

13.10.2020

Dear National Ministry xx,

Re : Guidance to xx Belgium’s – insert name of your country – Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Knowing that you will be submitting your national Recovery and Resilience Plan to the European Commission and that you are also expected to consult civil society organisations, we at xx – insert name of your organization – would like to meet with you to discuss your plans, and at the very least, we would like to share with you some of our proposals now in writing.

**One element that greatly concerns us regarding the Commission’s guidance note is that although not for profit organisations could be directly eligible for several measures under the employment, economic, digital and greening objectives of the plan, only legal entities, such as business and SMEs are identified as targets (the “who”).** This may result in excluding not-for-profit organisations as well as our social economy enterprises. This may also force Member States to assimilate associations and foundations into economic categories making the implementation of the measures more cumbersome. **For this reason, we would like to stress that also not-for-profit organisations (or other legal entities) should be included as targets of the measures. This should also be clarified for the preparation of the indicators.**

We also suggest that any communication on the Recovery and Resilience Plan **should enable citizens’ and residents’ access to the full content of the plans as well as information on the internal adoption process and parliamentary discussions.** We regularly encourage the empowerment of the people relying on our services, and we likewise advocate that they too should be involved in policy developments that affect them. Yet, it seems that in several countries, there is a lack of awareness of the preparation of the plans.

Relative to the Plans, we would also propose that Member States should **publish in an open database** information to allow national civil society organisations and media to scrutinize information and inform the European Commission in case of possible corruption, fraud and conflict of interest.

We would look forward to the possibility of meeting with you in person to discuss this as well. In the meantime, we sincerely hope that you will take our recommendations into consideration.

Many thanks for your attention,

XXX

Secretary General