

To: Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
ursula.vonderleyen@ec.europa.eu

Cc: Nicolas Schmit
Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights
CAB-SCHMIT-ARCHIVES@ec.europa.eu

Cc: Ms. Helena Dalli
Commissioner for Equality
helena.dalli@ec.europa.eu

Dear President,

I am contacting you to raise the concern of women workers and their unions about the further delay to your proposal for a Directive to end pay inequality. The “Possible items for College agendas 6 October – 23 December 2020” document has announced that the Directive on Pay Transparency, previously anticipated to be published on 4th November (the Equal Pay Day) is now pushed back until the 15th December 2020. Of major concern is that the whole initiative now seems to be downgraded to a “TBC” category.

President, your election as President of the EU Commission was looked upon with considerable hope and anticipation of positive change for working women. Your speech and commitment to bring forward a measure for binding pay transparency in your first 100 days was a ground breaking commitment, heralding a new era for Eu gender equality.

It was disappointing that there is no mention of gender pay in your State of the Union Address particularly given the role of women in the frontline of Covid-19 response. As you are aware the majority of the front-line jobs, including care and cleaning, are undertaken by women whose work is undervalued compared to work undertaken in sectors predominated by men.

President, I know first-hand that working for gender pay equality is not an easy task, institutions are often unaware of the unconscious bias against women and especially their right to pay equality. I want to assure you that the ETUC is ready to assist you and Commissioner Dalli to overcome whatever hurdles are being put in your way. In this regard it would be of assistance if we could get information on the source and reason for the delay, and your assurance that the whole initiative is not in question.

This is an urgent issue which needs an urgent attention.

I look forward to your early and positive reply.



Yours sincerely,
Esther Lynch
ETUC Deputy General Secretary