

SOTEU: AIM CALLS ON THE EC TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE NEXT CHAPTER IN “EUROPEAN HISTORY”

President von der Leyen held on Wednesday her State of the Union address, a speech in which competitiveness and totally overshadowed social and health policies, which shone by their absence.

Yet, the History of a Europe moving forward needs to include a chapter proposing how to tackle the challenges of the most vulnerable and how to breathe life into the most important European values: solidarity and democracy. The EU should more than ever in this time of transitions and poly-crises ensure that no one is left behind and that solidarity is put into practice. A fair transition should not only consist in ensuring fair competitiveness but also in helping citizens to become actors by acting on skills and supporting those who find it hard to keep up with changes.

Fighting inequities across and within Member States is vital in ensuring the next chapter in EU’s history is one of inclusive and sustainable growth. To do so, the EU should continuously work on strengthening solidarity as well as its social and healthcare policy: through a proper implementation the European Pillar of Social Rights and of the EU Care Strategy, a European Health Data Space that puts the patient and citizens into the centre as well as a Pharmaceutical strategy that enshrines fair prices and access to innovative medicines for all.

AIM laments the lack of mention of those important policies in President Von der Leyen’s State of the Union address and in her Letter of Intent and invites the European Commission to include them in the upcoming work programme of the EC.

Social economy organisations have a key role to play in ensuring that the transitions the EU is undergoing are fair, inclusive and sustainable. The total lack of reference to the social economy action plan and its upcoming implementation is both a concern and a disappointment for AIM and those of its members who are part of the social economy.