



Brussels, 27 November 2020

To:
EU Finance and Employment Ministers (ECOFIN – EPSCO)

CC:
Executive Vice President, Valdis Dombrovskis
Commissioners, Paolo Gentiloni and Nicolas Schmit
President of the Eurogroup, Paschal Donohoe

European social partners urge Finance and Employment Ministers on prolongation of emergency measures and involvement in national Recovery and Resilience Plans

Dear Ministers,

Facing the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, with lockdowns and restrictions being introduced in all EU Member States, tens of millions of workers are suspended from work and at risk of unemployment, while millions of enterprises are experiencing massive decrease in turnover and risk of bankruptcy.

We, the European Social Partners, have welcomed the emergency measures which have been agreed in spring and implemented over last months, and we appreciate that in the current circumstances most Member States have already decided to prolong the support to economic activities and jobs in the second wave of the pandemic.

However, we are concerned by the fact that such prolongation is not happening everywhere in Europe, and therefore urge you to ensure the prolongation of comprehensive emergency measures until the recovery funding will be concretely available. The measures should be well co-ordinated between Member States and all workers and enterprises should be adequately covered, including flexible forms of work, self-employed and small and medium enterprises.

Furthermore, we urge you to make sure that social partners are fully involved in the design and implementation of the national Recovery and Resilience Plans, as recommended by the European Commission in the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021.

Social partners are the main actors of the economy and labour market, and their contribution to shaping the recovery, including through collectively agreed solutions, is not going to delay the process. On the contrary, the contribution of social partners is essential to make a success of the recovery, as well as to make the green and digital transitions socially sustainable and inclusive and economically feasible, on the basis of a sound strategy for the European industry, SMEs and Services of General Interest.

We kindly ask you to take such requests in due account in your discussions and decisions in the framework of the ECOFIN and EPSCO Councils, and remain at your disposal for any clarification needed.

Best regards,



ETUC
Luca Visentini
General Secretary



BUSINESSEUROPE
Markus J. Beyrer
Director General



CEEP
Valeria Ronzitti
General Secretary



SMEunited
Véronique Willems
General Secretary