

Vice-President Kristalina Georgieva
In charge of Budget & Human Resources

Commissioner Marianne Thyssen
In charge of Employment,
Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility

Berlaymont Building
1000 Brussels – Belgium

RE: The Youth Guarantee is a success, do not drain its funding

Dear Vice President Georgieva,
Dear Commissioner Thyssen,

The European Youth Guarantee is a project very close to our heart. Having successfully campaigned for its introduction in 2012, we are very glad that the positive review in the Commission's communication "*The Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative three years on*" of 4th October 2016 confirms that our efforts have been fruitful. Indeed, the Youth Guarantee is a "powerful policy driver for reform" that already provided 9 million young people an offer of employment, apprenticeship, traineeship, or lifelong learning.

The Youth Guarantee is a success, but more remains to be done. As youth employment remains particularly high in a certain number of member states, the European youth unemployment crisis is far from over. We agree with you that we will need "continued political commitment to the Youth Guarantee". We are convinced that it will only be credible if we will also continue financial support to it.

We regret that, in its proposals on the mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission only foresees 2 billion Euro to be made available for the funding of the Youth Guarantee until 2020. This constitutes an effective cut in the funding of the Youth Guarantee of more than three quarters compared to the 2014-2016 funding period.

In the light of its very promising start, we believe the Youth Guarantee should not see its yearly funding cut, but rather receive further support. For an uninterrupted implementation of the Youth Guarantee, we call for 20 billion EUR to be made available for it in the Youth Employment Initiative



until 2020, which means 5 billion EUR per year. This proposal initially came from François Hollande and Matteo Renzi, and we stand for it.

We are convinced that such an increase of the Youth Guarantee's annual funding will allow for improved and speedier implementation in the few countries that have seen more limited reforms thus far. Moreover, the increased funding should allow to extend the scope of beneficiaries, to better reach specific target groups, and to improve the quality of offers. The European Union has to give a strong signal of solidarity to the young generation.

The Youth Guarantee is a success, we call on you to ensure its continuation and invest in young people.

Nicolas Schmit
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Minister for Labour, Employment, Social and
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