



The Confederation of Benefit Corporations

International Non-Profit Organization (AISBL)
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Position Paper

The Mission-Driven Company in Belgium as a lever for European harmonization
The official position of ConfBenefit – Brussels

Inspired by the French model, the Belgian bill to establish the “Mission-driven Company” [*Proposition de loi modifiant le Code des sociétés et des associations en vue d'y inscrire la société à mission*] introduces a legal framework that allows any company in Belgium to formally integrate social and environmental objectives into its core business without having to change its legal form.

ConfBenefit warmly welcomes this initiative, recognizing it as a **strategic step forward in the evolution of corporate governance in Europe and in the harmonization of national models for impact-oriented companies**. The proposal is fully in line with the European trajectory of integration between economic performance, environmental responsibility, and social contribution, providing a clear political signal towards a new conception of business.

At the heart of the proposal lies an essential balance: **voluntary participation, but legally binding obligations once the statute is adopted**. Any company, regardless of its legal form, size, or sector of activity, can define its **raison d'être** and set one or more **measurable and legally enforceable social or environmental objectives**. The proposal does not replace the corporate forms already provided for by Belgian law (such as social cooperatives) but is designed as a **complementary and cross-cutting statute** that can be adopted by any type of company.

This element is also central from a European perspective: it allows for the **gradual convergence of national legal systems** without imposing rigid uniformity.

The proposed law on Mission-Driven Companies introduces a structured system of guarantees:



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- the inclusion of the mission in the company's articles of association;
- the creation of a Mission Committee (or SME Representative);
- the publication of an annual report with progress indicators;
- periodic verification by an Independent Third Party (OTI);
- the possibility of court intervention in the event of serious or persistent non-compliance.

The latter represents the most interesting innovation compared to other regulations on Mission-Driven Companies, since if the conditions laid down by law are not complied with in a serious or persistent manner, or if the ITB concludes that the statutory objectives have not been achieved, the public prosecutor or any interested party may apply to the president of the commercial court to order the removal of the mention "Mission-Driven Company" from all the company's deeds and documents.

This system makes it possible to distinguish **genuine commitment from pure marketing**, strengthening the credibility of companies in the eyes of:

- employees and talent;
- consumers;
- responsible investors;
- public institutions.

Evidence available at European level also shows that mission-oriented companies are not penalized in terms of economic performance and, in several cases, have higher competitiveness indicators.

The Mission-Driven Company model is part of an **already established dynamic at European and international level**.

As an international confederation of benefit corporations based in Brussels, ConfBenefit acts as:

- a European coordination platform for impact business models;
- a stable interlocutor for EU institutions;
- a promoter of common mission and reporting standards, harmonized impact metrics, and quality criteria for independent third-party bodies.



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ConfBenefit intends to support the implementation of Mission-Driven Companies in Belgium as **an advanced laboratory for future European regulatory convergence**.

Thanks to its international network, ConfBenefit also acts as a platform connecting European experiences with those developed in other economic and regulatory contexts, particularly in the United States and Latin America, where benefit corporation and impact enterprise models are already widespread. This continuous exchange allows for a **virtuous circulation of best practices**, promoting mutual enrichment: Europe contributes with its regulatory solidity, while other regions bring experimentation, rapid adaptation, and innovation in impact measurement models. In this sense, ConfBenefit acts as **a global hub for dialogue between economic systems oriented towards the common good**.

Alongside its full support for the proposal, ConfBenefit considers it essential to highlight some critical issues that need to be monitored:

- the risk of mission washing, if verification standards are not sufficiently rigorous;
- administrative burden for SMEs, particularly with regard to external verification;
- the quality and independence of third-party bodies, which is crucial for the credibility of the system;
- the need for comparable indicators at European level to avoid fragmentation.

Addressing these critical issues in a coordinated manner is essential for the structural success of the model.

The introduction of mission-driven companies into Belgian law represents much more than a technical amendment to the Companies Code. It constitutes:

- a political act on the role of business in society,
- a decisive step towards tripolar corporate governance: economic, social, and environmental,
- a concrete contribution to the construction of a responsible and measurable European capitalism.

ConfBenefit considers this proposal to be a fundamental step in the process of building a European ecosystem of impact companies, based on transparency, responsibility, competitiveness, and the common good.