



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

23 October 2020

Dear President,

Following on the debate we had during the Tripartite Social Summit on 14 October 2020, we would like to thank you again for the rapid actions that your Commission took to deal with the unprecedented crisis facing us due to the COVID pandemic and its economic consequences and to congratulate you on the crucial role you played.


For BusinessEurope, the agreement reached in July within the European Council, based on your proposal for an ambitious European recovery plan is a major achievement. We are determined to do all we can to support you in your efforts to ensure that it is efficiently implemented and delivers enhanced growth and social wellbeing as rapidly as possible.

In this context, we wanted to underline that we fully agree that the Green Deal is a key pillar for this recovery plan and fully support the goal of reaching climate neutrality by around mid-century. However, we are concerned that the recent impact assessment published by the European Commission shows that there is practically no additional growth with the more ambitious climate targets for 2030. We would therefore like to reiterate our call to work hand-in-hand with the business community on how to turn the Green Deal into the effective growth driver it is meant to be.

Finally, we would also like to reiterate our plea to respect national competences as well as the “*Tarifautonomie*” of the social partners in the future Commission proposal on minimum wages. For BusinessEurope, it is simply not possible to ensure water-tight protection of the autonomy of the national social partners regarding wage setting in a European directive. The mere existence of such a legally binding text means that Member States would need to transpose this directive at national level and the ECJ would acquire jurisdiction on purely national collective agreements, thereby undermining a fundamental feature of the best performing social dialogue systems in Europe: independent collective bargaining between representative employers’ and trade unions’ organisations. We therefore urge you to choose a more appropriate tool to deal with this sensitive issue at EU level, such as, for example, a Council recommendation.

Yours sincerely,


Pierre Gattaz
President


Markus J. Beyrer
Director General