

"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: Heinz ZOUREK



CURRICULUM VITAE

Heinz Zourek has been Director General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry since November 2005.

Born in Vienna in 1950, he qualified as an economist at Vienna University. He started his professional life in the Chamber of Labour in Vienna where he became Director of the department for "External Trade and European Integration". Between 1990 and 1993 he worked for the Confederation of Austrian Trade Unions as Director of the Economic Policy Department. From 1993 to 1995 Heinz Zourek was a member of the College of the EFTA Surveillance Authority created by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA). His portfolio contained state aids and monopolies, public procurement and free movement of persons. From 1995 to 2001 he served as Deputy Director-General of the DG Internal Market in the European Commission, where his main responsibilities were free movement of goods and services, public procurement, regulated professions, industrial and intellectual property rights, and postal services. He also was in charge of the infringement procedures and parliamentary affairs as a horizontal task for the whole DG. From 2001 until 2005 he was Deputy Director-General in DG Enterprise and Industry, in charge of regulatory and innovation policies, promotion of SMEs' competitiveness, and aerospace, security, and defence industries.

SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF THE EU ECONOMY

The Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry played a leading role in the development of the Commission's recent Communication on corporate social responsibility (CSR). By renewing efforts to promote CSR now, the Commission aims to create conditions favourable to sustainable growth, responsible behaviour and durable employment generation in the medium and long term. This Communication was adopted by the Commission in a package of measures to support entrepreneurship and responsible business that also includes the Social Business Initiative. The CSR Communication and the Social Business Initiative are interconnected: by their nature, most social enterprises make particular efforts to meet their social responsibility.

DG Enterprise and Industry contributed also to the drafting and development of the SBI together with other services of the European Commission. As part of its responsibilities, DG Enterprise and Industry is performing a number of activities to support social enterprises and also social economy enterprises (cooperatives, mutuals, associations and foundations). Some of these activities, such as the development of statistics (Satellite Accounts) or simplification of the European Cooperative Society Regulation, are included in the SBI.