



Brussels, May 7, 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

European citizens want to understand what the Union is doing to improve their lives and those of their children. The cause we are promoting, the **Erasmus for Apprentices**, is likely to interest our citizens in that it invites and helps them to project themselves into the future with confidence. It speaks directly to the younger generation.

Over the next five years, you intend to take part in the European Union's strategic orientations. It is because we place vocational training at the forefront of investments in the future that I have the honour of asking for your attention. By 2029, given the demographic prospects of the member states, Europe will have lost almost 8 million people from the workforce. Acquiring the skills we need to produce at the level of our collective expectations depends on the quality of our education and the pathways offered to young people. Alongside higher education, a number of other sectors offer apprenticeships. Since 1987, the ERASMUS program has demonstrated its benefits for university students. Mobility of several months or more, develops transversal skills, self-confidence, agility, teamwork, creativity, as well as language skills. The Bologna Process launched in 1998 has helped to harmonize the conditions for awarding degrees and led to the creation of the "European Higher Education Area". On the other hand, VET learners still face barriers of all kinds (legal, financial, academic, psychological) and are still excluded from the experience of mobility, the benefits of which are as much for young people as for their employers and, more generally, for the prosperity of national and European economies. Moreover, it's an opportunity for the younger generation to strengthen, and sometimes even awaken, their sense of belonging to the European community, its values, its economic and social model, and its culture.

At the General Assembly on Mobility for Apprentices that we organized in Brussels on April 3 and 4, the 300 participants from 28 countries unanimously approved the attached call for action. This manifesto invites member states to adopt the recommendation proposal adopted by the Commission in November 2023, "**Europe on the Move' – learning mobility opportunities for everyone**" including an Annex II "**A policy framework for apprentice mobility**". We have added six measures that we consider essential, particularly in terms of finance. Members of the European Parliament who share our goals will be called upon to commit to additional funding for the Erasmus program and to ensure that the rules of the ESF+ program are adapted to facilitate all actions that lift barriers and obstacles. Some of our recommendations may take the form of pilot projects, initiated by Members of the European Parliament. Overall, it is about accelerating the process that has been started and finally opening the doors to the **European Area of Mobility for apprentices and Vocational Training**.



Hoping for your support, along with all members of EAM EU, I am at your disposal to collect your comments and answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Jean Arthuis
Former Minister
Former EP member
President of EAM EU

Attachment: Call to action for a “European Area of Mobility for apprentices and Vocational Training”