

**CONSUMER
CO-OPERATIVES IN EUROPE:
MEETING THE CHALLENGES
OF THE 2010 LISBON AGENDA**

BARCELONA. 17 OCT 2005

Among the top 50 retail trading companies in Europe, we can find consumer co-operatives in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Italy, Scandinavia, Finland and Spain. These co-operatives have grown by adapting their democratic organisations so as to be able to offer a good supply of products and services, compete with bigger companies and improve their market share. They harness consumer power in the market to bring important economic and social benefits, fostering health, safety and welfare for their members and society, and develop committed and pioneering positions on sustainability and social responsibility.

Their action is in tune with the Lisbon strategy that intends to create more jobs, more and better research and development, promote innovation and sustainability, complete the Internal Market, create the conditions for a strong European industrial base, increase the adaptability of workers and enterprises and the flexibility of labour markets.

This Seminar will allow us to learn and share the strategies of co-operative corporations towards 2010. We will hear how they aim to combine their market leadership with their social function as democratic organisations which are rooted in society and in the active defence of the consumer in the market.

PROGRAMME

Barcelona, 17 october 2005
Hotel Condes de Barcelona. Pg. de Gràcia, 73-75.

Morning session

9:30 h. Welcome

- **Mr. Josep Maria Rañé.** Labour and Industry Councillor. Generalitat de Catalunya.
- **Mr. Juan José Barrera.** Director General for Social Economy, Autonomous Work & European Social Fund. Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
- **Mr. Giuseppe Fabretti.** President EURO COOP - European Community of Consumer Co-operatives
- **Ms. Arantza Laskurain.** President Hispacoop - Spanish Confederation of Consumer Co-operatives.

10:00 h. Keynote Speech

*"Economic trends towards 2010:
The challenges for european companies"*

- **Mr. Joaquín Almunia.** European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary affairs.

(10:45 h. Refreshments)

11:15 h Round Table I

- **Coop Norden.** Denmark, Norway & Sweden.
Mr. Ebbe Lundgaard. Chairman of FDB and 1st Vice Chairman of Coop Norden
- **S Group.** Finland.
Mr. Kari Neilimo. CEO and Chairman of the Board
- **Grupo Eroski.** Spain.
Mr. Constan Dacosta. President.

13:15 h. Debate

Afternoon session

15:30 h. Round Table II

- **The Co-operative Group.** United Kingdom.
Mr. Mike Goulthorp. Chief General Manager - Commercial Food Retail
- **COOP Italia.**
Mr. Vincenzo Tassinari. President.
- **COOP Lisboa.** Portugal.
Mr. João Chaleira. Chief executive.

17:30 h. Debate

18:00 Closing session

- **Mr. Santiago Esteban.** Director General for Co-operative, Social Economy and Autonomous Work . Generalitat de Catalunya.
- **Mr. Ignasi Faura.** Secretary General, Hispacoop. Vice-president, Euro Coop.