



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 31.5.2016
C(2016) 3176 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market {COM(2015) 462 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's endorsement of coordinated action to support the long-term unemployed and of reinforced cooperation with employers, in line with the spirit of this Recommendation. The Recommendation preserves a high degree of flexibility for Member States in both the design and substance of implementation measures.

The arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the Recommendation are currently under discussion in the Employment Committee of the Council in which your government is represented.

The Commission underlines that support for entrepreneurship and a better alignment of education to labour market needs are important avenues to be pursued by Member States whilst implementing the Recommendation. The upcoming Commission initiatives on the 'European pillar of social rights' and the 'New Skills Agenda for Europe' will address the challenges posed by the changing world of work, including new working arrangements and the need to promote skills development.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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