

MURCIA DECLARATION

The Governments of Spain and Portugal, represented by the Minister for Employment and Social Security of the Kingdom of Spain and by the Minister for Solidarity, Employment and Social Security of the Portuguese Republic, in the framework of the Spain-Portugal Meeting titled “Social Economy as vehicle for employment creation”, held in Murcia, on July 20th 2015, decided to adopt the present declaration that follows the joint activities carried on under the terms of the Memorandum signed May 13th 2013, on cooperation and technical assistance on matters of social policy and social security.

Considering that social economy is formed by a large number of entities regrouping an important number of workers and services to communities;

Considering that in some EU countries equivalent social economy realities exist, and that social economy is recognized in the laws of the undersigned countries;

Considering that it is necessary a debate on social economy and its contribution for the social-economic development of those countries that support it;

Considering and recognizing that social economy entities promote a stable and of quality employment, are innovative and the support of many families and are agents of keeping local populations anchored to zones where there isn't any interest in depopulation;

Considering that social economy enterprises allow, also, the creation of synergies between them, through linkages between associative entities, regrouping services and allowing the creation of new entrepreneurial experiences in local underprivileged sectors;

Meeting in Murcia, Spain, on July 20th 2015, decide to adopt the following declaration:

- An increased attention and recognition must be given to social economy enterprises and entities, through the adoption of policies that allow them to develop accordingly to their own organizational and functional characteristics;

- Regular meetings of those responsible for social economy in European Union Member States must be promoted;
- The support for social economy enterprises and entities must be kept, and they shall be included in programs, projects, funds and other financial support instruments to be adopted;
- Social economy enterprises and entities must continue to work so that they become interlocutors in special designed programs aimed at them;
- Initiatives like the Rome Strategy, adopted during the Italian presidency of the second semester of 2014, at the Conference “Liberate social economy potential for European Union growth”, and others that aim the strengthening of social economy must be supported.

Signed in Murcia, on July 20th 2015

Fátima Bañez Garcia

Pedro Mota Soares