



Brussels, October 14, 2010

President Barroso
cc. All Commissioners,
cc. Secretary General Catherine Day

Ensure that the financial perspectives headings promote inclusive societies, green and quality jobs, preservation and restoration of ecosystems, improvement of democracy and global responsibility,

In your ‘State of the Union’ speech in September you stated that, regarding the future budget of the EU, “we should pool our means to back our policy priorities”. We welcome your continued commitment to an open, no-taboos debate. As members of the Spring Alliance¹, we write now to underline the importance of the forthcoming budget review and subsequent proposals for the next financial perspective.

As you know well, in 2009 the Spring Alliance worked extensively to identify civil society priorities for the new decade. Our Manifesto² made the case for people and planet to be placed at the heart of the EU’s policymaking both at home and through delivery on its global responsibilities. We therefore welcomed the fact that the Europe 2020 strategy makes the case for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the establishment of headline targets and flagship platforms to achieve this. The Commission must now act in deeds, as well as words to make that possible – ensuring that these priorities are backed with adequate finance.

As Spring Alliance we reiterate our Manifesto proposals and call on you to ensure that the EU budget is invested in people, eco-efficient innovation, social cohesion and the environment. Your new proposals must refocus major EU spending programmes on the priorities to deliver a social and sustainable growth, cutting off or redirecting any funding that harms the EU’s environmental and social objectives or increases the EU’s energy and resource use. We therefore propose that the headings of the EU budget lines and financial perspectives build on the priorities and targets of Europe 2020 and reflect the headings of our Manifesto as priorities for the coming Financial Perspectives:

¹ The Spring Alliance is an initiative of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Platform of European Social Organisations (Social Platform), and the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (Concord)

² <http://www.springalliance.eu/manifesto>

- Establish Inclusive Societies
- Preserve and Restore Ecosystems
- Promote Green and Quality Jobs
- Improve Democracy
- Assume Global Responsibility

Why?

Not only does the budget play a central role in delivering EU policy aims, but it is a potent political signal to the women and men living in Europe as to the EU's real priorities. It is therefore imperative that proposals for the next financial perspective ensure that the EU budget will be spent better. European added value must be secured by targeting the spending of public money on public goods and services. The EU budget must invest in an inclusive society based on strong social protection systems and in the creation of a new smart, sustainable, and inclusive EU economy during this next decade. Without a reformed EU budget, such an aim will not be achieved.

EU Budget reform is a defining task for the whole of your time in office as Commission President. Your Commissioners will also be judged on their ability to make budgetary changes possible. Now is the time for you to demonstrate your collective leadership.

We trust that the forthcoming Budget Review Communication will set the EU on course. We will play our role in championing reform proposals and mobilising civil society engagement in the forthcoming debate and would welcome your concrete proposals for how stakeholders will be involved at each stage. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the opportunities for EU budget reform in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



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Secretary General,
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Environmental
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John Monks
General Secretary,
**European Trade
Union
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Conny Reuter
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