

Dear Prime Minister Straujuma,

Dear President Tusk,

Dear President Juncker,

Dear Prime Ministers,

Dear Colleagues,

- Thanks to your Investment plan Mr Juncker, we are finally able to use the Tripartite Social Summit to discuss how to best INVEST in Europe and not just how to achieve fiscal consolidation. But soon we shall make the plan fully operational and get its real raison d'être right. Which is for us: restoring competitiveness, creating sustainable jobs and improving Europe's long-term growth potential. To reach that goal we need to modernise our social and physical infrastructures.

- This level of ambition cannot be reached **only** through private investments. The Plan must be there to also (and for us primarily) trigger new and well-targeted public investments in infrastructures.
- Including in energy infrastructures, as this will be one of the key ingredients to make the Energy Union a real success, together with a stable and reliable regulatory framework.
- Member States need to do their share by contributing to the Fund, like France, Germany, Italy and Spain did, but also they need to set their National Reforms Programmes into the investments and growth mode.
- The risk of saying this as an employers organisation representing public services is to be seen as asking for a new big Marshall Plan for public services. This is not the case. First because there is clear evidence that Member States, which kept investing effectively and efficiently in public services despite the crisis are today better off in terms of economic performance and employment rates. And secondly because whenever CEEP makes a call for targeted public investments

we always accompany it with a necessary dose of self-criticism admitting that some of the past investments could have been better targeted and better used. We know that in several Member States there is a need to improve the performance of public services and we are constantly involved in benchmarking, peer review and fostering management practices which can best foster effectiveness and efficiency of public services at national, regional and local level.

- Finally, the European Commission and the Council asked us how social partners can be better associated to the Semester also when it comes to analyzing changes Member States are facing. Here we are heading into the right direction thanks to the opening of the employment guidelines to increase participation of social partners in national reform processes. What is missing is the possibility to express these views in front of the full Council setting, but we am optimistic about the future seen the renewed importance given to social partners' participation in EU policy making.