

Mr Frans Timmermans
Spitzenkandidat for the Group of the
Progressive Alliance of Socialists and
Democrats in the European Parliament

Ref: JWG/CB/PS

Brussels, 14 May 2019

Dear Mr Timmermans,

The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) has read with interest the PES programme and manifesto **A new Social Contract for Europe**. This indicates the direction the European Union should go to deliver progress and just transitions for workers, our families and our communities.

We will need concrete measures from the European Commission (EC) to deliver a renewed Social Contract. For Europe's public service workers we ask if, as the new EC President, you would commit to the following four specific demands:

- 1) Will you support the introduction of the human right to water and sanitation in EU legislation as demanded by the first ever successful European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) on the Right2Water? Concretely, will you as Commission President defend this right in the forthcoming negotiations on the Drinking Water Directive between the Council and European Parliament (EP) ? This will be one of the first files following the elections to test the human rights approach of the EC as well as the EP.
- 2) Will you ensure that all European workers have information and consultation rights by proposing legislation to end the current exclusion of workers in public administration from such rights in EU legislation? The EC's investigations have underlined that this exclusion is not justified. Several other social Directives also exclude groups of public service workers from the protections the Directives offer. Will you work with us to end these exclusions that are not justified?
- 3) In light of overwhelming evidence, including from the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and national government audit offices that public-private partnerships (PPPs) are costly to tax payers, harmful to workers and more often than not do not deliver the claimed benefits, will you cease the EC's support for, and promotion of, PPPs in its policies and including in its development policy? Can you support that the EPEC – the Expertise Centre for PPPs)- is reformed to assist Member States to develop public services in general, including through a public services observatory?

- 4) Can you commit to not seeking liberalisation or opening of markets in health and social care, in education and other public services, and instead to implement the Protocol on Services of General Interest (SGI) and to ensure all policies comply with the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPS)? Will you commit instead to supporting EC policies to encourage public investment in public services? You will be aware that across the EU, nurses, police, firefighters, teachers, tax inspectors, child and elderly care workers and many more lack sufficient staff to do a decent job and provide the quality of services that are needed. And many millions of workers have not seen pay increases that have kept up with inflation and productivity increases.

Dear Mr Timmermans, we look forward to your commitments on these concrete demands. Thank you for your attention,

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU General Secretary
Vice President of the European Citizens Committee Right2Water