



**Social
Economy
Europe**

Social Economy, a driver of economic and social progress in Europe

SEE Memorandum for the European elections 2024

Summary Memo

The social economy has demonstrated a huge capacity to create quality jobs, employing more than 14 million people in Europe and contributing to social inclusion and equal opportunities, as well as to drive sustainable economic and industrial development, playing an important role in European social protection systems and revitalizing rural and depopulated areas. Moreover, the social economy plays a key role in the green and digital transitions by supplying sustainable goods and services and reducing the digital divide, contributing to social and territorial cohesion being present in all economic sectors and activities.

The launching of the [Social Economy Action Plan](#) by the European Commission in 2021 has been an important milestone that acts as roadmap to promote and consolidate this essential sector to the European model, with social cohesion as a core element. A plan that lays the foundations for the future development of this business model on the continent and the mainstreaming of the social economy in various European policies such as the recently approved [Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions](#) or the [Transition Pathway for the proximity and social economy ecosystem](#), linking the Action Plan with the renewed European industrial policy, recognizing the contribution of the social economy to a fair, inclusive, digital, and green transformation.

This acknowledgment of the key role of social economy has not only occurred at European level but also at international level with the following milestones: the adoption by the ILO of a [Resolution on decent work and the social economy](#), the approval of a [Recommendation on the social and solidarity economy and social innovation by the OECD](#) and, for its first time, the approval by the UN General Assembly of the resolution [Promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development](#).

Undoubtedly, the social economy is experiencing a historic momentum due to its capacity to address a sustainable development based on the social inclusion and the territorial cohesion completely aligned with the objectives of the European Union and the SDGs promoted by the UN.

The European Elections of 2024 are the perfect opportunity to boost this way and avoid losing the milestones and goals achieved in the recent years. In this regard, Social Economy Europe is committed to further support the development of social economy all over Europe by making three main proposals for the European elections 2024.

SEE 3 main proposals for the European elections 2024

- 1. Renewal of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup**
- 2. Appointment of a Commissioner responsible for Social Economy**
- 3. To pursue the Social Economy Action Plan**

1. Renewal of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup

Social Economy Europe invites the European Parliament to renew and maintain the Social Economy Intergroup, an informal body of vital importance to mainstream social economy's perspective into the legislative and non-legislative work of the European Parliament. Created in 1990, and permanently active since then, the Social Economy Intergroup serves to ensure a permanent dialogue between all European Institutions, Member States and the social economy sector. SEE is the Secretariat of the European Parliament's Social Economy Intergroup.

The Social Economy Intergroup aims to promote exchanges of views on EU policies and legislation linked to social economy issues; to provide regular opportunities for a dialogue between MEPs, social economy actors, European Commission political representatives and officials, Member States and other relevant stakeholders and to ensure that the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council take into account the social economy and its actors whilst developing their policies. The action of the Social Economy Intergroup and its members has been key for the development and approval of the Social Economy Action in 2021, its maintenance is crucial to keep the track in the development of social economy.

2. Appointment of a Commissioner responsible for Social Economy

Social Economy Europe considers that the appointment of a commissioner committed to social economy is crucial to assure the continuity in the development of social economy policies. The European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit, and his cabinet have shown a huge commitment to social economy, being the most notable fact the launching of the Social Economy Action Plan. The European Commissioner for Internal Market, Thierry Breton, and his cabinet have also played a key role in the recognition of the social economy as one of the 14 ecosystems of the EU Industrial Policy.

SEE believes a designated commissioner committed to social economy is necessary to make sure the SEAP unravels and to maintain social economy in the EU's political agenda in a cross-cutting manner. Such a mandate ensures the implementation of the SEAP is properly monitored and coherently embedded with other relevant EU policies (sectorial, international cooperation, competition...), as social economy deploys in all sectors of activities.

Such appointment would ensure the European Commission maintains and reinforces its commitment to social economy.

3. To pursue the Social Economy Action Plan

To achieve the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan and pursue the established objectives it is necessary to carry out the following actions and to monitor them continuously:

Incorporate the Social Economy transversally in all EU industrial, economic and social policies.

Support and encourage Member States to develop actions pinned in the Recommendation to the Council of the European Union on Developing Social Economy Framework Conditions.

Endorse Social Economy with adapted financial support.

Improve and strengthen social economy skills and education at all levels.

State aid and public procurement.

Improve measuring and evaluating methods regarding Social Economy's contribution to the socio-economic development of the EU.

Develop adapted taxation policies.

Strengthen the role of the Social Economy in the EU's external agenda.