



## Stakeholder's corner

### Roshan Di Puppo, Director of Social Platform

#### 'The social dimension of the internal market: an NGO perspective'

As part of DG MARKET's rounds of seminars with stakeholders, on 11 March, Roshan Di Puppo, Director of Social Platform addressed MARKET staff on the subject of: 'The social dimension of the internal market: an NGO perspective'.

Social Platform groups 42 pan-European networks of NGOs, whose common mission is to fight for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe.

Social Platform members follow the Internal Market with a strong focus on its social aspects. Di Puppo explained that public procurement is one of the areas her members are interested in; through lobbying for criteria that reach beyond cost efficiency, they hope to shift the focus to quality concerns. As their voices are not often heard in public debates, Social Platform's aim is to represent disadvantaged groups such as the disabled and the elderly, among others; to analyse the possible impact of policies on them and determine how these policies could be adjusted to take account of their specific needs.

Social Platform also follows Services of General Interest, Public Finance and the financial crisis. While national organisations (i.e. members of Social Platform members) deal with the impact of the financial crisis on the ground with an increasing number of people falling below the poverty line, Social Platform representatives in Brussels question who is responsible for the crisis and whether people can be held to account – as was done with bankers and financial regulators in the Netherlands.

Recently, after having completed a mapping exercise on Services of General Interest, Social Platform concluded that there is no centralised responsibility for this area within the Commission, and that the terminology used across the different Directorates General is very diverse. Social Platform members claim that although social clauses have been taken up in the legislation, no-one checks that they are enforced. Their central question 'what has the Internal Market delivered for Services of General Interest?' has not yet been answered.



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Ms Di Puppo welcomed DG MARKET's initiative to establish a Single Market Informal Dialogue Group for a wide group of stakeholders. She noted that the initiative was important to represent her members in discussions on the Single Market, and would also help Social Platform and other organisations to interact with EU legislation processes, which for 'outsiders to the Institutions can be very hard to follow'<sup>4</sup>.

**'The central question: 'what has the Internal Market delivered for Services of General Interest?' has not yet been answered.'**

<sup>4</sup> [http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Participatory\\_democracy/SocialPlatform\\_EffectiveCivilDialogue.pdf](http://cms.horus.be/files/99907/MediaArchive/Policies/Participatory_democracy/SocialPlatform_EffectiveCivilDialogue.pdf)