



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(201) 5468 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed {COM(2018) 132 final}.

This proposal provides the needed flexibility to tackle the problems regarding access to social protection, whilst fully recognising the diversity of institutional set-up across Member States. The guidance provided is based upon detailed evidence about the rights related to social protection of people on non-standard employment and self-employed in the Member States.

The proposed Recommendation aims at encouraging Member States to adapt their social protection systems to a changing labour market and, in particular, to promote that self-employed and those who do not have a full-time open-ended contract can participate in social protection schemes and receive adequate coverage on the basis of their contributions. It therefore contributes to uphold principle 12 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, according to which ‘regardless of the type and duration of their employment relationship, workers, and, under comparable conditions, the self-employed, have the right to adequate social protection’. In line also with the analysis of other international institutions, including the International Labour Organisation, the proposal promotes minimum standards and conditions that should apply, under comparable conditions, across all types of work, in order to allow the social protection systems to respond to a fast-changing economy and labour market. By advocating for a modernisation of social protection systems, the proposal aims at supporting innovation and flexibility on the labour market, whilst safeguarding the adequacy and sustainability of the social welfare states. In this respect, the Commission particularly notes the importance of facilitating transitions between jobs and career statuses in adapting the social protection systems to the new world of work.

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The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților's broad support for the aims of the proposal and takes due note of its recommendations and considerations.

The proposed Recommendation aims at complementing and supporting debates and reforms that are underway in many Member States and at creating consensus among policy-makers and stakeholders on the best way to modernise social protection systems. The proposal is currently discussed within the Social Questions Working Party of the Council and the Commission works constructively with the Member States so that an agreement can be reached in the near future.

The Commission values the Camera Deputaților's engagement will take its Opinion into account in the next stages of the policy making process. Should the Recommendation be adopted, the Commission will monitor closely its implementation, taking into account the heterogeneity of the target groups, the country-specific economic context and the impact of the Recommendation on the entrepreneurial climate. The Commission also recalls that the proposal provides that the Commission and the Social Protection Committee should jointly develop agreed common quantitative and qualitative indicators to monitor the implementation.

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,

*Günther H. OETTINGER
Member of the Commission*