

**Question for written answer P-002642/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Future of social entrepreneurship in Europe

At the conference entitled 'Social entrepreneurs – have your say!' organised by the Commission in Strasbourg on 16 and 17 January 2014 some 2 000 participants from realms including politics, the social economy and academia discussed the impact the EU's 'Social Business Initiative' has had thus far on the social economy in Europe. They drew up the 'Strasbourg declaration' on the basis of the expert contributions to the conference, the outcome of the workshops held and the views expressed in various open discussion forums.

1. What practical steps does the Commission plan to take in order to step up support for social entrepreneurship?
2. How will future measures to foster social entrepreneurship tie in with social innovations and the management of social innovations?
3. In 2014, what steps will be taken to ensure that the issue of social entrepreneurship is reflected in the measures drawn up to implement the new EU support programmes, in particular in the areas of employment, SMUs, the environment, energy, youth, research and services?
4. What support does the Commission plan to offer Member States and regions to help them implement the investment priority 'social entrepreneurship' in programmes carried out under the EU Structural Funds and Investment Fund, and with how many Member States are specific negotiations being conducted?
5. When will the social entrepreneurship funds, combined with a certification/labelling system designed to foster investor confidence, likely to be available Europe-wide?
6. What steps does the Commission now plan to take – following the introduction of a European statute for mutual societies and cooperatives – to establish a similar framework for associations and foundations?
7. What support will the Member States be offered to help them take account of social and environmental criteria when transposing and applying the new directive on public procurement, with a view to guaranteeing social enterprises better access to public contracts?
8. What steps are being taken to incorporate ideas linked to social entrepreneurship into national programmes to combat youth unemployment?