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PRESS RELEASE

European Parliament hosts the launch of the Brussels Dialogue on Mission-Driven Companies

ConfBenefit brings together policymakers, businesses and international experts to advance a European conversation on mission-driven business models

Brussels, 15 July 2026 – The *Brussels Dialogue on Mission-Driven Companies* was officially launched today at the European Parliament during a high-level policy dialogue hosted by Member of the European Parliament Brando Benifei and promoted by ConfBenefit | The Confederation of Benefit Corporations, bringing together Members of the European Parliament from different political groups, representatives of the European Commission, entrepreneurs, academics and practitioners from Europe, North America and Latin America.

The initiative was conceived as a permanent platform for dialogue on the role that mission-driven companies can play in strengthening Europe's competitiveness, innovation capacity and long-term value creation.

The event took place at a particularly significant moment for European policymaking. While the European Union is placing renewed emphasis on competitiveness, industrial transformation and simplification, an increasing number of Member States are introducing legal frameworks recognising companies that voluntarily integrate public benefit or broader stakeholder commitments into their governance. Yet these developments continue to evolve largely at national level, without a common European space for dialogue and policy reflection.

Opening the event, **Brando Benifei**, Member of the European Parliament, underlined the importance of addressing this evolving landscape from a European perspective.

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“The question is no longer whether mission-driven companies belong to Europe. The question is what the European Union should do to harness their growth in a coherent and strategic way”.

Benifei also highlighted that while important initiatives such as the proposed EU Inc. framework represent significant progress towards simplifying company formation across the Union, important questions remain regarding the recognition of mission, impact governance and the development of a coherent European framework for mission-driven companies.

Representing the European Commission, **Philipp Runge** (DG GROW) placed the discussion within the broader framework of Responsible Business Conduct, emphasising that responsible business practices are increasingly recognised as drivers of resilience, competitiveness, investment attractiveness and long-term value creation. He stressed the importance of developing a common European understanding of mission-driven and impact-driven businesses while building on the diversity of national experiences.

The institutional dialogue also featured contributions from Members of the European Parliament **Annalisa Corrado** (S&D) and **Sergey Lagodinsky** (Greens/EFA), who highlighted the contribution that mission-driven companies can make to Europe's industrial transition, democratic resilience and long-term competitiveness, while stressing the importance of continued dialogue between European institutions and the business community.

Opening the Dialogue, **Mariangela Zito**, President of ConfBenefit AISBL, explained the rationale behind the initiative.

“Europe does not lack innovation in this field. Across Europe we see new legal frameworks, pioneering businesses, expanding academic research and growing institutional attention. What has been missing is a common European space where these experiences can meet, learn from one another and contribute to a shared policy conversation. The Brussels Dialogue was created precisely to fill that gap”.

The Dialogue continued with an international exchange bringing together entrepreneurs, academics and practitioners from Europe, North America, Latin America and Indigenous communities. Speakers shared legal, business and governance experiences from different



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jurisdictions, illustrating the growing diversity of mission-driven business models and the importance of comparative dialogue across legal systems.

Rather than advocating a single legal model, participants highlighted the importance of strengthening dialogue among existing national experiences and promoting comparative research, evidence-based policymaking and international cooperation.

The event concluded with the presentation and adoption of the **Brussels Founding Declaration**, formally launching the Brussels Dialogue on Mission-Driven Companies as a permanent international platform dedicated to dialogue, research and institutional cooperation.

The Declaration commits participants to:

- strengthening dialogue among different legal and governance models for mission-driven companies;
- promoting comparative research and evidence-based policymaking;
- fostering cooperation among European institutions, businesses, investors, academia and civil society;
- encouraging international exchange across jurisdictions;
- supporting Europe's competitiveness through responsible and purpose-driven business governance.

ConfBenefit extends its sincere appreciation to all Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, moderators, speakers and participants whose contributions made the first Brussels Dialogue possible. The diversity of institutional, academic and business perspectives reflected the collaborative spirit that this initiative seeks to promote.

The Brussels Dialogue will continue through future policy meetings, research initiatives, thematic working groups and international collaborations, with the ambition of becoming a permanent European forum for reflection on the evolution of mission-driven companies.



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About ConfBenefit AISBL

ConfBenefit AISBL - The Confederation of Benefit Corporations - is an international non-profit association established in Brussels to promote dialogue, research and institutional cooperation on Benefit Corporations and other mission-driven business models.

Founded by entrepreneurs leading mission-driven companies across Europe, Latin America and the United States, together with academics, legal experts and practitioners, ConfBenefit works to strengthen the European and international ecosystem for purpose-driven business through comparative research, policy engagement and cross-border collaboration.

About the Brussels Dialogue on Mission-Driven Companies

The Brussels Dialogue on Mission-Driven Companies is a permanent international platform promoted by ConfBenefit AISBL to foster dialogue among European institutions, businesses, investors, researchers and civil society on the evolution of mission-driven business models.

Launched at the European Parliament in July 2026, it aims to facilitate comparative research, institutional exchange and international cooperation while contributing to a more coherent European conversation on mission-driven companies.

For further information

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Building the European dialogue on mission-driven companies
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