



**European Association for
Architectural Education**
Association Européenne pour
l'Enseignement de l'Architecture

Diepenbeek, 25.06.2019

To:

Dr. Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth & Sport
Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science & Innovation

Dear Commissioner Navracsics
Dear Commissioner Moedas

We are writing to you on behalf of EAAE and SCHOSA, EAAE being the European Association for Architectural Education, and SCHOSA the Standing Conference of Heads of Schools of Architecture in the United Kingdom. As membership bodies, both our organizations represent the interests of schools of architecture at universities in Europe and in the United Kingdom respectively.

The collaboration amongst European universities in general and amongst European schools of architecture and urbanism in particular was and still is one of the cornerstones of development and progress in Europe in the fields of architecture and urban design. Steeped in the traditions of the European cultural realm, exchange programs both in education and research have throughout the last few decades fostered a European culture of continuous critical and scientific debate and of learning from the best practice and theory. This is essential to the improvement of our discipline and for its ability to provide powerful and lasting solutions for many of the big challenges with which Europe and its various nations are confronted. Project-based collaborations (many of which have been funded generously by the European Union under its diverse programs) have made it possible to tackle highly relevant questions regarding the management and development of the built environment, its quality and sustainability for future generations.

Many of the achievements resulting from the well-established means of exchange and collaboration amongst the European nations – and in particular between the United Kingdom and the other member nations of the European Union – are put in jeopardy by the uncertainties regarding Brexit, the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. For academia especially – the community of teachers and researchers at universities – such a dissociation is particularly unnatural and difficult, as teaching and researching at university level were and remain about discourse and the free exchange and challenge of ideas, with the increase of knowledge and understanding as a common goal.

It is clear to us that Brexit is not a process which, in its core, can be influenced significantly by your directorates-general. But while the outcome of the Brexit process is still unclear, we would like to jointly stress that, even in the case of a withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, all possible efforts should be made to guarantee the access of UK higher education and research institutions to the European education and research network. As you know, some of the best universities in the world – and some of the best schools of architecture and urbanism – are located in the United Kingdom, proof of the robustness of education and research in the UK in general. It is in the common interest of both the UK and the EU that existing ties are not severed, but conserved and strengthened.

We urge you to do your utmost to eliminate the negative impacts of a Brexit in the areas governed by your directorates-general. We thank you in advance for your reply, and for all your efforts in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Dr. Oya Atalay Franck,
President EAAE

Prof. Don Gray,
Chair SCHOSA

EAAE / AEEA AISBL/IVZW

European Association for Architectural Education / Association Européenne pour l'Enseignement de l'Architecture
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