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## **Speech of Ludger Ramme at the Tripartite Social Summit President of CEC European Managers**

Dear Presidents, dear Commissioners, esteemed delegates,

I have the pleasure to speak for the CEC-Eurocadres Liaison Committee, representing employees in managerial positions.

When it comes to shaping the future, managers are always in the forefront – it is our responsibility to implement the right decisions in our companies to get them best prepared for the challenges ahead. What we do in the companies, we are ready to do also in the societies they live in. If we look at the macro-economic situation, the prospects are favourable: Europe seems to be back on the tracks of recovery and growth. But there is of course the need to secure this process and make it sustainable.

First, Europe needs to agree on an ambitious and holistic industrial strategy that can make the most out of the digital revolution. The first initiatives revealed by the Commission in this field go into the right direction; it is however necessary to develop modern education and training systems to provide the right skills at the right time.

Secondly, Europe must adapt the safety nets that are typical of its social model. The main challenges of today and tomorrow are: an ageing population, new ways of producing and working, an increasingly diverse society – all of them with the potential to become disruptive factors. The EU can offer rich sources for solutions. In the reflection paper launched by the Commission on the future of the EU social dimension, a more detailed description of these factors was included; we have contributed with a paper explaining what our position.

Social and labour legislation needs to be adapted to future trends. The most relevant initiative adopted by the Commission in this respect, the Pillar of Social Rights, has already inspired some concrete proposals for legislative action. It has revived the attention on the social dimension of the Union. We look forward to the official proclamation of the Pillar in the Gothenburg summit, and we hope that this event will represent the first step of further improving our social security systems. And this in full respect of the competencies of the different actors involved.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Only social security provides the necessary foundation for workers to develop their full potential and provide the best performance.

In this respect, let me express our full support for tackling the issues that Luca Vicentini has raised in his intervention. Europe can only grow together if we provide at least a realistic path to comparative social standards for all EU-citizens.

The process of reflection on the future of the Union needs to become an opportunity for Europe to reinforce its legitimacy basis, answering the questions on the value of Europe arising from the ground.

If we are to promote economic and social progress for all, we need to secure the European Union as a model for cooperation and unity. This process cannot happen without the support and cooperation of all actors representing the society, each of them for their share: European managers are ready to play their role.

Thank you for your attention.