



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.7.2022
C(2022) 5338 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Building an economy that works for people: an action plan for the social economy {COM(2021) 778 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát recognises the importance of the social economy at large and agrees with the Commission on its role as a driver of sustainable economic and social development in the context of the green and digital transitions.

The action plan sets out a vision on how the European Union and Member States should support the social economy until 2030. The aim is to tap into its economic and job-creation potentials, contribute to a sustainable and inclusive recovery as well as fair green and digital transitions. In line with the Strategic Guidelines of the Commission, this will help build an economy that works for people.

The Commission is aware that in the Czech Republic there is a momentum for social economy organisations to play a greater role in responding to societal challenges. They contribute already greatly to the integration of people with disabilities into the labour market. A wealth of opportunities are untapped, however, as political recognition, systemic support as well as capacity building of stakeholders and of players at regional and local level are lacking.

A national strategy or legal framework, including financing mechanisms, in support of the social economy would enable social enterprises to grow and contribute to a society of solidarity, to achieving sustainable development goals and to engaging in community and local economy development.

*Miloš Vystrčil
President of the Senát
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The Commission thus welcomes the proactive approach of the Senát aiming at speeding up the preparation of a national law on social entrepreneurship and at facilitating the operations of social economy entities in the Czech Republic. In 2023, the Commission will propose a Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions. It will play an important role in supporting Member States to adapt their policy and legal frameworks to the needs of the social economy in a number of different policy fields. In addition, it will highlight how institutional set-ups and stakeholder engagement can facilitate the work of the social economy.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Nicolas Schmit
Member of the Commission*