Every day in Europe, 2.8 million social economy enterprises employing some 19.1 million people and accounting for 6.3% of the total paid workforce in Europe are running their businesses sustainably while helping create a better world. They are working towards an inclusive and circular economy and a more cohesive society.

With the right policy framework and financial support, Europe could transition towards a more sustainable, inclusive economy. This change is urgently needed, and would help fight poverty and progress towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. European decision-makers and national governments have an opportunity to be trailblazers and to pave the way to an inclusive society.

To further contribute to a favourable social enterprise ecosystem, our networks call upon the European Institutions to:

1. Set the European Pillar of Social Rights as a priority in the future EU agenda, and encourage Member States to implement it.
2. Seek consistent legal frameworks for social enterprises and microfinance institutions in order to make better use of the single market.
3. Improve the ease of access to EU (financial) support for social enterprises and microfinance institutions, and continue to improve the combination of centralised and decentralised budget instruments to support the social enterprise sector.
4. Leverage private investments to extend the impact of public funds for social enterprises and microfinance institutions.
5. Take account of the social impact of social enterprises to better demonstrate their positive effect on the economy.
6. Encourage public authorities to increase the number of public procurement contracts awarded to social enterprises.
7. Incentivise Member States to reduce value-added tax for activities contributing to social welfare.
8. Further develop the European Semester as a participative decision process in which also social enterprises and their representatives can take part.
10. Push for greater awareness of social enterprises by universities, youth, consumers, businesses, and public authorities at different levels of government.