

Dear Commission President, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen,

Dear President of the European Council, Mr. Charles Michel,

Dear Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón

Dear Ministers,

Dear Commissioners,

Dear colleagues,

The backdrop of this tripartite social summit is certainly the grimmest we have witnessed in recent years. Europe is grappling with multiple crises, and as usual, the most vulnerable ones are paying the highest price .

**We are still in the middle of a Cost of living crisis:** A crisis that is causing a social justice emergency: where corporate profits soar, purchasing power of working people drops, making it very hard for too many to make ends meet

**The climate crisis is more urgent than ever.**

**And We are also facing unprecedented geopolitical tensions and a dangerous** escalation that no one appears capable of halting.

The pressing nature of this scenario imposes that social partners, governments, and EU institutions work tirelessly together to deliver long term solutions

The European trade union movement is here and – as usual – commits to playing its part.

**We hear that Labour shortages** are felt all over Europe. True. However everybody in this room knows well that there is one golden rule to deal with this issue. And it is by offering fair wages, good working conditions and attractive career paths. Attempting to address staff shortages by resorting to low-cost labor and unequal treatment will not pave the way for full employment. Instead, it may exacerbate the crisis, resulting in social dumping that harms both workers and responsible employers.

And decent jobs exist because the right to strike, the right to organise and bargain collectively have allowed workers and their trade unions to build the European social model we are all benefiting from. Well , today these rights are under attack in more than one member state. We need your support to defend them. EU must stay strong with its commitment taken with the adoption of the MW Directive.

**We hear that sustainable growth is a paramount objective of the EU:** We could not agree more. But sustainable growth cannot be achieved by abandoning the ambition of the green deal and the farm to fork strategy, which include the adoption of the Sustainable Food system initiative.

Sustainable grow cannot be achieved as long as short-termism dominates our economic model , where companies continue to compete one another in a world with limited resources. The EU must fight speculation and promote long term shareholder engagement

And Our green agenda must be coherent. Climate change will certainly not be tackled if we set ambitious environmental goals on one side, while we negotiate trade deals leading to deforestation of Amazonia on the other, or as long as we keep producing and exporting pesticides already banned in the EU to the global south. The health and safety of a farm worker in Colombia should be valued no less than one in Italy.

Yet, the end of the cost of living crisis, the fight against climate change and a serious commitment to sustainable growth will be impossible missions if our prospect is one of war and increased geopolitical tension. If public money is invested in a new arms race rather than in providing decent jobs, social welfare and a thriving planet to live in.

This is why Europe must return to be a champion of diplomacy, stepping up the efforts to find peaceful solutions to the ongoing conflicts around the world.

If this is not the case the next future will be even grimmer than the worrying present we are discussing today.

Thank you