

Brussels, 10 July, 2018

Position paper

The European Parliament approved the report with recommendations to the Commission on a Statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises

Cooperatives Europe is the European cross-sectoral organization representing cooperative enterprises. On behalf of its 86 member organizations from 34 European countries across all business sectors, it promotes the cooperative business model in Europe. Its members represent 140 million individual member cooperators owning 176,000 cooperative enterprises and providing jobs to 4,7 million European citizens.

The European Parliament's own-initiative report on a Statute for Social and Solidarity-based Enterprises was voted on on 5th of July 2018. This resolution calls on the European Commission to improve the regulatory framework of social and solidarity-based enterprises by creating a “*European social label*” scheme aimed at providing coherent legal rules in support of social enterprises.

Cooperatives are key actors of the Social Economy. Representing cooperative enterprises in Europe, Cooperatives Europe is happy to see the interest and support expressed by the European Parliament to promote social economy enterprises.

Though we advocate for improving the regulatory frameworks for social economy enterprises, Cooperatives Europe has not expressed any interest in having a European label. Whenever an action regarding labelling is pursued, the criteria should encompass all diversity of social economy within the European Union in order to avoid confusion of understanding on social economy among the national regulators and other stakeholders and exclusion of social economy stakeholders.





Furthermore, the matter of determining which authority is responsible/competent to grant such label then arises. In this regard, as businesses driven by values and not just profit, cooperatives share internationally agreed principles that have been clearly defined by the ICA and that represent their guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

We remain at the disposal of the EU Institutions for further information on this matter.

End

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