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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.7.2025)

The recent internal reorganisation of Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, including the discontinuation of the unit specifically dealing with social economy, does not reflect a shift in policy priorities, but aims at enhancing efficiency and streamlining social economy across industrial and single market policies.

Social economy features in the Commission 2024-2029 political guidelines[1] which are reaffirming its commitment to reinforce Europe's social model, promote social fairness and ensure that no one is left behind.

Under the political leadership of Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness, the Commission remains committed to supporting the development of the social economy, notably through the implementation of the action plan for the social economy[2], and to ensuring that social economy actors can meaningfully contribute to the prosperity and growth of the single market.

The Commission also maintains its support for cooperatives through various initiatives intended to promote its policy on small and medium-sized enterprises and by overseeing the implementation of Regulation No 1435/2003 on the statute for a European cooperative society[3].

At this stage, the Commission does not envisage appointing a new high-level official dedicated specifically to the social economy within the context of industrial and internal market policies. Nevertheless, the Commission remains fully committed to advancing the social economy agenda and ensuring its continued integration across relevant EU policies. To this end, the Commission is preparing a report on the implementation of the social economy action plan.

[1] https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en.
[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0778.
[3] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02003R1435-20030821.