Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
EU2015.LV

Ministry of Education and Science Republic of Latvia

European Commission

Invitation
Meeting of Ministers in charge of Vocational Education and Training, European Social Partners and European Commission

"Innovating for the Future of VET"

21 – 22 June 2015, Riga

Dear Prof. Dr. Alfredo Soeiro,

It is our great pleasure and honour to invite you to participate in the Meeting of Ministers in charge of Vocational Education and Training (VET), the European Social Partners and the European Commission to be held 21 – 22 June 2015 in Riga, organised under the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in cooperation with the European Commission, the venue of the meeting being the National Library of Latvia.

The meeting on 22 June will be organised in two sessions – in the morning and in the afternoon, with a welcome dinner scheduled on Sunday 21 June at 19:30 at the Latvian Railway History Museum.

The morning session on 22 June will start at 9:00. In the light of new challenges and opportunities arising from the socio-economic and demographic changes and their impact on the labour market and having regard to the aims of the Copenhagen process on enhanced European cooperation in Vocational Education and Training and its recent review, the Bruges Communiqué, the main objective of the meeting is to further deepen European cooperation in VET. More specifically, one of the aims of the meeting is the endorsement of the "Riga Conclusions" with the five medium-term deliverables in the area of VET for the period 2015-2020, to be discussed in the Council as part of the ET2020 Joint Report.

You are kindly invited to take part in the morning joint plenary sessions as observers, participating in the introductory part of the morning session, as well as in the part where it is envisaged to adopt the Riga Conclusions. In the light of the adoption of the Riga Conclusions, the VET providers will be kindly asked to deliver a presentation on the joint declaration on the Riga Conclusions for 10 minutes before closing remarks of the morning session.

The afternoon session will start at 14:30 with the representatives of the business sector and apprentices joining the meeting. The afternoon session will be devoted to a further promotion of the

European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) which was started two years ago in Leipzig. Presentation of success stories and communication tools, as well as expectations from companies, business organisations and social partners and the next steps in the development of the EAfA will be discussed and presented, including new commitments on the part of businesses to strengthen collaboration between the world of education and the world of work. An exhibition will be organised to encourage further achievements and future possibilities in the development of apprenticeships.

Online registration for the meetings will be open **until 10 June** at the following link: https://delegation.eu2015.lv.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Latvian Presidency at presidency@izm.gov.lv. Please find enclosed the Draft Agenda and Practical Information for the participants.

Looking forward to meeting you in Riga and our continued close and fruitful cooperation!

Yours sincerely,

Mārīte Seile

Minister for Education and Science

Marianne Thyssen

Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility