



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA
President of the Camera Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Social Fund, as regards an increase of the initial pre-financing amount paid to operational programmes supported by the Youth Employment Initiative {COM(2015) 46 final}.

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its positive opinion and vocal support for this proposal whose aim is to advance in time a significant amount of the allocated resources under the Youth Employment Initiative. This will allow for the quick mobilisation of this Initiative and will help ensure the speedier mobilisation of important actions on the ground designed to assist the integration into the labour market of those young persons most affected by youth unemployment.

The Commission shares the view that EU funding alone will not suffice to address all systemic reforms that the successful and comprehensive implementation of the Youth Guarantee calls for. The Commission therefore encourages Member States to prioritise youth employment measures in their national budgets as well.

Regarding the suggestion to modify the conditionality envisaged in the Commission's proposal, the Commission notes that both EU co-legislators, including the Council in which your government is represented, have at this stage adopted the amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013¹ without any modifications to the Commission's initial proposal.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 2015/779 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015, Official Journal of the European Union, L126, 21 May 2015.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*