EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Brussels, 9.8.2016 *C*(2016) 5230 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the Commission Communication launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights {COM(2016) 127 final}.

The endorsement by the Camera Deputaților of the objectives of the initiative, notably to renew social convergence in the euro area and to provide a reference framework for improved employment and social performance in the euro area and beyond, offers a good basis for taking forward the debate on the Pillar in Romania.

The Commission shares the concern expressed by Camera Deputaţilor on the social and employment consequences of the economic crisis across the EU and agrees that the Pillar should serve towards building a deeper and fairer economic and monetary union. The Commission also shares the view that social policies are a productive factor contributing to reducing inequalities and improving the long-run growth potential.

The Commission takes note of the areas highlighted as particularly relevant for Romania, notably the ageing of populations and poverty and social exclusion as well as the call to re-formulate and complete the "flexicurity" concept – flexibility and security of employment.

The consultation will run until 31 December 2016 and the results of the consultation will help shape the final proposal for the Pillar to be presented early in 2017.

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,

Violeta Bulc

Member of the Commission

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