



SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE MEMORANDUM FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2009

For the full recognition of social economy enterprises at EU level

SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE is the EU-level umbrella organisation representing social economy enterprises, and since 2000 a privileged interlocutor with the European institutions.

Members of **SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE** are the EU representatives of four social economy “families” (foundations, co-operatives, associations and mutual societies), of organisations representing social economy at national level and EU network organisations involved in social economy.

Social economy enterprises must benefit from a legislative and regulatory environment that takes fully into account their characteristics, allowing them to compete on the same level playing field with all enterprises.

Social economy enterprises represent 10 % of all European businesses, with 2 million undertakings and 6 % of total employment.

A key asset of social economy enterprises is their ability to provide **STABILITY** in a time of economic turmoil.

SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE calls upon the European Parliament to:

- implement the recommendations of the European Parliament’s own initiative report on social economy, adopted with a large majority on 19 February 2009 (P6_TA(2009)0062);
- guarantee the renewal of the Social Economy Intergroup in the new legislative term;
- ensure a secure legal framework for social economy through the adoption of three new European statutes: for foundations (a feasibility study was recently published and a public consultation launched by the European Commission), for mutual societies (7 parliamentary reports call on reopening work on this issue) and for associations;
- recognise the specific model of entrepreneurship of social economy enterprises when applying competition rules as most of them are, like any enterprise, subject to European regulations;
- integrate social economy enterprises in all measures supporting entrepreneurial development and the cooperation between different economic actors such as public-private partnerships;
- foster, in all relevant EU programmes and initiatives, the establishment of sustainable institutional partnerships between social economy enterprises and local, regional and national authorities that would entail joint planning, the co-ordination of development strategies and policies and the creation of new models of good governance;
- promote the use of new economic and social indicators in order to reveal the impact of social economy enterprises on economic, social and environmental cohesion;

- consider social economy enterprises' best practices in terms of corporate social responsibility and promote the social economy enterprises as role model;
- support Member States with regard to services of general interest, including economic and social services of general interest, by promoting a high quality, ensuring they meet the needs of their users and making use of the bundled indicator method;
- support the introduction of initiatives for social economy at EU level;
- recognise social economy enterprises in all legislation and policies as well as in funding and programmes at EU level;
- reinforce the cooperation with the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee's social economy category;
- support the creation of national statistical registers for social economy enterprises, to establish national satellite accounts and allow for this data to be collated by Eurostat.

SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE,

as the EU-level umbrella organisation representing social economy enterprises calls for the European Union to engage in a fruitful dialogue on social economy that should include social economy sectoral and cross-sectoral organisations.



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In a time of economic crisis, social economy brings valuable answers in domains such as employment and the fight against poverty, the creation of quality jobs, life-long learning and access to services of quality for all.

Throughout history, the social economy has contributed to creating and preserving jobs, including in sectors and businesses facing difficulties.

SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE members are:

- **AMICE** (Association of Mutual Insurers and Insurance Cooperatives in Europe)
- **AIM** (International Association of Mutual benefit societies)
- **CEDAG** (European Council for non-profit organisations)
- **Cooperatives Europe** (Cross sector representative organisation of cooperatives in Europe)
- **EFC** (European Foundation Centre)
- **CEGES** (Conseil des Entreprises, Employeurs et Groupements d'Economie Sociale)
- **CEPES** (Spanish Business Confederation of Social Economy)
- **ENSIE** (European Network of Social Integration Enterprises)
- **FEDES** (European Federation of Social Employers)
- **REVES** (European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy)