



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Office of the President Ms Ursula von der Leyen

Skills and Social Adviser

Brussels,
Ares (2020) 1983656

Dear Ms Rodano, Dear Ms Codrignani, Dear Ms Bartolini, Dear Ms Carlà,

President von der Leyen would like to thank you and the co-signatories for your open letter. Europe is facing an unprecedented crisis, the gravest since the Second World War. A crisis for which we were not sufficiently prepared. A crisis that is dramatically affecting the lives of our fellow citizens and putting the European project to the test.

However, Europe is standing up, with a strong willingness from Member States and citizens to face this pandemic together and show solidarity across borders. The European Union is working flat out every day to save every possible life, to protect livelihoods and to restart our economies, and it is bringing forward solutions that were unthinkable just a few weeks ago.

Together with the European Council, the Commission has presented a roadmap to recovery, which is based on key principles of solidarity, flexibility, inclusiveness and fundamental values. These are not just words. These are the foundations of our action. The Commission will follow on from this roadmap to soon present a recovery plan to relaunch the economy and build a more resilient Europe. A fair Europe, where nobody is left behind, where the interests of the most vulnerable are fully taken into account, will be key to this recovery plan. Social fairness and equality for all remain at the core of the Commission's vision for Europe.

This, of course, includes women who are in the front line of the pandemic with overrepresentation in health and social sectors, as well as in professions such as cashiers and cleaning staff.

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Ms Marisa Rodano
Ms Giancarla Codrignani
Ms Tiziana Bartolini
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The predominance of women in low-income and precarious jobs increases the risk of being particularly hit by the economic downturn, leading to more poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. Violence against women has also risen significantly, as the lockdown has trapped people with their abusers. The Commission is strongly committed to addressing gender inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

We need both women and men to lead today's Europe and shape that of tomorrow. Diversity is a guarantee of successful leadership and the President of the Commission is determined to act as a leader and as a woman for the good of Europe.

Yours sincerely,

[*e-signed*]
Maria Luisa Cabral

