

MARIANNE THYSSEN

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, **19. 02. 2019**

Dear Ms Panayotova,
Dear Mr Vardakastanis,
Dear Ms Ciric Milovanovic,
Dear Mr Allen,

Thank you for your message relaying the concerns of your organisations as regards the upcoming negotiations of the Commission's proposal on the ESF+ regulation in the context of the trilogues with the European Parliament and the Council.

Allow me to reiterate my strong commitment and continuous support to the Member States and to all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the future ESF+ promotes the transition from residential /institutional care to family and community-based care services for all groups concerned. The ESF+ should not support any action that contributes to segregation or to social exclusion.

There is still room for improvement when it comes to investments to reach this objective. When used well, EU Funds can contribute significantly to ensuring that all children can grow up in families and that persons with disabilities are able to live independently and to be included in the community. I can reassure you that the Commission will defend its proposals during the trilogues.

I remain confident that the future ESF+ will provide the Member States, regions and stakeholders in the EU with the instrument to support initiatives that have a positive impact on our fellow citizens.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Kapka PANAYATOVA Centre for Independent Living
Mr Yannis VARDAKASTANIS European Disability Forum AISBL
Ms Dragana CIRIC MILOVANOVIC Mental Disability Rights Initiative – SER
Mr Steven ALLEN Validity Foundation
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