



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.6.2018
C(2018) 3540 final*

*Mr Michael MÜLLER
President of the Bundesrat
Leipziger Straße 3 - 4
D – 10117 BERLIN*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the European Union Action Plan 2017-2019 on combating the gender pay gap {COM(2017) 678 final}.

The Action Plan is part of the Commission's broader agenda on gender equality. It is framed by the "Strategic engagement for gender equality 2016-2019". One of the five priority areas outlined in the Strategic engagement is notably reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps and thus fighting poverty among women.¹

The Commission welcomes the Bundesrat's broad support for the aims of the Action Plan, in particular its call for further action by the European Union to combat the gender pay gap. In this respect, the Commission refers to the evaluation of the Gender Equality Recast Directive (2006/54/EC)², mentioned as one of the main actions in the Action Plan, concerning in particular pay transparency and clarification of the notion of work of equal value.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/strategic_engagement_en.pdf

² Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation (recast); OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 23–36