

Confederación Española de Cooperativas de Trabajo Asociado

**COCETA**

Bruselas, 26 Septiembre 2017

**26 Septiembre. 09:00h a 17:30h**



# Conference “Transfer of enterprises to worker cooperatives and the role of public authorities - an under-estimated alternative to prevent closing-down of enterprises?”

**26 September 2017 Committee of Regions**

**rue Van Maerlant, 2, B-1000 Brussels (room VM1)**

**Programme**

In the upcoming years, a high number of small and medium enterprises all over Europe risk to cease activities if owners do not find any successor.

At the same time, a number of enterprises close down due to economic difficulties or simply a change of strategy (e.g. delocalization). Countries such as France, Spain or Italy, however, have shown that even in such cases a take-over of the enterprise by employees might be possible.

Even though workers’ buy-out (the transfer of enterprises to worker cooperatives) cannot be considered as a panacea, it has been up to now much ignored and/or under-estimated as an option by policy-makers, enterprise owners and employees in many EU Member States.

This conference, held in the framework of the Saving Jobs! Initiative - one of two pilot projects on workers’ buy-out supported by the European Commission - aims to shed light at the context in which worker buy-outs may or may not happen. Social economy players, public authorities, trade unions and civil society representatives will discuss key elements of successful transfers, the situation in different EU member states, as well as the role local and regional authorities can play in creating a conducive environment. How to move on at European level, in the context of discussions around an action plan for the social economy, the future of EU cohesion policy, the new Skills Agenda…, … ?

## 9h30 Welcome

*Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe and President of COCETA Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President, Committee of the Regions*

*Jan Olsson, Co-President, European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy (REVES aisbl)*

## 9h45 Saving Jobs! – the project

*Paloma Arroyo, Director, COCETA*

## 10h Panel discussion: Transfer of enterprises to employees - Discussion around the state of the art of policy in four EU Member States

*Moderator: Dorotea Daniele, DIESIS*

* Alfredo Chourraut, COCETA/ANEL (ES)
* Simon Borkin, Cooperatives UK
* Elsa Brander, Kooperationen (DK)
* Janusz Paszkowski, President, National Auditing Union of Workers’ Cooperatives (PL)

*Q&A*

## 11h00 Break

**Ingredients for successful worker buy-outs: Inspiring practice cases and the role of public authorities I**

*Moderator: Erdmuthe Klaer-Morselli, Deputy Secretary-General, REVES aisbl*

## 11h15

**Communication/Information**

*Didier Goetghebeur, Union des SCOP (BE)*

Reactions : Pablo Sánchez, UCOMUR (ES), Elio Azzolina, Fondazione di Comunità di Messina (IT) *Q&A*

**Advice (Accompanying services)**

*Paloma Tarazona, FEVECTA (ES)*

Reactions: Kooperationen (DK)

Q&A

## 12h30 Lunch

**Ingredients for successful worker buy-outs: Inspiring practice cases and the role of public authorities II**

*Moderator: Manuel Mariscal, President CICOPA & Vicepresident CECOP. COCETA (ES)*

## 13h30 Financial support

Flora Kocovski, SOWECSOM (BE)

Maitane Alvarez, ELKARGI SGR (ES)

Felice Scalvini, Deputy Mayor, City of Brescia, President of Assifero (IT)

*Q&A*

## 14h00 Motivation of workers/employees

Gérard Cazorla, President, SCOP TI (FR)

CCOO (ES)

ETUC (tbc)

*Q&A*

## 14h30 The crucial role of an adapted training offer

*Moderator: Emilio Sampedro, Secretary COCETA (ES)*

Reactions: Saturnino Martin (COCETA-FAECTA ES), Simon Borkin (Cooperatives UK), Urszula Fila-Kicman (NAUWC, PL), Elsa Brander (Kooperationen, DK)

*Q&A*

## 15h00 Break

**15h15 Panel discussion: Role of public authorities (local/regional/national level)**

*Moderator: Luigi Martignetti, REVES aisbl*

* Ourania Antonopoulou, Alternate Minister of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity, Greece
* Didier Goetghebeur, Union des SCOP (BE)
* Philippe Chesneau, former vice-president of the PACA region and former co-president of REVES (FR)
* Roser Hernández Gurrera, Deputy Director General for the Social Economy, Third Sector, Cooperatives and Self-Entrepreneurship, Catalunya region (ES)
* Nuria Fuentes García Lax, Director General for the Social Economy of Region Murcia (ES)

## 16h15 What next at European level?

*Moderator: Stellina Galitopoulou, OECD LEED programme Introduction: Bruno Roelants, Secretary General, CICOPA*

* + Ulla Engelmann, European Commission, Head of Unit, Clusters, Social Economy&Entrepreneurship, DG Growth
  + Jens Nilsson, MEP
  + Giuseppe Guerini, President of CECOP, Member of the EESC
  + Susanne Westhausen, Director, Kooperationen (DK)/Vice-President Cooperatives Europe

**Wrapping up**: *Carmen Pastor, University of Alicante (Spain)*

**Closing by**: *Juan Antonio Pedreño, President of Social Economy Europe and President of COCETA*

Interpretation from/into English, French and Spanish, with a possibility to speak Italian

Access to the conference venue: [https://www.google.fr/maps/place/Rue+Van+Maerlant+2,+1000+Bruxelles,+Belgique/@50.8408705,4.375217](https://www.google.fr/maps/place/Rue%2BVan%2BMaerlant%2B2%2C%2B1000%2BBruxelles%2C%2BBelgique/%4050.8408705%2C4.375217) 2,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x47c3c499465aa1dd:0x9de98e307afe6baf!8m2!3d50.8408705!4d4.37740 59

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*This project has received financing from the European Commission*