



TO:

**Ms. Helena Dalli**

Commissioner for Equality  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Brussels

TO:

**Ms. Ursula von der Leyen**

President of the European Commission  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels

Brussels, 22 April 2020

Dear President Von der Leyen,  
Dear Commissioner Dalli,

As Greens/EFA Members of the European Parliament, we want to express our deep concern over the possible plans of the European Commission to postpone - due to the Corona outbreak - a number of proposals related to gender equality. In particular the proposal to introduce binding pay transparency measures.

Legislative measures to combat the existing gender pay gap in the European Union are long overdue. The principle of equal pay for equal work is enshrined in the European Treaties since 1957, and still today, women in the EU are earning 15% less than men for doing the same work. The introduction of binding pay transparency measures is a key initiative aiming to close the EU gender pay gap and was one of the fifth pledges that President Von der Leven vowed to deliver within the first 100 days of her mandate. The proposal was as well one of the key actions and sole new legislative proposal of the Gender Equality Strategy presented by Commissioner Dalli on the 5th of March 2020.

Any action to fight against the gender pay gap needs to be consider a key priority and cannot be postponed. The Corona crisis cannot be used as a pretext to reschedule any action on the matter.

In fact, the current crisis is clearly showing the urgency to guarantee equal pay and recognition for those millions of women who disproportionately are working in jobs that put them on the frontline of this crisis. As a matter of fact, 78% of all healthcare workers in the EU, including 4.1 million low-paid and highly-exposed personal carers, are women.

We would like to urge Commissioner Dalli and President Von der Leyen to reconsider the postponement of the binding pay transparency measures and commit to deliver such legislative proposal before 2021.

Additionally, we want to also express our concern over the fact that all proposals from the European Commission 2020 Work Programme related to gender equality or equality in general have been rescheduled to later in the year or to 2021. This is the case for the LGBTI Equality Strategy, the Post 2020 EU Framework on Roma Equality and Inclusion Strategies, the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in External Relations for 2021-2025, the EU Strategy for Victims' Rights and the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings. Achieving equality is not something that can be postponed and by rescheduling all these initiatives we risk having some of them deprioritised or even kicked into the long grass .We ask the European Commission to stick to their political commitments and put gender equality as priority high in the political agenda.

We thank you in advance for your fine attention to this urgent matter and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ernest URTASUN, Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament

Alice KUHNKE, Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament

Kira PETER-HANSEN, Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament

Kim VAN SPARRENTAK, Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament

Monika VANA, Greens/EFA Member of the European Parliament

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