Mrs Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
BE – 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

10 July 2025

Dear President von der Leyen,

Upholding the Commitments of the Social Dialogue Pact and Safeguarding its Budget in the New MFF

We are writing to you jointly on behalf of the European cross-sectoral social partners to express our strong support for the European Commission's commitment to strengthening and revitalising social dialogue as outlined in the Social Dialogue Pact.

Launching the Pact has been a significant and welcome step towards reinforcing social dialogue at European and national levels. The recognition of the vital role of social partners in shaping the European social and economic model is one that we fully share. In this spirit, we urge you to stand by these commitments and ensure that the financial instruments necessary for their implementation are preserved and reinforced in the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

We urge the Commission to maintain a governance framework that simplifies access to EU funds and makes them more user-friendly for beneficiaries, including social partner organisations. Simplification, clear procedures and respect for the Partnership Principle are essential to maximise impact and trust in EU action. In this regard, we highlight the crucial role of the European Social Fund as a standalone instrument to support employment, inclusion, skills development and capacity-building of social partners. Its continuity must be ensured in the post-2027 MFF.

Cohesion policy is a core EU policy and an important part of the MFF that requires not only adequate funding but a serious exercise of modernization, including stronger recipients and regional involvement. We also invite the Commission to reflect carefully on the lessons learned from the Recovery and Resilience Facility, ensuring that future instruments balance EU-level priorities with effective delivery close to those who will ultimately benefit.

We are concerned by potential reductions or reallocations of budget lines dedicated to social dialogue, including support for capacity-building and technical assistance. These resources are not only essential to the functioning of European-level social dialogue but also play a critical role in enabling national social partners - especially in Member States where capacity is more limited - to fully participate in the process and contribute to European policy development.

A strong, well-resourced social dialogue is not an accessory to the European project. It is a foundation for democratic governance, social cohesion, and competitiveness. Undermining the financial support to this dialogue would not only contradict the spirit of the Pact but would also weaken one of the key tools available to the EU to navigate economic and social transformation in a fair and inclusive way.

We therefore call for a Multiannual Financial Framework that is commensurate with the EU policy objectives and count on you to reaffirm the Commission's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Social Dialogue Pact; Ensure that dedicated budget lines for social dialogue are protected and adequately funded in the new MFF; Guarantee the continuity and accessibility of funding mechanisms that support the capacity-building of social partners at both European and national levels.

We remain committed to working constructively with the European Commission to advance our shared goals. We count on your continued leadership to ensure that social dialogue remains a central pillar of the EU's economic and social governance.

Yours sincerely,

ETUC	BusinessEurope	SGI	SMEunited
Esther Lynch	Markus J. Beyrer	Valeria Ronzitti	Véronique Willems
General Secretary	Director General	General Secretary	Secretary General