

Invitation to People and Planet Week 2026

Global launch and intergovernmental roundtable, 9 November 2026, 13:00-17:30 CET, Rue du Commerce 46, Brussels

Brussels, 20/10/2026

Sandra Sarav

Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Industrial Policy, Estonia

Dear Deputy Secretary General Sandra Sarav,

Social innovation can help countries shape a more prosperous future by connecting the ingenuity of their people with the reach of government and the potential of technology. On behalf of the Government Council for Social Innovation (GCSI) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), we are pleased to invite you to the global launch of People and Planet Week and a high-level intergovernmental roundtable on **9 November 2026 from 13.00 to 17.30 CET, in Brussels, European Commission, DG EMPL, rue du Commerce 46, EMPL ROOM CO46 000/021.**

Conflict, geopolitical uncertainty, climate pressures and rapid technological change affect every region. AI offers new possibilities for development and better services, but it also carries risks for jobs, inequality and exclusion. Working across sectors and borders can help us anticipate these changes and direct innovation towards public benefit.

We invite Estonia to help co-create this agenda. Every country brings experience that can inform others, and cooperation is strongest when it responds to priorities defined by countries and their communities. Your participation can help shape the next decade of social innovation, connecting local solutions with international knowledge and partnerships.

The roundtable will focus on building strong national social innovation ecosystems, harnessing AI for social good and sustaining cooperation between governments and ecosystem partners. Through GCSI, governments can share experience, develop national approaches and connect with innovators, funders, businesses, universities and communities. We will also explore shared regional leadership to carry the dialogue forward.

The proposed programme, preceded by a networking lunch, will begin with the globally livestreamed launch of People and Planet Week and the Social Innovation Engine. It will be followed by a closed-door, two-and-a-half-hour high-level roundtable, bringing together ministers and senior representatives from governments and multilaterals to share experience, priorities and opportunities for joint action.

People and Planet Week (09-15 November) will connect activities across many countries, from parliamentary discussions to grassroots initiatives, to zoom dialogues exploring social innovation in times of crisis and AI for social good.

We encourage your government to contribute to this wider programme. The **program toolkit** can be found [here](#). If your country plans to do an initiative, please do share [here](#) so we can profile during the launch event.

We would welcome your personal participation and a national experience or challenge you wish to bring to the discussion. Please confirm your attendance, or nominate a senior government representative, **by 26 October 2026**. The enclosed concept note provides further details.

By shaping this agenda together, we can make social innovation a lasting source of opportunity for people and protection for the planet.

Yours sincerely,

Jeroo Billimoria
Convener, Government Council for Social Innovation
Founder, One Family Foundation