

JOINT DECLARATION

of

Ms Androulla VASSILIOU, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth,

European Commission

and

the Honourable Namsoo SEO, Minister of Education,

Government of the Republic of Korea

The European Union and the Government of the Republic of Korea wish to reinforce cooperation and dialogue in the field of education and training.

European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Ms. Androulla VASSILIOU, and Minister for Education, the Honourable Namsoo SEO, have declared their willingness to further strengthen cooperation by promoting policy dialogue and joint cooperation projects in higher education.

Both Sides acknowledge the crucial contribution of education and training to the development of the global human resources capable of participating in the global knowledge-based economy and the key role they play in boosting growth and jobs. Cooperation in these fields is a common interest as it allows both Sides to learn from successful experiences and to keep abreast of developments.

Commissioner VASSILIOU and Minister SEO recalled the intentions of the 2010 Framework Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Korea which stresses the importance of fostering contacts between the peoples of the Member States of the EU and of the Republic of Korea, including cooperation to increase mutual understanding and the knowledge of their respective cultures.

Commissioner VASSILIOU and Minister SEO confirmed their determination to build upon the existing partnership to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world. They noted the importance of promoting the use of existing instruments and structures which had proved successful, including Erasmus Mundus and Instrument for Industrialised Countries – Education Cooperation Programme and supporting cooperation projects concerning, for example, exchanges of students and staff, joint masters' degree programmes and partnerships between higher education institutions. They also noted the interest of Korean higher education institutions in the European Bologna process of modernizing the delivery of higher education and the introduction of tools such as the Diploma Supplement to secure better recognition of qualifications received in different countries.

Taking into account the solid foundation and the opportunity to strengthen cooperation, Commissioner VASSILIOU and Minister SEO jointly declared the following intentions:

To promote the use of existing instruments and instruments that may be adopted in the future and other forms of joint working in education and training as may be mutually determined, and in particular to support cooperation projects between higher education and training institutions in the European Union and the Republic of Korea, including through the Erasmus+ programme.

Cooperation projects should in particular aim at:

promoting and facilitating student and faculty mobility between recognized higher education institutions in the European Union and the Republic of Korea;

facilitating the quality of student/learner and professional mobility by promoting transparent, mutual recognition of qualifications and periods of study and training, and where appropriate, portability of credits.

To establish a policy dialogue on issues of common interest in the field of education and training. The policy dialogue is intended to consist of exchanges of best practice, reviews of policy developments and challenges and promoting knowledge building and sharing on horizontal issues of interest for the European Union and the Republic of Korea. It may also help identify common objectives and strategies

These exchanges might focus on issues such as:

the Bologna process;

quality assurance and transparency tools contributing to the transferability and mutual recognition of qualifications;

higher education policies, priorities and reforms, including the establishment of indicators and benchmarking.

The European Commission and the Korean Government may also facilitate the organisation of relevant specialised seminars or workshops and expert meetings for the purpose of those exchanges with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

The organization and the determination of priorities for both categories described above should be mutually arranged by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea.

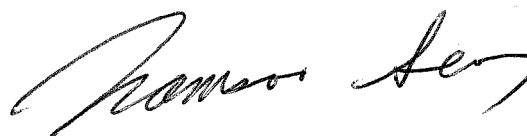
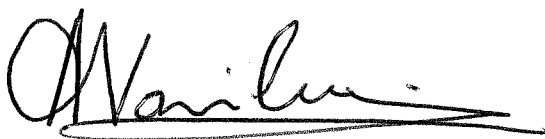
Both Sides will bear any costs for the participation in such events and meetings for their own delegation. All other costs linked to the above-mentioned activities are intended to be borne by the Side hosting the event, except if otherwise foreseen. The costs of the joint studies should also be shared. Existing instruments and, when provided for, any future instruments, could be drawn upon to contribute to the financing of such sectoral policy dialogue activities.

This Joint Declaration expresses political intent and is not designed to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

Signed in Brussels on 11 of November 2013 in four originals, two in the English language and two in the Korean language.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Ms. Androulla VASSILIOU

The Hon Namsoo SEO

European Commissioner for Education, Culture,
Multilingualism and Youth

Minister of Education of the Republic of
Korea