



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.4.2014
C(2014) 2537 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication on Strengthening the Social Dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union {COM(2013) 690 final}.

The Commission is pleased to note the Senát's comprehensive support for the Commission's Communication.

The Senát raises a specific point in the context of its support for the measures to increase labour mobility, i.e. that of a simultaneous strengthening of the prevention of abuse of migration 'for social benefits'.

The Commission, in this respect, would like to refer to the factual evidence which suggests that most EU citizens moving to another Member State do so to work and are likely to be economically active and less likely to claim social benefits.

The Commission would further like to draw attention to its Communication published on 25 November 2013 "Free movement of EU citizens and their families: five actions to make a difference" {COM(2013) 837 final}, which outlines five concrete actions to help national and local authorities to effectively apply EU rules on free movement and use available funds on the ground. This Communication advocates action with respect to i) fighting marriages of convenience, ii) applying EU social security coordination rules, iii) addressing social inclusion challenges through a further use of the European Social Fund, iv) promoting the exchange of best practices amongst local authorities, and v) ensuring application of EU free movement rules on the ground through online training modules.

The Senát also recalls its long-term position of support for EU and Member States' initiatives to combat youth unemployment, including through improving youth employability, youth guarantees, reforms in education and promotion of educational mobility.

The Commission is grateful for the support of the Senát on this crucial employment and social challenge.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*