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The “Turin process”: reinforcing social rights in Europe

Reply to Recommendation¹: Recommendation 2112 (2017)

Committee of Ministers

1. The Committee of Ministers has carefully examined the Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2112 \(2017\)](#) on “The Turin Process: reinforcing social rights in Europe” which it has brought to the attention of governments of member States and transmitted for comment to the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), to the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security and to the European Social Cohesion Platform (PECS).

2. The Committee of Ministers welcomes and shares the engagement of the Parliamentary Assembly with regard to strengthening social and economic rights in Europe. In this respect, it considers that the European Social Charter is one of the most important and comprehensive legal instruments dedicated to the protection of social rights at the European level. It would underline in particular the emphasis the Charter gives to protecting the more vulnerable groups of society such as children, older persons, persons with disabilities and migrants, which is more necessary than ever in the current political and economic context.

3. In response to paragraph 2 of the recommendation, the Committee of Ministers would inform the Assembly that it regularly invites those member States who have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the revised European Social Charter and its protocols.

4. In paragraph 3 of the recommendation, the Committee of Ministers is called on “to adopt a unanimous decision to allow it [the Parliamentary Assembly] to fulfil its appointed function in the European Social Charter’s monitoring mechanism regarding the election of the members of the European Committee of Social Rights, as foreseen in the Protocol amending the European Social Charter”. The Committee of Ministers would inform the Assembly that, whilst this issue has been considered within the Committee, there is no consensus to take a decision to that effect.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 of the recommendation, the Committee of Ministers considers that the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights by the European Union (EU) marks a new step in the protection of economic and social rights in Europe. It therefore considers it appropriate to promote and consolidate synergies between the European normative systems for the protection of social rights (Council of Europe and EU). In this context, it has taken note of the Opinion of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on the EU initiative to establish a European Pillar of Social Rights.

6. With specific regard to paragraph 4.1 of the recommendation, the Committee of Ministers recalls that in 2014 the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) prepared a working document entitled “The relationship between EU law and the European Social Charter”. In the light of the request by the Assembly, the Committee of Ministers invites the ECSR to update this document, notably to study in depth the possible synergies between the European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

7. Finally, the Committee of Ministers can inform the Assembly that the Secretary General attended the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth co-organised by the European Commission and the Swedish Government in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017.

1. Adopted at the 1302bis meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies (13 December 2017).

