

## Commissioner Navracsics - Meeting with President of Microsoft International Brussels, 24 March 2015

### Speaking points

- We very much appreciate continued cooperation with Microsoft. It is a leading company in software and cloud services and is also increasingly acquiring expertise and providing products such as tablets and cloud software in the educational field.

### ***[on use of (Microsoft) technology in the classroom]***

- We very much welcome Microsoft's continued commitment to offer solutions in the educational field. Nonetheless, we remain neutral and will not take a position on which technologies should be used in the classroom.
- In the educational field, government actors are naturally and increasingly concerned about who to do business with and how data about students is collected and used.
- We are very supportive of the concept of "learning analytics" *[analysing data collected during a student's learning process]*, but also cautious about it.
- We hope that no industry actor aims to create closed platforms – similar to mobile device's app stores – for the educational field, whether regarding software or resources.

### ***[on digital skills/competences]***

- We are aware that Microsoft and other industry actors are in need of ICT-skilled employees. Whilst a quick solution is not easy to put in place, in the long term educational systems around the EU are increasingly teaching digital competences *[although sometimes only to a small degree]*.
- The EU is very supportive of the increased use of digital technologies and the teaching of digital skills; the European Social and Investment Funds (ESIF) are clearly including those priorities *[Regional fund – infrastructure for schools; Social fund: teaching of digital skills]*.
- As regards the provision of digital skills and competences, we also hope to see more support from industry on the teaching of general digital competences and not just software-specific offers. If we are to deliver a Digital Single Market for business, workers, consumers and citizens, digital skills for all need to be part of the equation.
- Our particular area of concern is teacher training – we believe much more needs to be done to equip teachers with digital competences and in particular digital pedagogies and hope Microsoft can contribute even more in this field.