



BULLETIN ON EU SOCIAL AFFAIRS

BIANNUAL BULLETIN ON EU-RELATED
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATIVE MONITORING



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CECOP POLICY WORK

CECOP PROPOSALS FOR THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL ECONOMY ACTION PLAN

CECOP reacted to the European Commission's consultation on the Social Economy Action Plan, calling to recognise worker and social cooperatives as an integral part of the Social Economy.

The European Social Economy Action Plan is a crucial step to build a sustainable, inclusive, and social Europe. The European Green Deal strives to leave no person and no place behind, and the European Pillar of Social Rights sets out to build a strong Social Europe. The Social Economy is a cornerstone for delivering these goals to the people of Europe.

Read the whole response to the Commission's consultation [here](#).

COOPERATIVES FIGHT FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS IN PLATFORM WORK

The European Commission launched its first stage social partners consultation on improving the working conditions in platform work. CECOP welcomes the analysis brought forward by the EC and the consultation with European social partners, furthermore it supports a European legislative approach of the new Platform Work Initiative and highlights the important role that cooperatives are playing and could further play in the platform economy with specific regards to the creation of quality and democratic jobs.

Read more [here](#).

CECOP URGES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS ACTION PLAN

The European Commission published its "Action Plan for the European Pillar of Social Rights" on March 4th, 2021. CECOP welcomes that steps are taken in target setting to make the European Pillar of Social Rights a reality but urges the Commission to raise its ambitions in the implementation of the Action Plan. This means including all dimensions of the Social Pillar and providing support for the Social Economy.

Read CECOPs full response [here](#).



CECOP PRESIDENT ADDRESSES EU COMMISSIONER SCHMIT AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT THE SOCIAL ECONOMY INTERGROUP

On 18 February 2021, the Social Economy Intergroup of the European Parliament held a public hearing on skills and digitalisation. Giuseppe Guerini, President of CECOP, spoke at a panel with EU Commissioner Schmit, members of the European Parliament and Social Economy Europe, highlighting the contribution of cooperatives in skill development and the digital transition.

Read a summary of the event [here](#).



CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS 2021: CECOP IN PUBLIC DEBATES ON SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) hosted its annual CECOP Civil Society Days which invites civil society actors to discuss current issues in European politics. President Giuseppe Guerini spoke at two workshops in the EU Civil Society Days and shared views on Social Economy and cooperatives as viable business model to build back better.

Read more about the Civil Society Days [here](#).



STAND UP FOR THE SOCIAL PILLAR ALLIANCE PUBLISHED STATEMENT AHEAD OF THE EPSCO COUNCIL AND HOSTED MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER SCHMIT AND PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF LABOUR, SOLIDARITY, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

CECOP as member of the 'Stand Up for the Social Pillar Alliance' [calls for an ambitious Action Plan implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights \(EPSR\)](#). EU's recovery must be grounded in strong, sustainable, and resilient economies flanked by progressive social policies and services to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our health, employment, economy, and on equality and democracy in our societies.

The Alliance furthermore organised a high-level event with the participation of Commissioner Schmit and the Portuguese Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, Ana Mendes Godinho.

A summary of the event can be found [here](#).

05 CECOP BOARD MEMBER FRANCESCA MONTALTI APPOINTED TO EU INDUSTRIAL FORUM

CECOP is pleased to announce that the European Commission has invited CECOP Board Member Francesca Montalti to join the recently established EU Industrial Forum Expert Group. This expert group will support the Commission in its systematic analysis of industrial ecosystems and in assessing the risks and needs of industry.

Francesca Montalti, currently Head of Industrial Sector of CECOP member *Legacoop Produzione e Servizi*, has a long-standing experience in innovation policies and programmes supporting competitiveness of cooperative enterprises. Her appointment will help to raise the visibility of industrial cooperatives in European industrial policy.

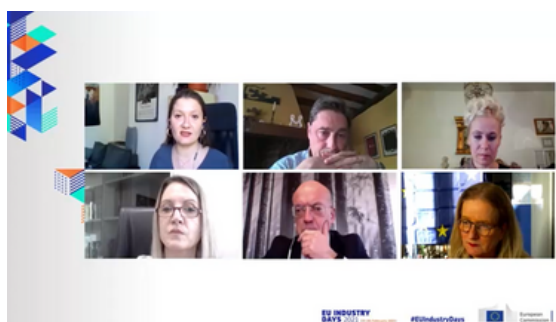
Read more about her appointment [here](#).



CECOP AND MONDRAGON AT THE EU INDUSTRY DAYS: WORKER COOPERATIVES ARE CRUCIAL FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The constant changes in the world of work are even more accelerated through the digital transition, and workers need to develop the skills to navigate new forms of production and organisation. With a panel titled 'Accelerating industrial transformation and worker's skills development through worker cooperatives' organised by Mondragon, CECOP and Europe's cooperative movement was visible at the EU Industry Days, the EU's flagship event on industry in Europe.

Read more [here](#).





CONFECOOP & CECOP JOINT WORKSHOP: THE FUTURE OF THE EU DISABILITY STRATEGY

On April 15, the Portuguese Confecoop and CECOP, hosted a joint conference on the future of the EU Disability Strategy, with the participation of prominent members of the European cooperative movement and policymakers. After the launch of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with disability, this high-level workshop discussed the role of worker and social cooperatives in the strategy.

Read the report [here](#).



REPORT ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISE LAWS IN EUROPE: A WORKER AND SOCIAL COOPERATIVES PERSPECTIVE

In December 2020, CECOP published the report: "Social Enterprise Laws In Europe, after the 2011 'Social Business Initiative'. A comparative analysis from the perspective of worker and social cooperatives", commissioned to Italian legal expert, Professor Antonio Fici.

You can read the full report [here](#).

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ECONOMY ORGANISED BY THE PORTUGUESE EU PRESIDENCY: CECOP PRESIDENT GIUSEPPE GUERINI KEYNOTE SPEAKER

On March 29th, CECOP President Giuseppe Guerini delivered the keynote speech at a high-level conference on 'The role of Social Economy in the creation of jobs and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights'. During the high-level event, EU Commissioner Schmit, the Spanish Minister of Labour Yolanda Diaz, and representatives of international organisations took the floor.

Read our report on the event [here](#).

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UPDATES FROM EU INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERS

EUROPEAN UNION ADOPTS INVESTEU

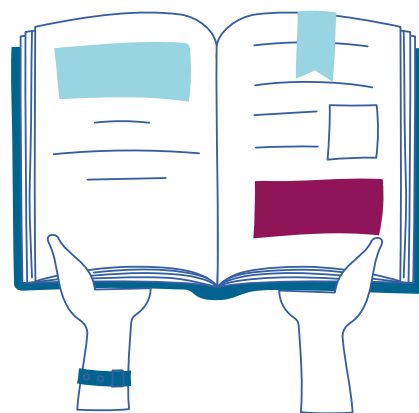
On March 24th 2021, the European Union adopted the new InvestEU programme, which will allow to mobilise investments, and guarantees simplified access to financing. You can find a briefing on this policy instrument and delivery tool provided by EVPA [here](#), or click [here](#) to find the European Parliament's information on InvestEU.

WORTH READING

GIUSEPPE GUERINI, PRESIDENT OF CECOP, CALLS FOR FAIRER TAXATION

On 10th November, the Social Economy Intergroup, the parliamentary forum where Members of the European Parliament interact with external stakeholders on the issues of Social Economy, held a public hearing on the 'Social Economy's vision for a Green & Fair Transition'.

Read it [here](#).



SOCIAL ECONOMY EUROPE: TIME TO CO-BUILD THE SOCIAL ECONOMY ACTION PLAN

On March 15th, the Social Platform published its policy paper 'Co-designing the Action Plan for the Social Economy: for an economy that works for people and the planet.'

Read the policy paper [here](#).

SOCIAL PLATFORM: THE WAIT IS OVER. TIME TO DELIVER A STRONG SOCIAL PILLAR

The Social Platform urges the European Union to deliver on the European Pillar of Social rights. Whereas the recently published is a good step forward, it can only be a first step, the President of the Social Platform, Piotr Sadowski argues.

EVALUATION REPORT OF THE SOCIAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

In 2011, the European Commission presented the Social Business Initiative (SBI) which established an EU level action plan with concrete measures to establish a favourable environment for social enterprises (SE). A recent report evaluates the SBI, providing insights ahead of the Social Economy Action Plan.

Read it [here](#).

ILO WORLD SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

In its 2021 World Social and Economic Outlook, the International Labour Organization focuses on the developments in the world of work in the platform economy.

EUROFOUND REPORT ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING LIFE

Eurofound conducted a study on the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic for employment and working life.

Read their report [here](#).



CALENDAR

EU SOCIAL AFFAIRS UPCOMING EVENTS



4 - 5 MAY

Social Platform Flagship Conference

The Social Platform Flagship conference will serve as an opportunity to develop key recommendations to Heads of State and Government and EU decision-makers present at the Social Summit.

You can register [here](#).

On the 4th of May, four different workshops will take place. CECOP, together with ENSIE, will host one of them with the participation of:

- Gabriel Bastos, Secretary of State for Social Security, Portugal
- Patrizia Bussi, Director, and Aziza Yussupova, Policy Officer, European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)
- Diana Dovgan, Secretary General, European confederation of industrial and service cooperatives (CECOP)
- Julija Kekstaite, Social Policy Officer, Reuse and Recycling Social Enterprises in the European Union (RREUSE)
- Jan Meyrhofer, Senior Policy Officer, European Youth Forum (YJF)
- Amana Ferro, Senior Policy Adviser, European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network (ERGO Network)

On the 5th of May, a high-level political discussion will take place.

7 MAY

EU Social Summit in Porto

9 MAY

Official start of the Conference on the Future of Europe

26-27 MAYEuropean Social Economy Summit

The European Social Economy Summit (EUSES) is a conference which aims at strengthening the Social Economy in Europe. It is jointly organized by the European Commission and the City of Mannheim.

CECOP be present in four sessions, and will host one. The registration for the event is now open.

Speakers will be:

- Ibon Antero Intxausti, Coordinator of Social Transformation, Mondragon, Spain
- Gianmaria Balducci, President of Legacoop Produzione e Servizi, Italy
- Giuseppe Guerin, President, CECOP
- Bela Galgozci, Senior researcher, European Trade Union Institute
- Sven Giegold (Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA, Germany)

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