



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13.6.2012
C(2012) 3683 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Eerste and Tweede Kamer for their reasoned opinion concerning the proposal for a regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) 2014 – 2010 {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, as well as which redundant workers should be targeted, which measures to implement and at what cost to the budget. In any case, Member States implement the measures in accordance with their own legislation, procedures and rules.

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

The Commission agrees that responsibility for providing support for workers made redundant lies primarily with the Member States. The EGF intervention criteria are defined so as to ensure that it could be applied only to major cases of European-level importance.

The Commission will shortly transmit 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 Eerste and Tweede Kamer of the value added of this Fund.

*Mr. G.J.DE GRAAF
Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten Generaal
Binnenhof 22
Postbus 20017
NL – 2500 EA DEN HAAG*

*Mrs. Gerdi VERBEET
Voorzitter van de Tweede Kamer der Staten Generaal
Postbus 20018
NL – 2500 EA DEN HAAG*

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Commission is currently assessing three new EGF applications submitted on the basis of the "crisis" derogation and received from the Government of the Netherlands in December 2011. It has to be noted that the Netherlands is among the countries that have introduced the highest number of applications to the EGF.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Eerste and Tweede Kamer.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*