



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Reflection Paper on the social dimension of Europe {COM(2017) 206 final}.

The Reflection Paper on the social dimension and the broader debate following the White Paper enable the European Union and its Member States collectively to define and give meaning to a social dimension for Europe that is fit for 21st-century realities. In this context, the Commission greatly appreciates the opinion of the Chamber of Deputies and its support.

The reflection paper provides further insight on questions related to how to sustain our standards of living, create more and better jobs, equip people with the right skills and create more unity within our society, in light of tomorrow's challenges and the changing world of work. Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is one of the key priorities for this Commission. In the logic of the White Paper, the reflection paper presents three options on how the social dimension of Europe could be developed in the future.

The Commission shares the view of the Camera Deputaților that the social dimension should form an important part in efforts to strengthen European competitiveness and agrees on the importance of an inclusive approach. The Commission takes note of the concerns raised by the Camera Deputaților regarding youth unemployment, early school leaving, discrimination and social exclusion, as well as corruption. The Commission continues its efforts in tackling these issues at European Union level, in cooperation with the Member States. It notes that the main responsibility for social and employment policies rests with national and local authorities and social partners in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Commission assures the Camera Deputaților that “Social Europe” and social investments remain high on its agenda.

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President Juncker's State of the Union speech in September will take ideas forward before first conclusions could be drawn at the December 2017 European Council. The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, to be held in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, will also be an opportunity for detailed discussion of the social dimension.

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*