



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 01.08.2022  
C(2022) 5662 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the action plan for the social economy {COM(2021) 778 final} and welcomes its general support for this initiative.*

*The action plan sets out a vision for 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 potential, contribute to a sustainable and inclusive recovery as well as fair green and digital transitions. In line with the Political Guidelines of the Commission, this will help build an economy that works for people.*

*To achieve this, the action plan for the social economy puts forward concrete measures built around three main pillars:*

- 1. developing an enabling framework for the social economy, in particular by ensuring policy and legal frameworks are adapted to this specific business model;*
- 2. providing concrete support to social economy organisations on the ground, for example by facilitating access to funding, business support, and networks;*
- 3. promoting a better understanding of the specificities of the social economy by all relevant stakeholders.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților broadly supports the objectives and tools put forward by the Commission in the action plan to foster the social economy across the European Union.*

*Indeed, the action plan aims at promoting a more even development of the social economy across the European Union and beyond our borders, in particular through*

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU  
President of the Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*policies adapted to territorial and rural realities and by engaging with local, regional and international stakeholders. In addition, the action plan seeks to mobilise the full potential of the social economy to address the societal needs highlighted in the Opinion, e.g. ageing population, integration of disadvantaged people and people with disabilities.*

*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.*

*In terms of means, the Commission will take a series of initiatives and deploy instruments in line with those identified by the Camera Deputaţilor. For example, the Commission will continue to mobilise public and private investments to support the development of the social economy and facilitate access to EU funding via the EU Gateway. In addition, specific initiatives are planned to encourage the development of business support services adapted to the needs of social economy entities, encourage the use of socially responsible public procurement and facilitate social impact measurement. As suggested by the Camera Deputaţilor, the Commission will also use the future EU network for the Common Agricultural Policy to boost the social economy and social innovation in rural areas.*

*Concerning the ‘Proximity and Social Economy’ industrial ecosystem, the Commission is currently co-creating a Transition Pathway with stakeholders with the aim to co-decide on actions and commitments before the end of 2022. This is expected to bring about tangible results, as suggested by the Camera Deputaţilor.*

*The Commission is aware that social economy organisations play an important role in addressing societal challenges in Romania. They often take the legal form of associations and foundations. They are notably providing support to vulnerable groups such as children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, including assisting with labour market integration. The Commission commends the efforts made by Romania in the past decade to formally recognise social enterprises and social insertion enterprises through its Law on Social economy.*

*Social enterprises in Romania face challenges in accessing financing, notably for scaling up their activities and becoming sustainable. In addition, the opportunities offered by the European public procurement rules to achieve social objectives are not sufficiently used in Romania. There is also scope to improve other related elements, such as social economy representative networks and the inclusion of social entrepreneurship in education curricula. The European Social Fund Plus and the measures included in the Romanian National Recovery and Resilience Plan will be a good tool for addressing these issues.*

*The Commission believes the Opinion of the Camera Deputaţilor offers useful input to inform its work to implement the action plan over the next years and calls on Romanian public authorities at all levels as well as private stakeholders to engage in this process.*

*Work on several key initiatives announced in the action plan is progressing well. For example, a Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy will be launched during 2022, a proposal for a Council Recommendation on social economy framework conditions is under preparation, and the EU social economy Gateway is being developed.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the comments made by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Camera Deputaților in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN  
Member of the Commission*