



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 6.7.2021  
C(2021) 5162 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Nationalrat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages in the European Union {COM(2020) 682 final}.*

*The aim of the proposal is to ensure that the workers in the Union are protected by adequate minimum wages allowing for a decent living wherever they work, which will not only protect workers' income, but also promote a fair labour market, as well as economic and social progress. To this end, the proposal establishes a framework to improve the adequacy of minimum wages and to increase the access of workers to minimum wage protection. These objectives are relevant both for statutory minimum wage systems and for those relying on collective bargaining.*

*The Commission would like to reassure the Nationalrat that the proposed Directive does not call into question the specificities of national systems and traditions, and fully respects national competences and the autonomy of social partners, in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and within the limits of EU competence in the field of wages. The proposal does not seek to harmonise the level of minimum wages across the EU nor to establish a uniform mechanism for setting minimum wages in all Member States. Minimum wage protection would continue to be provided through freely bargained collective agreements or through legal provisions.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Nationalrat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Nicolas Schmit  
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Wolfgang SOBOTKA  
President of the Nationalrat  
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