

Annual Report 2017



Anniversary Edition



eurocoop

European Community of Consumer Cooperatives

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President's Foreword

Dear co-operative colleagues,

It is with great sense of gratitude and honour to address you through the President's Foreword for 2017 – a year, in which Euro Coop celebrated its 60th Anniversary! This is a year, which will remain as the best experience of our Association, and I hope, in the hearts of the people who were a part of this anniversary. We celebrated Euro Coop's shared history and development with the European Union throughout these six decades. It is no coincidence that our Association was established in 1957, the same year in which the Treaty of Rome was signed. Euro Coop has a shared mission with the EU Institutions – to safeguard the interests of Europe's consumers and improve the livelihood of our Union's citizens.

The two-day Anniversary in Brussels in September 2017 was a memorable celebration of consumer co-operatives starting from our roots, the seeds of which were sowed by the Rochdale Pioneers in 1844, going through our long and colourful history, and all the way to our successes in being an engine for Europe's social-economic development of today and its ambitious future horizons.

It is encouraging to see the endorsement of consumer co-operatives and the distinctiveness of the co-operative model by EU institutions in areas of key EU policy where our members are at the forefront of innovation and driving positive change, be it circular economy, plastics, food waste or business-to-business relations. The occasion of the 60th Anniversary further strengthened Euro Coop's recognition as a strategic partner to policy-makers in Brussels.

Euro Coop further consolidated its relations with like-minded organisations representing the retail sector through its joint organisation of the inaugural European Retail Day in November 2017. Together with EuroCommerce, European Retail Round Table and Independent Retail Europe, Euro Coop engaged top EU officials through a high-level conference dedicated to the contribution of retail to the Single Market through growth, jobs, sustainable development and innovation. I am particularly happy that Euro Coop members had the opportunity to showcase the co-operative difference in retail in front of European Commissioners and other policy-makers.

Despite the busy agenda of external events, the Presidency maintained its focus on creating the conditions for more inter-member collaboration through the exchange of experience and knowledge, but more importantly, through opportunities for business collaboration. Whilst it has always been clear that Euro Coop is not a business organisation, it could be a place for interested co-operatives to reason together and evaluate possible mutual co-operation. Let's face it – Association life is always dynamic, because the needs and priorities of our members are so diverse. However, what binds us together and helps us overcome our differences is our common DNA; our belonging to the co-operative culture. However, participation in an association's life cannot be driven solely by ideas. It must also result in benefits and services, which are tangible and, which create value for our members.

Keeping to our mission, as set by the Statutes, a major commitment was to revitalize the Working Groups. It is there where members share their best practices and experience, but also set new shared goals, which represents the best testimony of Euro Coop's role and mission.

On behalf of the Presidency, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Board and our national member associations for your relentless support for Euro Coop and its activities through strategic direction and operational guidance, and of course, for your daily commitment to safeguarding and promoting the co-operative model and principles.

I am confident that we will continue to grow as an Association and, despite the challenges, Euro Coop will maintain its voice on behalf of consumer co-operatives and the 32 million individual consumer-members across the Continent. Our real power lies in our mutual trust and friendship.

With co-operative regards,



Massimo Bongiovanni
President





Secretary-General's Welcome

Dear members and co-operators,

*Being co-operators gives us many reasons to be proud – the values, the principles, the ethics and the shared commitment to bettering the world. 2017 was an exceptional time for the **Euro Coop family** for it was our **60th Anniversary**, which brought together the leaders from within our membership, the international co-operative movement, the EU Institutions, our Brussels-based partners, academia and the media, including the presence of **young co-operators** from Brussels, who shared their story of establishing their own consumer society. We came together to celebrate **consumer co-operatives' contribution to building a stronger Europe** and to acknowledge **our shared mission** with the EU institutions since 1957. A mission recognized by **Vytenis Andriukaitis - European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety** who acknowledged consumer co-operatives' strong position to effectively influence sustainable development and fight food waste; and by **Luca Jahier - future President of European Economic and Social Committee**, who reminded that co-operatives empower people through active citizenship and participatory democracy.*

*Another emblematic event during 2017 was the inaugural **European Retail Day**, which Euro Coop co-organized in Brussels. This high-level EU advocacy event illustrated the **retail sector's economic, social and environmental contribution** to the Single Market. Euro Coop speakers successfully represented the **co-operative distinctiveness** in retail by sharing their leading examples in championing community initiatives and cutting edge digital innovation.*

*The Secretariat's mission is and always will be **servicing you – our members**, which is why the team in Brussels is continuously engaged in expanding Euro Coop's **network of influence**. In the past year, Euro Coop engaged newly-formed European Commission consultative fora dedicated to digitalization, private label goods, and single market for food, thus guaranteeing the voice of consumer co-operatives in any future policy therefor. Our constructive **EU advocacy** resulted in the European Economic and Social Committee acknowledging consumer co-operatives as contributors to a fair and balanced food supply chain, while our members'*

*incredible initiatives and success stories in battling food waste were published in a leading EU media – the Parliament Magazine. Euro Coop is often invited to present **consumer co-operatives’ innovations** in sustainability policy, retail, consumer affairs, digitalization, whilst representing a different model of enterprise; one which puts the person in the centre, and not capital.*

*Internally, while deepening **EU advocacy**, the Secretariat was guided by the Presidency and supported by the national members to facilitate **intermember collaboration** – both in terms of policy and in viable business projects. Together, we optimized the Working Groups, established a business collaboration pilot project and initiated the Coop Erasmus exchange programme. Euro Coop is as strong as its members; so from this point of view, **our potential is unlimited.***

*I would like to convey my gratefulness and appreciation for the **unwavering support** of the national member organisations, **the guidance** of the Board and the Presidency, and last but not least, **the motivation and stern commitment** of the colleagues from the Secretariat in working and further contributing to the development of the European consumer co-operative movement.*

With co-operative regards,



Todor Ivanov
Secretary-General



Celebrating Consumer Co-operatives



Leaders of the European consumer co-operative movement, EU Institutions, international co-operative colleagues, youth co-operators, Brussels-based stakeholders and the media came together to celebrate **Euro Coop's 60th Anniversary** on 26 and 27 September 2017 in Brussels. The two day program included a Gala Evening and a Conference *“Consumer Co-operatives: the Power of People-First”*.

The Gala Evening celebrated Euro Coop's history and shared path of development with the European Union Institutions. It was honoured by keynote speakers **Vytenis Andriukaitis - European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety** and **Luca Jahier - President of Group III of the European Economic and Social Committee**, who highlighted co-operatives' **decisive contribution** to European development as prime conductors of sustainability policies, consumer health, working conditions and the democratic participation of their members, whilst at present continuing to be drivers of change by prompting innovation in numerous areas, such as promoting healthy lifestyles, consumer protection and empowerment, and distinctiveness.

The Gala also paid tribute to past Euro Coop officials, who have made exceptional contribution to the Association's progress. Massimo Bongiovanni handed out the **“Builders of Euro Coop” Awards** to two Euro Coop Presidents: **Anne Santamäki – SOK, Finland (2006-2010)** and **Duncan Bowdler – The Co-operative Group, UK (2012-2016)**; and two Secretary-Generals: **Caroline Naett (1995-2002)** and **Rodrigo Gouveia (2006-2013)**.

The **Conference “Consumer Co-operatives: the Power of People-First”** explored two major themes: the contribution of consumer co-operatives in Europe's **socio-economic development**; and the responsibility of consumer co-operatives in the **future of retail and consumer empowerment**. Keynote speeches were provided by Jean-Louis Bancel – President of Cooperatives Europe who emphasized the role of the co-operative movement in solving EU's most pressing challenges, and Dr. Linda Shaw – Associate of the Co-operative College, UK, who provided an excellent synthesis of the **history of the consumer co-operative model**, established by the Rochdale Pioneers, and focusing on the last six decades since the establishment of the European Community of Consumer Co-operatives.



The Conference's first panel explored the role and contribution of consumer co-operatives and the co-operative business model in building a social and economic Europe which is inclusive, accountable and sustainable. Participants included: Euro Coop representatives – **Colin Macleod** (Vice-President, UK) and **Anne Santamäki** (International Co-operative Alliance Board member and former Euro Coop President, FI); Member of European Parliament

Jens Nilsson (SE); European Commission's **Patrick Klein** – Team Leader of Social Economy; and European Economic and Social Committee's **Peter Schmidt** – President of the Permanent Study Group on Sustainable Food Systems.

The Anniversary also presented a **case study of a consumer co-operative start-up: Bees Coop** from Brussels. **Enrico de Sanso** presented the evolution of the co-op, founded by a group of young pioneers with an alternative vision for the established food retail system in Belgium.

The Conference's second panel was dedicated to the opportunities of digitalization in shaping the future of retail and consumer empowerment, and the success of consumer co-operatives in leading the way. Panelists included Euro Coop members – **Lasse Bolander** (President of Coop Denmark) and **Fred Bosch** – CEO of Coop Netherlands; European Commission's **Carlo Pettinelli** – Director of Consumer Environmental and Health Technologies, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW); and **Ursula Pahl** – Deputy Director-General of BEUC.



The **key messages** focused on the **retailers' embracing of digitalization** in innovating the shopping experience for consumers, as well as reinventing their individual approach to consumers; while consumers today being as informed and as demanding as ever due to the abundance of information made available through digital channels. It is a cycle where retailers attempt to identify **new consumer trends** and respond to them, thus further triggering new consumer behaviour.



Euro Coop President - Massimo Bongiovanni and Secretariat staff with European Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis and European Economic and Social Committee President (Group III) Luca Jahier



Way Forward

The Anniversary was an opportunity to celebrate the success stories of consumer co-operatives whilst allowing for reflections over **the objectives** we want to set for ourselves as an Association.

Fulfilling our representative role, the Secretariat will pursue successful **advocacy of the distinctiveness of the co-operative business model** within leading EU policy dossiers concerning the priority activities of our members: food policy, sustainable development, enterprise policy and consumer policy. On all these, and more, our members' immense advances empower the Secretariat to proudly advocates **consumer co-operatives'** innovation in areas such as retail digitalization; circular economy initiatives to battle plastics and food waste; consumer affairs issues as labelling and eating habits; and of course, food policy challenges in the face of food security, antimicrobial resistance and endocrine disruptors. Euro Coop will continue its participation in the development of a strategic EU policy approach – **a Common Food Policy**; something which is currently non-existent at EU level, but desperately needed in time for the European Parliament elections in 2019. Consumer co-operatives, as locally rooted and democratically-owned structures, are prime conductors of **alternative food systems**, ensuring a balance between economic viability, social responsibility and stern environmental commitment. Thinking big, Euro Coop shall continuously represent our members' contribution to a **balanced EU food supply chain** by championing a distinctive model of retail, by which consumer co-operatives engage in fair business relations on local and regional level.

Associations are all about **membership value**. Realizing our responsibility for creating ripe conditions for valuable collaboration between our national members, the Secretariat, guided by the Presidency, commits to the realization of the **business collaboration project** – a shared priority by the majority of the members, and operationalising the Coop Erasmus Exchange program. Hopefully, these shall expand the existing inter-member relations of exchange of experience and knowledge to mutually-beneficial and structured business partnerships.

Euro Coop will also reinforce its commitment to **consolidating the European consumer co-operative movement** by exploring all possibilities for **engaging new members**. This would allow for further collaboration opportunities amongst the membership.

With European Parliament elections approaching in 2019, the next 12 months will be crucial for the European co-operative movement. Therefore Euro Coop will look to collaborate with Cooperatives Europe and the other European sectoral organisations to align a common strategic EU advocacy effort for the representation of the co-operative model and principles, aimed at facilitating a co-operative friendly platform within Members of European Parliament in the next mandate 2019-2024.





Advocacy & Representation

Co-operative Distinctiveness: Making the Difference Together

Co-operation among co-operatives is one of the seven co-operative principles and, as such, it stays at the core of Euro Coop's mission and operations.

Throughout 2017, Euro Coop undertook **several visits to its member organisations** on occasion of working groups (WGs), statutory or bilateral meetings. Euro Coop was hosted by **Coop Israel, The Co-operative Group, UK, SOK Finland, Coop Norway and ÁFEOSZ-Coop Hungary**, which allowed extensive intermember exchange of knowledge about the work carried out nationally.

Also, Euro Coop welcomed a delegation of the **Finnish S-Group's Educational Centre "Jollas Institute"**, illustrating in those occasions the functioning of the Secretariat and how interactions among members work.



Besides that, a revamped **Co-operative Distinctiveness Working Group (CDWG)** met in Manchester (UK), kindly hosted by The Co-operative Group, proving to be yet again an excellent tool for the **exchange** of information and best practices **among the members** as well as to define Euro Coop's positions on relevant EU dossiers.

The CDWG members could also benefit throughout the year from a **dedicated mailing** list managed by the Secretariat which allowed them to be continuously updated on the latest news on issues of the WG's remit, as well as to maintain regular exchange amongst themselves.

Euro Coop continued to foster good relationships and an open dialogue with all co-operative organisations operating in Brussels, and first and foremost with **Cooperatives Europe**, being it the top representative body for co-operative associations at EU level. In this context, Euro Coop continued to ensure an active participation in the **Cooperatives Europe's Development Platform (CEDP)** and in **the European Union Co-ordination Committee (EUCC)**. In addition to that, areas of common work included a contribution to a reflection on the interlinkages and possible synergies between the co-operative and the **collaborative economy**, as well as on how to foster the gender equality agenda within the whole co-operative movement.

Sustainability Policy: Values and Principles in Action

Sustainability is at the core of consumer co-operatives' action and thus of Euro Coop's activities. **Food waste** remained one of the key topics explored by Euro Coop during the year in the realm of **food sustainability**: an engagement which is now stably canalised through participation in the **EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste**, of which Euro Coop is an official member. This EU-led initiative aims at supporting all participating stakeholders in defining measures to prevent food waste, sharing best practices, and evaluating long-term progress. In 2017, it convened twice. Again on the topic of food waste, Euro Coop published a **position paper** *"New Rules Governing Food Waste as Part of the Circular Economy Package"*, as well as a reaction to **the European Court of Auditors Report** *"Combating Food Waste"*.

Advancing on the issue of food sustainability and as mentioned also in the food policy section of this report, it is worth noting the continuation of Euro Coop's collaboration with **IPES-Food** (the **International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems**), with the aim of shaping a **EU Common Food Policy**. Euro Coop has also been actively involved in talks about this same topic with the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**: an engagement which encompassed Euro Coop's participation in several expert groups and hearings and which culminated in a concrete acknowledgement of the **consumer co-operative specificities** when it comes to **preserving vibrant communities** in the EESC Opinion: *"Civil Society's Contribution to the Development of a Comprehensive Food Policy in the EU"*. Another notable conference on the theme of food sustainability, in which Euro Coop was called to contribute include the *"Barilla policy workshop on Food Sustainability Index (FSI)"*, which took place on 11 October 2017.

Food Policy: Fighting for Consumers' Rights to Safe Food

Issues that were of particular interest to the food policy dossier in 2017 were **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, **animal health** and **welfare**, as well as the importance of **short supply chains**. In order to better convey Euro Coop's stance on these important matters, position papers were published with the support of national members. These include the position paper on **animal welfare** and the position paper on **consumer co-operatives & short supply chains**. Moreover, given the talks about the trade agreement between the EU and Canada, the Secretariat saw it opportune to draft a **position paper on CETA** - the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Other issues within the food policy domain which the Secretariat was asked to work on by the members include **quality schemes**, **country of origin labelling (COOL)**, and the **reformulation of foods** towards healthier options.

Furthermore, Euro Coop's involvement in promoting the fight against **childhood obesity** has become a regular yearly appointment. Consumer co-operatives have a **long-lasting stern commitment** to tackling this epidemic and are constantly implementing innovative initiatives and projects on local and national level. As a result, for the past five years Euro Coop has been compiling annual reports of members' activities aimed at decreasing the prevalence of obesity both among children and adults. The 2017 Obesity Report gathers initiatives which pertain introduce innovations in food reformulation, food labelling, education & lifestyle, marketing & advertising, and physical activity.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat presented Euro Coop's position on many occasions. Highlights in this respect include a presentation of Euro Coop's **food-related position** at The Retail Institute in Leeds; a presentation of Euro Coop's stance on **meat products** at the Animal Task Force annual forum in Brussels; a presentation on **healthy foods** at the Healthy Nutrition Conference in Venlo (Netherlands). Moreover, the Secretariat also actively advocated for the **political recognition** in an own initiative opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on consumer co-operatives as a privileged partner in the **transition towards more sustainable food systems** and as an ally in shaping a more **comprehensive food policy**.

Finally, Euro Coop's work with **IPES-Food** (the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems), which started in 2016, deepened throughout 2017 with the aim of shaping an **EU Common Food Policy**.

The internal **Food Policy Working Group (FPWG)** convened twice in 2017. The first meeting took place end of May next to Bologna, at the headquarters of Coop Italia. Members were given the opportunity to visit the **in-house laboratory** of Coop Italia, in addition to reviewing relevant EU dossier issues related to **origin labelling**, the **traffic lights system**, and **nutrient profiles**. An interesting discussion ensued following Coop Italia's presentations of their "**antibiotic free**" campaign and their **palm oil policy**. The second FPWG took place in December. Members were informed about a recent study on nutrient profiles performed by the European Commission and updated on Euro Coop's relations with EFSA. Members were also asked to give feedback on their policies related to animal welfare and AMR, as well as on their priorities for the 2018 deliverables.

Direct relations with the European Commission are also maintained through Euro Coop's participation in the numerous stakeholder platforms thereof, where we continued providing input from our members' activities into the work of the recently launched **EU Platform on Animal Welfare**, the **EU Health Policy Platform**, the **EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health**, the **Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health**, as well as in the Civil Dialogue Groups on Quality and Promotion of Agricultural Products, and on International Aspects of Agriculture. Euro Coop members were regularly briefed on all aspects of the work done therein, especially in the case of interesting legislative developments at EU level on these topics.

Relationships with the **European Food Safety Agency (EFSA)** were maintained through participation in the Stakeholder Forum and the Stakeholder Bureau. The former is a platform via which all stakeholders interested in EFSA's activities join and exchange views. The latter foresees an active engagement between EFSA and the stakeholder category that a certain stakeholder belongs to; NGOs in Euro Coop's case.

The Secretariat also attended several meetings at the European Parliament in order to keep up to date with **legislative developments** and the issues that are discussed in that House, such as discussions related to the fairness of food labelling, EU nutrition and health policy, and anti-microbial resistance.

Retail Policy: Championing People's Needs

Every enterprise represents its owners' interests, which makes all enterprises the same. However, what makes them different is who the owners are, and in the case of consumer co-operatives, those are the **consumer-members**, who are ordinary citizens living together in communities. This is principally the reason why consumer co-operatives are more often than not defenders of **societal interests** and adhere to local needs; their owners come from there!

So, what makes consumer co-operatives distinctive and more relevant than ever before is **our democratic model of ownership** and our way of doing business that sees **commercial effort as an expression of social and ethical progress**. One, which puts the person's needs, and not capital, in the center of its operations. As co-operative enterprises, we do not have to think about the stock market price tomorrow or about dressing up the company for sale, but as retailers, we have to make **financially and business-wise sound decisions**, because otherwise we would not be successful.

This endows Euro Coop with a unique mission of representing at EU level a subtle, yet remarkable **balance** between, on the one hand, advocating for the **proper conditions for retail** as a business to prosper for the benefit of consumers and, on the other, the conditions for stronger **commitment to social responsibility** and sustainability. This distinctiveness is one of the factors, which contributes to the plurality of the retail sector.

The **European Retail Day** is evidence of Euro Coop's efficiency in maintaining this balance by facilitating successful collaboration with other EU-level retail organisations. This high-level annual conference was dedicated to showcase the **added-value of the retail sector to Europe's economy**, while providing the stage to our members to represent **the co-operative distinctiveness as retailers** whose responsibility goes beyond the cash register.

In short, we believe consumer co-operatives **champion a better way of doing business**. Our members' wide plethora of innovation and leading examples empowers Euro Coop with a strategic instrumentarium in representing the **co-op distinctiveness** within all facets of the EU policy process. We are proud to know that the EU institutions acknowledge our members' distinct co-operative **entity**, their **added value, alternative model**, and the constructive **change** they bring to **Europe's society**.



Consumer Affairs: Advocating for Consumers' Rights

Consumer co-operatives are owned by their consumer-members so therefore it is only natural that advocating for **consumers' rights** underpins the entirety of Euro Coop's policy work. In this regard, the Secretariat's representation work always dedicates considerable attention to the importance of **empowering consumers** and overcoming the challenges thereof. Consumer co-operatives have an inherent responsibility to champion initiatives which prioritise the need for consumers to be informed, educated and not misled in any way or manner; as this is one of the Co-operative Principles. Due to this, **consumers' expectations and needs** are the driving forces behind our members' activities.

Specific streams of work in this domain include the advocacy for **assurance schemes which respond to stringent international standards** (e.g. **Fairtrade** or the **European Eco-label** in opposition to many 'greenwashing labels'), the provision of a **transparent** and **traceable** food information to consumers as well as the need for **consumer purchasing power** to be adequately defended through the development and putting on the market of **"Coop" own-branded products**, whose manufacturing process takes into consideration all three dimensions of **sustainability** – economic, environmental and social.

Throughout 2017, Euro Coop continued its attendance to the **European Consumer Consultative Group (ECCG)** – the Commission's main forum to consult national and European consumer organisations. In this context, it could collaborate with stakeholders on the latest consumer affairs issues, including the **Fitness Check of the Consumer and Marketing law**, **Collective Redress** and the **debate around Dual Quality of Food**.





Membership & Governance

Statutory Meetings

The Euro Coop governance bodies convened throughout 2017, as follows:

- ✓ one General Assembly meeting in June;
- ✓ two Board of Directors meetings in February and September;
- ✓ four Presidency meetings.

The **first Board** meeting was a **historic** occasion, held in February. It was the first Association statutory meeting hosted by **Coop Israel** in Tel Aviv. This provided the opportunity for members to acquaint themselves with the Israeli consumer co-operative movement - its challenges and numerous successes and objectives for future growth.

The **annual General Assembly** was held in June in **Tampere, Finland**, hosted by **SOK**. It was also a historic meeting as it coincided with Finland's 100th-year anniversary! The occasion allowed the members to learn about the role of S-Group not only as a national retail leader, but also its contribution to the **socio-economic development** of the country. The thematic seminar was on logistics and featured a study visit to SOK's newest logistics centre - the biggest and most modern facility in Finland.

The **second Board** meeting was held in September in Brussels and, you guessed it; it, too, was historic as it was held within the framework of **Euro Coop's 60th Anniversary!**

Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW)

CCW held its **Elections General Assembly** and **Joint Seminar** with the **International Co-operative Agricultural Organisation** (ICAO) on the theme of "**Building Direct & Sustainable Supply Chains**" within the framework of the ICA Global Conference and General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November.

The highlight of the CCW GA were the **elections** for President and Executive Committee for a new **four-year mandate**, which was extended from a duration of two years following the Assembly's approval of the proposed amendments to the Organisation's Statutes. These changes were called upon by recommendations of the ICA Board with the aim of streamlining the global sectors' governance with its own. This is part of an overall effort to ensure higher degree of strategic planning between the Alliance, its Regions and Sectors.

The GA re-elected as **CCW President Prof. Petar Stefanov** – President of Central Cooperative Union-Bulgaria (and Euro Coop Board member) and elected as **Vice-President Eiichi Honda** – President, Japanese Consumer's Co-operative Union (JCCU). The **Executive Committee** was constituted with the following members: **Rodolfo Zoppi** – President, National Federation of Consumer Co-operatives (FACC), Argentina; **Juhani Ilmola** – Director, SOK, Finland (and Euro Coop Vice-President); **D.S.K. Pathirana** - General Manager, The Sri Lanka Consumer Cooperative Societies Federation Ltd. (COOPFED); **Inja Park** – Chairwoman, iCoopKorea; and **Dr. Illia Gorokhovskiy** – Chairman, Coop Ukraine (and Euro Coop Board member).

CCW also participated in the **Joint Strategic Session** between the Alliance Board and all Regional and Sectoral leadership to discuss possibilities for **strategic planning** for the global co-operative movement. It was a very busy and productive week for our sector, the climax of which was the **election of CCW President Prof. Stefanov as an ICA Board member for the 2017-2021 mandate**.





Who is Who

General Assembly & Board

President

Massimo Bongiovanni, PhD	ANCC/Coop Italy	IT
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Vice-Presidents

Jaanus Vihand	Coop Eesti	EE
Juhani Ilmola	SOK	FI
Ofer Feinstein	Coop Israel	IL
Colin Macleod	Federal Retail & Trading Services, Ltd.	UK

Members

Prof. Petar Stefanov	Central Cooperative Union	BG
Andreas Koumis, BSc, FCA	Comarine Ltd.	CY
Mgr. Lukáš Němčík	UCMCC - Coop Czech	CZ
Lasse Bolander	Coop Danmark	DK
Mathias Fiedler	ZdK	DE
Dr. Zoltán Zs. Szöke	ÁFEOSZ-Coop Federation	HU
Skúli Skúlason	KSK Coop Iceland	IS
Fred Bosch	Coop Nederland	NL
Geir Jostein Dyngeseth	Coop Norge	NO
Dr. Ioan Crişan	CENTROCOOP	RO
Ing. Gabriel Csollar	COOP Jednota	SK
Mikel Larrea Azpeitia (GA)	Eroski	ES
Felix Martín (Board)	HISPACOOP	ES
Tommy Ohlström	Kooperativa Förbundet (KF)	SE
Dr. Illia Gorokhovskiy	Coop Ukraine	UA



About Euro Coop

Who We Represent

Euro Coop proudly represents the **national organisations of consumer co-operatives in 19 countries in Europe**, who in turn represent more than **32 million consumer-members** and **5.000 co-operative enterprises** on regional and local level. Combined, our members' operate **36.000 points of sale**, which register an annual turnover of **€ 79 billion**.

The co-operative store network is the **largest in Europe**.

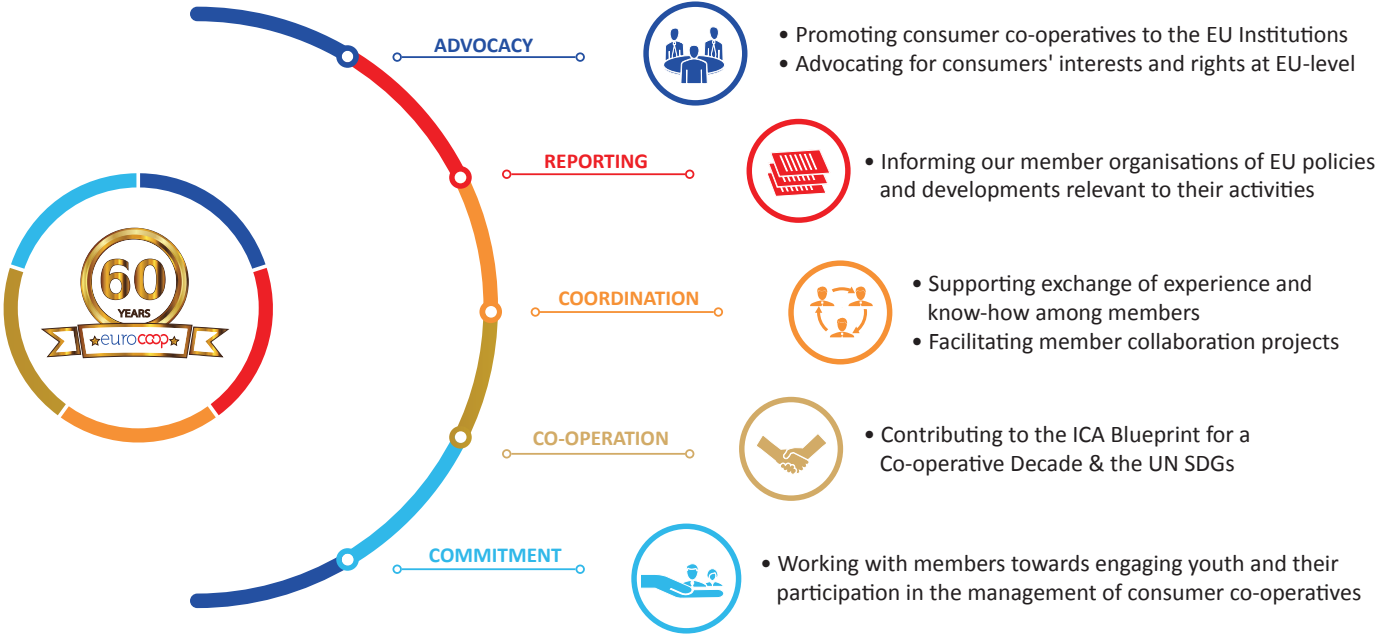
Consumer co-operatives are mainly active in the **food and non-food retail**, while most of them engage in **multiple other activities**, amongst which production, wholesale, services (such as petrol stations, utilities, IT, mobile, funeral care), education, hospitality and agriculture.

So what are consumer co-operatives? They are enterprises which are **democratically-governed** and **owned** by their members and their consumers. They adhere to the co-operative model, which is based on the seven international Co-operative Principles. This method of governance, based on its own **values, principles and ethics**, positions the individual members in the centre as owners of the business and thus primary decision-makers.

Established in 1957, Euro Coop is the **first** international co-operative organisation in Europe. Formed just several months after the signing of the **Treaty of Rome**, Euro Coop has a shared history with the EU and its Institutions. Over the past six decades, Euro Coop has been a vital platform for consumer co-operatives in their **successful partnership** with the EU Institutions and their shared goal: improving the livelihood of Europe's citizens and consumer-members.

While Euro Coop celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year, our members boast a much longer history. Consumer co-operatives have been in business since 1844, when the prominent **Rochdale Pioneers** in the UK established the first co-operative society in order to provide affordable and secure food products. Since then, the consumer co-operative movements took shape across Europe between the middle of the XIX and first half of the XX Century, all the while staying true to their mission of **advancing consumers' rights** and **social responsibility**.

Our Mission








Co-operative Retailers **Engaging Consumers** for Sustainable Growth!





Anniversary Edition

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