

MARIA JOÃO RODRIGUES DEMANDS AMBITION COMMISSION FOR COURSE CHANGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

On 27th October, the European Parliament discussed the European Commission's work program (EC) for 2016, document that comes closest to an EU government program. Frans Timmermans, the EC Vice-President, presented to MEPs the priorities for next year and the debate was only with the intervention of the leaders of the political groups. In this regard was Maria João Rodrigues, as Vice-Chairman of the S & D Group (who leads the negotiations on this subject on the part of European Socialists) which intervened in the debate. The Vice President of the EC demanded a change of course in relation to the priorities of the European agenda. This setting EC policy priorities comes at a decisive moment for European integration, as Europe tries to tackle the refugee crisis and the social scourge created by the continuing economic and financial crisis.

The MEP called for "concrete proposals to resolve the various crises facing Europe", stating that "the EU should do everything in their power to prevent a humanitarian disaster with the refugee crisis" but "cannot stop fighting for the Eurozone is about a convergence space and prosperity." In the opinion of Maria João Rodrigues, "the EC have to present an ambitious proposal for the revision of the Europe 2020 strategy to make it a credible strategy for growth and job creation" and "promote convergence between Member States, which currently they compete with each other through the degradation of their social standards." Socialist Vice President made several proposals which it considers fundamental to the change of direction of the EU, arguing, inter alia, "the need to complete the economic and monetary union by giving it an effective Banking Union and genuine budgetary capacity, continue efforts as regards the fight against tax evasion "and that" these efforts must be accompanied by the strengthening of the social pillar ", giving the example of the long work that remains to be done to" guarantee equal pay for equal work and when it comes to reconciling work and family life for women and men. "