



H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk
President of the European Council

Your post of

Your references

Our references

Date

CM/AE/AG/

22/03/2017

Mr. President,

This year, we celebrate two anniversaries: the signature of the Rome Treaty and the birth of the Erasmus programme.

Both have something in common. In our quest to reaffirm our fundamental values and go further in the deepening of the Union, all Heads of states and governments echoed the need to bring the European project closer to European citizens.

In addition to allowing hundreds of thousands of students to study abroad to complement their tertiary education or professional training, the Erasmus programme is without doubt the best instrument at our disposal to create a lasting bond between the newer generations and the European project and values. Nine million students have benefitted from the Erasmus programme to this day. Both in 2014 and in 2015, about €1.2 billion have been allocated to the mobility of learning individuals.

We must strengthen the Erasmus programme. We should aim to multiply by a factor of 10 the number of opportunities offered to young European to study or train in another Member state. Benefitting from the Erasmus programme should become the norm rather than the exception.

It is the European youth that will carry the European project forward. It must become theirs. Solidarity, openness and excellence are probably the greatest teachings of the Erasmus programme, and as it happens, they coincide with European values.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my high consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and strokes, representing the name Charles Michel.

Charles MICHEL