

Tripartite Social Summit

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Dear Presidents,
Dear Ministers,
Dear All,

I would like to share with you two major concerns that, if not properly addressed, will drive us further away from reaching those objectives that the European Union has been built for.

First, when discussing the current geopolitical context, we have to remember that rape and sexual violence are weapons of war. Sexual violence is used as a tactic to incentivize recruitment and gain control over territory and natural resources.

In each and every action it takes, the EU must work for the right of each woman and girl to bodily integrity and to appropriate protection and support if they fled the war zones.

When it comes to the money for EU security and defence, it must not be taken from the investment in public services and social objectives. This will hit women harder, like austerity does, because women are the majority of workers but also users of public services like health, social care and education. The bottom line is that if we undermine public services, we undermine women.

In the same vein, public and private sectors employers should comply with and promote women workers' rights and this leads me to my second point.

Plans by businesses to block pay transparency would impact over 10 million working women, keeping them in the dark on the gender pay gap in their workplace and costing them at least 4.8 billion Euros a year. This directive is a tool to end the historic undervaluation of work done by women, and we urge the EU Commission not to fall for this attack on women's rights, poorly disguised as simplification.

This exclusion will not make anyone's life simpler; it will undermine the rules that are necessary to achieve the objective of the directive. This is unacceptable.

Thank you