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## PRESS RELEASE

### **THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION REGOGNISES THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**

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**The 110th international Labour Conference (ILC), organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) from May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup> 2022, discussed and recognised for the first time the role of the Social and solidarity economy (SSE) in promoting decent work and its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.**

In the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, France, represented by the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, and with the support of the Ministry of Labour, Full employment and Integration, carried the voice of the European Union within the discussion organized by the ILO around more than 180 countries, in the presence of representatives of workers and employers.

[The conclusions adopted by the ILO](#) incorporate all national and European priorities:

- A universal definition of the social and solidarity economy that establishes the principles and values of this particular mode of enterprise, characterised by the central place to people and the common good, beyond the mere maximisation and distribution of surpluses.
- A harmonised framework of objectives for governments, inviting them in particular to define an incentive legal environment and to adopt public policies supporting the development of the SSE, which has a proven multiplier effect, including in partnership and in complementarity with other sectors of the economy and other enterprises.
- A new mandate for the ILO to promote a better knowledge and understanding of SSE within the multilateral system, by providing training, assistance and advisory services to Member States, and by strengthening collaboration with SSE representative organisations.

The text adopted by the ILO for the recognition and promotion of the SSE is consistent with several international initiatives recently undertaken to support its development: the European Commission's action plan for the social economy, the OECD recommendation for the social and solidarity economy.

These combined efforts help to recognise the strengths of the social and solidarity economy in transforming the economy, the society and the environment, in line with French and European economic policy priorities.

Olivier Dussopt, Minister of Labour, Full employment and Integration, welcomes this step forward, which reflects the essential role of the social and solidarity economy in helping to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Bruno Le Maire, Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, declared *"the social and solidarity economy represents up to one in seven jobs in Europe. The agreement reached by the ILO, thanks to the contribution and support of the European Union represented by France, paves the way for the international development of the social and solidarity economy, and recognises its contribution to achieving our sustainable development goals."*

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