

Reply of the Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic and Swedish trade union federations on the Second Phase Consultation of Social Partners under Article 154 TFEU on a possible action addressing the challenges related to fair minimum wages

To:

The Commission (letter sent by e-mail to EMPL-SOCIAL-DIALOGUE@ec.europa.eu)

President Ursula von der Leyen

Copy to:

Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis

Commissioner Nicolas Schmit

Director-General Joost Korte

Stockholm 4th of September 2020

We, the trade union confederations of Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Sweden representing together six million workers, would like to bring to your attention that we don't stand behind the reply of the ETUC on the first and second consultation concerning a possible action addressing the challenges related to fair minimum wage. It is our duty to make this very clear as the Commission, in the second consultation, seems to imply that there is full support from the trade union side for introducing EU legislation on minimum wage and collective bargaining. However, this is not true. On the contrary, the ETUC is divided. We made this point very clear in our letter to you dated 25 February 2020.

The ETUC opinion does not sufficiently reflect the interests of the Scandinavian trade union movement. We firmly oppose introducing any binding rules on wages and most of the proposals concerning binding EU legislation on collective bargaining. These proposals would severely harm our Nordic labour market models.

Therefore, we would like to submit our reply to the questions put forward in the second consultation and we ask you to carefully take them into account when further processing a possible action on the subject.

Yours sincerely

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Bente Sorgenfrey

First Vice-President of the Danish Trade Union Confederation (FH, Denmark)

Lars Qvistgaard

President of the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (Akademikerne, Denmark)

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Sonja Ýr Þorbergsdóttir

President of the Federation of State and Municipal Employees (BSRB, Iceland)

Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir

President of the Icelandic Confederation of University Graduates (BHM, Iceland)

Annex: Reply of the Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic and Swedish trade union federations on the Second Phase Consultation of Social Partners under Article 154 TFEU on a possible action addressing the challenges related to fair minimum wages