



To:

President of the European Parliament, MEP David Maria Sassoli

CC:

Chair of the European People's Party Group, MEP Manfred Weber

MEPs Siegfried Muresan, Esther De Lange, Jan Olbrycht, José Manuel Fernandes

President of the Socialists & Democrats group, MEP Iratxe Garcia

MEPs Simona Bonafè, Eric Andrieu, Biljana Borzan, Margarida Marques

President of Renew Europe Group, MEP Dacian Ciolos

MEPs Valérie Hayer, Luis Garicano

Co-Presidents of the Green, European Free Alliance Greens/EFA, MEP Ska Keller, MEP Philippe Lamberts

MEPs Ernest Urtasun, Rasmus Andresen

Co-Chair of the European Conservatives and Reformists group, MEP Ryszard Legutko

Co-Chair of the European Conservatives and Reformists group, MEP Raffaele Fitto

President of the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left GUE/NGL, MEP Manon Aubry

President of the Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left GUE/NGL, MEP Martin Schirdewan

MEPs Dimitrios Papadimoulis, José Gusmao

Vice President of the European Parliament, MEP Mairead McGuinness

Co-Chairs of the Intergroup on Children's Rights MEP Hilde Vautmans, MEP Saskia Bricmont, MEP Caterina Chinnici, MEP David Lega

Chair of the Employment Committee, MEP Lucia Duris Nicholsonova

Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP David Casa

Shadow Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP Brando Benifei

Shadow Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP Monica Semedo

Shadow Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP Simona Baldassarre

Shadow Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP Terry Reintke

Shadow Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP Elzbieta Rafalska

Shadow Rapporteur of the ESF+ MEP Jose Gusmao

Wednesday 22 July, 2020

Prioritisation of child poverty reduction in the European Parliament's Resolution on the Recovery Package and the 2021-2027 EU MFF

Dear President Sassoli,
Dear Members of European Parliament,

We are writing to you on behalf of the [EU Alliance for Investing in Children](#) to ask for your support in ensuring there is adequate EU budget allocation to the fight against child poverty.

Today, 1 in 4 children in the EU grow up at risk of poverty and social exclusionⁱⁱ. The COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic consequences it has already caused and set to put in motion are worryingly expected to escalate this figure exponentially, further affecting health and wellbeing, and the living conditions of millions of people in Europe.

During the last year, the European Parliament and the European Commission have prioritised child poverty reduction in their proposals for the European Social Fund Plusⁱⁱⁱ calling on every EU Member State to invest 5% of ESF+ resources under shared management to implement measures reducing child poverty.

We are deeply disappointed that despite the European Parliament's and the European Commission's proposals, the EU leaders have not earmarked resources to the fight against child poverty under the European Council Conclusions on the EU's Recovery Package and the EU's budget for the 2021-2027 EU funding period.

This is a historic moment to champion the rights of children within the EU and ensure that the EU's Next Generation grows up in inclusive healthy, equitable and prosperous societies.

We therefore encourage you to:

- **Support the mandate adopted by the European Parliament in April 2019 on the European Social Fund Plus^{iv}, in particular as regards the requirement that every Member State invests at least 5% of ESF+ resources under shared management for tackling child poverty.**
- **Include in the European Parliament's Resolution on the European Council Conclusions of 21 July 2020 the need to invest in children, to increase the protection of those in vulnerable situations and to eradicate poverty and in particular child poverty via the European Child Guarantee.**

With kind regards,

On behalf of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children,

Anita Bay Bundegaard



Director Save the Children Europe

Jana Hainsworth



Secretary General Eurochild

ⁱ The EU Alliance for Investing in Children has been advocating for a multidimensional, rights-based approach to tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being since 2014. The EU Alliance consists of 22 civil society organisations and Unicef, all working on the issue of child poverty reduction and social inclusion.

<http://www.alliance4investinginchildren.eu/>

ⁱⁱ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Children_at_risk_of_poverty_or_social_exclusion

ⁱⁱⁱ The European Parliament in its proposal on the European Social Fund Plus (onwards ESF+)ⁱⁱⁱ took a critical step by proposing that the ESF should be increased by 5,9 billion EUR and **“be allocated for measures falling under the European Child Guarantee referred to in Article 10a”**. The European Parliament also proposed that EU **“Member States shall allocate at least 5 % of their ESF+ resources under shared management to targeted actions aiming at implementing the European Child Guarantee, in order to contribute to children’s equal access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition”**ⁱⁱⁱ.

In May 2020, the European Commission updated its proposal on the ESF+ⁱⁱⁱ as a response to the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The European Commission recognised the importance of investing in children and took on board the European Parliament’s ESF+ proposal to tackle child poverty. The European Commission proposed that **“EU Member States allocate at least 5% of the ESF+ resources under shared management to support activities addressing child poverty in line with the specific objectives of the ESF+ that allow for programming resources towards actions directly supporting children with regards to early childcare, education, healthcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition”**.

^{iv} https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0350_EN.html

