

# Activity Report 2012





is the **European Community of Consumer Co-operatives**, whose members are the **national organisations of consumer co-operatives** in 18 European countries.

Created in 1957, Euro Coop today represents over **4,500 local and regional co-operatives**, the members of which amount to more than **30 million consumers** across Europe.

Consumer co-operatives are **enterprises owned by consumers**, acting mainly in food retail. Their overall turnover amounts to more than **€ 74 billion**, with **36,000 points of sale** and **450,000 employees**.

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

Working in partnership with Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW), a sector organisation of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), which brings together consumer co-operatives within the ICA membership

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



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# INTRODUCTION

*2012 was a special year for the co-operative movement. It was the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) under the slogan “Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World” and Euro Coop was actively engaged to make its contribution.*

*Besides the regular work of advocacy towards the EU institutions, Euro Coop developed specific initiatives related to the IYC which you can find in this report.*

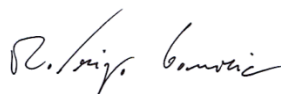
*In terms of European representation, Euro Coop continued to be actively involved in the policy areas which are more relevant for its members: food, sustainability, enterprises and consumer policies.*

*One of the main issues in the political agenda in Brussels was the functioning of the food supply chain, including the promotion of fair relations between the different economic actors in the chain.*

*In terms of the International Year of Co-operatives, the main focus was on the organisation of the European Co-operative week in Brussels and the several events that took place during the “Cooperatives United World Festival and Expo” in Manchester in November.*

*This report outlines the main activities and priorities of Euro Coop. For more detailed information on these or other topics you can check our website ([www.eurocoop.coop](http://www.eurocoop.coop)) or contact the secretariat.*

*I hope you enjoy your reading.*



Rodrigo Gouveia  
Secretary-General

# EUROPEAN REPRESENTATION

## Food Policy

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In 2012 Euro Coop continued to follow the major debates regarding food policy at European level, representing the interests of its members towards the EU institutions and allowing members to share information and best practices.

The main areas of work were:

- Health and Nutrition:

Euro Coop continued to be a member of the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health in the context of which it created an online database and a report on its members' initiatives to combat obesity. This report since 2012 constitutes a formal commitment to the Platform.

- Safety and quality

Consumer co-operatives believe in the provision of safe, quality, sustainable and affordable foods and therefore the current political debates around these issues are crucial to Euro Coop. Euro Coop continued its membership of the European Food Safety Agency stakeholder consultative platform where it provided input on these issues. Euro Coop also continued to participate in DG SANCO and DG AGRI advisory groups for the food chain and quality of agricultural products.

- Information to consumers

A very important part of the European policy of food is related to the provision of information to consumers. Euro Coop continued to follow this debate given its implications not only for consumer empowerment but also for retail operations (e.g. labelling).

- Food Policy Working Group (FPWG)

Euro Coop's FPWG discussed the relevant issues of food policy and enabled members to exchange information. In 2012, the Board of Euro Coop decided to revamp the FPWG and approved new terms of reference for 2013.

Other issues covered in the food policy area included: GMO's, food taxes, CAP, food waste, novel foods (cloning) and nanotechnologies.

## Enterprises Policy

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Euro Coop was actively involved in the discussions regarding the functioning of the food supply chain. This debate started some years ago and is mainly focusing on the commercial relations between businesses in the food chain and the competitiveness of the different sectors.

In 2012 the High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain, set-up by the European Commission, continued its work focusing, among other issues, on the implementation of the principles of good practice that it welcomed in 2011.

At the same time, the European Commission started to develop a European Retail Action Plan, organising several workshops to gather input from stakeholders.

The European Parliament was also actively engaged in these debates.

Therefore the main areas of activity for Euro Coop were:

- High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain

Euro Coop was a member of the High Level Forum, of its Sherpa group and its B2B commercial relations platform. In these fora Euro Coop advocated for its members interests in the sense of achieving a voluntary framework for the implementation of the principles of good practice in the food supply chain. Euro Coop was also very actively engaged in the multi-stakeholder dialogue group that produced a proposal for a voluntary framework.

- European Retail Action Plan

Euro Coop issued a position paper related to the ERAP containing its members' views on the issue and participated in all the workshops organised by the European Commission to provide input and influence the policy debate.

Other issues dealt by Euro Coop in this policy area included: Corporate Social Responsibility, entrepreneurship policy, EU2020 strategy and social economy.

## Sustainability Policy

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Sustainability continues to be one of the main priorities of consumer co-operatives including economic, social and environmental criteria. During 2012 Euro Coop continued to follow the main political developments in this field while also focusing on enabling members to exchange information and best practices in this area.

The main activity areas were:

- Climate change and energy

Euro Coop followed the developments of policy in terms of Climate Change and energy. It issued a report on its member initiatives to combat climate change focusing on several areas such as energy reduction and efficiency, transport, sustainable products, etc.

- Sustainable Consumption and Production

In 2012 Euro Coop was a member of the EU Retail Forum for sustainability where it worked with other retailers and the EU Commission on issues regarding the environmental sustainability of products and operations. It was also a member of the EU Food Sustainable Production and Consumption Round Table working with other stakeholder associations representing the whole supply chain and the European Commission on the issue of the environmental impact of food products.

- Sustainable Fishing

Euro Coop was a member of the Alliance for a Common Fisheries Policy Reform along with WWF, the fish processing industry, Eurocommerce and the European chefs association working towards a more sustainable fisheries policy.

- Sustainability Policy Working Group (SPWG)

The SPWG met several times during the year and members had the opportunity to discuss the main issues regarding sustainability

Other areas of work in the sustainability policy area included: Fair Trade, waste, including food waste, organic farming and GMOs.

## Consumer Policy

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Consumer co-operatives are owned and democratically-controlled by consumers. Consumers are the main stakeholder for consumer co-operatives not only because they are their owners but also because they are their clients. In that sense, all the work developed by Euro Coop in all policy areas, has a strong consumer focus.

As regards specific consumer policy, Euro Coop's main activities were:

- Consumer Agenda

In 2012, the European Commission published the Consumer Agenda which outlines the Commission's strategic vision on consumer policy for the years to come. Euro Coop welcomed the adoption of this strategy as it indicates several areas of priority that are in line with the vision of consumer co-operatives such as maximising consumer participation and trust in the market and a shift towards more sustainable consumption.

- European Consumer Consultative Group (ECCG)

Euro Coop maintained its membership of the ECCG and provided input to the European Commission on consumer policies. The secretariat attended the meetings of the ECCG and focused its work on the topics of greater relevance for consumer co-operatives.

- Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD)

Euro Coop maintained its membership of the TACD having the opportunity to follow the development of consumer policies that affect both sides of the Atlantic (EU/US). The main priorities for Euro Coop in this Dialogue related to food policy issues and sustainability.

Other issues regarding consumer policy included: Energy and consumers, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, participation in the consumer summit, consumers and vulnerability.



# UN International Year of Co-operatives



2012 was the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives (IYC) and therefore it was a special year for Euro Coop, its members and the wider co-operative movement. Naturally, the secretariat developed a large number of specific activities related to the International Year it also continued its work on co-operative identity issues as in the past.

The main activities in this field included:

- European Co-operative Week

Euro Coop co-organised with Cooperatives Europe a European Co-operative Week in Brussels to celebrate the IYC during which it was responsible for the organisation of a conference on fair relations in the food supply chain; co-organised with Cogeca, the agri-cooperatives' European association.

- Co-operatives United – World Festival and Expo

In partnership with Consumer Co-operatives Worldwide (CCW), Euro Coop organised several events that took place during the week of Cooperatives United – World Festival and Expo, including a workshop on data and loyalty programmes, a Board meeting, a “meet and greet” event regarding Climate Change and a meeting of the sustainability policy working group. On that occasion Euro Coop officially launched the 2012 version of its Climate Change Report.

- Community development

Euro Coop discussed with its members the specific approach of consumer co-operatives towards community development. As a result, Euro Coop published a report containing the main initiatives of its members in this field.

- Co-operative relations

Euro Coop continued its membership of Cooperatives Europe, the European Region of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). Euro Coop continued to provide secretariat support for CCW and, in that capacity, participated in the ICA's events related to the IYC. In Brussels, Euro Coop continued to have a good relation with all the co-operative organisations based there (sectors and national APEX) and participated in Cooperatives Europe European Union Coordination Committee (EUCC).

- Co-operative Identity Working Group

The co-operative Identity Working group met several times during 2012 and discuss a wide range of issues regarding co-operative identity including, community strategies, worker involvement.

# MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

## Statutory meetings

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Euro Coop organised the meetings of its statutory bodies including an ordinary General Assembly in June, in Oslo, two Board meetings in March and November and two Presidency meetings in February and October.

The General Assembly elected the delegates for the Board and Presidency for 2012-2014.

## Membership

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UKOOSPILKA the Central Union of Consumer Co-operatives of Ukraine became a full member in 2012. There were no other changes to the membership.

## Social responsibility

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As a representative of the co-operative movement, Euro Coop incorporates into its activities social responsibility criteria and the ICA's social responsibility indicators.

### *People*

The secretariat maintained a stable and friendly working environment throughout 2012, and strictly followed all labour-related Belgium regulations on safety, health, employment and social rights.

### *Products*

Regarding its purchases, the secretariat privileges environmentally-friendly products, including organic foods (e.g. catering for meetings), Fair Trade tea, eco-labelled detergents and paper. The secretariat will progressively change its suppliers according to these criteria when possible.

### *Environment*

In 2012, Euro Coop maintained its agreement with the Belgian NGO CompenCO2 and committed to offset carbon emissions of all the travelling of its staff.

Recyclable materials (paper, plastic and glass) are collected separately and sent for recycling.

The purchase of electric and electronic equipment favoured energy efficient options and appliances are turned off when not in use.

### *Democracy*

Euro Coop is a democratic organisation following the cooperative tradition of "one member, one vote" independently of the individual's financial contributions. This principle applies to all of its governance structures involving members, including the working groups.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Publications

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### *Newsletter*

In 2012, Euro Coop produced eleven editions of Euro Coop Flash, its monthly newsletter to members. The newsletters were made available in English, French and Italian and contained updates on the Euro Coop policy areas and member activities.

### *Policy-focused publications*

Euro Coop published a variety of position papers, reports, speeches, letters and press releases related to developments in food, enterprise, sustainability and consumer policies. These documents are available on the Euro Coop website.

### *Co-operative Policy Digest*

As part of the activities regarding the UN IYC, Euro Coop produced a newsletter targeted to EU institutions with the purpose of promoting the co-operative business model and the IYC. Nine editions of the newsletter were sent to relevant contacts.

### *Reports*

In 2012 Euro Coop produced and disseminated three reports available online:

- [Climate Change and Consumer Co-operatives: taking the challenge forward](#)
- [Talking Obesity: Consumer Co-operatives leading the way](#)
- [Consumer Co-operatives' approach to community development \(for members only\)](#)

### *Website*

Euro Coop maintained its website and further enhanced content available in French and Italian. Members used their private login information to access restricted content, such as the Euro Coop Flash newsletter, meeting documents and member-only reports.

## Conferences and workshops

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In 2012 Euro Coop organise the following conferences and workshops:

- "Cooperatives working towards a fair and competitive food supply chain", co-organised with Cogeca in the framework of the European Co-operative Week, Brussels, Belgium;
- "Power to the people: how can citizens lead Europe's future energy strategy?", co-organised with Cooperatives Europe in the framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels, Belgium;
- "Consumer co-operative initiatives in international development", Oslo, Norway;
- "Loyalty programmes and consumer data: Maximising the co-operative experience", in partnership with CCW under the framework of Cooperatives United, Manchester, UK;

## Euro Coop in the media

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In 2012, Euro Coop received press coverage from national media, European press outlets and industry-specific publications regarding its positions and policy work.



# WHO'S WHO

## General Assembly and Board delegates

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### President

Duncan Bowdler, The Co-operative Group (UK)

### Vice Presidents

Thomas Bagge Olesen, FDB (DK),  
Petar Stefanov, Central Co-operative Union (BG)  
Enrico Migliavacca, ANCC/COOP (IT)

### Delegates

Odd Rune Andersen, Coop Norge SA (NO)  
Pavlos Aristidou, ESEL-SPOLP Ltd (CY)  
Fran Etxaniz, Hispacoop (ES)  
Fred Bosch, Coop Nederland (NL)  
José Luis Cabrita, FENACOOPT (PT)  
Ioan Crisan, CENTROCOOP (RO)  
Gabriel Csollar, COOP Jednota (SK)  
Mathias Fiedler, ZdK (DE)  
Vladislav Goncharenko, UKOOSPILKA, (UA)  
Juhani Ilmola, SOK (FI)  
Zdeneck Juracka, SCMSD (CZ)  
Kati Kusmin, ETK (EE)  
Leif Linde, KF (SE)  
Zoltán Zs. Szöke, Coop AFEOSZ (HU)

## Working Group members

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### *Food Retail Working Group*

Vittorio Ramazza, Coop Italia (IT)  
Anna-Lena Dahlberg, Coop Inköp och Kategori AB (SE)  
Cathryn Higgs, The Co-operative Group (UK)  
Inaki Larrabeiti, Eroski (ES)  
Joan Preisler, FDB (DK)  
Lea Rankinen, SOK (FI)  
Thomas Roland, FDB (DK)  
Francesca Woodhouse, The Co-operative Group (UK)

### *Sustainability Policy Working Group*

**Chair:** Duncan Bowdler, The Co-operative Group (UK)

Gotzone Artabe Larraskitu, Eroski (ES)

Per Baumann, Coop Sverige AB (SE)

Nevena Bukova, Central Co-operative Union (BG)

Signe D. Frese, FDB (DK)

Juhani Ilmola, SOK (FI)

Knut Lutnaes, Coop Norge SA (NO)

Francesco Russo, ANCC/COOP (IT)

### *Co-operative Identity Working Group*

**Chair:** Russell Gill, The Co-operative Group (UK)

Riccardo Bagni, ANCC/COOP (IT)

Farnoush Bejnoud, ZdK (DE)

Kjetil Bull, Coop Norge SA (NO)

Staffan Eklund, KF (SE)

Felix Martin, Hispacoop (ES)

Helena Raininko, SOK (FI)

Diana Tsakova, CCU (BG)

# MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

## BULGARIA



### C.C.U.

Central Cooperative Union  
Rakovsky Street 99  
BG -1000 Sofia  
[www.ccu-bg.com](http://www.ccu-bg.com)

## CYPRUS



### ESEL-SPOLP LTD

Union of Limassol Co-operative Societies and  
Co-operative Supply Organisation of Limassol-Paphos  
Achaion 4 -3022 Limassol  
P.O. Box 50311  
CY-3603 Limassol  
[www.eands.com.cy](http://www.eands.com.cy)

## CZECH REPUBLIC



### Union of Czech and Moravian Consumer Cooperatives

U Rajske zahrady 3/1912  
CZ - 130 00 Prague 3  
[www.scmsd.cz](http://www.scmsd.cz)

## DENMARK



### FDB

Faellesfoeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger  
Vallensbæk Torvevej 9  
Dk-2620 Albertslund  
[www.fdb.dk](http://www.fdb.dk)

## ESTONIA



### ETK

Eesti Tarbijateühistute Keskühistu  
Kalda 7c  
EE-11625 Tallinn  
[www.etk.ee](http://www.etk.ee)

## FINLAND



### SOK Corporation

Suomen Osuuskauppojen Keskuskunta  
Street address : Fleminginkatu 34, Helsinki Finland  
Mailing address : P.O.Box 1, FIN 00088 S Group, Finland  
[www.s-kanava.fi](http://www.s-kanava.fi)

## GERMANY



### ZdK

Zentralverband deutscher Konsumentgenossenschaften e.V.  
Baumeisterstraße 2  
DE-20099 Hamburg  
[www.zdk.coop](http://www.zdk.coop)

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HUNGARY



**AFEOSZ**  
National Federation of Consumer Co-operatives and Trade Associations (CO-OP HUNGARY)  
Könyves Kálmán körút 11.  
HU-1097 Budapest  
[www.afeosz.hu](http://www.afeosz.hu)

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ITALY



**ANCC-COOP**  
Associazione Nazionale Cooperative di Consumatori-COOP  
Via Guattani, 9  
Palazzo delle Associazioni di settori, piano 4  
IT-00161 Roma  
[www.e-coop.it](http://www.e-coop.it)

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NETHERLANDS



**Coop Nederland u.a.**  
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[www.coop.nl](http://www.coop.nl)

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NORWAY



**Coop Norge SA.**  
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NO-0107 Oslo  
[www.coop.no](http://www.coop.no)

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PORTUGAL



**FENACOOP**  
Federação Nacional Das Cooperativas de Consumidores, FCRL  
Av. Santos Dumont, 57, 2º. Esq  
PT- 1050-202 Lisboa  
[www.consumo-pt.coop/](http://www.consumo-pt.coop/)

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ROMANIA



**CENTROCOOP**  
National Union of Consumer Co-operatives  
46-48 Calea Plevnei  
Sector 1,  
RO-010233 Bucharest  
[www.centrocoop.com](http://www.centrocoop.com)

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC



**COOP Jednota Slovensko, s.d**  
Slovenská republika  
sd, Bajkalská 25  
SK - 827 18 Bratislava  
[www.coop.sk](http://www.coop.sk)

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SPAIN



**HISPACOOP**  
Confederacion Espanola de Cooperativas de Consumidores y Usuarios  
Calle Vallehermoso 15, 1º  
ES-28015 Madrid  
[www.hispacoop.es](http://www.hispacoop.es)

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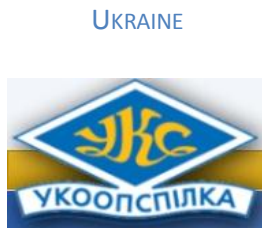




**KF**  
Kooperativa Förbundet  
P.O. Box 15200  
SE-10465 Stockholm 15  
[www.kf.se](http://www.kf.se)



**The Co-operative Group**  
New Century House  
P.O. Box 53  
UK - Manchester M60 4ES  
[www.co-operative.coop](http://www.co-operative.coop)



**UKOOPSPILKA**  
Central Union of Consumer Societies of Ukraine  
**Kreshatik Street,7/11**  
**UA-1001 Kiev**  
  
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