

# [Ban on electric shock collars should be extended across the UK](#)

The Scottish government has announced that they will ban electric shock collars used in the training of dogs.

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Author:

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## [My open letter to Charity Commission & President's Club](#)

Today, I've written an open letter, signed by MPs from all parties, to the CEO of the Charity Commission and to the President's Club.

The letter calls on the Charity Commission to urgently investigate the President's Club "because of the "serious and potentially criminal nature of the behaviour."

There can be no place in 2018 for respectable fundraising events which objectify women and subject them to groping and harassment.

The letter also asks that the organisation investigates "whether the Trustees are fit to hold such office, given their apparent failure to properly discharge their duties to protect health and safety of workers and the reputation of the charity."

In the letter to the President's Club I've also made clear that **"There can be no place in 2018 for respectable fundraising events which objectify women and subject them to groping and harassment."**

**The Trustees of the President's Club have fundamentally failed in their duty.**

Indeed not only do the reported events of last week impact on the reputation of the Presidents Club Charitable Trust, they also put at risk the reputations of charities that were being supported by the event.

No doubt these charity partners, sponsors and donors to the Presidents Club Charitable Trust will be reassessing their involvement with your charity following these revelations.

The full text of the letters are below:

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Author:

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## [Unemployment down again in Wokingham](#)

The Wokingham constituency figures for unemployed people fell again in December 2017, and were 35 down on December 2016. Those between the ages of 18-24 saw a welcome decline of 25, leaving 45 now without a job. Total unemployment in Wokingham is at 0.7% of the workforce. This means Wokingham is the seventh lowest unemployment rate of all 650 constituencies in the country.

It is good news that unemployment is so low, and good news that Wokingham recovered well from the great recession at the end of the last decade which did cause substantial job losses. A number of local employers are looking for new employees, so those who remain out of work have opportunities to find something suitable.

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## [Space policy: Galileo Security Monitoring Centre back-up site moves to Spain](#)

The Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (GSMC) is a technical infrastructure which plays a key role in ensuring the security of the EU's satellite navigation programme Galileo, including its Public Regulated Service (PRS). The GSMC has its main and operational location in France and its back-up site in the United Kingdom (Swanwick). As a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU, the GSMC's back-up site needs to be relocated from the United Kingdom to one of the 27 EU Member States.

Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** said: *"Europe's satellite navigation system Galileo has already been delivering high quality services for over a year now. With today's decision the Commission is taking the necessary operational steps to ensure business continuity and preserve the security of the Galileo system."*

On 1 August 2017, the Commission launched an open and transparent call for

expressions of interest to host the back-up site of the GSMC. Six Member States (Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain) submitted proposals which the Commission assessed according to objective technical, security, financial and programmatic criteria on the basis of the rules foreseen in the Galileo Regulation. On 18 January 2018, representatives of 27 Member States in the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) Programmes Committee voted in favour of the Commission proposal to relocate the back-up site to Spain. With today's formal decision, the Commission is launching the process for the transfer of the back-up site from the UK to Spain.

### **Next steps**

The new site will become operational in the coming months, subject to its prior accreditation by the [Security Accreditation Board](#) for European GNSS Systems. The hosting Member State will bear the costs for hosting the back-up site, while the EU will bear the costs of staffing and Galileo equipment. The GNSS Agency in Prague (GSA) will decide on the number of staff to operate the back-up centre.

### **Background**

Galileo is a key component of the Commission's [Space Strategy](#), which focuses on fostering new services, creating business opportunities, promoting Europe's leadership in space and maintaining Europe's strategic autonomy. The high-precision global satellite navigation system already supports emergency operations, provides more accurate navigation services, offers better time synchronisation for critical infrastructures and ensures secure services for public authorities.

The Galileo Public Regulated Service (PRS) is an encrypted navigation service for government-authorized users, such as civil protection services, customs officers and the police. This system is particularly robust and fully encrypted to provide service continuity for government users during emergencies or crisis situations.

A growing number of companies and innovative start-ups are using Galileo data and enabling their devices, including the newest versions of smartphones (find out if your device is [Galileo-enabled](#)).

Once the constellation is completed, it will improve in-car navigation and mobile phone signals, help road and rail transport become safer and act as a catalyst for R&D and high-tech job creation around Europe.

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## **[Commission to host first ever](#)**

# Education Summit: laying the foundations for a European Education Area

This Summit follows the [Gothenburg Summit](#) in November 2017 where the Commission set out its vision to create a European Education Area by 2025, and the [December European Council](#) where Member States expressed a willingness to do more in the area of education. It is an important opportunity for 18 EU Education Ministers, education professionals and representatives from all over Europe to come together and discuss the future of education in Europe. This European Education Summit is the start of a series, with the second one to follow in autumn 2019.

Ahead of the event, Tibor **Navracsics** said, *“Education should equip citizens, young and old, with the competences to lead fulfilling lives and build communities. While education is the responsibility of Member States, we need to step up our cooperation at EU level. We have to use the full potential of education to build resilient societies, create a sense of belonging and enable people to experience European identity in all its diversity. To help achieve this, we want to boost language learning, ensure that your diploma is recognised wherever you are in the Union, that European universities can maximise their cooperation, and that studying in another EU country becomes easier than ever before. This is what a true European Education Area is about, and tomorrow’s Summit is a concrete step towards making it a reality.”*

Under the broad theme **‘Laying the foundations of a European Education Area: for an innovative, inclusive and values-based education’**, the Summit will focus on answering questions such as how quality, inclusive and values-based education can contribute to a successful Europe; what competences are needed for the decades to come; and how we can boost basic, digital and entrepreneurial skills.

The [programme](#) includes over twenty sessions, master classes and high-level panel discussions, with more than 40 speakers. They cover a vast range of issues, including how to engage disadvantaged pupils to ensure no one is left behind, how to best equip teachers, how to boost learning through sport, as well as the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) in education and the role children play in helping to transform societies.

## **Next steps**

Building on the conclusions of the Summit, the Commission will present further initiatives in spring 2018. These will include proposals on the mutual recognition of diplomas, language learning, a quality framework for early childhood education and care, a European Agenda for Culture, and a new EU Youth Strategy. [In Gothenburg](#), President **Juncker** also invited the EU leaders to work towards doubling the number of young people in the EU participating in Erasmus+ by 2025, which will require a budget of €29.4

billion for the period 2021-2027. Furthermore, the Commission will take forward work on a network of European universities and a new EU student card. The latter will make studying in another EU country easier than ever before.

## **Background**

When EU leaders' met in Gothenburg in November 2017, the Commission presented a [Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture](#). In this [Communication](#), the Commission set out its vision for the creation of a European Education Area by 2025 to harness the full potential of education as a driver for job creation, economic growth, social fairness as well as a means to experience European identity in all its diversity.

Only two months after the Gothenburg Summit, on 17 January, the Commission followed up with proposals for new initiatives intended to reduce socio-economic inequalities, whilst sustaining competitiveness in order to build a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe. They are:

- A [Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning and Annex](#) to improve the development of key competences of people of all ages throughout their lives and to provide guidance to Member States on how to achieve this objective. A particular focus is placed on promoting entrepreneurial drive and innovation-oriented mind-sets in order to unlock personal potential, creativity and self-initiative.
- A [Digital Education Action Plan](#) outlining how the EU can help people, educational institutions and education systems better adapt to life and work in an age of rapid digital change.
- A [Council Recommendation on common values](#), inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching in order to help young people understand the importance of and adhere to common values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union. It aims at strengthening social cohesion and contributing to fighting the rise of populism, xenophobia, divisive nationalism and the spreading of fake news.

## **For More Information**

[European Education Summit website](#)

The Summit plenary sessions will be [web streamed](#)

[New measures to boost key competences and digital skills, as well as the European dimension of education](#)

[Factsheet on the European Education Area](#)

[Factsheet on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning](#)

[Factsheet on the Digital Education Action Plan](#)

[Factsheet on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching](#)

[Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture](#)

[Education & Training Monitor 2017](#)