



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assemblée nationale for its Opinion on the Commission's Communication "Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights" {COM(2016) 127 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Assemblée nationale's support for the European Pillar of Social Rights and for making the social dimension of the European Union more visible as well as for its objective of upwards convergence. The Commission has taken due note of the Assemblée nationale's position on the need for clarification regarding the language of the document, as well as on the implementation of the proposed principles.

The Commission has also taken note of the Assemblée nationale's position regarding the need to rebalance European Union policies towards a more social dimension. The Commission agrees that social imbalances ultimately have a negative impact on competitiveness and economic growth. Furthermore, the Commission acknowledges the Assemblée nationale's position vis-à-vis the role of minimum wages and common unemployment benefit schemes in achieving social convergence among the Member States.

On the geographical scope of the European Pillar of Social Rights the Commission agrees with the Assemblée nationale that the European Pillar of Social Rights would indeed be primarily addressed to the euro area. The Commission also concurs with the Assembly on the important role of the social dialogue and the need to involve social partners in the design and implementation process.

Furthermore, the Commission fully supports the Assemblée nationale's position on the importance of job creation, maintaining competitiveness, and designing adequate policy responses to the challenges created by new forms of work. In that regard, the Commission welcomes the French model of "compte personnel d'activité" that could serve as a basis for mutual learning on the topic with other Member States.

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The Commission takes note of the proposals described in the Assemblée nationale's Opinion as regards young people (including legislation on apprenticeships), work-life balance and equality at work, minimum income and healthcare coverage. It also acknowledges the role of the indicators to measure Member States' performance in the framework of the European Semester, and the relevance of European funds in further strengthening the social dimension of the European Union.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*