



Ms. Marianne Thyssen  
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CBR 10172748

Dear Commissioner Marianne Thyssen,

Date 1 March 2018

File no. 2017 - 8680

Thank you for your letter dated 15 December 2017 regarding the European Pillar of Social Rights (“the Pillar”).

As you know, Denmark engaged actively in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the Pillar and the debates on how it may be used in our future work on employment and social policies.

For me, a guiding principle is to ensure that our dealings in the employment field leave sufficient room for a tri-part structure like the Danish labour market model. As part of this, I presented a declaration on the Pillar in EPSCO in October.

I am glad that you underline in your letter that the Pillar recalls that social and labour market policies are primarily the responsibility of the Member States.

This is a vital point, which Denmark fully supports. The Pillar does not in itself contain new legal rights or obligations or entail an extension of the Union's powers and tasks as conferred by the Treaties.

For this reason, any initiative linked to the Pillar and announced as part of the Commission's Fairness Package will naturally have to be assessed by the Council on its own merits once presented by the Commission.

Denmark will follow this with great attention. For your consideration, I enclose two short non-papers with preliminary inputs by Denmark on a possible European Labour Authority as well as a European Social Security Number.

I look forward to our further cooperation on these and related issues.

Yours sincerely,

Troels Lund Poulsen