



Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels

20 April 2017

Dear President,

I am writing you to inform you about the growing perception in the business community that our demand for the European Union to conceive integrated actions to address economic and social challenges in a coherent way is not being heard.

As we have made clear in recent meetings of the Tripartite Social Summit on 8 March, and in Rome on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the EU Treaty, we call on you, as President of the European Commission, to make sure that European economic and social policies focus on increasing Europe's long term growth potential. This includes in the first place the need for policies supporting productivity and industrial growth, well-coordinated with those that encourage stronger employment creation and facilitate labour market participation.

It is crucial that the proposals that will come under the European pillar of social rights package should not contradict these objectives by creating additional costs, uncertainty or regulatory burdens for companies. These proposals should also fully respect Member States' competences in the field of employment and social affairs, as well as the social partners' autonomy.

We are strongly opposed to the Commission plans to propose an amendment to the social partner agreement on parental leave of 1995 revised by the social partners in 2009 and implemented by directive 2010/18/EU. By doing so, the Commission would for the first time ever revise an agreement negotiated by the European social partners. The fact that a social partner consultation was conducted last year and that no negotiations took place does not mean that the Commission has political legitimacy in revising a social partner agreement. When such agreements are transposed by an EU directive, the Treaty foresees that the text of the agreement cannot be modified by the EU institutions. Such a precedent would be contrary to the spirit of the Treaty, would undermine the social dialogue and must be avoided.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Marcegaglia