

Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration
Mr Piotr Serafin
 European Commission
 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
 1040 Brussels
 Belgium

CC: The President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, Executive Vice President of the Commission for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition Teresa Ribera Rodríguez, Executive Vice President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice President of the Commission for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness Roxana Mînzatu, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth Wopke Hoekstra

CC: Stéphanie Riso, Director-General for Budget

By e-mail

Brussels, 27.01. 2025

SUBJECT: Strategic Investments in Social Innovation for Europe's Future in the next Multiannual Financial Framework with: Meeting Request

Dear Commissioner Serafin,

We write to express our strong support for the ambitious objectives outlined in the mission letters to the Commissioners. The 2024–2029 legislative period presents a strategic opportunity to advance the renewed vision of the European Union: fostering innovation, reinforcing competitiveness through an effective industrial policy, deepening the Single Market and protecting democracy.

We particularly support President von der Leyen's vision of a simpler, more focused and impactful budget within the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The EU budget should enhance Europe's competitiveness in key sectors, strengthen its stability and improve its negotiating power in diplomacy and trade, while preserving the social standards that define Europe.

A modernised, policy-driven budget, shifting from a program-centric approach, is essential to achieving strategic goals. We fully support this modernisation and believe the budget should prioritise Europe's clean, just and competitive transition.

Integrating Social Impact, Innovation and Skills into the MFF

Impact Europe represents a community of investors committed to both environmental and social impact. We emphasise the critical role of social impact, social innovation and social enterprises in strengthening Europe's competitiveness and addressing social challenges. To ensure citizens remain at the heart of the transition, their needs must be considered from the outset. We highlight two key areas:

- 1. Strengthening Competitiveness Through Social Impact and Innovation**
 Supporting and financing social innovation is essential for an equitable transition. The associated costs must be shared collectively to ensure fairness. Furthermore,

social innovation and the social economy are key to protecting fundamental values of the Union: democracy, transparency and media neutrality. Given the current geopolitical and security challenges, increased financial support is essential to safeguard Europe's democracy and foster a generation of youth committed to the European project.

2. Ensuring Labour and Skills Development

Investing in skills and labor upskilling is crucial for workforce adaptation to the evolving industrial landscape.

Aligning Industrial Capacity with a Fair, Green and Digital Transition

One of the primary objectives of the next MFF should be aligning European industrial capacity with the goals of the fair, green and digital transition. We endorse [Enrico Letta's recommendation](#) that all available resources, public and private, must be directed toward financing the transition and ensuring an inclusive transformation of Europe's industries.

Social Impact and Social Innovation in the European Competitiveness Fund


We support the creation of a European Competitiveness Fund to bolster strategic sectors vital to the EU's economic strength, including research, innovation and Important Projects of Common European Interest. However, we believe that social impact and innovation must be integral components of this fund.

Building on the success of InvestEU, we urge the inclusion of a dedicated segment within the Competitiveness Fund focused on innovations addressing social challenges arising from the decarbonisation of European industries. While clean technology, energy infrastructure and industrial decarbonisation are crucial, social impact and innovation require greater recognition and investment.

To further discuss these matters, we request a meeting in the coming weeks to present specific cases and examples demonstrating how social innovation can foster competitiveness. We would also like to explore how public investments can be scaled to leverage private capital most effectively.

We appreciate your attention to these important issues and remain committed to working together to achieve a Europe that works for its people.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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