

European Parliament Elections Manifesto



Consumer Co-operatives:
a Retail Force for a
Prosper & Sustainable Europe

2019  2024



EURO COOP IN NUMBERS

ESTABLISHED IN **1957** EURO COOP IS THE FIRST EU-LEVEL CO-OPERATIVE REPRESENTATION

IN THE LAST **60** YEARS, WE HAVE BECOME A TRUSTED PARTNER OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

TODAY, WE REPRESENT **20** NATIONAL CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN **RETAIL**



OWNED BY
& SERVING

34
MILLION

CONSUMER MEMBERS
DAILY

PROUDLY
EMPLOYING

750
THOUSAND

CITIZENS

SUCCESSFULLY
RUNNING

76
THOUSAND

POINTS OF SALE

RESPONSIBLY
GENERATING

79
BILLION

2ND BIGGEST RETAIL
FORCE IN EUROPE



A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

European
voter
constituencies

Citizens

Consumer
co-operative
members

Hey, we are
citizens and
co-op members!



WHY ARE CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES SIGNIFICANT?

- member-owner & democratically governed businesses;
- serving members = adhering to ordinary citizens;
- engines for consumer empowerment & protection via leadership on food issues, sustainability policy, community interests;
- profit sharing among members;
- responsibility towards local communities.

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ESTABLISH A COMMON EU FOOD POLICY

Consumer Co-operatives provide consumers across the continent daily with safe, high-quality, affordable & sustainable food. Yet, many relevant EU policies are contradicting. A holistic approach to the food system is still missing. We want to tackle this by:

- ✓ Advocating for the establishment of a Common EU Food Policy;
- ✓ Setting an example by continuously improving the supply of safe, high-quality food at affordable prices;
- ✓ Safeguarding EU's high food standards & their enforcement on national level;
- ✓ Ensuring coherent labelling legislation to support consumers' informed choices
- ✓ Promoting education to foster a culture of food, sustainable consumption & fight obesity.



FOSTER A FAIR RETAIL ENVIRONMENT

The retail sector is very diverse & specificities need to be acknowledged. Consumer co-ops pride themselves with placing the consumer, not profit maximisation, at the heart of their business. The success of the Single Market depends on policy-makers' efforts of:

- ✓ Guaranteeing a level-playing field for all business models;
- ✓ Advocating for balanced & fair supply chain relations & ensuring the UTP Directive does not harm consumers;
- ✓ Addressing the limitations caused by ongoing territorial supply constraints;
- ✓ Eliminating the unjust tax advantages of online retail over offline;
- ✓ Awarding businesses for SDGs commitments.



ATTAIN COOP-FRIENDLY POLICIES

For 175 years, co-operatives have successfully used commercial efforts to generate social value. Yet, our model is not sufficiently promoted. The Single Market & local communities will benefit if this changes. We wish to advocate future MEPs for:

- ✓ Maximising co-op's potential & contribution to Europe through appropriate policies;
- ✓ Working towards the inclusion of the co-operative model in national academic curricula;
- ✓ Establishing a co-operative policy space within the existing EU infrastructure;
- ✓ Reviving the Co-operative Roadmap;
- ✓ Making gender equality a reality through all EU policies.



IMPLEMENT A TRULY CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Consumer Co-operatives were pioneers in fostering sustainability. We took concrete actions to counter & transform waste, while rethinking current production & consumption patterns. In order to truly achieve a circular economy, we deem the following essential:

- ✓ Championing bold & urgent action to tackle climate change;
- ✓ Implementing plastics optimisation & recycling;
- ✓ Continuously improving the fight against food waste;
- ✓ Acting on hazardous chemicals;
- ✓ Promoting & defending the need for sustainable food production & consumption;
- ✓ Tackling human rights issues along the food supply chain.



**Co-operative retailers
engaging consumers for
sustainable growth.**



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