



NICOLAS SCHMIT
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOBS AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 295 00 90
Nicolas.Schmit@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 3 December 2020

Dear Ms Kuchyňková,
Dear Mr Ripka,

Thank you for your letter of 16 November 2020 in which you inform me about your concerns regarding the distribution of ESIF allocations in the Czech Republic in the programming period 2021-2027, resulting in the possible reduction of the allocations for the European Social Fund+.

I fully share your view that sufficient investments in employment, education and social services are needed, especially following the COVID-19 crisis, as the second wave has particularly affected the Czech Republic. This is essential in order to maintain social cohesion, to address persisting inequalities and to demonstrate effective solidarity with vulnerable groups.

./..

Ms Iva Kuchyňková
Caritas Czech Republic
iva.kuchynkova@charita.cz

Mr Štěpán Ripka
Platform for Social Housing
stepan.ripka@socialnibydleni.org



Looking at the long-term perspective, the Czech Republic will need to invest substantially in skills, including digital skills and access to digital learning, in response to the changing economy and the ambitions of the Green Deal. Other major challenges, where investments will be needed, include support for the employment of vulnerable groups through active labour market policies, the employment of women through investments in childcare infrastructure, and the socio-economic integration of marginalised groups such as Roma.

For these reasons, my services have strongly encouraged the Czech administration to keep the ESF+ at the initial level, without transfers.

The Commission appreciates the active role of the Czech civil society in the discussions about the future programming and its engagement in providing support to those most in need.

Your commitment to the values of an equal, open and compassionate society, built on the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights, provides me with confidence that the required investments will be made in the next programming period.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Schmit