



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.10.2017  
C(2017) 6754 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Decision concerning the Communication "Establishing a European Pillar of Social Rights" {COM(2017) 250 final}.*

*In establishing the European Pillar of Social Rights (the Pillar), the Commission is delivering on President Juncker's promise in the 2015 State of the Union address. In March 2016, the Commission presented a preliminary outline of the Pillar followed by a broad public consultation. The resulting final proposal set out a number of key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems.*

*The endorsement by the Camera Deputaților of the objectives of the initiative, notably a fairer labour market and better social protection as well as the renewed social convergence towards better working and living conditions, offers a good basis for taking forward together the implementation of the Pillar.*

*The Commission shares the concern expressed by Camera Deputaților on some of the issues addressed in the Pillar, such as equal access to the labour market and the role of maternity leave in this context, the importance of fair working conditions with due diligence on bogus self-employment and undeclared work, as well as the role of modern social protection that facilitates social inclusion and reduces unemployment. The Commission also shares the view that investment in skills and education is necessary to cope with the challenges of modern labour markets.*

*The Commission takes note of the areas highlighted for further reflection, notably the phenomenon of the unregistered unemployed, the situation of those after unemployment, the impact of automation on the labour market, as well as the development of large scale strategic projects aiming at the small and medium-sized enterprises in order to create new jobs.*

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*The Commission shares the opinion expressed by the Camera Deputaților on reinforcing the collaboration with the Member States in order to ensure the necessary political agreement for the way forward. It also agrees that the support of the citizens is essential for a lasting impact. In order to strengthen and deepen the ownership of the initiative, the Commission proposes the European Pillar of Social Rights to be solemnly proclaimed jointly by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.*

*Discussions between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council concerning the adoption of the Proclamation are now underway with a view to reaching agreement by the end of the year.*

*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*