LUXEMBOURG DECLARATION MONITORING COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes

Format: *technical meeting*

Date: *8 June 2026*

Participants (sorted by country alphabetical order):

Austria	Torben Mack, Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs
Belguim	For Wallonia: • Frédéric Rasson – Director, Social Economy Directorate (Economic Development Department) • Werner Pirnay – Strategy and External Relations Attaché, Social Economy Directorate (Economic Development Department) • Yves Forthomme – EPSCO Attaché, Delegation of Wallonia-Brussels to the EU (Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU) For the Brussels-Capital Region: • Daphné Estoret – Attaché (Social Economy), Employment Policy Directorate (Brussels Economy and Employment) • Nicole Lambert – EPSCO Attaché, Delegation of the Brussels-Capital Region to the EU (Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU) For Flanders: • Ariane Rober – Strategic Advisor (Social Economy), Department of Work, Economy, Science, Innovation and Social Economy • Ella Tribout – EPSCO-Social Attaché, Delegation of Flanders to the EU (Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU)
Bulgaria	Mrs. Vesela Politova, head of Directorate; Mr. Rumen Donev, expert in the same Directorate, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
Czech Republic	Mgr. Ing. Radka Wenclová, Desk officer, Department of Employment Strategy and Support, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Hataj Tomáš Ing.
France	Maxime Baduel, Ministerial Delegate for the Social and Solidarity Economy
Germany	Christin Fröhlich, Senior Economist, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
Italy	Farre Caterina
Latvia	Mr Imants Lipskis, Director of the Labour Market Policy Department at the Ministry of Welfare
Luxembourg	Vanessa SCHUMMER, Chef du Département de l'Economie sociale et solidaire
Malta	Victor Fiorini, Social entreprise office; Caruana Briffa Charlene

Poland	Małgorzata Saracyn, Chief Expert, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy
Portugal	Carlos Loureiro, Ministério do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social
Romania	Alina-Laura PREDA, Senior Counsellor, Directorate General for Labour, Employment and Professional Training Policies and Programmes, Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity; and Raluca CRISTEA-NEAGOE
Spain	Jaime Iglesias Sánchez-Cervera, Special Commissioner for Social Economy of Spain, Aicha Belassir Khayati
Slovakia	Lenka Bírešová, representative of Slovakia and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
The Netherlands	Mario GARCÍA BUYSSE and Iris de Graaff, Senior Policy Advisors, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, European Affairs Division
Commission	Philipp Runge (DG GROW), Brigitte Fellahi-Brognaux (DG EMPL), Miia Rossi-Gray (DG EMPL)
Secretariat	Sarah de Heush, Social Economy Europe Director; Pierre Marion, Institutional Affairs Officer
Stakeholders	Daniel Sorrosal, Secretary General of FEBEA; Angela Achitei, ADV Group President

1. Opening of the Meeting

Ms Sarah de Heusch, as secretariat, welcomed participants.

Mr Jaime Iglesias (Spain), as co-chair, referred to the previous meeting held in April, highlighting discussions on the role of the social economy in the forthcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER), and the Public Procurement Directive. He informed participants that France and Spain had received a response from the European Commission concerning their joint letter on the integration of social economy investments in future EU financial perspectives. He also announced that the current meeting would focus on the ECBA Directive and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF).

Mr Maxime Baduel (France), as co-chair, reiterated the importance of the ongoing MFF negotiations and stressed the need to maintain social economy priorities within future EU financial instruments.

2. Update on the European cross-border associations (ECBA)

Introduction by Spain

Mr Jaime Iglesias presented the state of play regarding the proposed Directive on European Cross-Border Associations (ECBA). He underlined that social economy associations require

suitable instruments to operate across borders and reduce administrative obstacles within the internal market.

He recalled that:

- The proposal aims to facilitate cross-border activities of associations active in areas such as social services, education and culture.
- The proposal contains safeguards regarding supervision and security and respects national competences.
- Relevant jurisprudence of the Court of Justice supports the legal basis used for the proposal.
- Spain, Germany and Poland have recently called on the Commission to revive the proposal.
- The proposal has also received support from civil society and the European Parliament.

He invited Member States to support the initiative within their national administrations and in Council discussions.

Update from DG GROW

Mr Philipp Runge (DG GROW) explained that:

- The Commission continues to consider the proposal valuable for civil society and for enabling non-profit associations to benefit from the Single Market.
- The proposal was included in the list of possible withdrawals due to limited progress in Council discussions rather than because of a change in the Commission's position on substance.
- The European Parliament, civil society organisations and several Member States have called for negotiations to continue.
- Some Member States maintain concerns regarding the legal basis and possible security implications.
- The Commission believes these concerns can be addressed through compromise and will consider all views before deciding on the proposal's future.

No further comments were raised.

3. Presentation of good practices in the social economy in the Member States

3.1. Latvia: Social Economy Plan 2026–2029

Mr Imants Lipskis (Ministry of Welfare, Latvia) presented Latvia's forthcoming Social Economy Plan for 2026–2029.

Main Elements

Latvia decided to move from a narrow focus on social enterprises towards a broader social economy approach.

The Plan is structured around three core concepts:

1. Social economy;
2. Social innovation;
3. Social impact measurement.

The Latvian authorities considered it important to establish common definitions to support future policy development and financing decisions.

Institutional Framework

Latvia intends to:

- Create a national advisory platform bringing together ministries and stakeholders;
- Improve data collection and monitoring;
- Conduct studies on the social economy sector and its social impact.

Support for Target Groups

Measures focus on:

- Labour market integration;
- Incentives for employers;
- Pilot initiatives such as "Senior Schools", aimed at activating older people socially and economically.

Systemic Solutions

Key priorities include:

- Improving access to finance;
- Promoting socially responsible public procurement;
- Supporting social innovation;
- Strengthening the social economy ecosystem through capacity-building activities, networking events, training and workshops.

Discussion

A question from Mr Rumen Donev (Bulgaria) concerned monitoring mechanisms. Mr Lipskis explained that Latvia currently relies on several separate registers, including social enterprise and NGO registers, and plans to improve data integration with the national statistical authority. Additional research and surveys will be conducted to measure social impact.

Ms Angela Achitei (ADV Group, Romania) asked about financial instruments. Mr Lipskis explained that Latvia currently operates a grant scheme for social enterprises and labour-integration support measures, while broader financial instruments are under discussion for the next funding period.

Regarding public procurement, he confirmed that Latvia allows reserved contracts but does not impose mandatory quotas. The issue remains under discussion within the framework of the Social Economy Plan.

3.2. Romania: ADV group achievements

Ms Angela Achitei (ADV Group, Romania) presented recent developments in Romania and outcomes from the European social economy conference held in Iași.

Conference Outcomes

The conference gathered approximately 900 participants from 34 countries and brought together major European social economy networks and stakeholders. According to Ms Achitei, the event promoted a shared European vision of social economy as both an economic and social cohesion instrument.

Developments in Romania

Romania has used European Social Fund resources to support the creation of approximately 6,000 social enterprises.

Ms Achitei stressed the importance of developing a complete ecosystem rather than focusing exclusively on enterprise creation. Key actions undertaken include:

- Grant administration for social enterprise development;
- Legislative advocacy and policy reforms;
- Creation of a social economy cluster;
- Training and capacity-building programmes;
- Participation in European projects.

Social Finance Infrastructure

Romania has also developed innovative financial support mechanisms, including:

- A specialised non-bank financial institution dedicated to social enterprises;
- A Social Finance Association providing mentoring and advisory services;
- Preparatory work for a national social investment fund.

Ms Achitei emphasised the importance of combining grants, loans, coaching and market access support to create a comprehensive support environment for social enterprises.

She also informed participants that Romania is currently preparing a national social economy strategy and action plan.

3.3. Poland: Social Economy Support through ESF+

Ms Małgorzata Saracyn (Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, Poland) presented Poland's social economy support system financed through ESF+.

Strategic Framework

Poland's support system is based on:

- The National Programme for Social Economy Development 2030;
- The Social Economy Act of 2022;
- Complementary legislation concerning public benefit activities and social cooperatives.

Financial and Institutional Support

The Polish model combines:

- Loans, guarantees and social venture capital;
- Business networking and social franchising initiatives;
- Capacity-building programmes;
- Support for social enterprise self-organisation;
- National awareness-raising campaigns.

Social Economy Support Centres

Particular emphasis was placed on Social Economy Support Centres, which provide:

- Legal and business advice;
- Training;
- Local animation activities;
- Support for job creation.

These centres operate under a national accreditation system guaranteeing service quality.

Discussion

Ms Achitei asked about the Polish fund for persons with disabilities. Ms Saracyn explained that the fund is financed through employer contributions and that all resources are earmarked exclusively for employment and services benefiting persons with disabilities.

She further clarified that funding is distributed through dedicated national and regional institutions and supports NGOs and social economy entities through grants and subsidies.

4. European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)

Mr Daniel Sorrosal (FEBEA) introduced the discussion on the future European Competitiveness Fund and financial instruments for social economy.

Key Messages

He highlighted that:

- Financial instruments under EaSI and InvestEU have successfully mobilised significant private capital for social economy organisations.
- EU guarantees reduce risks for financial intermediaries and facilitate lending to social enterprises.
- Current proposals for the future MFF remove the dedicated social economy investment window.
- The absence of such a window could significantly weaken access to finance for the sector.

Mr Sorrosal advocated maintaining a dedicated social economy window within the future European Competitiveness Fund.

He stressed that guarantee-based instruments have a strong leverage effect, allowing one euro of public guarantee to generate several euros of private investment.

Reactions

Mr Jaime Iglesias confirmed that Spain is actively monitoring negotiations and remains committed to defending social economy priorities in the future MFF.

Participants were encouraged to support the continuation of dedicated financial instruments and to engage with national authorities involved in the negotiations.

5. Closing Remarks

The Secretariat informed participants of an Intergroup event on the MFF to be held at the European Parliament on 30 June;

Mr Maxime Baduel stressed the importance of continuing efforts to secure adequate funding for social economy under the future MFF.

Mr Jaime Iglesias thanked Latvia, Romania and Poland for sharing their experiences and emphasised that exchanges of good practices remain central to the work of the Luxembourg Declaration Monitoring Committee.

He concluded that several key EU policy files—including the MFF, GBER revision and public procurement reform—will significantly influence the future of the social economy and require close coordination among Member States. He also informed about the launch of the UN Group of Friends of the Social and Solidarity Economy in Geneva.