



Commissioner Thierry Breton, Internal Market

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Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, Economy

Commissioner Nicolas Schmit, Jobs and Social Rights

Commissioner Didier Reynders, Justice

Anna Athanasopoulou, Head of Unit Proximity, Social Economy, Creative Industries

Brussels, 25 July 2023

Object: State of play of the legislative proposal for Associations and Non-Profit Organisations

Dear Commissioner Breton,

We are writing to you on behalf of Civil Society Europe, the Coordination of Civil Society Organisations in Europe, Social Services Europe, the Platform of not-for-profit providers of social and health care services, Social Economy Europe, the voice of social economy enterprises and organisations in Europe, the European council of associations of general interest (CEDAG), and Philea, Philanthropy Europe Association to inquire about the state of play of the legislative proposal for associations and Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and to call for its swift advancement.

We are joining into a civil society and social economy coalition, carrying the voice of European nonprofit organisations (NPOs) - active in many sectors of society throughout the European Union (EU) and beyond.

Civil society organisations, associations, foundations and other non-profit organisations are indispensable to address societal challenges and crises through monitoring of policies, advocacy, provision of services of general interest, including in the area of social services, health, employment, culture and education, protection of the environment, civil protection, international cooperation and humanitarian work, empowerment of discriminated and excluded groups and volunteering. They also contribute to European cohesion.



Despite their important role, their number as well as their membership among citizens and residents, the workforce employed, civil society organizations face numerous challenges in cross border activities due to a number of legal, fiscal and administrative obstacles that prevent the achievement of a single market for good.

It is therefore crucial to address these obstacles and also ensure in particular that associations, foundations and other non-profit organisations benefit from a legal form that will enable their recognition across borders and of measures that will allow for cross border philanthropy.

Associations, foundations and other non-profit organisations that we represent within the EU have therefore great expectations on the legislative initiative on cross-border activities of associations that you are preparing. Nonetheless we are concerned that the text does not seem to be on the agenda of the College of Commissioners in the coming weeks. This is also worrying as the Parliamentary work is coming to a close in spring 2024 due to the elections, and we also expect limited engagement beyond the Belgian Presidency on this important file.

We would like to reiterate our strong interest and commitment for the past three years, as well as the utmost expectations to find an outcome to this issue. We would like to understand what are the reasons for this delay given that the proposal was expected to be published in June as part of a social economy package, alongside the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions.

Your sincerely,

Gabriella Civico, President Civil Society Europe
Mathieu de Poorter, *President*, CEDAG, European Council of Associations of General Interest
Heather Roy, President, Social Services Europe
Hanna Surmatz, Head of Policy Philea, Philanthropy Europe Association
Sarah de Heusch, Director of Social Economy Europe