



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.10.2017
C(2017)6755 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion 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 Senat of the objectives of the initiative offers a good basis for taking forward together the implementation of the Pillar.

The Commission takes note of the concerns raised by the Senat, notably with regard to the fight against inequality, the role and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the Pillar's implementation, and its geographical scope.

In this context, the Commission would like to reiterate that the Pillar is the Commission's proposal to reinforce the political commitment to a strong social dimension of Europe. The Commission is ready to play its part in the implementation but the centre of gravity of social and employment policies rests with national and local authorities and social partners in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Pillar is primarily conceived for the euro area but open to all European Union Member States.

The Commission shares the opinion expressed by the Senat regarding the importance of the European structural and investment funds and other financial programmes.

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU
President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

Discussions between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached by the end of the year.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*