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EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE  
THE PRESIDENT

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16 December 2002

Dear Alumni

The EUI is considering the possibility of granting an additional completion grant to its students in order to ensure that their PhD is completed within 4 years, the defence taking place during the last 6 months of the fourth year.

In order to reach this goal, the thesis should be submitted probably after three and a half years, which would give some time to our researchers to prepare themselves for their future professional life. We would like to offer them the possibility of getting a placement/*stage* in public or private companies or institutions if they wish to go on the market. For those who prefer to enter into academic life on the other hand, we would like to develop teaching opportunities for periods up to 6 months or even more, before a possible appointment.

I am writing to ask if you could help us in developing a network of universities/research centres/public institutions willing to offer short-term contracts to our researchers. Although important, financial compensation is not the main concern. What we are looking for is the opportunity for our researchers to obtain teaching or professional experience, given that EUI is unable for example to offer the possibility to teach undergraduate students. As you know, one of the comparative advantages of students trained at the EUI is a strong emphasis on comparative studies, a knowledge of transnational/multinational developments, a focus on Europe and, most of the time, the knowledge of several languages.

If you are willing to help us, I would be grateful if you could identify both the opportunities and the people responsible in your own faculty/company.

It should be made clear that the EUI has a strong preference for informal agreements, such as an exchange of letters setting up the modalities of such co-operation, but we are ready to consider the most appropriate option for national or local traditions.

I do hope that you will be willing to consider my proposal and look forward to your reaction. I would be grateful if you could liaise with **Andreas Frijdal**, who will co-ordinate our action on this front.

I hope you will be able to reply positively to this proposal, and in the meantime I send you my best wishes to you and your family for the forthcoming year.

Yours sincerely

Yves Mény