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## Recommendation relating to the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 24 January 2018

**CONF/PLE(2018)REC1**

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### Context:

After two years of preparation, the European Pillar of Social Rights was adopted by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on 17 November 2017. Concerned by the fact that this text is a political document, unaccompanied of a clear implementation plan, the Conference of INGOs adopted the following recommendation at the plenary session of 24 January 2018.

### Recommendation:

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, on proposal by its Coordination Committee for the Turin Process for the European Social Charter<sup>1</sup>:

**Recalling** the Declaration [CONF/PLE\(2017\)DEC2](#) adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 27 January 2017 and the [Communication](#) on the Proclamation of the Social Pillar, adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 29 June 2017;

**Welcoming** the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a sign of political commitment to ensure social rights at a time when Europe is slowly recovering from a major economic crisis;

**Concerned** that this European Pillar of Social Rights does not foresee a concrete plan of action to effectively implement all the twenty principles it contains;

**Stressing** that the proclamation must be followed by genuine commitment by all partners of the Turin Process to the effective implementation of all social rights already adopted in the framework of the European Social Charter;

**Aware** that legal competence in the field of social policy is mainly in the hands of national decision-makers;

**Recalling** that the EU Proclamation provides (in §16 of its Preamble) that "*The European Pillar of Social Rights shall not prevent Member States or their social partners from establishing more ambitious social standards. In particular, nothing in the European Pillar of Social Rights shall be interpreted as restricting or adversely affecting rights and principles as recognised, in their respective fields of application, by Union law or international law and by international agreements to which the Union or all the Member States are party, including the European Social Charter signed at Turin on 18 October 1961 and the relevant Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organisation.*";

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<sup>1</sup> [created during the plenary meeting of the Conference of INGOs \[CONF/PLE\(2016\)SYN2\]](#) following the [Call for Action](#) of the Conference of INGOs of 29 January 2016 to support the "Turin Process" for the European Social Charter

**Stressing** the urgent need to protect social rights;

**The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe:**

1. **Urges** the European Union and its Member States to translate their political commitment to protect social rights into concrete actions, reaffirming the indivisible, interdependent and inseparable nature of all human rights;
2. To this end, **calls** on the European Union and its Member States to accede to the Revised European Social Charter as the social constitution of Europe, detailing a roadmap to promote the effective guarantee of social rights for all;
3. **Calls** on the Member States to develop national strategies aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring equal opportunities for all, especially for the most deprived;
4. **Invites** the European Union and its Member States to monitor the implementation of the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights in close consultation with representatives of civil society;
5. **Undertakes**, in particular through its Coordinating Committee for the Turin Process for the European Social Charter, to ensure the regular monitoring of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in view of the European Social Charter.