

## AIM public statement on the Juncker's Speech State of the Union 2017

On 13 September 2017, the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker addressed in his annual Speech on the State of the European Union Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, in which he also presented his priorities for the future of Europe.



“ **Evidence based statistics prove that high level policies in education and social protection are not a burden but strongly contribute to the economic growth of the European Union. AIM regrets that there was so little emphasis on the crucial role of social cohesion: in times of Brexit and populism, this is more important than ever.** ”

*Christian Zahn, AIM President*

AIM considers the European Pillar of Social Rights, in days of populism and Brexit, one of the most important crucial initiatives of last year this Commission. Juncker's address to the European Parliament would have been an opportunity to underline better the necessity for a strong social Europe and to elaborate on his ambitions with the European Pillar on Social Rights. The Commission President only mentioned the subject briefly and little was mentioned about the follow-up and the next decisions. AIM members now look forward to hear more about the initiative in Gothenburg in Sweden, during the Summit in November.

The social economy has an important role to play in further building a social pillar in Europe. The European Commission has expressed full support

addressing the needs of this economic sector. The social economy needs new and better policies in order to face the issues currently preventing them from working to their full potential – i.e. lack of visibility, lack of funding and lack of legal framework for cross border activities. AIM pleads for the legal recognition of all stakeholders, including healthcare mutuals, acting in the social economy and pleads for the approval of legal tools that allow them to develop transnational operations within the EU.

AIM counts on the President of the European Commission and the Member States of the Union, that they will ensure a Europe for all its people, with more social cohesion, and with strong support for the social economy.

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AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world. Through its 64 members from 31 countries, AIM provides health coverage to 240 million people in the world and 209 million in Europe through compulsory and/or complementary health insurance and managing health and social facilities. AIM strives to defend the access to healthcare for all through solidarity-based and non-for profit health insurance. Its mission is to provide a platform for members to exchange on common issues and to represent their interests and values in the European and international Institutions.



**AIM**

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