



CECOP
CICOPA Europe

**European Confederation of
Worker Cooperatives,
Social cooperatives and
social and participative enterprises**

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Brussels, 07 March 2007

To the co-presidents of Cooperatives Europe Pauline Green and Etienne Pflimlin

Dear co-presidents,

The CECOP board, at its meeting of 27 February, discussed and considered the general situation of the European cooperative movement, also in reference to the impacts on worker and social cooperatives, involve in industrial and service activities.

There are big concerns among the Board members. The ongoing attacks that, from various parts – national and European - are stated to the European Commission and to the court of justice in order to discuss the forms of recognition of the cooperative enterprise specificity, are without any precedent in the history of the European Union.

Moreover, it runs counter to the recent European measures, among which the statute of the European cooperative society is the most important, that have been extremely useful in recognising and valorising this specificity.

Dear colleagues, the CECOP board believes that it is the proper moment to deploy all the available resources of intelligence, relationships, ability of political action in order to try to avert unfair initiatives which seriously penalise the cooperative enterprises. In this prospect, we ask for your help, as our representatives, in order to carry out any form of initiative and we remain entirely available for any possible support that turns out to be useful to our common cause. In particular, you can consider that we are immediately available to contribute to building a strong argumentation dossier explaining the rationale behind specific fiscal policies for cooperatives.

Best regards,

Felice SCALVINI
President

C/ Rainer Schlüter, director of Cooperatives Europe and Agnès Mathis, vice director of Cooperatives Europe
C / Presidents and directors of the European cooperative sectoral organisations