

**Question for oral answer O-000070/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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Subject: A European Action Plan for the Social Economy

In 2015, the Council adopted conclusions on 'The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe'. The Council conclusions highlight that the social economy, formed by a rich variety of enterprise models, such as cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations and social enterprises, plays an important role in achieving several EU objectives, including smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the creation of decent jobs, social cohesion and social innovation.

There are two million social economy enterprises in Europe employing over 14.5 million people and accounting for 8% of EU GDP. As stressed by Parliament's report on a European Pillar of Social Rights¹, the social economy sets a good example in terms of creating quality employment, supporting social inclusion and promoting a participatory economy.

In 2016, Parliament's report on the Single Market Strategy², the Bratislava Declaration on Social Economy, signed by 10 Member States, and the report by the Commission's Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES), called on the Commission to develop a European Action Plan for the social economy. On May 2017, nine Member States adopted the Madrid Declaration on Social Economy, which calls on the Commission to include a European Action Plan 2018-2020 in its work programme for 2018, with adequate financing, which will promote social economy enterprises in Europe and boost social innovation. In its opinion on the Start-up and Scale-up Initiative³, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) calls on the Commission to bring together all the current and new initiatives to support social economy enterprises by issuing a communication with an Action Plan for the Social Economy.

- How is the Commission following-up these calls from Parliament, the Council and several Member States to boost social economy enterprises?
- In line with these requests, is the Commission planning to develop a European Action Plan for the social economy?

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¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0010.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0237.

³ OJ C 288, 31.8.2017, p. 20.