

Dear Commissioner Navracsics,
Dear Ms. Christophidou,

25 June 2018

On 22 May, the European Commission proposed its vision on taking forward the European Education Area. As two established alliances promoting in-depth collaboration between Higher Education Institutions, we fully support the European Commission's plans to launch an initiative in support of "European Universities". The aims to bring cross-border cooperation to the next level of ambition and to develop joint long-term institutional strategies for top-quality education, research and innovation are fully aligned with the vision and activities of Eucor – The European Campus and the EuroTech Universities Alliance. Our members, activities and vision are outlined in our previously submitted position papers, which are annexed to this letter.

We have learnt that the pilot call of the "European Universities" initiative could be restricted to ERASMUS+ Programme countries only. With active Swiss partners at the heart of both Eucor – The European Campus and the EuroTech Universities Alliance, such a restriction would imply that our participation in the pilot call is seriously hindered. Given the long-lasting and wide-ranging links in education and research between Switzerland and the rest of Europe, this restriction would negatively impact Europe's universities at large.

As you are aware, Switzerland is regularly quoted as Europe's leader in innovation. Home to some of Europe's most prestigious higher education institutions, in terms of innovative education, excellent research and services to society, the Swiss track record is reflected in their high share of international students and staff and their performance in the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation and European Research Council grants. We believe it is crucial to continue promoting cooperation with Swiss institutions at the highest level from the outset, in order to help build a successful European Education Area and to achieve the longer-term goals of the "European Universities" initiative across education, research and innovation.

We therefore kindly ask the European Commission to ensure a broad participation of countries in the "European Universities" initiative from the outset and launch of the first pilot call for proposals due in the autumn.

We thank you in advance for your attention and rest at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,



Hans-Jochen Schiewer
President of Eucor – The European Campus



Jan Mengelers
President of EuroTech Universities Alliance