

**Question for oral answer O-000044/2023
to the Council**

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Subject: Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions

The social economy encompasses many different sectors and accounts for 2.8 million entities in the EU, employing around 13.6 million workers¹. Parliament's resolution of 6 July 2022 on the EU action plan for the social economy² underlined the primacy of people as well as social and environmental purposes over profit in the social economy. However, since the resolution was adopted, the context has evolved towards a period of high inflation, a cost of living crisis and greater geopolitical instability.

The proposal for a Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions is timely. It will promote the visibility of the social economy and the principles that underpin it (solidarity, social inclusion and social investment) and create an environment for the social economy to thrive, including the necessary access to markets and finance.

Given this:

1. How are the Council and the Member States planning to follow up on this in order to further promote the social economy, in particular among young people and in the context of the 2023 European Year of Skills? What concrete results have so far been achieved since the adoption of the action plan for the social economy?
2. How are the Member States promoting broader collective bargaining coverage among social economy entities?
3. Are there any specific issues to take in to account with a view to strengthening the legal and policy frameworks for the social economy?
4. How will the Council further promote socially responsible public procurement and encourage Member States to comply with applicable obligations?
5. What tools could be used to promote the social economy in countries where its development is at an early stage?
6. How will the Council and the Member States strengthen the access to funding, particularly for women, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?
7. How are the Member States planning to mainstream the social economy in relevant policies, programmes and practices? What measures is the Council going to promote to encourage Member States to adopt strategies aimed at promoting worker buyouts?

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¹ 'Recent Evolutions of the Social Economy in the European Union', European Economic and Social Committee, 2017.

² OJ C 47, 7.2.2023, p. 171.