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PRESS RELEASE

Italy and France initiate bilateral cooperation on mutual recognition of social economy entities

On 16 March 2022, Ms. Olivia Grégoire, Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery, in charge of the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy in France, and Ms. Laura Castelli, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance in Italy, met. Considering the European Action Plan on the social economy adopted on 9 December 2021, both ministers discussed the measures to be taken at national and regional levels. They agreed on the need to further cooperate and move forward on the mutual recognition of social economy entities between Italy and France, in order to promote social economy cross-border projects and encourage their cross-border establishment.

This new bilateral cooperation between Italy and France aims at better coordinating public policies for social economy stakeholders and pave the way to a broader European framework.

Secretary of State Olivia Grégoire gave her support to the Italian project of creating satellite accounts on the social economy and proposed to exchange best practices on labels identifying social impact companies, in line with the upcoming project by the European Commission to launch a study on labels and certifications systems across European countries.

The two governments are committed to collaborating on the following topics:

- Exchange of best practices on labelling systems for social impact companies;
- Collaboration on the principles and modalities of a mutual recognition of social economy enterprises: agreement on a common definition of the scope of the social economy and definition of the public policies from which these social enterprises would benefit in each of the countries participating in this cooperation;
- Development of a joint database of social economy entities and elaboration of guidelines for reciprocal right of establishment and registration;
- Technical cooperation on the creation of satellite accounts for the social economy.

This increased cooperation, initiated by France and Italy, will be open to all willing Member States.

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