



eurocoop

European Community of Consumer Cooperatives

2018

ANNUAL REPORT





---

# CONTENTS

## **PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD**

---

## **SECRETARY GENERAL WELCOME**

---

## **ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION**

CO-OPERATIVE DISTINCTIVENESS: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE TOGETHER  
FOOD POLICY  
SUSTAINABILITY POLICY  
RETAIL POLICY  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS

---

## **MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE**

STATUTORY MEETINGS & ELECTIONS  
EURO COOP FAMILY GROWS  
CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES WORLDWIDE (CCW)

---

## **WAY FORWARD**

EU ELECTIONS  
POLICY DEVELOPMENTS  
NEW HORIZONS

---

## **ACCOUNTS**

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN  
COST ANALYSIS

---

## **WHO IS WHO**

---

## **ABOUT EURO COOP & OUR MISSION**

---



**A store with  
a different story**

Our shelves are stocked with local produce, supporting  
our islands' suppliers.



## PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

**Dear co-operators,**

It is a privilege to present my first President's foreword, albeit on behalf of my predecessor, for which I will do my best. Moreover, I take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation to the General Assembly for bestowing me with your trust in leading our Association. On behalf of the Presidency, I would like to thank Massimo Bongiovanni for his efforts and strategic leadership during the past mandate.

2018 was a busy year in both areas of our Association's life – advocacy activities and member collaboration. Two major EU policy developments required Euro Coop to step up its representative role, namely the Unfair Trading

Practices (UTPs) Directive and the Plastics Strategy as part of the Circular Economy Package. Despite the controversial outcome of the Directive, we were successful in actively promoting to the highest level within the EU Institutions the specificities of the co-operative model of enterprise and its positive impact to a fairer supply chain, thus managing to thwart a worse legislative outcome. Meanwhile, Euro Coop took the initiative to represent our members' contribution to the fight against plastics by organizing a high-level roundtable which saw the participation of the EU Institutions and Brussels-based partners. After all, the advocacy and representation is the essence of Euro Coop's

---

establishment in Brussels in 1957!

Internally, Euro Coop organised a high-level business meeting, which came as a direct result of a constructive process of identifying potential collaboration. Our Association is not a business platform, but we tend to members' various interests and priorities. Hopefully, this will lead to newer forms of common initiatives. Of course, continued dialogue and sharing of experience and knowledge among members was a persistent work stream. This led to new frontier in November as members decided to explore the potential of establishing a common European code for consumer co-operatives. This project will be taken well into 2019.

2018 will also remain as a milestone year as it saw the successful revision of the Statutes, which expanded the duration of the governance bodies mandate from two to four years for the first time in our Association's history. This process was accompanied by an election of a new Presidency and a new member – the Central Union of Consumer Societies of the Russian Federation (CENTROSOYUZ).

Lastly I would like to express my appreciation of our consumer cooperative movement and our Association for its unique culture of governance based on mutual respect, trust and, most of all, cooperation. These virtues provide us with the wisdom and composure to overcome challenging times, which are inevitable in any Association life. A very significant year lies ahead of us, one which will require Euro Coop's intensive representation of consumer co-operatives in Brussels, as the elections for European Parliament and a new mandate of the European Commission will take place in 2019. I am fully convinced that with the support of the Presidency, Board and the Secretariat, Euro Coop will continue to grow and serve its members to the best of its abilities.

With co-operative regards,



**Mathias Fiedler**  
**President**



## SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOME

**Dear members, colleagues,**

Welcome to our annual report!

The past 12 months have been a fast-paced marathon of EU legislative initiatives as the EU Institutions mobilized their capacity in the last full year of their mandate. Our efforts to promote members' interests and influence EU policy, especially much debated and politically-charged dossiers, give us a reason to stand tall. For example, by we managed to avert the worst-case scenario in the UTP Directive which would have shackled the retail sector and consequently subdue food distributors to the dominant power of global suppliers.

A concerted action with our retail and NGO partners resulted in high-level lobbying which led to the elimination of the most controversial texts calling to ban vital retailer practices, such as joint purchasing, private label and the right to set environmental and quality criteria higher than the legislation requires. Yes, we conceded much as the Directive stands, but we live to fight another day.

It's true what they say - "you can't win 'em all". While the inconsistent consideration of the co-operative distinctiveness in retail can be daunting. We have deepened our working



---

relations on a technical level with the EU Parliament, Commission, and Economic and Social Committee and this has resulted in increasing invitations for Euro Coop to present members' expertise in different EU fora. A highlight worthy of mention was the our Roundtable on the Plastics Strategy, which garnered high-level participation of the three EU Institutions, industry, the NGO sector and academia.

Our new Food Policy Officer reenergized the Secretariat's work on this dossier, leading to higher visibility of our position on key issues such as labelling, food waste, consumer affairs and healthy choices. This resulted in closer relations with the livestock and animal health sector and discussions of joint actions on AMR (antimicrobial resistance), sustainable production and consumption.

Listening to members is always a recipe for success. The Association focused on concrete actions which gave result in the form of a CEO meeting, an initiative of a common Euro Coop Code of Co-operative Governance and an in-depth revision of the Association Statutes. The two-year mandate, virtually unchanged since our establishment in 1957, was

replaced by a four-year term. 2018 will also remain in history with the fact that our family grew with the incoming membership of CENTROSOYUZ Russia.

In a co-operative, however, the real test is do we generate member value and do members feel engaged in what we do?

The pages that follow are designed to provide you with an overview of the Secretariat's policy work in Brussels and facilitating co-operation among our members. This work would not have been possible without the consistent support by the Board and guidance by the Presidency, nor without the dedication and determination of my colleagues in the Secretariat, for whom I have the greatest of respect and appreciation. We shall not be complacent. We will continue to grow collectively and defend, consolidate and represent the consumer co-op movement in Europe.

With co-operative greetings,



**Todor Ivanov**  
**Secretary-General**



---

# ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION



**CO-OPERATIVE DISTINCTIVENESS: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE TOGETHER**

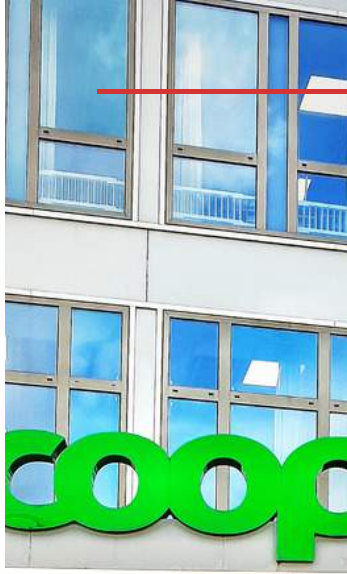
**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY: VALUES AND PRINCIPLES IN ACTION**

**FOOD POLICY: UPHOLDING CONSUMERS' RIGHTS TO SAFE, NUTRITIOUS AND DELICIOUS FOOD**

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS: ADVOCATING FOR CONSUMERS' RIGHTS**

**RETAIL POLICY: CHAMPIONING PEOPLE'S NEEDS**

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS: ADVOCATING FOR CONSUMERS' RIGHTS**



# CO-OPERATIVE DISTINCTIVESS

## MAKING THE DIFFERENCE TOGETHER



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

Throughout 2018, Euro Coop **has performed several visits to its members' organisations** on occasion of Task Force meetings, statutory or bilateral meetings. Among the many highlights, there are the official visits carried out in **Italy, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Sweden, United Kingdom and Denmark** among others, which allowed Euro Coop members to get a thorough knowledge of the work carried out by consumer co-operatives in those countries.

Three events directly related to co-operative distinctiveness were organised during the year in combination with Euro Coop statutory meetings.

The first was a seminar, held in conjunction with the April Board in Kyiv, on the theme of **youth and education**. The second was a Conference on consumer co-op **mission and vision for 2030** in the framework of the annual GA in Sofia in June, while the third was a workshop dedicated to governance at the time of the November Board in Stockholm, where members took the decision to explore the potential of a **common Code for consumer co-operatives**.



Besides that, the **COOP Task Force** (Co-operative Distinctiveness) met once in Naples, kindly hosted by Coop Italy, proving to be yet again an excellent tool to exchange information and best practices among its members as well as to define Euro Coop's positions vis-à-vis the EU dossiers of its competence. The meeting was held in combination with the **SUST Task Force** (Sustainability Policy) and a visit to the Coop Italy's project "**Buoni & Giusti**" ("Good and Fair"), aimed at **eradicating work exploitation** in the fruit and vegetable sector by way of targeted checks on suppliers and their implementation of good management practices.

Throughout the year, COOP TF members benefited from a **dedicated mailing** list managed by the Secretariat which allowed them to be continuously updated on the latest news in the co-op distinctiveness area as well as to directly exchange among them. Also, Euro Coop welcomed once during the year a delegation from SOK Finland, who learned about the work

of the Secretariat in their mission of representing consumer co-operative in Brussels and of facilitating intermember collaboration.

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-operatives at EU level. In this context, Euro Coop continued to ensure an active participation in the **Cooperatives Europe's Development Platform (CEDP)**, the **European Union Co-ordination Committee (EUCC)** the recently established **Cooperatives Europe Gender Equality Working Group**, aimed at raising awareness within and outside the co-operative movement about gender-related issues, as well as the newly created **Energy WG**.





---

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## VALUES AND PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

Sustainability is at the core of consumer co-operatives' action and thus of Euro Coop's activities. The most relevant theme dealt with in this portfolio during 2018 related to **plastics reduction and optimisation**.

One of the highlights here was the Euro Coop **Roundtable "Consumer Co-operatives & the Plastics Challenge"** held on 19 June 2018, hosted by the **European Economic and Social Committee**. The event brought together high-level speakers from the EU Institutions, the industry, NGO sector, and academia. It provided a

a major platform for an in-depth discussion on the major challenges of plastics, the EU policy perspective, but most importantly, Euro Coop members had the opportunity to present the numerous activities they carry out on an ongoing basis to tackle plastics pollution.

Furthermore, the EU Commission launched an **EU-wide pledging campaign for the uptake of recycled plastics**, to which Coop Italy positively responded, thereby becoming a full-fledged "Pledger" invited to shape EU policy on plastics at the highest level.

---

**Food waste** also remained a top priority of the Secretariat's work during the year in the realm of **food sustainability**: an engagement which kept on being 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 2018, it convened twice.

As curbing plastic pollution and food waste are key areas within the broader circular economy dossier, in 2018 Euro Coop also published the comprehensive position paper: ***“Circular Economy and Consumer Co-operatives: a Magnificent Pair”***, to explore more in-depth members' actions in these topical domains.

Advancing on the issue of food sustainability and as mentioned also in the food policy section of this report, it is worth noting Euro Coop's

continuing collaboration with **IPES-Food**, the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, where we are actively contributing to the group's work on proposing the EU Institutions policy recommendations for the establishment of a **common food policy**.

Euro Coop deepened its participation in the EU Commission-led **Civil Dialogue Groups on Organic Farming and Environment**. We also expanded our work on human rights in the food supply chain, which culminated in a position paper: ***“Human Rights and Supply Chains: a Consumer Co-operative Contribution”***.

Finally, the members of the SUST Task Force could benefit throughout the year from a **dedicated mailing list** managed by the Secretariat which produces weekly updates on the latest sustainability developments on EU and national level, as well as providing a channel for direct interaction among members on a technical level.





---

# FOOD POLICY

## UPHOLDING CONSUMERS' RIGHTS TO SAFE, NUTRITIOUS AND DELICIOUS FOOD

In 2018 Euro Coop closely followed several topics having EU and national relevance such as:

- **front-of-pack labelling (FOP)**
- the **new legislation on trans fats**, and
- the growing debate on **plant-based diets** and **meat analogues**.

Within this context, the Secretariat participated in the annual Joint meeting with the EU Commission. Member States and stakeholders on the FOP, contributed to the EU Commission written consultation on introducing a trans-fat limit and participated as a speaker at a EU Parliament event on 'Vegetarian and Vegan Labelling'. Euro Coop was also invited to present the EFSA study '**Consumer Perceptions of**

**Emerging Risks in the Food Chain'** on occasion of the event 'Giornata qualità Coop' (Quality Day) held by Coop Italy at its Montelupo School in Italy.

During the year, Euro Coop also launched the **Obesity Database** on its website, a comprehensive collection of concrete initiatives undertaken by our members in order to encourage healthy habits among consumers and prevent and address overweight and obesity issues. Furthermore, Euro Coop completed the **2018 edition of the 'Obesity Report'** with the most recent initiatives carried out by its members in fighting obesity both among children as well as among adults.



---

Euro Coop continued its active work within the **EU Health Policy Platform**, the main forum for communication and co-operation between the European Commission, health interest groups and NGOs. Specifically, Euro Coop participated in the **Thematic Network on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** and the one on promoting the benefits of fruits and vegetables. As a result, we were among the 40 organizations who signed a *'Call to Action on AMR'* addressed to the EU institutions. Moreover, Euro Coop and **consumer co-operatives have been included** as one of the examples of best practices in the document: *"Joint Statement - Stimulating Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Consumption for Healthier European Consumers"*.

The Secretariat's new staff member responsible for Food Policy provided new impetus for our work in this domain. Direct relations with the European Commission were deepened 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 following EU fora:

- recently launched **EU Platform on Animal Welfare**,
- the **EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health**,
- the **Advisory Group on the Food Chain and Animal and Plant Health**,
- the **Civil Dialogue Groups on Quality and Promotion of Agricultural Products**, and on **International Aspects of Agriculture**.

We regularly briefed our members on these issues, especially concerning

key EU legislative developments, where we also facilitated discussions to gather each member's views. 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 representatives and the stakeholder category that a certain stakeholder belongs to, NGOs in Euro Coop's case.

The Euro Coop 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 AMR**. Finally, Euro Coop's work with **IPES-Food**, the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems, continued in 2018 with the aim of shaping a common food policy.





---

# CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## ADVOCATING FOR CONSUMERS' RIGHTS

It is so simple. Consumer co-operatives are owned by their consumer-members and hence **inherently oriented towards their interests**. It is therefore only natural that **advocating for consumers' rights underpins the totality of Euro Coop's policy work**.

Long gone are the decades when Euro Coop was the highest voice of consumers in the EU, but nevertheless, our work is strategically aligned with that of **BEUC** - the European Consumer Organisation.

In this regard, all events in which Euro Coop was invited to speak saw a specific section dedicated to the **importance of upholding consumers'**

rights, the need for consumers to be informed, educated and not misled in any manner. This is also true for instances in which Euro Coop was invited as a discussant to put forward the co-operative model and its commitment towards fulfilling **consumers' expectations and needs**.

A telling example is represented by Euro Coop's participation in the conference "**Global Trade and Sustainability**", organised by the meat industry association, in which Euro Coop put forward the need for EU consumers to keep enjoying the highest **standards of food safety** in the world without any compromise possible.

---

Specific streams of work in which the upholding of consumer rights was particularly highlighted 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 2018, Euro Coop also continued its attendance in the **European Consumer Consultative Group (ECCG)** - the Commission's main forum to consult national and European consumer organisations. In this context, it could get hold of the latest state-of-play on most topical consumer affairs issues, including **Product Safety** and the prominent and broadly discussed **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**.







## Co-operative fresh

Passionate supporters  
of local suppliers.

# RETAIL POLICY

## REPRESENTING A DIFFERENT MODEL

The year's work in this dossier was dominated by the controversial draft **Directive on Unfair Trading Practices** (UTPs). While the Commission's intention was to support small scale farmers in their negotiations with larger operators in the supply chain - a commendable action consumer co-operatives endorse - the legislative process was quickly and sharply disrupted by political ambitions which set the Directive on the wrong course. Euro Coop, and other retail member organisations, were faced with an uphill battle in which defeat would have meant heavy restrictions on retailers' ability to **provide high quality and safe food at reasonable prices to EU's 500 million consumer.**

The Secretariat followed every step of the legislative process and throughout these eight months, we worked with members to formulate a distinct position for the consumer co-operatives movement, necessary to **engage the EU Institutions** on a technical and political level. After **200 letters** to Members of European Parliament (MEPs), letters to **four EU Commission DGs** and one even to **President Juncker's Cabinet**, as well as a joint retail letter to the **Legal Services Unit** of the EU Council, we can be proud of the achieved result: the elimination of the most controversial proposed bans on joint purchasing, animal welfare and environmental standards, and product quality standards were dropped.



The **politicisation** of the debate was so stark, that many issues of the Directive left the EU Institutions divided. Nevertheless, with the stalled CAP revision and its potential reduced funding in the next Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), the EU legislator was prompted to show support towards the farmers within the current mandate. Albeit the Directive's final voting on the stroke of midnight on the year's last working day, Euro Coop members are content that the **most unreasonable scenario was avoided**. UTPs will come back on the table as the Directive will be reviewed in three years.

Elsewhere, we intensified our participation within the **High-Level Forum (HLF) for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain** - a dedicated consultative platform chaired by the EU Commission, bringing together Brussels-based

**stakeholders** (representative organisations such as Euro Coop) and the Member States' **national ministries**. The common aim is to formulate concrete recommendations for the optimisation of the EU food supply chain.

Thematic expert working groups were formulated within the HLF - Internal Market, Digitalisation, Private Label, and Food Price Composition. We participated in the first three and actively **represented consumer co-ops'** position and successful practices in areas of digitalisation, supplier relations, food and sustainability policy, and consumer engagement; all which contribute to a balanced and fairer supply chain. The HLF mandate ended in 2018 and the new Commission 2019-2024 shall decide whether to renew it for another term or not.

---

# MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE



**STATUTORY MEETINGS & ELECTIONS**

**EURO COOP FAMILY GROWS**

**CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES WORLDWIDE (CCW)**

---

# STATUTORY MEETINGS & ELECTIONS

The year was marked with **two Board meetings** in April in Kyiv, and in November in Stockholm, hosted by **Coop Ukraine** and **Kooperativa Förbundet (KF)**, respectively.

The thematic seminars focused on the themes of **membership and co-operative education** (Kyiv) and **governance** (Stockholm). Both raised the opportunity for members to share their experience and best practices in these areas of crucial significance to the functioning of co-operative organisations. The first seminar led to the production of an in-house report **“Engaging – the Consumer**

**Co-operative Way”**, which showcased members’ success in **engaging youth**, especially in the ever increasingly digitalised world, and exploring the trend of **co-op start-ups** and their relation with the established national co-op movements.

The second seminar was the occasion for members to share their efforts, and challenges thereof, in revising their **governance processes and structure**. This led to the decision to explore the potential for a **Euro Coop Code of Co-operative Governance**, which would aim to establish guidelines for the implementation of





---

the co-operative **values and principles** applied to the contemporary context and work of the national members.

The Secretariat has begun work on this ambitious project, which shall carry over well into 2019. The document would be flexible so as to garner members' endorsement. It would be designed as a **tool to engage policy makers and the unaffiliated public on national and EU level** with the aim of exemplifying the **special features** of co-operative governance and how it **generates value** for the members, business community and society. The annual General Assembly was hosted by Central Cooperative Union (CCU), Bulgaria in Sofia Bulgaria in June. There, members voted changes to the Statutes, which saw the mandate of the governance bodies **change** for the first time since 1957 from **two years to four years** and the **election** of a Board and Presidency for the newly expanded term. The results of the elections are, as follows:

**President:**

- Massimo Bongiovanni (ANCC/Coop Italy), reelected

**Vice-Presidents:**

- Colin Macleod - FRTS, UK
- Juhani Ilmola - SOK Finland
- Ofer Feinstein - Coop Israel
- Illia Gorokhovskiy - Coop Ukraine

For the exception of Dr. Illia Gorokhovskiy, all the others were reelected.



Taking note of the enacted revisions, members voted to establish an ad-hoc committee tasked with an **in-depth revision of the Statutes**, which would make the Association's internal procedures more efficient and transparent.

Following the GA statutory business, members took part in a **joint Euro Coop / Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW) Conference "Consumer Co-operatives: Mission & Vision 2030"**, exploring members' strategic outlook for the development of consumer co-operatives in the next decade.

More information is expanded on in the dedicated CCW section below.

---

# EURO COOP FAMILY GROWS

## CENTROSOYUZ RUSSIA JOINS

The 2018 GA will be remembered for a special occasion – our Association welcomed its 20th member, **CENTROSOYUZ - the Central Union of Consumer Societies of the Russian Federation**.

Already a member of the ICA since 1903, CENTROSOYUZ is among the largest national consumer co-operative structures in the world in terms of membership base (**2.5 million individual members** organized in **2.600 societies**) and scale of economic activities.

In recent years, focus has been placed on **co-op education**, through the organisation's vast network of co-op universities, colleges and academia, and **digital solutions in retail**, such as the **Coop Global Connect platform**.

CENTROSOYUZ joined

Euro Coop with the ambition of expanding co-operation with the aim of intensifying the exchange of best practices and knowledge of co-op management, governance, identity and the specificities of the business model.

Their membership started off strongly with CENTROSOYUZ hosting an **international academic symposium** on the future of co-operatives and their contribution to the UN SDGs. **Euro Coop was represented** by Secretary General Todor Ivanov who delivered a speech at the event's first day.

The wider inter-national co-operative movement was represented by Bruno Roelants - Director General of the International Co-operative Alliance, Vania Boyuklieva - Vice-President and Agnes Mathis - Director of Cooperatives Europe,





## CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES WORLDWIDE (CCW)

Euro Coop maintained its collaboration with CCW by providing the organization's Secretariat. As outlined above, the two organisations combined their efforts in the **joint Conference** parallel to the Euro Coop General Assembly in Sofia. This was an occasion for members to share their **long-term strategies** for the development of their national movements with up to 2030, bringing forth issues such as **competitiveness** of co-op enterprises in a highly changing world, the **relevance** of our business model and the co-op **values and principles**, as well as the overall **appeal** of our enterprises for today's youth and tomorrow's business leaders.

CCW presented a first of its kind **Strategic Report "Mission & Vision 2030: a Policy Guide for Consumer Co-operatives"**, which was

jointly developed with co-operative think tank Mutuo. Based on a thorough research of members' activities, the paper develops **clear recommendations** for the strategic representation of consumer co-operatives towards **policymakers** at international and national level. Essentially, it is a guide which offers advice on how to produce **key messages for decision-makers and regulators** to better understand the needs, priorities and specificities of consumer co-operatives. The report also identifies the potential for closer co-operation between the national structures in areas of interest as identified by the members themselves, with CCW providing the platform for this.

The Strategic Report will be further presented to national members from different ICA Regions throughout 2018 and 2019.

---

# WAY FORWARD

## EU ELECTIONS 2019 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS NEW HORIZONS

The next 12 months will be of strategic relevance for the advocacy and representation mission of Euro Coop, as 2019 will bring a new five-year mandate of the European Parliament and European Commission.

**Lobbying** efforts should start early as possible by engaging candidate MEPs on issues central to consumer co-operatives activities – food policy, sustainable development, consumer affairs and, of course, retail policy. These, and other priorities, are formulated as **policy recommendations** to the new EU officials within Euro Coop's **Elections Manifesto**.

Developing close working relations based on expertise and trust with the Chairs of the EU Parliament Committees of relevance to Euro Coop members' priorities, would be of utmost importance. The Secretariat shall look to replicate this process with new Commission officials, once the Commissioners and their cabinets are in place towards the end of the year.

The mission remains – we will look to best exemplify and **interlink EU policy priorities and objectives with existing successful practices throughout our members' networks**.





---

This would ensure that the consumer co-operative movement is continued to be seen as a reliable partner with much value to bring to the table.

Many existing EU policy streams will be continued and deepened, while new ones are expected to be initiated. For example, the food policy domain is expected to be dominated by issues such as food labelling, antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare, among other things, while the sustainability realm will deepen the circular economy discourse and its many aspects – packaging, food waste, environment.

Digitalisation is expected to remain high on the EU policy radar, and its role in changing the business and consumer environment will be further analysed. All this creates opportunities for consumer co-operatives to raise their visibility as drivers of change and excellence.

Parallel to this, Euro Coop will prioritise the strengthening of the common co-op voice in the EU by streamlining EU advocacy efforts with the other four co-op sectoral organisations – CECOPA, Copa-Cogeca, Housing Europe and EACB, and our apex organization – Cooperatives Europe. We must ensure more efficient and clear lobbying of the co-operative model of enterprise. A large part of the co-op voice at EU level is being diluted by an overlap of each organisation's advocacy – something which can be confusing to the EU legislator – and by the EU Institutions' exceeding focus on social economy. A specific common ambition should be the reinstatement of the Co-operative Roadmap – a strategic document with precise policy recommendations for the growth of our business model, across countries and sectors.





This document was developed by the Barroso Commission (2009-2014) and left to the Juncker Commission (2014-2019) to enact, but that was **never done**. With proper planning and co-operation among our organizations, we could achieve **stronger recognition for co-operatives** and better acknowledgment of the **co-op contribution** to the European Single Market and socio-economic development. From this perspective, there is great potential within the European Union Coordination Committee (EUCC), led by Cooperative Europe and where all EU co-op organisations convene on a regular basis.

Internally, Euro Coop shall make an **in-depth review of its Statutes** in order to ensure a higher degree of efficiency in its **democratic culture**.

The Secretariat has set high ambitions in creating **opportunities for member collaboration** in new areas of activities, such as tourism, education, governance and even sponsorship. Our ambition is to **deepen** our efforts in the established areas of internal co-operation but remain flexible in exploring any **new frontiers** so long as this adheres to members' interests.

## WHO IS WHO

### President

Mathias Fiedler - ZdK DE

### Vice-Presidents

Juhani Ilmola - SOK FI  
 Albino Russo - ANCC/Coop Italy IT  
 Dr. Illia Gorokhovskiy - Coop Ukraine UA  
 Colin Macleod - Federal Retail & Trading Services UK




### Members

Prof. Petar Stefanov - Central Cooperative Union BG  
 Andreas Koumis, BSc(Econ), FCA - Comarine Ltd. CY  
 Mgr. Lukáš Němčík UCMCC - Coop Czech CZ  
 Mike Dranov - Coop Danmark DK  
 Mikel Larrea Azpeitia - Eroski (*General Assembly representative*) ES  
 Felix Martín - HISPACOOP (*Board representative*) ES  
 Jaanus Vihand - Coop Eesti EE  
 Dr. Zoltán Zs. Szöke - ÁFEOSZ-Coop Federation HU  
 Eran Hofman - Coop Israel IL  
 Skúli Skúlason KSK - Coop Iceland IS  
 Herco Boer - Coop Nederland NL  
 Geir Jostein Dyngeseth - Coop Norge NO  
 Dr. Ioan Crişan - CENTROCOOP RO  
 Dmitry Lvovich Zubov - CENTROSOYUZ RU  
 Ing. Gabriel Csollar - COOP Jednota SK  
 Tommy Ohlström - Kooperativa Förbundet (KF) SE



---

# ABOUT EURO COOP & OUR MISSION

-  **20** national members
-  **7.000** co-op enterprises
-  **76.000** points of sale
-  **750.000** employees
-  **34 million** consumer-members
-  **76 billion** annual turnover

## ADVOCACY

- ✓ promote consumer co-operatives to the EU
  - ✓ defend consumer interests and rights
- 

## REPORTING

- ✓ informing our members of EU policies relevant to their activities
- 

## COORDINATION

- ✓ supporting intermember exchange & co-operation
- 

## CO-OPERATION

- ✓ supporting Cooperatives Europe & International Co-operative Alliance on UN SDGs
- 

## COMMITMENT

- ✓ supporting members in their engagement of youth and their development into tomorrow's leaders
-



# SUCCESSING MEANS SERVING OUR MEMBERS

CO-OPERATIVE RETAILERS

ENGAGING CONSUMERS

FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



eurocoop





 +32 2 285 00 73

 [info@eurocoop.coop](mailto:info@eurocoop.coop)

 @EuroCoopTeam

 @EuroCoopTeam

## **Euro Coop**

**The European Community of Consumer Co-operatives**

**Rue du Trône 4**

**B-1000 Brussels**

[www.eurocoop.coop](http://www.eurocoop.coop)