

"Together to create new growth"
**"Social entrepreneurship & social economy: Developing a European
ecosystem to unlock social innovation, growth and jobs"**
Conference on 18 November 2011 - Brussels

Speaker: Michel BARNIER



CURRICULUM VITAE

Having been active from an early age in the pro-Europe wing of the Gaullist movement, Michel Barnier was elected as member of the French national Assembly from 1978 until 1997 and co-chaired the organization of the Albertville '92 Olympics during ten years. He was then appointed **Minister for the Environment** in 1993 and would go on to be **Minister for European Affairs** (1995-1997), **Minister for Foreign Affairs** (2004-2005) and **Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries** (2007-2009). In 1999 he resigned from national office to take up his post, alongside **Romano PRODI**, as **European Commissioner for regional policy and institutional reform**. In 2009 he led the presidential majority's campaign in the European elections and was the head of the **French Delegation of the EPP Group in the European Parliament**. He was then proposed as European Commissioner by the President of the Republic **Nicolas SARKOZY** and took up his post, alongside **José Manuel BARROSO**, as Member of the European Commission responsible for **Internal Market and Services**.

DELIVERING A NEW OFFER FOR GROWTH

As Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Michel Barnier proposed a Social Business Initiative in 2010 to create an appropriate environment in Europe to support and accompany the development of socially-innovative business models within our single market. As shown by various consultations, the proposal received a strong support from the institutional players as well as among the communities of financing partners and entrepreneurs. Since the adoption of the Single Market Act in April 2011, social entrepreneurship has become a key policy action where upcoming EC proposals are expected to unlock the growth potential of this sector.

The Communication on the Social Business Initiative ("SBI") adopted by the College on 25 October 2011 is a joint initiative from European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani and Commissioners Michel Barnier and László Andor. It is part of the 'Responsible Companies Package', which also contains a Communication on CSR and revised legislative proposals on the Transparency and Accounting Directives.

This SBI Communication proposes an action plan which sets out eleven key actions to develop the right environment for social businesses. It proposes solutions regarding access to finance and puts forward an ambitious reform agenda to create a level playing field for all market players with respect to public procurement and competition rules as well as legal statutes. These proposals will be discussed during the conference in Brussels on 18 November.