they support the labour market of the 21st century, by supporting the Youth Guarantee, by funding new partnerships between universities, training colleges and businesses, by improving the quality of apprenticeships, and by giving young people all the benefits of non-formal learning, outside the classroom."

Participatory democracy

"I plan to develop new platforms that will allow us to reach one million young people over the next five years. This would signal a real change in participatory democracy, and a real support to the efforts of this Parliament to reach out to young people."

"I want to bring Europe's youth into our policy-making."

Freedom of media

"I think we have to turn to the future and we have to make this colourful and very plural media world at European level even in Hungary. We have to give them strong support in order to keep up their services and they can flourish as well."

Appearance before EP bodies

"I welcome the President-elect's intention of reinforcing the special relationship with the European Parliament and I am ready to work closely with the European Parliament on the basis of the Framework Agreement."

"I would make it a priority to come to your committee at the first opportunity so that we can continue the conversation we started today".

NGOs

"I think NGOs are essential parts of a political system. They can integrate, articulate and represent citizens who are dealing with other things than professional politics. So I would like to work and cooperate with them."

European Voluntary Service

"We have to spread the popularity of the European Voluntary Service, and we have to fund our efforts on the national voluntary services. I think there is a big future for the voluntary services at European level, but we have to coordinate, and I will support all of my forces with the coordination of the voluntary services at national level and the coordination of the European Voluntary Service, because I think it is one worth making because it is a very good and noble thing."

Sport

"Issues I would like to support in the near future:

- mass sport with €300 million;*
- the European Sport Week;*
- fight against fraud in sport (doping and match fixing)"*

"We need to provide opportunity to Member States to learn each other's sport infrastructure development strategies. I will do all possible in order to support this exchange."

Multilingualism

"I hope we can work together to make full use of this great opportunity to promote all of Europe's languages, no matter how many people speak them."

"I will seek the support of Mr Timmermans, who will be the first Vice-President of the Commission, and we will map out the situation and do our best to preserve and protect minority languages."

Citizenship

After MEPs having said earlier that Mr Navracsics could not have authority over citizenship because of his former post in his country, citizenship was removed from the portfolio of the commissioner for education, youth, culture and citizenship. This has been added to the portfolio of Dimitris Avramopoulos, the commissioner for migration and home affairs.

Mr Navracsics will have 'sport' added to his portfolio, an area that was previously missing from the portfolio titles.

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

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