**Social standards**

1. **Adequate minimum income** schemes of at least 60% of national median income to protect people against poverty across the life-cycle, linked to reference budgets that capture real needs in relation to access to goods and services. Member States should be supported in the progressive realisation of such schemes, including through an EU framework directive.

2. **Adequate minimum wages** in all Member States. The European Commission, through the European Semester and CSRs, should recommend member states to take action to raise the level of minimum wage, as a general rule, progressively towards at least 60% of the national median wage. This progression should be realised in different steps and by recognising and supporting social partners and the role of collective bargaining in policy design and delivery. Only in sectors where social dialogue has not led to the establishment of adequate wages, the state should introduce a statutory adequate minimum wage or take appropriate measures to progressively increase the level towards the 60% benchmark.

3. **Rights-based and non-discriminatory universal access to quality and affordable care, social, health, education and lifelong learning services**. The European Commission should set benchmarks at EU level concerning the provision of essential services. These benchmarks should not be limited to availability of services, but should drive the progressive implementation of essential principles enshrined in Protocol 26 of the Lisbon Treaty (universal access, a high level of quality, safety and affordability, equal treatment and the promotion of users’ rights). The voluntary European Quality Framework for social services published by the EU Social Protection Committee in 2010 should be used as a reference in the development of benchmarks at EU level and quality criteria tailored to specific services, especially in the member states where they do not exist.

4. **Common standards for unemployment benefits** set at a level above adequate minimum income. Wide coverage must be ensured to avoid the exclusion of people who have not yet worked or have only worked for a limited period.