

## Our Session Title

### Realising the Circular Economy: the Consumer Co-op Difference

## Our Session Abstract

Consumer co-operatives are enterprises mainly active in food retail. As such, they are pivotal in generating virtuous sustainability practices along the food supply chain. This event will be the perfect occasion to focus on the consumer co-op difference in operationalising the circular economy principles and attaining the goals set by the EU Commission's Farm-To-Fork Strategy and the UN SDG 12.

## Our Session Description

The session's remit will include members' innovation in raising their sustainability performance through tackling food waste/loss, product labelling, sustainable resource management, climate action, and most importantly, empowering consumers through awareness and education about sustainable consumption and healthy lifestyles and working with suppliers along the value chain towards the green transition.

Consumer co-ops are drivers for circular economy. They are member-owned retailers, who base their economic efforts on maximising benefits, not profit, by satisfying the interests and needs of their individual members and the local communities they live in.

Empowering consumers is pursued through radical transparency of all aspects of the business - the operations, the origin of the goods and their environmental footprint, quality, even consumption/storage advise. That is underpinned by campaigns engaging consumers on all aspects of food and sustainability. The Co-op own brand operationalises the co-op principles and values to offer healthy, safe, quality products at affordable prices.

## Session Speakers

(15-20 minutes/speaker)

### 1. **SOK Finland:**

- **Nina Elomaa – Senior Vice President, Sustainability**
- **Theme: Driving Circularity & Shift towards Sustainable Diets & Climate Action**

### 2. **UK, Midcounties Co-operative:**

- **Mike Pickering – CSR Manager**
- **Theme: Energy Saving & Waste Reduction: Engaging Consumers towards Change**

### 3. **Coop Sweden:**

- **Charlotta Szczepanowski – Head of Sustainability & Quality**
- **Theme: Pioneering the Sustainability Declaration**

### 4. **HISPACOOOP, Spain:**

- **Carmen Redondo Borge – Director of Institutional Relations**
- **Theme: The Role for the Consumer in the Circular Economy**

\* Moderator: Todor Ivanov – Secretary-General

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