



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 23.6.2020
C(2020) 4324 final*

*Mr Dietmar WOIDKE
President of the Bundesrat
Leipziger Straße 3 - 4
10117 BERLIN*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025” {COM(2020) 152 final}.

We appreciate that the Bundesrat decided to analyse this Strategy and welcomes the support for its aims and the conclusion that action at the European level is necessary to achieve gender equality. The Commission thanks the German Bundesrat for its very pertinent remarks regarding the situation of trans and intersex persons. The Commission is attentive to difficulties and unequal treatment faced by transgender and intersex persons, which are a daily reality for many people in Europe. It has offered support to Member States, civil society and businesses in combatting these problems and promoting diversity. The specific concerns of trans and intersex persons will be addressed in the upcoming LGBTI+ equality strategy, which will be adopted later this year.

In the context of the above, the Commission would be very grateful to be able to count on the support of the German Council Presidency in the negotiations on two legislative proposals which are currently not moving forward – the Directive on Gender Balance in corporate boards¹, and the Equal Treatment Directive². The same goes for the proposal on pay transparency, which the Commission will present later this year.

¹ Proposal for a Directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures, COM(2012) 614 final.

² Proposal for a Council Directive implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, COM(2008)426 final.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing such dialogue with the Bundesrat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Helena Dalli
Member of the Commission*