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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Erasmus action of the Lifelong Learning Programme supports European activities in higher education institutions and promotes the mobility and exchange of students. Student exchanges within Erasmus play a major role in widening students' awareness of Europe as well as providing young European citizens with the skills and the knowledge necessary to benefit from the opportunities and to overcome the challenges of today's and tomorrow's Europe.

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a pan-European organisation which was founded in Copenhagen in 1990 with the support and encouragement of the European Commission. Today, the 364 Local Sections of the network operate in 34 countries. They provide practical assistance to incoming students by means of a mentoring system, and help in finding accommodation, organising social events and providing information and brochures to local sections. They also provide information and guidance to fellow students wishing to participate in different exchange programmes. This peer group assistance provided by ESN has not only practical value but reinforces the community of understanding which the Erasmus programme seeks to foster.

At European level, the Erasmus Student Network is developing projects to support and contribute to the enhancement of student mobility in higher education. ESN is a recognised and valuable partner of the European Commission as it actively participates in consultations and meetings in the field of Education and Training and specifically in the field of HE learning mobility. The Headquarters of the organisation are in Brussels, located at 15, Rue Hydraulique, B1210, Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode.

The European Commission has provided some financial assistance to ESN since 2002. However, other sources of practical and financial support are also needed if the network is to fulfil its potential. I would therefore invite you to provide assistance to the members of this student organisation in any way you may find appropriate in order to enable them to fulfil their important task for the Erasmus programme.

Adam Tyson
Head of Unit