

**Call by the representatives of the 15 States Parties to the European Social Charter
having accepted the 1995 Additional Protocol and the collective complaints procedure
to reinforce social rights protection in Europe**

We, the delegates on the Council of Europe's Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security representing the 15 States Parties to the European Social Charter having accepted the 1995 Additional Protocol and the collective complaints procedure, namely Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden:

Considering that, for 70 years, the Council of Europe has been the leading organisation protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe;

Considering that the European Social Charter adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996 is the legal instrument that provides the most extensive and complete protection in the area of economic and social rights, thereby enabling Europeans to lead decent and dignified lives;

Noting that fundamental rights are crucial components of a modern, inclusive and social Europe;

Stressing that these rights should be fully implemented;

Stressing the need to maintain enhanced and regular dialogue between European states to seek best practices in view of the above;

On the occasion of the seminar held in Strasbourg on 19 September 2019 by the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the *topic Reinforcing social rights protection in Europe to achieve greater unity and equality*,

1. Call on European states to ratify the European Social Charter, which is currently in force in 43 of the Council of Europe's 47 member states;
2. Call on European states to ratify the revised European Social Charter, which is currently in force in 34 of the Council of Europe's 47 member states;
3. Call on European states to accept the 1995 Additional Protocol providing for a system of collective complaints, while taking note of the on-going work for the necessary reform of the monitoring and reporting system.