



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the Commission's proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 on the European Social Fund, as regards an increase of the initial pre-financing amount paid to operational programmes supported by the Youth Employment Initiative – {COM(2015) 46 final}.

The aim of this proposal which in the meantime has been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council and entered into force on 21 May 2015, was to advance in time a significant amount of the allocated resources under the Youth Employment Initiative ("YEI"). This will allow the quick mobilisation of this Initiative and the speedier implementation of important actions on the ground designed to assist the integration into the labour market of young persons most affected by youth unemployment.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's call for a quick implementation of the YEI and the Youth Guarantee. In this regard, the Commission would like to underline that besides the measures under the YEI, other measures are necessary for the full implementation of the Youth Guarantee. In particular, the Member States should use the European Social Fund and national budget to support investments in systems and structures necessary for the implementation of the Youth Guarantee. In addition, the Commission would like to stress that the Youth Guarantee is an opportunity for long term structural reform inter alia in education and in the area of public employment services. Therefore the comprehensive implementation of a Youth Guarantee needs the full support of national governments.

The Commission hopes that the European Social Fund Operational Programme Employment adopted by the Commission on 6 June 2015 can assist the Senát in this respect.

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

Yours faithfully,

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Member of the Commission*

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