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**EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL / JUST TRANSITION FUND –
PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION**

FEEDBACK STATEMENT

The European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) is a confederation of more than 40 national and European trade union organisations from more than 20 European countries, with a total of more than 5 million individual members. Founded in 1990, CESI advocates improved employment conditions for workers in Europe and a strong social dimension in the EU. CESI recognises and supports the need for a Just Transition Fund. While the transition to a greener economy is a necessity to fight climate change, workers and regions should not be left behind.

In the context of the discussions and negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, CESI highlights that the budget to be allocated to this fund should be sufficient to effectively help mitigate both possible acute negative repercussions of climate change measures via **social inclusion and social protection** measures, as well as help actively manage functional labour transitions via **up- and reskilling for workers and employees** that are likely to be affected by climate change policy measures. The fund should also be sensitive for regional cohesion by considering appropriate compensations for the regions that are particularly affected the economic transformation towards climate neutrality.

CESI also advocates a clear and easy-to-understand communication of the nature, scope and functioning of the fund to all trade unions, further NGO and employer stakeholders as well as the broader public. Non-awareness of the fund or technical or know-how related barriers should not be a factor limiting its pick-up on the ground. To this end, trade union representatives as well as local and regional administrations and public services and their staff should be given **concrete information and practical training on the deployment and usage of the fund**. In this context, the EU should also encourage and facilitate exchanges of best practices between local authorities at national and European level.

Moreover, an effective **communication** of the fund is also important for a better, well-deserved public appreciation of the EU. The public as well as the affected workers and employees need to be aware when they have benefited from an EU fund – Where the EU does good for the people, this should be known.

Next to patching acute adverse social and employment-related symptoms of climate policies, CESI also stresses the need for the fund to also take a **strategic and long term investment-related approach**, in order to reach long-term goals of climate neutrality and sustainable employment at the same time. As such, the fund's individual implementation programmes should be detached from and go beyond single terms of office of key regional or local politicians that are keen on winning the next elections.

Beyond the fund itself, CESI stresses the importance for the EU and the Member States to set up and maintain a regulatory framework which ensures **decent work and adequate social protection in new jobs created in the area of climate change** and which rules out abusive and precarious employment models. The transition to a green economy should be accompanied by fair and secure work.