



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Office of the President
Member of the Cabinet

01 04 2008

Brussels,
BARROSO (2008) A/ 1329
BARROSO (2008) D/ 586

Mr Bernard DURKAN T.D.
Chairman
Joint Committee on European Affairs
Leinster House
DUBLIN 2
Ireland

Dear Mr Durkan,

The President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, has asked me to thank you for your letter of 14 February and for the contribution in response to the European Commission's consultation on "Europe's Social Reality". Your text will be considered in detail by the Commission departments and, together with other contributions received, will feed into the forthcoming communication on a renewed EU Agenda based on "Opportunities, Access and Solidarity" planned for mid-2008.

I agree that social policy must be at the heart of EU policy-making and that we must ensure an equitable balance between social policy and the drive for economic growth and competitiveness.

I also support your belief that, although social policy is primarily the responsibility of Member States, the key challenges of globalisation should be also addressed through EU-level action and strong EU institutions.

Yours sincerely,



João MARQUES DE ALMEIDA