

Minister Lodewijk Asscher
Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
Anna Hanover Street 4
2595 BJ The Hague

23 January 2014

Subject: Support for a Quality Framework for Traineeships

Dear Minister Asscher,

On 4 December the European Commission announced its proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships (COM (2013) 857 final). The proposal is a long-awaited response to calls from the European Parliament¹, the European Council², social partners³ and youth organisations⁴ to tackling the growing issue of poor quality internships across Europe.

The Dutch Youth Unions CNV Jongeren, FNV Jong, the Dutch National Youth Council and the European Youth Forum would like to express our support for the proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships. The proposal is the first high-level political step towards ensuring that Europe's young people have a positive and valuable first experience of the world of work.

Internships can be very valuable when it comes to increasing the employability of young people, but only when certain quality criteria are provided. These criteria are outlined in the [European Quality Charter on Internships and Apprenticeships](#) and include the need for a written contract outlining the learning objectives of the intern as well as the rights and obligations of both parties.

A Council Recommendation on Quality Framework for Traineeships would enable young interns to increase their professional skills in a safe and fair environment, and would help equip young people with skills needed to enter the labour market. Such a Framework is one step towards dealing with the high levels of youth unemployment that Europe is facing.

CNV Jongeren, FNV Jong, NJR and the European Youth Forum would like to strongly encourage you to support the proposal for a Council Recommendation so that agreement can be reached on a strong Quality Framework for Traineeships at the EPSCO meeting in March.

We remain at your disposal for any further information you may need.

Yours sincerely,

Giuseppe Porcaro,
Secretary General
European Youth
Forum



Michiel Hietkamp
President CNV
Jongeren

Robbert Coenmans
President FNV Jong



Esther Peeters
President NJR



¹ EP 2009/2221(INI), 6.7.2010 and Resolution 2012/2647(RSP).

² European Council Conclusions of December 2012, February 2013 and June 2013

³ Framework of Actions on Youth Employment, European Social Partners, June 2013

⁴ The European Quality Charter on Internships and Apprenticeships, qualityinternships.eu