



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.08.2021
C(2021) 6218 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Resolution on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan {COM(2021) 102 final}.

The Action Plan, adopted by the Commission in March 2021, has greatly benefitted from the contributions made during the consultations conducted in the course of 2020 and early 2021 with Government representatives and key stakeholders in the Czech Republic.

The European Pillar of Social Rights (hereafter Social Pillar) stands at the heart of our efforts towards a fair and inclusive recovery. Social reforms and investments must accompany a fair digital and green transition, taking account of demographic changes. The Action Plan aims to implement the principles of the Social Pillar. It also constituted the Commission's input for the successful Social Summit in Porto, which took place on 7 and 8 May 2021.

Both the Porto Social Commitment, signed by the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Commission, the Prime Minister of Portugal, EU social partners and the Social Platform, and the Porto Declaration by EU Heads of State and Government, adopted at the Social Summit, will drive the implementation of the Social Pillar in the coming months and years.

The Porto Declaration acknowledges the action plan and its key political priorities. It notably welcomes the new measurable EU-level 2030 headline targets in the areas of employment, skills and poverty reduction; confirms the European Semester as the main tool to monitor progress toward the targets; welcomes the proposal for a revised Social Scoreboard, and underlines a very strong link between the economic recovery and the Social Pillar, which is crucial when it comes to the implementation of the recovery package. It also welcomes the EU social partners' proposals to identify the right indicators in order to go "beyond GDP".

To contribute to the necessary concerted effort to reach the new targets, the Action Plan puts forward an ambitious set of actions at EU level. Some of them have already been adopted, such as the revised European Youth Guarantee, the Council Recommendation on Vocational Education and Training and the new European Child Guarantee.

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Others have been launched in the past weeks and months (such as the proposal for a Directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union, the Second-phase consultation of EU social partners on working conditions of persons working through platforms, the proposal for a Directive on pay transparency to ensure equal pay for equal work, the Recommendation on effective active support to employment following the COVID-19 crisis and the new Occupational safety and health strategic framework 2021-2027).

Among the planned initiatives for the coming months and for 2022 are an Action plan on social economy, an initiative on Individual Learning Accounts, a European approach on micro-credentials and a Council Recommendation on minimum income. The issue of the inclusion of older people in society and the labour market, emphasised in the Senát's Opinion, is of utmost importance in the context of the demographic transition and the Commission's Green Paper on Ageing. As one of the direct follow-ups to the Green Paper on Ageing, the Commission will notably table an initiative on long-term care in 2022. Some of these proposals will also be discussed and negotiated during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2022, and the Commission trusts the Czech Presidency will greatly contribute to achieving tangible results.

Many of the levers to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights are, however, not in the hands of the Commission or the European Union. In line with the Porto Social Commitment and the Porto Declaration, action at all levels is required to reach the Action Plan's objectives, including by national, regional and local authorities as well as by social partners and civil society organisations.

The multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and the NextGenerationEU provide EU financial support to carry out the ambitious reforms and investments needed to make our economies and societies more inclusive, resilient, green and digital. In particular, the Recovery and Resilience Facility can contribute to the implementation of the Social Pillar, including through measures of effective active support to employment following the COVID-19 crisis.

The Social Summit in Porto has conveyed a strong political signal of unity, solidarity and resolve about our path to a fair, sustainable and inclusive recovery, putting people at the centre.

The Commission counts on the continued commitment of the Czech Republic to strengthen Europe's social market economy and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Janusz Wojciechowski
Member of the Commission*