

Jyrki Katainen,
European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment & Competitiveness
Via email

27 March 2015

Dear Vice-President,

Europe 2020 mid-term review postponed: what will happen to the headline targets?

Earlier this year the European Commission postponed the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy – originally scheduled for the beginning of 2015 – and announced it will only present its proposals for the review at the end of this year. We are gravely concerned that with this decision, Europe 2020 and its headline targets have been pushed further down the European agenda.

We are particularly worried by suggestions in the Communication regarding the outcome of the public consultation on Europe 2020; whereas the outcome of the consultation clearly confirms that the strategy and its targets are still valid, the Commission now considers the review as an opportunity to bring the strategy in line with its new priorities on jobs, growth and investment and deepening the economic and monetary union. This seems to imply that the Commission considers the strategy and its objectives of achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth to be contradictory to its new political orientation. It also raises serious questions about the transparency of and interlinkages between the different processes.

We are concerned about what the recent developments will mean in terms of European policies and priorities regarding social affairs - in particular the Europe 2020 poverty target that is still very far from being reached - and equality, including gender equality.

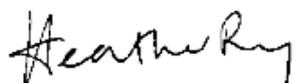
We therefore kindly request you to respond to the following questions:

- 1) What is the **rationale behind the decision to postpone the review** of Europe 2020?
- 2) What are your **proposals to address the social and equality consequences** of this postponement that puts on hold addressing the ongoing social crisis through the strategy, and in turn risks worsening the situation?
- 3) Has the Commission identified any **inconsistencies between its new priorities and the Europe 2020 strategy** and, if so, why was the decision made to adapt the strategy to the new priorities, rather than align these priorities with the strategy's objectives?

The Europe 2020 strategy urgently requires a revision and the European Commission should recommit itself to ambitious policies aimed at achieving the strategy's objectives, particularly on inclusive growth and the poverty reduction target. The EU cannot blindly pursue its new priorities and continue with a European Semester that is increasingly disconnected from Europe 2020.

We urge you to reply to our questions, and we thank you in advance for your kind attention to this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Heather Roy
President



Pierre Baussand
Director