

Speech by Eurocadres President Nayla Glaise

Tripartite Social Summit

March 19th 2025, Brussels

Dear President von der Leyen, President Costa, Minister Szlapka, Vice-President, Ministers, colleagues,

I will speak on behalf of the liaison committee with CEC European Managers.

What a difference a year and new mandate makes.

With the social summit and our usual pleasant opening words, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose, though our counterparts from the employers group are happier with actions than ever before.

Forgotten is the vision of “an economy that works for people” as we heard from you in 2019, and the pride in an economy that, quote “ensures that social fairness and welfare come first”. Nice ideas, but no support for the 47.4 million citizens who could not afford to heat their homes in 2023.

And now, these principles have been abandoned. In the first 100 days of this mandate you have decided on a different route.

33% of citizens see rising prices, inflation and the cost of living as the most important issue at national level. **But**, simplification.

93 million Europeans were at risk of poverty or social exclusion last year. **But**, of course, competitiveness.

We were told in Davos that we are, “not in a race against each other, but we are in a race against time” regarding climate change. **But**, 0.13% of shareholder payouts – the average estimated savings for companies in your proposed slashing of the CSDD directive, is just too much to sacrifice for a viable future.

We all agreed with the Draghi report’s suggestions, I’ve heard it referenced by almost everyone here already today. I am now wondering if we read the same document.

Green reporting was never labelled a threat to competitiveness.

The report never asked us to reward cowboy companies and punish those who develop high standards.

It never asked to make human rights and environmental considerations a box-ticking exercise.

It never asked to circumvent workers, including professionals and managers who carry out these reporting requirements, and do not see them as a burden.

Workers, unions, civil society, have had no input on recent proposals.

If asked, we would have told you that tax avoidance, fraud and excessive corporate profits harm competitiveness, and fuel inequality.

If asked, the first 100 days of this mandate would have focused on what people have told us matters to them – decent pay, safeguards against psychosocial risks, a binding right to training, protection from the risks of AI at work, and quality jobs.

We cannot wait until the next summit for these points to get through.