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EUN/COR/009  
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European Commission  
Secretariat-General – Unit  
SG C4 – "Work Programme  
and Stakeholder  
Consultation"  
BERL 7/16  
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date 16 September 2014  
subject EUNEC (European Network of Education  
Councils) reaction to the public  
consultation on the Commission's  
Stakeholder Consultation Guidelines

Dear Sir, Dear Madam

EUNEC welcomes the fact that the European Commission considers consultations as a key tool for transparent and informed policy making. Over the last ten years, EUNEC expressed the views of education and training stakeholders in a reaction to several open consultations published on the 'Your Voice in Europe' website.

One of the concerns of the Commission is that participation by stakeholders in open public consultations is disappointingly low. We welcome the fact that the Commission is wanting to reach all stakeholders, also the underrepresented groups, and to assist them in replying to complex issues.

The European Commission consultations tools are adequate, but there are limits, merely related to the representativeness of respondents.

That's why, in a reaction to this consultation on the Guidelines, we think it might be useful to draw your attention to a publication of our network 'Education councils in Europe. Balancing expertise, societal input and political control in the production of policy advice' (Public Management Institute, ISBN 9789081333627).

EUNEC, the European Network of Education Councils, is convinced that all those involved in education can benefit from a European platform where major reforms in educational systems can be discussed thoroughly and prepared for a successful implementation. This study has been undertaken to identify and describe the various existing models for consulting educational stakeholders in the EU; we are sure that the recommendations from the study can help to underpin thinking on transparent and

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efficient structures for consultation, advice and dialogue between policy makers and stakeholders.

In this sense, we think that the study contains a wealth of information which might also be useful in the light of the guidelines for the Commission's Stakeholder Consultation.

You can find the study at the [EUNEC website](#). If you wish, we can send you more printed copies of the book.

We are of course prepared to discuss the results of the study and the functioning of education councils, members of EUNEC, during a personal meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Mia Douterlungne  
General Secretary EUNEC