

Manchester Co-operative Week

ICA-Europe and CCACE Regional Assembly

Manchester 9 – 11 November 2006

Castlefield – Joel Filles, Marketing Manchester



A co-operative building – Ethos public relations

New Century House – Ethos public relations



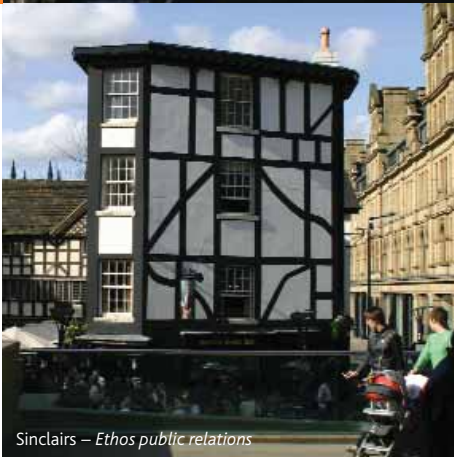
MEN wheel – Ethos public relations



Urbis – Ethos public relations



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Sinclairs – Ethos public relations

We welcome you to the conference

COOPERATIVES EUROPE is delighted to welcome you to its premier event for 2006: the ICA Europe and CCACE Regional Assembly which will be preceded by a European Conference on the subject, "Co-operatives: the Alternative Business Model for Good Governance and Sustainable Development."

These three days of events will be a milestone in the life of the European co-operative movement. The programme will include sectoral meetings, the European Conference with its thematic workshops led by members and partners, and of course the Regional Assembly where the COOPERATIVES EUROPE evaluation and performance reports will be presented.

It is important for the future of the European co-operative movement that there is a realisation and understanding about what is currently at stake: **the unification** of European Co-operatives within one member and intersectoral representative structure. The aim of this unification is to represent and defend **co-operative principles and values**; to co-ordinate and optimise all the means available to **promote** the horizontal aspects of the Co-operative Movement and to argue in support for the **recognition** of a specific framework for co-operatives with legislators and policy makers.

It is therefore important that you are part of this event and contribute to meeting the challenges that the European co-operative movement is taking up. The co-operators present in Manchester will give the co-operative movement the possibility to fully open-up to the 21st century. Following in the footsteps of the 19th century Rochdale Pioneers, they will start a new modern era based on the strengths and greater visibility of European co-operatives.

We look forward to meeting you in Manchester and joining with you in lively debate.

Pauline Green and Etienne Pflimlin
Co-Presidents, COOPERATIVES EUROPE



Welcome from Martin Beaumont

Dear fellow co-operators,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Manchester for the European Conference and the ICA-Europe and CCACE Regional Assembly.

Manchester is at the heart of the North West of England and at its heart is the birthplace of the co-operative movement – Toad Lane in Rochdale.

As Chief Executive of the Co-operative Group, which has its head office here in Manchester, I am delighted that the beginnings of the Movement are quite literally on our doorstep. I am even more delighted that the values and principles established by the founders of the movement in the nineteenth century are still alive and well, and as relevant to today's

consumers as they were to customers of the original co-operatively-owned store.

I am proud to say that this year the Co-operative Group, the largest consumer co-operative in the UK, is embarking on a reinvigoration of our co-operative brand and our new identity – The co-operative – will proclaim more loudly than ever before in neighbourhoods and on High Streets across the country, that we have something unique to offer. To accompany the new look we have also reintroduced the dividend, which has been enthusiastically welcomed by our members.

Our renewed commitment to proudly declaring our co-operative identity demonstrates how we at the Group firmly believe the co-operative way is the best way; as I'm sure do all of you.

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Your guide to all the key events



the Co-operative Group



COOPERATIVES EUROPE

I am confident that this conference, organised by COOPERATIVES EUROPE, will provide a great opportunity to discuss and debate how we can all build on our co-operative heritage and move forward together to face the challenges of the future.

I hope you all have a wonderful few days in Manchester.

Yours in co-operation,

Martin Beaumont
Chief Executive,
the Co-operative Group



- DELIVERING SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT & DEVELOP CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES ACROSS EUROPE.
- ACHIEVING ECONOMIC SUCCESS AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES WITH A BASE OF 235,000 ENTERPRISES, 5.485 MILLION JOBS AND 140 MILLION MEMBERS.
- A COMMON PLATFORM – ICA EUROPE & CCACE – FOR CONSULTATION, RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERS' SERVICES.

www.coopseurope.coop

Manchester Co-operative Week



"Having some sort of multi-stakeholder co-ops, mutual organisations running our public services is a much better model than it being done from Whitehall."

Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears MP – *Chair of the Labour Party*

Manchester Co-operative Week is bringing together a number of differing co-operative meetings into an exciting event. Over 400 co-operators from 25 countries are expected in Manchester during these few days. As well as the formal agenda there will be plenty of opportunity for people to meet old friends from across Europe and to meet new people.

There will be both open meetings and invite-only meetings looking at a wider range of co-operative issues. Some of the issues will be sector specific such as the ICA's agricultural organisation and the European Seminar for CECOP, the worker co-operative organisation.

The conference workshops are going to provide an ideal opportunity to find out what is happening in the various co-operative sectors. Each workshop will focus on a specific theme and will include contributions from some of Europe's leading co-operators.

And don't forget the Gala Evening on Friday, 10th. This will be the perfect way to end an exciting conference day.

But as the timetable on the centre pages shows there are lots of things for everyone. So whether you are in Manchester to attend the European Conference, or to attend one of the meetings taking place you are sure of an interesting visit.

"The final aim of co-operative projects is the improvement of people's quality of life. This aim is met by the objectives of the consumer co-operatives in Russia, as socially responsible enterprises."

Galina Kiseleva – *Chairperson of the Board of Centrosojuz RG*



COOPERATIVES EUROPE has made every effort to ensure that the information in this magazine is correct, but we cannot accept responsibility for any omissions or errors. Inevitably, some of the details published may change before the European Conference and Regional Assembly take place, so we would ask you to visit www.coopseurope.coop for up-to-date information. At the event itself, amended information will be made available, as required.

The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of COOPERATIVES EUROPE.

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For more information about anything you have read in this magazine please contact COOPERATIVES EUROPE, Square Ambiorix 32, bte 2 – BE 1000, Brussels, Belgium. Tel: +32 2 280 16 09; Fax: +32 2 235 28 69; Email: office@coopseurope.coop

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Co-operatives and the European Union



"Co-operatives should be better taken into account in the European policies, particularly in the European Social Dialogue." *2nd European Convention, June 2005*

Vladimír Špidla – Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities

COOPERATIVES EUROPE was created on 1st March 2005 in order to link the existing co-operative forces at a European level. This integration process continues in 2006. An important aim is to improve the visibility of co-operatives within the institutions of the European Union. The facts and figures themselves show the importance of the European co-operative sector but a lot still needs to be done to make this importance more widely known.

COOPERATIVES EUROPE has highlighted with the European Commission the complete lack of reference to co-operatives in their action plan for developing the European Union approach to the revision of Company Law. This omission is of particular concern when the European Co-operative Statute is currently being transposed into national laws. Equally, it has been reported that several co-operative sectors could be adversely affected by the ongoing revisions of Competition Law.

COOPERATIVES EUROPE is also calling for the actions, outlined in the Commission's Communication on the promotion of co-operative societies in Europe, to be enacted for the period 2007-11 with adequate budgetary provision within the multi-annual program for innovation and enterprise.

It is a major task to create within the European Union, standards and legislation taking into account the specific needs of co-operatives as the IAS challenge has shown. I am sure you will agree with me that it is therefore of utmost importance to have a single yet powerful voice from the co-operative sectors across Europe.

Rendez-vous in Manchester for Co-operative Week, 9th-11th November 2006.

Rainer Schlüter
Director, COOPERATIVES EUROPE

Getting to Know One Another

Over the years that I have been involved with the co-operative movement, governments and the European Union, it has become clear to me that one of the biggest issues facing us is how we are perceived by decision makers.



On the local scale it is important that our national governments understand their local co-operative movement so that they can really involve them in the decisions that affect the national economy. In many countries the co-operative movement has, for a variety of reasons, become undervalued and in some cases, almost forgotten. This leads to government decision making ignoring the contribution made by co-operatives.

At the international level we have made strides to increase our recognition. Within the EU we have spent a great deal of time ensuring commissioners and officials understand the economic benefit delivered by co-operatives, the huge number of people employed in our sector and the innovation within co-operative enterprises.

This conference is a great way to increase awareness of our international movement and it is therefore really pleasing to me to see senior EU commissioners and officials here, along with our own UK ministers and MPs.

When you return home from Manchester to your respective countries and co-operative organisations, can I encourage you to reinforce your engagement with your national political institutions, so that our co-operatives have the economic and political environment to flourish.

Dame Pauline Green
Chief Executive, Co-operatives^{UK}

Conference Workshops

Workshop 1 (WS1):

Corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and sustainable development

the Co-operative Group

Crédit Mutuel
LA banque à qui parler
www.creditmutuel.com

Chair: Meg Munn MP
Rapporteur: Dr Carl-Friedrich Leuschner, DGRV
Speaker 1: Etienne Pflimlin, Crédit Mutuel
Speaker 2: Thomas Walker, Institut für Unternehmensethik
Speaker 3: Kate Daley, The Co-operative Bank
Speaker 4: Boris Kevrin, Centrosojuz – Aims of sustainable development

Working languages: English/French and Russian

These concepts, considered as cosmetic by some but as vital components of a responsible economy by others, are fundamental to co-operative enterprise. In fact, as co-operatives combine economic and social objectives and function on democratic principles, they have a unique responsibility to address such issues.

Inevitably, within the European co-operative movement, the approach towards these concepts varies from country to country, by sector and according to the size of the enterprise. This workshop sets out to examine the different co-operative attitudes towards these issues, and how perceptions vary. It will also examine how co-operatives could be integrated into European Union initiatives like the project of the Alliance for Corporate Social Responsibility or code of governance projects.

Workshop 2 (WS2):

Communities in regeneration: the mutual ownership of land and housing, a vision for the future



Chair: Andy Love MP
Rapporteur: Helen Seymour, Co-operatives^{UK}
Speaker 1: Gün-Britt Martensson, HSB
Speaker 2: Alain Lusardi, Federabitazione Europe – 'She Project'
Speaker 3: David Rodgers, CDS Co-operative Housing
Speaker 4: Sandy Murray, Tenants First Housing Co-operative, Aberdeen

Working languages: English/French

Community Land Trusts were pioneered to allow low to average income households gain access to homes and land. They balance the needs of the individual for affordable decent housing, the interests of the community and the requirements of future generations. This workshop explores the Scottish experience, the mutual models being developed to meet urban and rural housing needs in England and, among others, the Italian and Swedish experiences and practices in co-operative housing.

Workshop 3 (WS3): Building a dynamic co-operative image through theory and practice



Chair: Sandro Bonella, Luzatti Institute
Rapporteur: Roger Spear, Open University
Speaker 1: Jemima Tomlinson, the Co-operative Group
Speaker 2: Dot Coop
Speaker 3: Diego Schelfi, Federazione Cooperative Trentina – ECICS
Speaker 4: José Luis Monzon, CIRIEC – Co-operative satellite accounts Presentation of the Global 300 Project

Working languages: English/French and passive Italian

Throughout Europe, co-operatives compared to other business forms face difficulties in marketing their values, differences and advantages. This is partly due to a lack of economic and management theory and education on co-operative enterprises, but also to the absence of co-operative branding experiences and shared tools to make co-operatives more visible.

This workshop will present the work of a European co-operative 'Think Tank' in Trento – a centre for strategic thinking on co-operative futures based on research, education and training. It will compare best practice in branding exercises, like the one from the UK Co-operative Group, and will also explore how a widespread use of the 'dot coop' web domain name throughout Europe could enhance the image and visibility of co-operatives.

Workshop 4 (WS4): Co-operative development – partnerships, best practices and innovation



Chair:	Felice Scalvini, Confcooperative
Rapporteur:	Jan Olsson, CESE
Introduction:	Co-operatives & TSR process – Gaetano Giunta, REVES
Speaker 1:	Luca Facta, Federsolidarieta – Policies of dialogue for social & professional inclusion of the prisoners of Turin
Speaker 2:	David Boyle, Supporters Direct
Speaker 3:	Elisabeth Bost – Activity & employment co-operatives

Working languages: English/French and passive Italian

Faced with the challenges of globalisation and new technologies, co-operative enterprises are having to strengthen their existing skills and implement new operational strategies to maintain their economic growth and sustainability whilst continuing to meet the needs of their communities.

This workshop will explore the necessary tools, resources and services that can be adopted through partnerships at a local level, exploring the town twinning experiences of the REVES network; the sharing of best practice, such as social co-operatives in Italy, and activity and employment co-operatives in France, and the promotion of new and innovative ways of promoting the co-operative enterprise model.

Workshop 5 (WS5): Integrated co-operative systems – working together



Chair:	Pauline Green, COOPERATIVES EUROPE
Rapporteur:	Marie Zvolzka, SCMVD
Introduction:	Iain Macdonald, ICA
Speaker 1:	François Soulage, Coop Est, Esfin-Ides
Speaker 2:	Petar Stefanov, CCU
Speaker 3:	Galina Kiseleva, Centrosojuz – Development of an integration process
Working languages:	English/French and Russian

'Co-operation among co-operatives' is one of the co-operative principles and as such is one of the key factors, if not the major factor, of co-operative success. Nevertheless, integrated inter-sectoral national co-operative organisations are the exception in Europe. There is very little co-operation between the different co-operative business sectors or between east, west, north and south. As yet, building a Co-operative to Co-operative (C2C) market place or implementing preferential co-operative buying is not a strategy for most of the co-operative organisations in the European region.

This workshop will share good practice cases like the Italian inter-sectoral co-operative organisations Legacoop and ConfCooperative, the more recent processes of Co-operatives^{UK}, and the Bulgarian experience; it will look at local co-operative champions achieved through inter-co-operation in the Trentino region in Italy and the Basque country in Spain and at east-west co-operation in the form of Coop-Est and Chèque Déjeuner in France.

Workshop 6 (WS6): The European Co-operative Society – an opportunity for innovation and growth



Chair:	Chantal Chomel
Rapporteur:	Giuliano Poletti, Legacoop
Introduction:	Apostolos Ioakimidis, DG ENTR
Speaker 1:	Agnès Mathis, Cooperatives Europe – The SCE vade-mecum
Speaker 2:	Mauro Iengo, Legacoop – Towards SCE: democracy & participation in co-operative enterprises & co-operative groups. An example of SCE: Coopernic
Speaker 3:	Alain Bonanmy, FCCGA – Co-operative craft groups

Working languages: English/French and passive Italian

It has taken more than 15 years, but from 18th August 2006 the opportunity for establishing a European Co-operative Society (SCE) became a reality, thanks to new EU legislation.

Obviously, many co-operative enterprises have not waited for this statute to expand their activities beyond national borders but now, with a specific legal instrument for co-operatives, cross border co-operative operations should be able to develop in a more predictable way.

This workshop will have the dual objectives of providing concrete examples of the SCE projects which are being set up, and sharing co-operative understanding of the implementation of the SCE in national legislation.

Our Sponsors

Co-operatives^{UK}



Co-operatives^{UK} is the national member-owned and led organisation for the co-operative sector in the United Kingdom. Co-operatives^{UK} works to promote co-operative solutions, increase awareness and understanding of co-operative values and principles, and supports the development and growth of new and existing co-operatives. It is a focal point for the sector, a forum for innovation and best practice, and a strategic voice for the UK co-operative movement. Membership is open to all organisations that support our work.

Visit our main web site at:

<http://www.cooperatives-uk.coop> and our online database of UK co-operative enterprise at <http://uk.coop>

The Co-operative Group

the Co-operative Group

The Co-operative Group is the UK's largest consumer co-operative society and is made up of a family of businesses which together touch on most aspects of people's lives.

The Group is a food retailer, banker, insurer, funeral director, travel agent, pharmacist and farmer. It also has a successful property business, managing both trading and investment properties. The latest addition to the family is Co-operative Legal Services. Launched earlier this year, CLS enables the Group to offer legal services to its members and ultimately its customers.

The Society employs over 68,000 people, operates more than 3,000 High Street outlets as well as online businesses and has an annual turnover of £8 billion. It has approximately 13 million customers and accounts for 65% of the UK's Retail Co-operative Movement.

The Group's vision is to be 'The best co-operative business in the world'. To achieve that, as well as operating a successful set of businesses, other key ingredients it is working to ensure are in place are an active, thriving membership and a social agenda that reflects its co-operative values and principles.

Revitalising consumer membership is therefore at the heart of the Society's current brand rejuvenation programme, which will see all of its outlets united under a common identity – The co-operative.

The payment of a dividend to members has been reintroduced along with a range of exclusive benefits. Members can also get involved with shaping the direction of the Society by playing an

active part in its campaigns whether they are focusing on protecting the environment or promoting fair trade, joining online discussions and of course standing for election to committees and ultimately the Board of Directors.

2006 has also seen the Group launch its social goals strategy, which focuses on climate change, social inclusion, food integrity, modern co-operation and tackling crime.

Bringing these strands together - successful businesses offering the best possible products and services to members and customers, a membership offer that is meaningful and exciting and a social goals agenda that chimes with the interests of its members – is the focus for the Society as it moves towards achieving its vision.

To find out more visit www.co-operative.co.uk

United Co-operatives



United Co-operatives is the UK's largest independent co-operative society. With an annual turnover of more than £2.1 billion, it employs over 16,200 staff, at more than 1,000 retail outlets throughout the North Midlands, North Wales, the North West, Yorkshire and Northern Ireland.

The Society can trace its history back to the original Rochdale Pioneers Society which was formed in 1844 and is credited with being the first successful co-operative society in the world.

The Society's main trading groups are: food, travel, retail cars, pharmacy and funerals. United Co-operatives also has a rapidly-expanding internet presence as well as extensive property interests throughout its trading area.

The Society is committed to being Your Community Retailer and in 2000 adopted a stakeholder strategy designed to reward three key stakeholder groups for their contribution to the success of the business. The three key stakeholder groups are: the Society's members, staff and the communities in which United operates.

Membership is of vital importance to United and in recent years it has seen attendances at its 20 twice-yearly Members' Meetings more than double.

As part of its commitment to its local communities, the Society established its own charity, the Co-operative Foundation, which aims to support groups and individuals who are developing co-operative solutions to community challenges. To date, the Society's Board of Directors has made endowment donations totalling £8.1 million to the Foundation which, in turn has made over 400 awards totalling more than £2.3 million to charities and community groups.

Midlands Co-operative Society Limited



Midlands Co-op is the second largest independent retail Co-operative Society in the UK.

Midlands Co-op formed in 1995, with the merger of Central Midlands Co-operative Society Limited and Leicestershire Co-operative Society Limited. More recent mergers have been with Chesterfield and District Co-operative Society Limited in 2001, with Desborough Industrial Co-operative Society in May 2006, and with Ilkeston Consumer Society (subject to the completion of formalities) in November this year.

Today, Midlands Co-op is a modern, forward-looking organisation employing some 7,500 staff, with gross sales in excess of £744 million. Our principal areas of activity are Retail – food and non-food; Travel; Funeral Services, and Transport. We also have a substantial investment property portfolio. We have over 400 trading outlets.

Although we trade principally in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and the Greater Midlands, we also have trading outlets in Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

International Co-operative Alliance



represent more than 800 million individuals worldwide.

The ICA is an independent, non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, ICA has 227 member organisations from 91 countries active in all sectors of the economy. Together these co-operatives

UK Co-operative Forum

The UK Co-operative Forum is a co-operative movement-wide body, managed and serviced by Co-operatives^{UK}. It seeks to bring the different sectors of the movement together for common cause and common actions.

It provides the opportunity to share ideas, good practice and information between sectors of the co-operative movement, a forum to explore concerns of the different sectors of the co-operative movement, resolve practical issues of common concern, and give mutual support, as well as particular support to smaller sectors. It also provides an opportunity for the discussion of strategic issues affecting co-operatives in general and a forum for new ideas relevant to co-operatives.

It also pursues actions and initiatives to raise the profile of the co-operative option and issues of common concern with policy makers, opinion-formers and the world at large.

Membership is open to all federal bodies within the co-operative, mutual and employee ownership sector and strategic organisations within the movement.

domains.coop



domains.coop is a trading group of the Midcounties Co-operative Ltd., one of the UK's most innovative consumer-owned businesses.

In partnership with a number of co-operatives around the world, **domains.coop** offer you the chance to register and manage your own domain names – in particular, **.coop** names – as well as tools for your web site and email addresses.

In today's crowded marketplace, your organisation's web address plays a central role to your marketing strategy. Co-operatives worldwide are registering .coop to brand themselves online. .coop has quickly become the most effective tool to market your co-operative advantage, highlighting your cooperative values and putting Co-operatives in front of over 1 billion Internet users!

Visit our booth to find out more about how to register your .coop name and instantly become part of the Global Online Cooperative Directory!

You can also visit our web sites for more details on our range of Internet services:

www.europe.domains.coop (for all Europe customers)
www.uk.domains.coop (for all UK and Ireland customers)
www.domains.coop (for all other customers)

Useful Manchester Information

Manchester: A 21st Century Metropolis

Manchester is a vibrant, bustling city which has reinvented itself over the last decade. It now boasts one of the UK's leading retail centres with a wide range of quality shopping outlets – many within a five minute walk of New Century House. There are many restaurants, cafes and bars and the gay scene is famous, as is Manchester's Chinatown. Chinatown not only offers a superb selection of Oriental cuisine, but is also the hub of one of the UK's largest Chinese communities.

Two Premiership football clubs – Manchester United and Manchester City – lie at the heart of Manchester's sporting obsession and at least one match takes place most weekends during the season. Tours of Manchester United can be arranged and there is a Club Museum.



Old Trafford – Manchester United, Marketing Manchester

Manchester is of course a tale of two cities as, "over the river" in Salford, there is now much of interest to visitors. The Lowry Museum and Theatre, Libeskind's Imperial War Museum North and Salford Quays are all well worth visiting, and just a tram ride from the City Centre.

Culturally, Manchester also has lots to offer. Urbis, the museum of the city, is just a stone's throw away from New Century House (you can't miss the dramatic glass building). The Museum of Science and Industry and Manchester Art Gallery are both within easy reach in the city centre. Castlefield Conservation



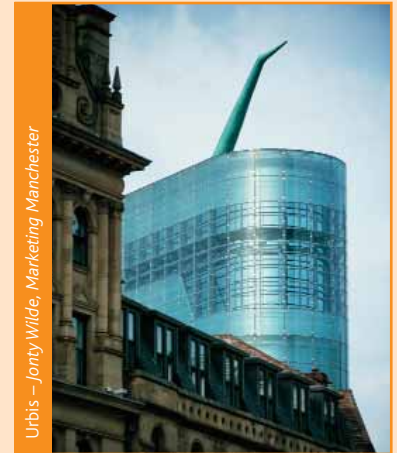
Salford Quays – Joel Fildes, Marketing Manchester

area, the Roman heart of Manchester, is great for a stroll and the Cathedral, Town Hall and John Rylands Library are all very interesting. A plethora of good theatres and concert venues provide a world class entertainment programme.

For co-operators, no visit to Manchester would be complete without a visit to the People's Pumphouse Museum – the national centre for the collection, conservation, interpretation and study of material relating to the history of working people in Britain. Don't forget to visit the Co-op shop there!

Enjoy your time in Manchester...

■ <http://www.manchester.gov.uk/visitorcentre>



Urbis – Jonty Wilde, Marketing Manchester

Badges

Everyone attending the Conference and Regional Assembly will receive an identification badge. You will only be able to access events by presenting this badge, therefore you are strongly recommended to wear it at all times. If you lose your badge please contact the conference reception desk on the ground floor of New Century House.

Social Events

On Friday there will be a Gala Evening at the Midland Hotel starting with a drinks reception at 19.30. Please note delegates need to make their own way to the hotel.

Visits

If you expressed an interest to go on the trip to Suma Wholefoods or to Toad Lane Museum in Rochdale, please refer to the joining instructions sent to you.

Internet Cafe

Internet access, kindly provided by Midcounties Co-operative Society and Domains.coop, will be available on the ground floor at the end of the exhibition corridor.

Lunches and Refreshments

Lunches will be served in the Restaurant in the Basement of New Century House. Tea and coffee will be served within the exhibition areas in the Lancaster Suite and on the first floor of New Century House.

Taxis

There is a taxi rank outside the main entrance to New Century House. There is another rank outside the entrance to Victoria train station which is less than 5 minutes walk away.



Piccadilly – Joel Fildes, Marketing Manchester

Car Parking

There is ample parking in the vicinity of New Century Hall. There are long stay car parks on Miller Street (4 to 24 hours: £6; Saturday and Sunday credit card payment only), at Victoria Station (2 to 24 hours: £5) and at the MEN Arena (3 to 24 hours: £5.50; Sundays £2.50); There is limited on-street parking around New Century Hall, and some disabled spaces, however these quickly get taken.

■ www.ncp.co.uk

Metroshuttle Free Bus Service

Metroshuttle operates free, easy access buses and links all of the city centre railway stations, the main NCP car parks and many bus stops and tram stops.

There are three free Metroshuttle circular routes and Service 2 (Green) runs from Victoria Station, close to New Century House. This service runs Monday to Saturday, 7am – 7pm, about every 5 minutes and Sunday 10am to 6pm, about every 10 minutes. It serves: Victoria Station, Manchester Cathedral, Deansgate, Castlefield, Deansgate

Station, Oxford Road Station, Science Museum, Deansgate, King St West, Corporation St, Victoria Station.

For details of the other free services and more information about public transport in Manchester visit the GMPT website.

■ www.gmpete.co.uk

Disabled Access / Facilities

There is disabled access to all areas of the conference. Access is available via lifts and ramps. There are disabled toilets on all floors.

Induction Loop System

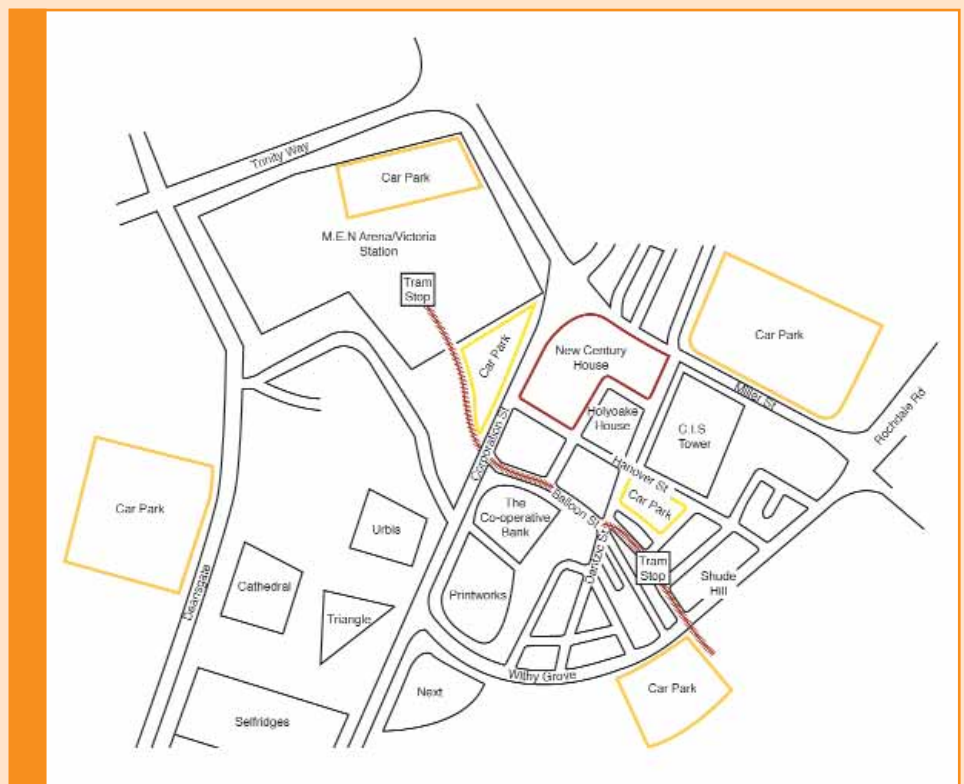
There is an induction loop in place.

Medical Facilities

There will be qualified first-aiders based on site throughout the conference.

Emergency & Evacuation Procedure

A continuous ringing of bells means that all visitors must proceed immediately, via the nearest fire exit to the assembly point on the New Century House forecourt. In the event of a security alert, Co-operative Group emergency personnel will direct visitors to a place of safety.



Thursday 9 November – Parallel Meeting and Registration of Participants

Time	Event	Venue
07.30 – 20.30	Registration of participants, co-operative and fair trade exhibition, business and co-operative cluster visits	New Century House
08.30 – 11.00	IHCO – The fundraising seminar for co-operative projects	Lancaster 2
09.00 – 13.00	CECOP Board Meeting	Lancaster 1
09.00 – 15.00	ICAO/IFAP joint workshop	William King Room, Holyoake House
10.30 – 16.00	Co-operative College – Co-operative Development Agencies	CIS Boardroom
11.30 – 18.00	IHCO Board Meeting	New Century House, 13th Floor
14.00 – 17.00	ICA Communications Committee	Scott Bader Room, Holyoake House
14.00 – 17.00	the Co-operative Group – Building the new co-operative brand	New Century House, Main Hall
14.00 – 18.00	CECOP European Seminar: Social Enterprises and Worker Co-operatives – Comparing models of corporate governance and social inclusion	Lancaster 1
16.00 – 18.00	ICAO General Assembly	William King Room, Holyoake House
16.00 – 18.00	COOPERATIVES EUROPE – European Council	Lancaster 2

Friday 10 November – European Conference

08.00	Registration of participants	New Century House
09.00	Welcome: Ben Reid, Chair of Co-operatives ^{UK} Keynote Speech: Ed Balls MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, UK Civic Welcome: Councillor Val Stevens, Deputy Leader, Manchester City Council Introduction to the Conference: Martin Beaumont, CEO, the Co-operative Group	New Century House, Main Hall
09.45	Co-operatives: the alternative business model... added value for Europe Dame Pauline Green, Etienne Pflimlin – Co-Presidents of COOPERATIVES EUROPE	New Century House, Main Hall
10.30	Co-operatives: meeting the challenges from the EU Speakers: Philippe Busquin, European Parliament Françoise Le Bail, SME Envoy & Deputy Director DG Enterprise & Industry	New Century House, Main Hall
11.00	Refreshment break and networking	Exhibition Areas
11.30	Workshops in parallel – first session: WS1: Corporate governance, CSR and sustainable development WS2: Communities in regeneration: the mutual ownership of land and housing, a vision for the future WS3: Building a dynamic co-operative image through theory and practice	New Century House, Main Hall Lancaster 1 Lancaster 2
13.30	Lunch and networking	Restaurant
15.00	Workshops in parallel – second session: WS4: Co-operative development: partnerships, best practice and innovation WS5: Integrated co-operative systems – working together WS6: The SCE: an opportunity for innovation and growth	Lancaster 1 New Century House, Main Hall Lancaster 2
17.00	Refreshment break and networking	Exhibition Areas
17.30	Plenary: roundtable on workshop outcomes Sylvia Vlaeminck, DG Enterprise and Industry, a representative of the European Economic & Social Committee, Constance Hanniffy, CoR, Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears MP, Chair of the Labour Party, Rapporteurs of the workshops	New Century House, Main Hall
19.30	Drinks Reception	Midland Hotel
20.00	Gala Dinner & entertainment	Midland Hotel

Saturday 11 November – Regional Assembly

08.00	Registration of participants	New Century House
09.00	Opening Plenary: Ivano Barberini, President of ICA, Vladimír Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	New Century House, Main Hall
09.45	COOPERATIVES EUROPE: Co-Presidents joint report, Pauline Green & Etienne Pflimlin	New Century House, Main Hall
10.30	COOPERATIVES EUROPE: activity, performance and evaluation reports Co-ordination: Rainer Schlüter, Regional Director	New Century House, Main Hall
11.30	Refreshment break and networking	Exhibition Areas
12.00	Continuation of work	New Century House, Main Hall
13.00	Lunch and networking	Restaurant
14.30	Constitutional business: • membership and finance reports • rule amendments • elections • 2007 – 2010 guidelines	New Century House, Main Hall
16.30	Refreshment break and networking	Exhibition Areas
17.00	Continuation of work	New Century House, Main Hall
18.00	End of the Regional Assembly	
18.30	Meeting of the newly elected Board	New Century House, Main Hall