



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.3.2016
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market {COM(2015) 462 final}.

The endorsement by the Camera Deputaților of the principle of individualised active support, of strengthened cooperation between employment and social authorities, and of reinforced cooperation with the employers are fully in line with the spirit of the proposed Recommendation. The Recommendation also preserves a high degree of flexibility for Member States in both the design and substance of implementation measures. Strong macroeconomic fundamentals remain a prerequisite of job creation. Framing the Recommendation in the context of flexicurity offers a broader perspective on the overall objective of the Recommendation: increase the rate of transition from long-term unemployment to employment by providing guidance on service delivery.

The Commission underlines that support for entrepreneurship and the necessity to increase exchanges of best practices on preventive and curative measures are important avenues to be pursued by Member States whilst implementing the Recommendation. The upcoming Commission initiatives on the "European pillar of social rights" and the "New Skills Agenda for Europe" address the challenges posed by the changing world of work, including new contractual arrangements and the need to promote skills development as well as reap the full potential of digital jobs.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission, which is currently in the process of formal adoption in Council, in which your government is represented.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*