



**Věra Jourová**  
Vice-President of the European Commission

**Dubravka Šuica**  
Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 05/08/2020

*Dear Mr Zelderloo,*

*I would like to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 14 May 2020, following the high-level discussion of 22 April 2020 on the impact of the Covid-19 public health emergency on social services.*

*In cooperation with the social services sector and, in particular, your organisation, the Commission services organised on 3 June 2020 a webinar bringing together all relevant actors at national and European levels to exchange ideas on how to use the Corona Response Investment Initiatives to ensure the continuity and quality of care and support services. During the webinar, various suggestions were put forward in order to tackle the urgencies that have emerged in the social sector and to facilitate access to EU funding for those working on the ground. These discussions will be followed up with concrete proposals for enhanced cooperation between the managing authorities and civil society organisations.*

*In addition, while respecting Member States competence in this field, the Commission is addressing the social impact of the crisis and the need for adequate responses through the country specific recommendations of the 2020 European Semester, presented in May.*

*On 27 May 2020, the Commission tabled a Recovery Plan including the set-up of an emergency European Recovery Instrument ('Next Generation EU'), amounting to EUR 750 billion, to address the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. This instrument will complement the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2021-2027.*

*As part of the Recovery Plan, the proposal for a Regulation establishing the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU) provides a total of EUR 55 billion in additional funding for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most*

*Mr Luk Zelderloo*  
*Secretary-General*

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*Deprived (FEAD). REACT-EU will have a strong social component and can support investment in social services.*

*Following the European Council meeting of 17-21 July 2020 and in view of the upcoming negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council, we will continue working towards an agreement that corresponds to the challenges of the current crisis.*

*Effective social services are needed to implement the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which underscores the right of everyone to quality services, including social services. The Commission is preparing an Action Plan on implementing the Pillar and we are looking forward also to your contributions through the broad consultation on this topic. The consultation is open until end of November. Likewise, we have started our work on a Green Paper on Ageing, planned for adoption in early 2021. In this context, the Commission will also be looking at social services, notably in the context of ageing societies. We invite you to take part in the debate and consultation that will follow the adoption of the Green Paper.*

*We have also taken note of your letter of 10 July to Vice-President Šuica regarding the establishment of 'European Taskforce on Social Services during COVID-19' and will get back to you in due time.*

*We would like to thank again all the workforces that you represent, for the crucial work performed in the social services sector at all times and also during this crisis.*

*Yours sincerely,*



*Věra Jourová*



*Dubravka Šuica*