



**European Economic and Social Committee**  
**The President**

J. Kausai		k.		
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Brussels, 07.01.13 000009  
(DA-SOC/2012/D/7615)

**Mr Juris Jansons**  
Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia  
25 Baznicas street  
1010 Riga  
Latvia

Dear Mr Jansons,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2012, in which you give an overview of the worrying social situation in Latvia.

As a consultative body, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) cannot take action in a case like this. However, I would like to draw your attention to two opinions recently adopted by the EESC, both of which focus on the role and, indeed, the obligations of the EU in guaranteeing adequate social protection:

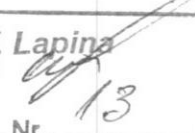
- *Strengthening EU cohesion and EU social policy coordination through the new horizontal social clause in Article 9 TFEU*, adopted on 26 October 2011, rapporteur: Christoph Lechner, Workers Group, Austria;
- *Social impact of the new economic governance legislation*, adopted on 22 February 2012, rapporteur: Gabriele Bischoff, Workers Group, Germany.

The first of the above-mentioned opinions calls on the EESC itself to draw up opinions on a regular basis on the application of the horizontal social clause, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and other primary or secondary legislation with a view to determining whether the objectives have been adhered to and promoted. If it is decided to draw up such an opinion, your well-documented concerns will certainly be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

  
Staffan Nilsson

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<b>SANĒMĒTS</b> Tiesībsarga biroja	V. Lapina 
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