



PRESIDENCIA  
DEL GOBIERNO

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE COMUNICACIÓN

# TRANSCRIPCIÓN

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO EN  
EL FORO SOCIAL DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA  
PANEL DE TRABAJO Y EMPLEO**

Oporto, 7 de mayo de 2021

## **INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ**

Boa tarde, obrigado. Good to be in Portugal, in Oporto.

Let me start by thanking and congratulating the Portuguese presidency for this very important meeting, in my opinion, which is the social dimension of the EU integration.

Four remarks:

The first one I think is, well, 2020 was a terrible year because of the pandemic but is also a year where we have witnessed an acceleration of the EU integration process: joint purchase of vaccines, union health, ECB actions, SURE instrument, our commitment to reduce by 2030, 55% of our emissions, Next Generation UE which is a positive response to not only the crisis but also the huge and disruptive transformations that we have ahead.

Second remark is that this Next Generation EU fund provides us the instruments to give a positive response to these major challenges ahead: ecological transition and digital transformation. And for that, I agree with Prime Minister Costa and also with president Draghi, that is very important to incorporate this inclusive perspective in this two big transformations. Gender equality, intergenerational perspective and also the territorial dimension, as the Commissioner said. What it is not possible is to see what we are now witnessing in Europe, we are seeing sectors that are winners of this digital transformation that are expelling labor force while they are earning six figures salaries and increasing benefits and bonuses. I don't think this is acceptable and I think that from the political dimension we need to give also a very strong response.

The third remark that I would like to share with you is that this pandemic and this change has accelerated previous trends. So digitalization, teleworking, relocation of supply chains, etcera, etcera. And for that I think that not only in Europe, but also on the domestic side we need to incorporate these changes in our domestic legislation.

In my country, in Spain, during the pandemic we approved important reforms in the area of teleworking, vocational training and reform of active labor policies, equal pay



for man and woman, short term furlough employment schemes, so on and so forth. And in my opinion, which is crucial is that changing labor legislation should be done through social dialogue. In Spain for instance during this pandemic social agents manage to reach 11 agreements in many areas, which I think this is also very important.

And let me just ad a last remark because we are speaking about inequality and the major inequality nowadays in the world is access to vaccines. On vaccination we have learned that the US Administration supports the temporary waiver of the TRIPS agreement for the protection of vaccines. I think is a good initiative, but I don't think is enough. This is why I think that from Europe we need to lead this debate, not only sharing knowledge, for which the TRIPS waiver is welcome, but also scaling up vaccines production and ensure swift distribution, and for that I really appreciate the position of the Commission and personally the presence of the President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen for her statement yesterday before the press. Thank you.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)*

*(Intervención original en inglés)*