

Consumer Co-op International

Draft Minutes

CCI meetings, Oslo, 1 September 2003
Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel

CCI Seminar 9.30-12.30

The Co-operative Response to international competitors and international suppliers

- Welcome and introduction – Bob BURLTON, President, Co-operatives UK
- Promoting Solidarity of Consumer Co-op Business in Japan – Toshifumi YAMASHITA, Vice-President JCCU
- Petr BROZEK, President of Czech and Moravian Consumer Co-operative Association
- Our Response to Competition – Seah Kian Peng, NTUC FiarPrice Co-operative Ltd, chairman of the Executive Council of Singapore National Co-operative Federation
- Coop's actions and proposals for a socially responsible supply chain – Vincenzo TASSINARI, President of Coop Italia
- The co-operative renaissance in the UK – Bob BURLTON, President of Co-operatives UK
- Global Co-operation: The Purchasing Opportunity – Tom WEBB, Global Co-operation Inc. Canada

CCI Members Meeting

12.30-13.30

1. Opening and welcome

Giuseppe Fabretti welcomed participants and opened the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

He introduced the draft agenda which was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held in Lisbon

The minutes of the last meeting held in Lisbon were approved as no comments have been received

4. Activity Report

G. Fabretti invited Gabriella Sozánski, Secretary of CCI, to report on activities, membership issues and finances.

- **Activities:** G. Sozánski referred to the activities of the two sub-committees which were set up at the CCI Executive meeting in Prague:
 1. on business effectiveness, chaired by Bob Burlton and
 2. on co-operative identity and values, chaired by Anne-Buch Jörgensen.

The Secretary distributed the reports of both groups (earlier sent by e-mail to members). She added that as a follow-up of the two sub-committee meetings a very successful seminar was held before this members meeting entitled: The Co-operative Response to international competitors and international suppliers.

- **Membership:** the CCI Executive Committee has adopted one new member since the last members meeting, namely Coop NKL Norway. It is a pleasure to announce it in Oslo – the Secretary added.
- **Finances:** From year 2002 CHF 42,780 have been carried over to year 2003. This year 16 members have paid their fees which amounted to CHF 46,417. Reminders will be sent to those who have not yet paid The expenditure so far amounts to CHF 21,439. Thus, the balance on 30 June was CHF 67,760.

The financial report was distributed at the meeting and accepted by the members.

5. Work Plan 2004

G.Fabretti explained in his introduction that the task of CCI is to bring together consumer co-operative organisations and convince those who are not yet involved in our activities to join our committee, in order to share and exchange experiences. Each country and continent have their own problems. However, there is one major challenge, common to all: how can consumer co-operatives win in the market

despite of a keen competition vis-à-vis multinational organisations. This topic was addressed at the Seminar this morning. However, co-operatives are business organisations with social responsibility. Therefore, the co-operative values, such as solidarity, ethics, democracy, all have to be defended, maintained and adapted to the current needs of society. In view of all this, the president suggested to continue the activities of the two sub-committees, follow-up the seminar on competition and organise a seminar in 2004 on co-operative values and identity. The venue of the seminar could be Warsaw, where the Regional Assembly for Europe will be held in September.

Members agreed to the proposed activities.

6. Elections

The Secretary distributed the list of candidates and also read out the names of the persons as well as the organisations nominating them as follows:

1. ANCC, Italy – Giuseppe Fabretti
2. Co-operatives UK – Bob Burlton
3. JCCU, Japan – Toshifumi Yamashita
4. KF, Sweden - Lars Hillbom
5. CCU, Bulgaria – Petar I. Stefanov
6. Centrosoyuz, Russia – Maria Serochtan
7. FNCC, France – Patrice Jolivet
8. Co-op Jednota, Slovakia - Adrian Durcek
9. Consumer Co-operative Union, Czech Republic - Petr Brozek
10. Coop Hungary, Hungary – Zoltán Szöke
11. Singapore National Consumer Co-operative Federation, Singapore –Seah Kian Peng

Elections take place every two years. According to the rules, the Executive Committee will consist of 11 members.

Among the 11 candidates nine have been participating in the CCI Executive for several years and two are new names:

1. In replacement of Mr. Tanaka, JCCU, Japan, who is retiring => Mr. Toshifumi Yamashita, Vice-president of JCCU
2. A new candidate, Mr. Shea Kian Peng, chairman of the Executive Council, Singapore National Consumer Co-operative Federation

Members voted unanimously for the above eleven members to be elected to the Executive.

Election of the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen

G. Fabretti, who announced earlier that he would run for an other term, was unanimously elected chairman of CCI.

He then proposed Toshifumi Yamashita, JCCU, Japan and Bob Burlton, Co-operatives UK as vice-chairmen.

Members unanimously elected Mr. Yamashita and Mr. Burlton vice-chairmen of CCI. G. Fabretti congratulated to the two vice-chairmen and expressed his appreciation and thanks to Mr. Tanaka.

Mr. Tanaka, former Vice-Chairman of CCI thanked Mr. Fabretti for the eight years of co-operation. He steps down – he said – in order to allow the younger generation to come forward. He called the attention to the major challenges of the current century: globalisation, technology, new environmental threats and underlined the importance of consumer co-operatives in meeting these challenges. He expressed his hope that CCI would further contribute to developing the international co-operative movement. JCCU will do his best through the participation of Mr. Yamashita in the CCI Executive.

Mr. Fabretti thanked for Mr. Tanaka's committed work and contribution to CCI. He added: Co-operative friends from Japan are people you can always rely on. This has been of a great value to our committee. He welcomed his successor, Mr. Yamashita and thanked also for the contribution of Mr. Kurimoto.

Mr. Shea Kian Peng introduced himself briefly and said how important it was for him to be elected. He expressed his hope that he could contribute to the work of the Committee.

Mr. Yamashita, the new vice chairman of CCI also thanked for the confidence. Before becoming Vice President of JCCU he has been the CEO of Co-op Tokyo since 1992. He participated in the structural reform and most recently in the fight against competitors. He underline the important role CCI can play in promoting the co-op idea all over the world. He promised to do his best in his new position.

G. Fabretti thanked for the confidence and expressed his conviction that the new Executive would work efficiently in the interest of achieving the objectives of the Committee.

7. Date and venue of the next meeting

G. Fabretti invited the Executive to have its next meeting in March/April 2004 in Rome. The invitation was accepted. The dates will be fixed at a later date.

Being no other business the meeting was closed at 13.30

CCI Executive Meeting

17.30-18.00

The purpose of the meeting was to appoint a president for the sub-committee on co-operative identity and values as well as decide on the procedure of how to continue the work of the two sub-committees. G. Fabretti was elected president of the sub-committee "Co-operative Identity and Values".