

***"Together to create new growth"***  
***"Social entrepreneurship & social economy:  
Developing a European ecosystem to unlock social innovation, growth and jobs"***

**Conference in Brussels - Friday 18 November 2011**

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Social entrepreneurs and the social economy at large have a key role to play to generate new growth and strengthen the confidence of both citizens and businesses in the Single Market. With the adoption of the Single Market Act on 13 April 2011 the Commission presented a detailed strategy to relaunch the Single Market inter alia by placing social enterprises and the social economy at its heart.

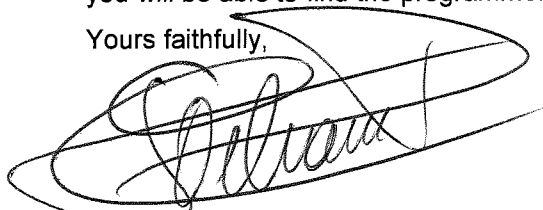
The Commission's forthcoming Social Business Initiative (SBI), due in Autumn, aims at offering more opportunities to social enterprises in the Single Market thus contributing to social cohesion, employment and the reduction of inequalities through the goods or services they offer and the organization or production methods they resort to. Concretely, the SBI will set out actions which could facilitate access to finance for these companies, enhance their visibility and improve their legal environment.

The social economy, of which social enterprises are a big part, employs more than 11 million workers in the EU - 6 % of total employment. Approximately one in four businesses created in Europe is a social enterprise. These companies have been faring far better than others in the current economic turmoil. It can make an important contribution to the development of a highly competitive social market economy.

As a follow-up to the Social Business Initiative Vice-president Tajani (Enterprise and Industry) and Commissioners Barnier (Internal Market and Services) and Andor (Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) are hosting a high-level conference on Social Businesses and the social economy on 18 November 2011 in Brussels. Numerous key stakeholder and experts have been invited to participate. After the adoption of the SBI, the conference will offer the opportunity to discuss the policy initiatives that could be taken at European and national levels to support the development of social businesses and the social economy.

I hope that you will be in a position to save this date already in your calendar and to pre-register (free of charge) on our website ([http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/social\\_business/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/social_business/index_en.htm)), where you will be able to find the programme.

Yours faithfully,



Pierre Delsaux

Deputy Director General

Directorate General Internal Market and Services

European Commission

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