

Brussels, 23 April 2020

To

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Cc

Valdis Dombrovskis

Executive Vice President

Nicolas Schmit

Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Paolo Gentiloni

Commissioner for Economy

RE: INPUTS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL PARTNERS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Dear President,

We the European Social Partners would like to provide you with our inputs on the European Union's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

You can find here in attachment a joint document summarising our proposals regarding the emergency measures, the exit strategy and the recovery plan.

As a consequence of the outbreak, tens million workers and million enterprises in Europe have been suspended from their work and activities, with a risk for many of them to not be able to come back to normality when the emergency will phase out.

Effective measures are to be put in place swiftly, if we want to keep our economy on track, save jobs and prevent massive recession and unemployment.

For such measures to be properly designed and implemented, the role and involvement of Social Partners through Social Dialogue at EU and national level is absolutely essential. This emergency affects first and foremost workers and

enterprises, which we represent, and we are the best placed stakeholders to help institutions to manage the effect of this crisis on the economy and the labour market.

In this respect, we understand that the adoption of the emergency measures was to be delivered in a short time and through complex inter-institutional dialogue, and we appreciate the dialogue we had with Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis and Commissioner Schmit.

However, we call for a proper implementation of the emergency measures, and we ask you to ensure proper involvement of the European Social Partners regarding the implementation of the exit strategy and the definition of the recovery plan.

The lack of dialogue with Social Partners before the publication of the 'Communication on a European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures' has led to relevant shortages regarding the return-to-work dimension and related health and safety provisions.

We therefore ask you to involve us also in the implementation of that Roadmap, as well as in the design and implementation of the recovery plan the European Commission is going to propose to the Council in the coming days.

On all these topics, you can already find some suggestions from our side in the attached paper.

We know how high Social Dialogue is in your agenda and we are sure that our request for proper involvement will be taken into account.

We thank you for your attention.

Kind regards



ETUC
Luca Visentini
General Secretary



BUSINESSEUROPE
Markus J. Beyrer
Director General



CEEP
Valeria Ronzitti
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