



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 18.5.2017*

*C(2017) 1756 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Commission Communication "Online Platforms and the Digital Single Market – Opportunities and Challenges for Europe" {COM(2016) 288 final}.*

*The Commission takes note of the Camera Deputaților's comments regarding the comparatively more significant economic impact of online platforms in less developed Member States. The Commission will aim to take this into account in any future work on the regulatory framework in this field.*

*Concerning the need to support the development of online platforms in order for the EU to remain globally competitive, the Digital Single Market Strategy, the Single Market Strategy and the Capital Markets Union, as well as investment through the research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 and through the Investment Plan for Europe will help platforms in the EU to emerge and thrive. Initiatives such as StartUpEurope also aim to help create the right environment for new tech players. In addition, the Commission is constantly testing new options for easing the scaling-up of start-ups, for example by the introduction of a seal of excellence which helps Horizon 2020 beneficiaries obtain funding for innovation from the EU structural funds.*

*The Commission also sees the need to examine the impact of online platforms and new work arrangements on existing employment regulations. In March 2016, the Commission launched a broad public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights and engaged throughout the whole year in a debate with other EU institutions, national authorities and Parliaments, social partners, civil society, experts from academia and citizens about the impact of a wide-ranging set of trends, including technological change and the digitisation of society and the economy, on the EU social "acquis". Building on the input received during the consultation,*

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*the Commission adopted on 26 April 2017 its proposal for a European Pillar of Social Rights<sup>1</sup>.*

*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*

*Andrus Ansip  
Vice-President*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2017) 250 final