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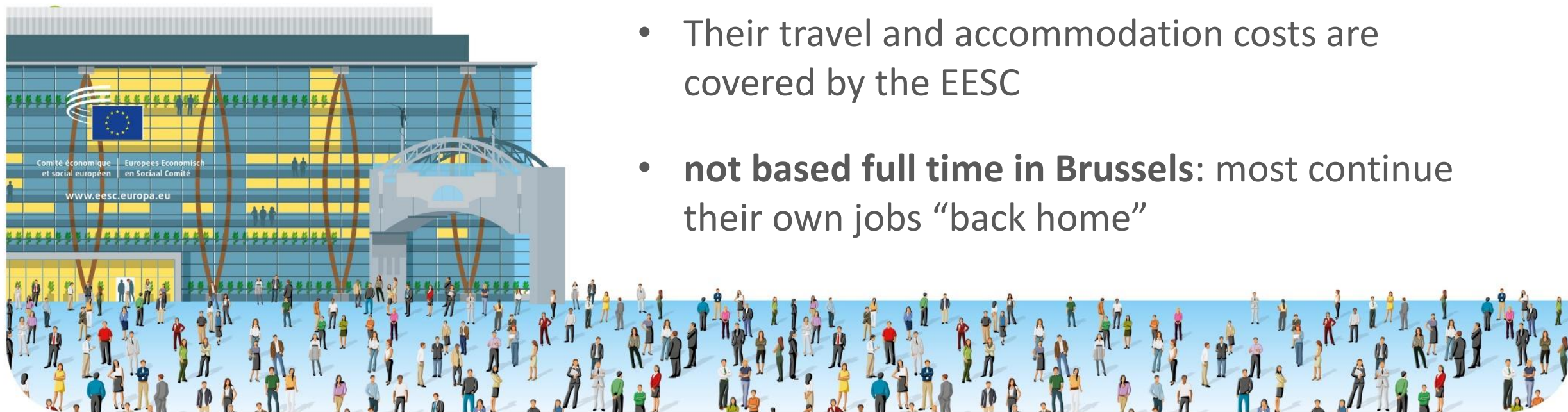
# Sustainable Economies Due diLigence: good EXamples and the role of social dialogue

Bruxelles 31 January 2024



## AN ASSEMBLY OF 329 MEMBERS FROM ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE EU

- appointed for a **renewable five-year term** by **the Council** on a proposal from each Member State
- Their travel and accommodation costs are covered by the EESC
- **not based full time in Brussels**: most continue their own jobs “back home”



As you know, the EESC is not only the home of European Civil Society, but it is also one of the institutions that practices social dialogue in an institutional form on a daily basis.

So it is a pleasure for us to be here to open this conference to launch a project dedicated to how due diligence, social responsibility and social dialogue can improve each other forward a more sustainable economy.

The proposal due diligence proposal is an important step in setting up a coherent legislative EU framework on sustainable corporate governance and due diligence which promotes the respect of human rights as a duty for businesses and directors and which strives for a level playing field within the EU;

We emphasises that exercising corporate due diligence, is an ongoing process, in which the involvement of civil society, trade unions and workers' representatives is a success factor;

Our commitment to advancing and strengthening autonomous social dialogue at European, national, regional, sectoral and company level is connected with the concept of democracy at work and we recommend to strengthen social dialogue, also forward a fully respect of the specific role of social economy organisations in social dialogue structures and processes.

- The Social Economy Action Plan, adopted 2021, and now the sociale economy recommendation specifically commits to promoting social economy business models which have democratic and participatory governance as one of their key for more sustainable development.

With the Opinion approved on July 2022 we fully endorsing the international standards and their broad achievements as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, We puts great emphasis on policy coherence with these instruments.

The ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Social Policy also contains a comprehensive set of rights relating to enterprises and labour, referring in particular to the conventions and recommendations on health and safety at work, and should therefore be considered.

- Cooperatives, often being created because of people needs to join forces, by promoting mutual solidarity in the form of a business, **they are born “sustainable”**.
- Using the principle of non-distribution of profits and the setting aside of resources which must be reinvested in the cooperative itself, according to legal obligations, they constitute **“intergenerational shared capital”** which does not belong to the members **...but to the cooperative and its community**. **Financial innovation** to promote instruments for further developing the issue of social impact investment funds.
- I like to say that cooperatives, by organizing solidarity and social responsibility in the form of enterprise, incorporate a generative model of sustainability on multiple levels: economic, governance, management, relations with the ecosystem in which they operate.

Social economy entities such as cooperatives which work towards long-term goals and directly serve their workers and communities should be supported;

Especially in times of transformation and crisis, involving workers and civil society on the basis of mutual trust promotes the better implementation of structural and organisational change

Furthermore, in many countries cooperatives have developed a specific system of **supervision and control of regulatory compliance and cooperative principles**, which for example in Italy with the **Cooperative Review**, ensures surveillance that is very close to what due diligence proposes