



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Folketing for its reasoned Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) 2014 - 2020 {COM(2011) 608 final} and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission would like to underline that it is up to the Member States to decide whether to apply for EGF funding, and which of the redundant workers should be targeted. Member States also decide which measures should be implemented and what will be the cost to their respective budgets. Member States also implement the measures according to their own legislation, procedures and rules.

The EGF can be of assistance only at the request of Member States. The EGF intervention criteria are strictly limited, in order to ensure that it becomes involved only where there are major cases of European level importance.

The EGF does, however, allow Member States to go beyond the measures generally made available to workers made redundant in mass redundancy cases, by providing them with more personalised support, by supporting them for longer periods, and by making available measures not currently available in more general schemes. The EGF can thus be used to test innovative actions and delivery methods - but only if Member States so desire.

The Commission will shortly be transmitting the mid-term evaluation of the effectiveness and sustainability of the results obtained by the EGF to the various institutions and stakeholders. I hope that the results obtained so far will convince the Folketing of the value added of this Fund.

The Commission would also like to explain that by proposing to extend the scope of the EGF to additional categories of workers (including farmers), the EU shows that there is support available also for sectors confronted with possible negative impacts of free trade agreements. The targeted support farmers could obtain with the EGF would be complementary to the general support provided by the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Commission emphasises that the EGF is an expression of solidarity on the European level, assisting Member States at their request in coping with the unforeseen effects of globalisation.

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Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Commission is currently assessing two new EGF applications – one based on the "crisis" derogation, one based on the globalisation criterion - received in 2011 from the Government of Denmark.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Folketing.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*