

COGECA
Agricultural and Fisheries Coops.

Cooperative Banks of the EC

RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT on the

**Consultation on the contribution of European cooperative
organisations to the development policy of the EC on 23 June 1988
in Brussels**

CONTENTS

1. Welcome, and opening of the meeting by Mario MIONI, President of COGECA .

2. From LOME III to LOME IV - What importance does the European Commission attach to cooperative development aid ?

AJ. FAIRCLOUGH, Deputy Director General, Commission of the EC

3. Cooperatives in development cooperation - importance, successes and failures, alternative ideas. Prof. Dr. H.H. MUNKNER, Director of the "Institut für Kooperation in Entwicklungslandern", Marburg

4. Practical experiences in cooperative development work:

- *Cooperatives in Botswana*
E. PARNELL, Director of the PLUNKETT FOUNDATION for Cooperative Studies, Oxford (UK)
- *Agricultural and Credit Cooperatives in South America*
J. HEINS, Section Head, Deutscher Genossenschaftsund Raiffeisenverband DGRV Bonn
- *Training in cooperative banks in Africa*
M MAZIERE Charge de Missions (International Relations), Chambre Syndicale oer Banques Populaires, Paris
- *Cooperative aid for Agricultural reform and rural development in Nicaragua*
A CAMANZI , Director of the Italian CoOperative Union LEGA' Brussels

5. The involvement of EC cooperative organisations in the Community's development policy - requirements and needs

E PARNELL, Director of the PLUNKETT FOUNDATION for Cooperative Studies, Oxford (UK)

6. Summary of the discussion

7. Record of attendance

I.

Welcome and opening of the meeting

On behalf of COGECA and the EC Grouping of Cooperative Banks, the President of COGECA, Mr. MIONI, gave a very warm welcome to the numerous representatives of the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee, the Parliament and the Council, as well as to the representatives of individual ACP countries attending the meeting.

He reminded those present of the dual purpose of this event: firstly, the results of the study completed in 1987 (*) should serve as a basis for an exchange of information and views on the cooperative development work that had been, and was being, carried out. Secondly, this was also a fitting occasion to discuss with those in positions of political responsibility the increased participation of cooperative organisations in EC development policy.

It was generally acknowledged that involving those circles of the population concerned in development activities was vitally important to the success of measures aimed towards rural and agricultural development. For over a hundred years European cooperative organisations had successfully been carrying out this idea and that was why they had played a significant role in rural and agricultural development in Western Europe.

Cooperatives, which were part of the private sector, worked within a market economy and had to establish themselves as economic undertakings, could play a far more significant role in developing economic life in the rural and agricultural areas of poorer countries in the world, whilst, at the same time, maintaining the social and cultural values of the socio-economic groups concerned. The agricultural sector was the key to all types of development in most of the countries concerned, as had once again been shown at the World Food Conference convened by the President of the European Parliament in Brussels on 7 - 8 April 1988. The European cooperative organisations could and should also play a more active part in this development process. Consultation should help to lend further clarity to the way in which rural and agricultural development could be supported with the help of cooperative organisations as part of an EC development policy.

* * Agricultural Credit and Cooperatives in the ACP Countries. 1987 Report