



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen  
The President

Brussels, 25 JAN. 2021  
Ares (2020) 7434749

*Dear Presidents,*

*I would like to thank you for your letter in which you presented your organisations' position on the next long-term budget of the European Union and the recovery plan ahead of the European Council that took place 10-11 December 2020.*

*On 10 November 2020, the European Parliament and the EU Member States in the Council reached an agreement on the next multiannual financial framework for the years 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU, the temporary recovery instrument.*

*Its formalisation was temporarily blocked in Council, but a satisfactory solution was found during the European Council of 10-11 December 2020, allowing the Council's Presidency to resume the adoption process. The agreed package includes the Regulation for the recovery instrument identifying – among others – the COVID-19 recovery measures to be financed from the €750 billion of borrowed funds, defining the time limits for the use of the funds and determining their allocation to different EU programmes. This includes the Recovery and Resilience Facility that will provide Member States with up to €312.5 billion in grants and €360 billion in loans to support investments and reforms. This package will help rebuild our Union, which will be greener, more digital, more resilient and fitter for current and forthcoming challenges.*

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*Mr Dieter Kempf, President, Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie*

*Mr Antonio Garamendi, President, Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales*

*Mr Carlo Bonomi, President, Confindustria*

*Mr Maciej Witucki, President, Konfederacja Lewiatan*

*Mr Geoffroy Roux de Bézieux, President, Mouvement des Entreprises de France*

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*The Commission is available at all levels to engage with Member States on the preparation of their recovery and resilience plans. It encouraged the Member States to submit their preliminary plans already in October. In the meantime, the Commission is in contact with national authorities from Member States to advance with the preparations of the plans. Member States were also invited to engage in and describe any consultation and contribution of social partners, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, in the drafting and implementation of their plans.*

*As for the EU State aid framework, the Commission recently approved the prolongation and extension of the scope of the State aid temporary framework adopted on 19 March 2020 to support the economy in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. All sections of the temporary framework will be prolonged for six months until 30 June 2021, while the section enabling recapitalisation support will be applicable until 30 September 2021. The Commission will examine the need to further prolong or adapt this temporary framework before 30 June 2021.*

*The commitment of EU institutions to an ambitious recovery package has created immense expectations and demonstrated the strength of European solidarity. Citizens, businesses and regions across the European Union need our support to fight the health, social and economic consequences of the pandemic. We must get funding flowing without delay to those under greatest strain. You can rest assured that the Commission will continue to work tirelessly to make this successful outcome materialise.*

*Yours faithfully,*



*Ursula von der Leyen*