



## EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION ENTERPRISES

Press Release – 3 March 2014

### **The Strasbourg Declaration: pursuing the European Union commitments towards social enterprises**

On 16 and 17 January 2014, the conference '[Social entrepreneurs: have your say!](#)' organized by the European Commission, the Economic and Social Committee and the city of Strasbourg gathered more than 2,000 actors: social entrepreneurs, decision-makers from European, national and regional levels, academics and students. They exchange on the different topics related to social enterprise and social economy (state aids, public procurement, promotion of social enterprises, financing...) and underline the importance of the social entrepreneurship in the internal market.

**Indeed, the social economy and the social enterprises play a crucial role in Europe, committed to favour a social and responsible environment to serve its citizens**, as stated by the different commissioners in charge of the Social Business Initiative:

Michel Barnier, Commissioner for Internal Market and Services: *'The social economy is part and parcel of the new growth model which we are creating, which is more inclusive and greener. By virtue of their vocation, social enterprises keep their ear to the ground and are in tune with social or environmental realities. They are innovative, they are dynamic and they create jobs. We have to do everything we can to create an ecosystem that encourages them to develop further.'*

László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion: *'Social enterprises provide hundreds of successful examples how Europe can improve its business model, with more focus on improving people's well-being and less on maximising financial gain. The social economy can create quality jobs even in difficult economic circumstances and clearly deserves EU support to grow and spread.'*

Antonio Tajani, European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship: *'Social businesses help the EU create a highly competitive social market economy and are engines for sustainable growth. During the crisis they proved their worth by showing strong resilience. We now need them more than ever for their job creating ability.'*

**The European elections are approaching and must constitute another opportunity to put the social economy and social enterprises at the European agenda.**

The conclusions of the conference lead to the [Strasbourg Declaration](#), summarizing the results of these two days of discussion and the future actions to implement in order to encourage the development of the social economy in the European Union. This declaration represents the point of views of the different stakeholders that participate. Patrizia Bussi, ENSIE coordinator also contributed to its writing.

**To support the place of social enterprises in the European agenda,**

**we invite you [to sign the declaration](#).**