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# **WRITTEN DECLARATION**

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Social and Solidarity Economy

**Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL), Nessa Childers (S&D), Marian Harkin (ALDE), Liadh Ní Riada (GUE/NGL), Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE/NGL), Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL), Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL), Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL), Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL), Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL), Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL), Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL)**

Lapse date: 1.3.2017

**Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the Social and Solidarity Economy<sup>1</sup>**

1. The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) refers to organisations and enterprises such as cooperatives, mutual benefit societies and social enterprises which produce goods and services with the objective of providing benefits to members and the community instead of focusing solely on financial profit.
2. The SSE plays a positive role in the EU by creating decent jobs and providing benefits for communities. In 2011 the SSE represented approximately 10 per cent of companies and 6 per cent of employment.
3. The Social Economy has been officially recognised by the Parliament and Commission. However, recognition and assistance for the SSE varies among Member States.
4. The Commission is hence called upon to enhance its commitment to the SSE by supporting Member States in the provision of the following forms of assistance: institutional recognition, access to finance, awareness-raising, and public procurement policies.
5. The Commission-funded Young Global Advocates 'Challenging the Crisis' project has called for an 'SSE Year' as an awareness-raising measure.
6. The Commission is therefore also called upon to consider initiatives aiming to designate 'The Social and Solidarity Economy' as the theme of the 2018 European Year.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.