



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Recovery & Resilience Task Force
Director - Recovery & Resilience I

Brussels,
SG.RECOVER.A [REDACTED]
sg recover.a.1(2020)5928779

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 6 August. The President has asked me to reply on her behalf.

Europe is currently facing the most serious economic crisis of the post-war period, which is also aggravating the regional disparities that you outline in your letter.

The European Institutions have put in place many tools to respond quickly to the health and economic crisis. We are now setting up new tools, such as Next Generation EU, to move from the initial emergency response to a more structural and sustainable recovery.

As stated by President von der Leyen, the last few months have shown us the value of being part of a Union of 27 nations that emerge from the crisis stronger and together. The post-pandemic world should become a better one than the one before. The historic agreement of the European Council of July will equip Europe with the necessary resources to achieve this objective.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility is the symbol of our determination to tackle these challenges through a common approach. It will help repair the damage caused by the crisis and prepare a better future for the next generation.

The fight against the climate and environmental crisis is the main challenge of our time and offers the opportunity to relaunch our economies in a sustainable way. As part of their Recovery and Resilience Plans, Member States should focus on innovative projects to accelerate the deployment of renewable energies. The renovation of buildings will for example be essential to support economic recovery, thanks to the creation of jobs in the construction sector, savings on energy bills, healthier living conditions and the reduction of energy poverty.

The digital transition is key to strengthening the social and economic resilience of the European Union and its Member States, their potential for sustainable growth and job creation. This requires the deployment of very high-capacity networks, including 5G and

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Gigabit connectivity between households in urban and rural areas and along major transport corridors, in line with the EU's objective for 5G and Gigabit connectivity in 2025.

The crisis has highlighted the urgent need to address long-standing challenges that affect the fairness in our society, in particular to support those citizens that have been hit hardest by the crisis. This includes the resilience of the national health and social protection systems as well as equal access to affordable and quality health care, demographic change, globalisation or the digital and green transition.

In light of the European Pillar of Social Rights, Member States should take measures to ensure equal opportunities, inclusive education, fair working conditions and adequate social protection in view of promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion throughout Europe.

These challenges concern us all and we will only be able to overcome them by involving all institutions and all European citizens in this endeavour.

Yours faithfully,

Eric VON BRESKA

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