



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.8.2018
C(2018) 5329 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Labour Authority {COM(2018) 131 final}.

This proposal, presented within the framework of the Social Fairness Package, forms part of a series of Commission initiatives to deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights and to support fair and well-functioning labour markets. It aims to contribute to the overall strengthening of the Internal Market, which is one of the priorities of the Juncker Commission.

Over the last decade, the number of mobile citizens almost doubled to reach 17 million in 2017. The Commission submitted several proposals to ensure that the EU legislative framework on free movement of workers, freedom to provide services and social security coordination is fit to respond to the social and economic reality in the Member States and to the challenges of the increasing mobility across Europe. However, concerns remained regarding the effective application and enforcement of these rules. The proposal to create a European Labour Authority aims at addressing this aspect by ensuring that the Authority can provide relevant information and services to individuals and employers, as well as support Member States in information exchange, concerted and joint inspections, risk assessment, capacity building, mediation, and cooperation in the event of cross-border labour market disruptions.

The Commission is pleased that the Cortes Generales share the view that the future European Labour Authority should contribute to facilitating the free movement of workers, the posting of workers to other EU Member States and the coordination of social security systems.

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Discussions concerning the proposal are now underway between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached on its proposal in the near future.

In parallel, an Advisory Group on the Authority has been established, bringing together representatives of Member States, the European Parliament, European level social partners and other stakeholders. While not participating in the legislative process, the task of the Group is to advise the Commission on how to build the future Authority, taking into account good practices and anticipate and address possible challenges.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Cortes Generales in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Member of the Commission*