

11 de febrero de 2026

Ms Roxana Mînzatu
Executive Vice-President for Social Rights
and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
European Commission

cc: Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

cc: Ms Roberta Metsola
President of the European Parliament

cc: Mr Piotr Serafin
Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud,
and Public Administration

Dear Executive Vice-President,

As ministers responsible for the social economy in our respective Member States, we are writing to you as current co-presidencies of the Monitoring Committee for the Luxembourg Declaration, which has been coordinating policy positions and continuing to work towards the commitments made regarding the social economy. We are writing to express a common concern that is also a constructive proposal: ensuring that the upcoming multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2028–2034 maintains and strengthens effective European investment in people, cohesion and territorial development, with a particular focus on the social economy, in the context of far-reaching restructuring of funds.

The social economy has become a cornerstone of the European model: an economy that combines competitiveness with cohesion, and growth with social justice. Accordingly, the social economy does not play a secondary part; rather, it is an economic reality with a leading role and should continue to be recognized and supported. In Europe, it accounts for more than 4.3 million entities, 11.5 million jobs and an annual turnover of around 1 trillion euros.

However, in the negotiations of the 2028–2034 MFF, we are seeing a direction and a simplification of instruments which, if unchanged, could lead to a worse position for the social economy within the budget architecture. We are also concerned about the items that may be included, under the new plans, in the minimum of 14% to be allocated to meeting social objectives. We consider that there is a risk that truly effective social spending could be diluted if, for the purpose of meeting this percentage, the allocation was to include not only actions with direct impacts for individuals, but also investments in social infrastructure. In practice, this does not guarantee the continuation of the financial support currently being provided to social objectives through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

In this regard, the ESF+ is vital for the social economy. With the architecture that is currently on the table, it is fundamental that ESF+ is not diluted under wider frameworks and that it retains clear objectives, an identifiable allocation and robust governance.

We would also like to stress the importance of the social economy continuing to have complementary access, without additional hurdles, to the European instruments that have been pivotal in its formation in recent years— especially the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Community Initiative for rural development (Leader+), Horizon Europe, the InvestEU Programme, Erasmus+ and programmes to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) such as the Programme for the Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME). In practice, this will entail retaining the social economy's explicit eligibility, guaranteeing clear windows for access, and ensuring that the new design of the framework does not result in fewer alternatives, more complex administrative procedures or a concentration of resources that limits its spatial reach.

We also firmly believe that Europe must ensure that its cross-cutting policies in areas such as housing, energy, finance, agriculture, inclusion, care, disability, consumption and culture actively cover and promote the different legal configurations found within the social economy.

In short, it is our view that any simplification that goes too far in refocusing resources on priorities that are solely national could undermine social economy harmonization, cohesion and convergence across Europe. In fact, support for application of the Social Economy Action Plan is support for the European Pillar of Social Rights, which in turn underpins the integration of the EU single market, as well as the values and competitiveness of the Union.

In relation to all of the above, we wholeheartedly welcome the announcement by the Commission that the results of the mid-term review of the Social Economy Action Plan will be presented in the first quarter of 2026, with a forward-looking perspective on the social economy that is adapted to emerging priorities and changes in Member States, seeking to propose new measures to be introduced by 2030.

We applaud the announcement and we urge the Commission to make certain that the review has the highest possible policy aspirations and a genuinely cross-cutting approach, putting the social economy at a higher level and especially ensuring: (i) effective involvement by the Directorates-General and units responsible for the area, so that the social economy is incorporated into the Union's core policies; (ii) unequivocal coherence between strategy and funding, aligning objectives with the delivery tools of the 2028–2034 MFF; and (iii) a clear focus on implementation, with scheduled measures that are assessable and monitored through to 2030, to ensure priorities are translated into results.

It is our hope that these considerations will be taken into account. We remain at your disposal should you wish to receive any clarifications or additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Serge Papin

Minister of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises,
Trade, Crafts, Tourism and Purchasing Power of
France

Ms Yolanda Díaz Pérez

Second Vice-President and Minister for Labour and the
Social Economy of Spain