Consumer Co-operatives: A Retail Force for a Prosper & Sustainable Europe
**EURO COOP IN NUMBERS**

Established in 1957, Euro Coop is the first EU-level co-operative representation.

In the last 60 years, we have become a trusted partner of the European institutions.

Today, we represent 20 national consumer co-operative organisations engaged in retail.

- **Owned by & serving:** 34 million consumer members daily
- **Proudly employing:** 750 thousand citizens
- **Successfully running:** 76 thousand points of sale
- **Responsibly generating:** 79 billion

**2nd biggest retail force in Europe**

Why are consumer co-operatives significant?

- member-owner & democratically governed businesses;
- serving members = adhering to ordinary citizens;
- engines for consumer empowerment & protection via leadership on food issues, sustainability policy, community interests;
- profit sharing among members;
- responsibility towards local communities.

**A shared responsibility**

European voter constituencies

CITIZENS

Consumer co-operative members
ESTABLISH A COMMON EU FOOD POLICY

Consumer Co-operatives provide consumers across the continent daily with safe, high-quality, affordable & sustainable food. Yet, many relevant EU policies are contradicting. A holistic approach to the food system is still missing. We want to tackle this by:

- Advocating for the establishment of a Common EU Food Policy;
- Setting an example by continuously improving the supply of safe, high-quality food at affordable prices;
- Safeguarding EU’s high food standards & their enforcement on national level;
- Ensuring coherent labelling legislation to support consumers’ informed choices;
- Promoting education to foster a culture of food, sustainable consumption & fight obesity.
IMPLEMENT A TRULY CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Consumer Co-operatives were pioneers in fostering sustainability. We have always taken concrete actions to counter and transform waste, while rethinking current production & consumption patterns. In order to truly achieve a circular economy, we deem the following essential:

- Championing bold & urgent action to tackle climate change;
- Implementing plastics optimisation & recycling;
- Continuously improving the fight against food waste;
- Acting on hazardous chemicals;
- Promoting & defending the need for sustainable food production & consumption;
- Tackling human rights issues along the food supply chain.
FOSTER A FAIR RETAIL ENVIRONMENT

The retail sector is very diverse & specificities need to be acknowledged. Consumer co-ops pride themselves with placing the consumer, not profit maximisation, at the heart of their business. The success of the Single Market depends on policy-makers' efforts of:

- Guaranteeing a level-playing field for all business models;
- Advocating for balanced & fair supply chain relations & ensuring the UTP Directive does not harm consumers;
- Addressing the limitations caused by ongoing territorial supply constraints;
- Eliminating the unjust tax advantages of online retail over offline;
- Awarding businesses for SDGs commitments.
ATTAIN COOP-FRIENDLY POLICIES

For 175 years, co-operatives have successfully used commercial efforts to generate social value. Yet, our model is not sufficiently promoted. The Single Market & local communities will benefit if this changes. We wish to advocate future MEPs for:

- Maximising co-op's potential & contribution to Europe through appropriate policies;
- Working towards the inclusion of the co-operative model in national academic curricula;
- Establishing a co-operative policy space within the existing EU infrastructure;
- Reviving the Co-operative Roadmap;
- Making gender equality a reality through all EU policies.
Co-operative retailers engaging consumers for sustainable growth.

www.eurocoop.coop
@EuroCoopTeam

#CoopsInspireChange
#CoopSupporter | #ThisTimeImVoting | #EP19

Euro Coop is a proud member of Cooperatives Europe - consolidating 140 million European cooperators!

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Cooperatives Europe Elections Manifesto: https://elections.coopseurope.coop/