

**Question for written answer E-002505/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Commission's commitment to the social economy

The EU social economy sector boasts 2 million companies (accounting for 10 % of jobs in Europe) and more than 14 million employees (equivalent to 6.5 % of the Union's working population). For several years, the Commission has acknowledged the vital contribution the sector has made towards promoting sustainable, fair and inclusive growth by virtue of its high potential for innovation and its ability to facilitate the performance of a general interest task.

The 2011 adoption of the 'Social Business Initiative (SBI)' communication, which set forth eleven key actions to be implemented with a view to fostering the development of the social economy, was an important step in that recognition.

The new Commission has, however, remained silent over what strategy it intends to adopt to promote the Social Business Initiative and has said nothing about the possibility of including a social economy initiative in its 2015 Work Programme.

With that in mind, what priorities and action are being devised at European level to support the development of a social economy that will unquestionably contribute to revitalising growth and the social aspect of the common market?