

Question for written answer E-002831/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Leszek Miller (S&D)

Subject: EU promotion and support for cooperatives and other forms of social entrepreneurship

The European Union should pay particular attention to the development of cooperatives and other forms of social enterprise in the Member States, as they not only make a significant contribution to economic growth but also play an important role in strengthening the social cohesion of the Union. This is mainly due to the fact that social enterprises (including cooperatives) are private entities, independent of public authorities, which combine social objectives with an entrepreneurial spirit. They also promote democratic governance and decision-making, focusing on achieving broader social and environmental objectives rather than merely profit for their owners or shareholders.

I believe, therefore, that the Commission should be even more active in supporting and effectively promoting cooperatives and other social economy enterprises in the EU, both in terms of preferential conditions for EU funding and market access as well as effectively promoting this business model in all Member States.

- (1) What initiatives is the Commission planning to take in the short term to promote and support cooperatives and social entrepreneurship in the Union more effectively?
- (2) Does the Commission envisage centralising the fragmented activities in support of cooperatives in the EU through the creation of a European action plan or the adoption of an EU legal framework to support social enterprises and rules governing their day-to-day activities?