



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.10.2018
C(2018) 6055 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 on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) {COM(2018) 382 final}.

The proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to enhance the social dimension of the Union and respond to the concerns of our citizens. On 17 November 2017, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission jointly proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights. Furthermore, on 2 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for the next multi-annual financial framework for 2021-2027. The proposal for the European Social Fund Plus reflects the current social and economic context and provides a concrete response to the call from the European public for a more social Europe and for greater investment in people in the European Union.

The European Social Fund Plus, as the European Union's main instrument to invest in people and to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, will help build an empowering social Europe and contribute to economic, social and territorial cohesion in accordance with Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission is pleased that the Cortes Generales share the view that the proposal for the European Social Fund Plus complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality laid down in the Treaty.

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The proposal is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission hopes that an agreement on the proposal can be reached before the end of the current term of the European Parliament.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*