

**AIM WELCOMES COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS ON SOCIAL ECONOMY :  
MEMBER STATES ARE RECOMMENDED TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES THAT RECOGNISE AND STIMULATE  
THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

On 9 October, the council adopted recommendations on developing social economy framework conditions. These recommendations encourage Member States to take measures in order to acknowledge and support the role of the social economy as they foster social inclusion, by providing accessible and high-quality social and care services and promote social innovation and sustainable economic development. For AIM, strengthening social economy is a priority for European policy in the coming years, which it also has expressed in its [Memorandum for the European elections in 2024](#).

*“AIM especially welcomes the definition on social economy, including mutual benefit societies as one of the main actors and putting people and social/environmental purposes over profit. Apart from offering compulsory health protection as well as health and social services in some countries, mutual benefit societies complement public national healthcare services, which cannot be completely supplied by public services such as dentistry, glasses or health services that are difficult to access due to long waiting times. Therefore, their recognition is an essential milestone to achieve universal access to healthcare”, says Loek Caubo AIM -President.*

**Member States are recommended to strategies that recognise and stimulate the social economy**

AIM is pleased that Member States are encouraged to design and roll out comprehensive strategies that recognise and stimulate the social economy or adapt existing strategies or other policy initiatives. This embodies measures contained the Social Economy Action Plan, approved in 2021, which are late. It is another step in the right direction to make social economy actors, such as mutual benefit societies, better known to the public and to get one step closer to their recognition.

**Visibility and recognition for mutuals benefit societies**

AIM welcomes that “Member States are recommended to raise awareness about the social economy by considering setting up or adapting specific legal forms, legal statuses, labels and/or certification schemes for the social economy.” In many Member States more and more healthcare services and social support cannot be guaranteed by public authorities alone anymore. Mutual benefit societies help to offer a better health and welfare protection due to their key principles of solidarity, their democratic governance and non-for-profit-character. These associations play an essential role in complementing the provision of services of general interest, with the creation of conditions for their development being crucial. It is important the citizens know about these values and benefits.

*Brussels, 10 October 2023*



**AIM** Healthcare and  
social benefits  
for all

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) is an international umbrella organisation of federations of health mutuals and other not-for-profit healthcare payers. It has 49 members from 26 countries in Europe, Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. AIM members provide compulsory/and/or supplementary health coverage to

around 230 million people around the world, including close to 200 million people in Europe, on a not-for-profit basis. Some AIM members also manage health and social services. Collectively, they have a turnover of almost €300 billion. Members are either mutual or health insurance fund. They are private or public legal entities; solidarity based; not-for-profit orientations: surpluses are used to benefit the members; democratically elected members play a role in the governance of the organisation.

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