To: European Council

Re: Ensuring the cohesiveness of a sustainable European society in the European Economic Governance

Dear Heads of State,

During the European Council meeting on December 9, you will review the overall economic situation in Europe. Furthermore, you will address the strengthening of economic convergence within the euro area, on improving fiscal discipline and deepening economic union, including exploring the possibility of limited Treaty changes.

Each day now, the economic governance of the European Union – in trying to respond to the pressure of financial markets – develops in a way that forces member states more and more to implement austerity policies. This is happening without taking into account the detrimental effect these policies have on the social cohesion of society and on the lives of women and men in Europe today.

Putting forward Treaty changes and other economic governance initiatives at such a rapid speed and without ensuring democratic legitimacy, brings with it the dangers of restricting balanced growth, weakening the cohesiveness of a sustainable European society and eroding democracy. The pursuit of “growth driven” fiscal consolidation and greater budgetary surveillance of the Eurozone without a proper study of the social impact of such actions, will only lead to the weakening of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its commitment to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Social Platform is the largest European civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy. Our members include organisations working with or representing people experiencing social exclusion and all forms of discrimination.

Social Platform opposes any further actions that will result in greater social exclusion in Europe.

We call on you to take these points into consideration in your discussions and trust that we can count on your support for a cohesive and social Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Conny Reuter
President

Pierre Baussand
Director