

Declaration

The participants to the conference «For the full involvement of employees in the European Cooperative Society» (Brussels 15-16 June 2006) invite ETUC and CECOP to consider the following Declaration in their respective decision-making bodies and to establish a common agenda as a consequence

Considering:

- the need to combat job losses, delocalization and social exclusion in Europe
- the importance to promote, monitor and supervise the highest possible standards of worker participation, which is considered as a fundamental right in the EU
- the experience and potential of workers' cooperative and worker ownership to provide long-term sustainable employments, to root economic activities in the territory, to provide labour inclusion to disadvantaged workers, to provide economically sustainable solutions to enterprises in crisis or threatened by closures and to offer particularly high standards of worker participation and democratic corporate governance
- the need to create a common expertise between ETUC and CECOP and their affiliates concerning worker cooperatives and worker ownership in Europe
- the need to promote the Lisbon Declaration both in its economic competitiveness aspect and in its social and employment aspect

Recognizing

- ETUC as the representative of the workers in Europe and its affiliates at the national level
- CECOP as the representative of worker cooperatives, social cooperatives and participative enterprises in Europe and its affiliates at the national level

Invite ETUC and CECOP to engage in a thematic strategic partnership at the European level, in coordination with their affiliates at the national level, focusing in the following aspects and activities:

- 1) to engage in a joint monitoring of democratic participation in worker cooperatives of all workers, both in members and non-members
- 2) to jointly identify the best existing practices of supervision and in implementation of democratic participation in worker cooperatives (e.g. Social audits, organisational and managerial training, etc) and encourage the implementation of such system both in the worker cooperatives in general and in SCE composed partly or totally of worker cooperatives
- 3) to start a process to achieve the drafting of a common opinion in consultation with their national affiliates, defining the standards of worker information, consultation and participation which SCE's composed partly or totally of worker cooperatives should apply, if possible, through national agreements between the concerned trade unions and cooperative organisations
- 4) to jointly encourage the promotion of the cooperatives concept and practices in national and European educational programmes (including in universities and technical colleges), in compliance with ILO R 193 for the promotion of cooperatives, in order to inform students that cooperatives are an advantageous form of job creation and job satisfaction, to provide information on the constitution of worker cooperatives to the unemployed, as a means of sustainable job creation
- 5) to jointly encourage public policies and regulations at the European level against delocalizations, job insecurity and precarity, and in favour of the promotion of long-term sustainable employment, worker participation and democratic corporate governance, labour inclusion of disadvantaged workers, the recovery of enterprises in crisis and the coordination of economic activities in enterprises threatened by closures

This agreement between ETUC and CECOP should also encourage the establishment of a more general partnership between ETUC and Cooperatives Europe, of which CECOP is a constituent part.