

Members of the European Parliament  
Employment Committee

Sent by e-mail

**Joint letter from the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Partners  
Review of the rules on the financing of the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees**

Brussels, 26 May 2023

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The *Communication on Strengthening social dialogue in the European Union: harnessing its full potential for managing fair transitions* of 25 January 2022, states, amongst others, that the Commission will launch a process to review the organisation of sectoral social dialogue committees, including a possible revision of the 1998 Decision, in close cooperation with social partners.

We are today coming to you as we have strong concerns that this review process might not match the Communication ambitions to further strengthen EU social dialogue and that it might lead to a weakening of the Commission's support as the reality over the past decade has sadly shown: fewer meetings, lesser political engagement in meetings, unclear consultation processes, cumbersome administrative process towards social partner agreements, to name just a few incremental, unilateral negative changes.

To the contrary, we strongly believe that the Commission's current institutional and financial role should be enhanced.

As you are well aware, the Commission's obligation to support social dialogue - as set out in the Treaty - is well reflected in the new Communication which also recognises that social dialogue is a priority for the EU Commission and stresses its role in shaping and delivering fair green and digital transitions and crisis management. We therefore expect the Commission to maintain both its logistical and financial support for sectoral social dialogue committees and enhance its political support.

However, at this stage of our discussions with the Commission, which have now been going on for more than 18 months, we fear that the proposal on the table will not create the necessary conditions for sustainable social dialogue and therefore threatens the mere existence of some SSDCs. Under these circumstances, we call on your support to request the Commission to maintain its full logistical, financial, legal and political support for sectoral social dialogue committees.

We are well aware that the Resolution on strengthening social dialogue has now been adopted but we would be happy to discuss with you any action we could take to support our position.

Yours sincerely,

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General Secretary



**EFBWW**  
Tom Deleu  
General Secretary



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