

**Dear Co-operative Colleagues,
Dear Friends,**

The unprecedented circumstances gripping the Continent have placed our extensive network of stores, pharmacies, petrol stations and other establishments at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19. As communities are adjusting to this new reality, consumer co-operatives are re-organising their work to maintain their active role in people's everyday lives.

This is why I solemnly salute all individuals in our businesses and working across supply chains day and night to guarantee uninterrupted goods and services for our 30 million consumer-owners and millions other citizens across Europe. Our long tradition and experience in serving people will prove essential for our mission, which has rarely been more essential than the historical times we find ourselves in today.

However, our collective success depends on our individual actions. I turn to each and every citizen with a plea to shop responsibly as this would prevent depriving others of their basic necessities. Supply movements are guaranteed, but shortages may result from unnecessary bulk purchasing. Together we look out for our families, friends, neighbours and we must be mindful of the vulnerable members of our communities. Community responsibility and solidarity are within our DNA which is why I am sure of our unity.



United Against COVID-19

CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES APPEAL TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

1 Wash your hands with water & soap for 20 sec

2 Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth

3 Cover yourself when coughing or sneezing

SOURCE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

4 Maintain social distancing

1.5 m

eurocoop
European Community of Consumer Cooperatives

7 Inform yourself from trusted sources

6 Call the doctor: fever, cough, trouble breathing

5 Stay at home if you feel unwell

Lastly, I wish you all the best of health, safety and patience. Allow me to make an appeal to everyone to follow the official recommendations of the World Health Organisation and your national authorities.

**With co-operative greetings,
Mathias Fiedler
President**