

CICOPA 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY and related meetings

Geneva International Conference Centre

Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 November 2009



The sectoral organisation of the International Cooperative Alliance
for industrial, service, social and artisans' cooperatives

INVITATION – REGISTRATION – PRACTICAL DETAILS





CICOPA General Assembly and related meetings

International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' cooperatives

17 - 18 NOVEMBER 2009 – GENEVA



Message from Javier Salaberria, president of CICOPA

The General Assembly of ICA will take place in Geneva next November. This is the event that gathers the whole cooperative movement every two years.

At the General Assembly in Singapore (2007), and at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Rome in June 2008, we adopted important decisions on the composition and structure of the ICA, its objectives and its basic policies as well as the new membership and subscription fee system. All the Sectoral Organisations, including CICOPA, had a direct and effective participation to the whole restructuring process, being present and protagonist in ICA like never before. A clear proof of it is that the SOs, jointly with the "Central ICA" and the regional organisations, have now become essential parts of the "Global" ICA, as well as the statutory presence of two SO representatives on the ICA Board. Therefore, we should be actively present in these institutional moments and, at the same time, take this opportunity to consolidate our network, to know each other better, and to exchange ideas and experiences.

Moreover, this time we will have to elect the new president of the ICA who will replace Ivano Barberini, who passed away recently in the middle of his term, and who has been an example of cooperator and an untiring and lucid leader. We cannot miss the opportunity to pay him a simple and deserved tribute of appreciation and gratitude.

On the other hand –not less important- we will also convene our own General Assembly where we will analyse and decide about our statutory matters. At the same time, it is a magnificent chance for all the CICOPA members to meet and see "each other's faces". As you all well know, this is not even frequent and easy for the Executive Committee Members. We can have a "real" meeting instead of our customary "virtual" meetings. We have to take advantage of the meeting days to intensify our contacts –it is so hard during the year because of the scarcity of our resources-, to plan joint activities, to organise informal regional meetings and to resolutely move forward to structure an always more extended and cohesive cooperative movement in our sector at national, international, regional, and world level.

Finally, on the same day as a GA, a Seminar will take place. It will be centred on a really important topic: the environment. It could not be more up-to-date and appropriate, considering that the UN Conference on "climate change" will take place in Copenhagen next December. Furthermore, last March, the preparatory scientific meeting for the UN Conference of Copenhagen highlighted the importance of global and resolute actions to face

this problem. It will be a good chance to analyse our actions and contributions in this field, exchange good practices and renew our responsible commitment to participate actively and resolutely in achieving a habitable and sustainable planet.

This is the reason why we invite and call on all CICOPA members to make the necessary effort to be present at all these events in Geneva.

I would like to thank you in advance for your presence and send you my best regards. See you soon!

Javier Salaberria
President of CICOPA

CICOPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY & related meetings

17-18 November 2009 – Geneva, Switzerland

Venue

The 2009 ICA General Assembly and related events will be held in Geneva at the International Convention Centre of Geneva (Centre International de Conférences de Genève - CICG - 17 rue de Varembe).

The CICG is easily accessible by public transport with numerous bus and tram stops within 2-5 minute walking distance.

Programme

17 November 2009

8.30am – 4.00pm: CECOP – CICOPA Europe board meeting (*)
(for CECOP Board members only)



A specific call will follow

(*) interpretation in English and French with the possibility to express yourself in Italian and Spanish

4.30pm – 7.00pm : CICOPA Executive Committee (*)
(for CICOPA Executive Committee members only)

A specific call will follow

(*) interpretation in English and Spanish



18 November 2009

8.30am – 1.00pm : CICOPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY (*)
(for CICOPA members only)

2.30pm – 5.00pm : CICOPA seminar (*)
"Working together for the environment: How industrial, service, social and artisans", cooperatives can contribute to sustainable environment".

(*) for the entire day: interpretation in English, French (TBC according to French delegations) and Spanish with the possibility to express yourselves in Italian

Registration

Attention: all participants to the CICOPA GA and parallel meetings must also be registered to the ICA GA and pay the corresponding registration fee; the registration form is available at <http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/index.html>

Please use the attached registration forms, which are also available on our website (www.cicopa.coop).

We urge you to register **as soon as possible** to the general assembly/seminar.

We would like to remind you that the maximum number of representatives for the general assembly is 4 per organisation, excluding your own interpreters if it occurs.

Accommodation

For accommodation, the ICA has blocked rooms in several hotels at special prices until **15 October 2009**. You are encouraged to book your hotel very early.

Please go on www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/hotels.html

Background documents and working languages

You will receive the agenda and all the working documents in due time.

The interpretation will be provided in English and Spanish (active languages). We will possibly add more passive languages.

Important note concerning your affiliation to CICOPA and your right to participate and to vote at the General Assembly

As you already know, following a long process of restructuring of the ICA in which CICOPA took part, the ICA Extraordinary General Assembly in Rome (5-6 June 2008) approved a new structure which has implications on your continued membership of CICOPA as either a full or associate member of the ICA, or as member of a member of the ICA.

The membership fee system has been completely reviewed and, as a consequence, there will no longer be a specific subscription to be paid to CICOPA. CICOPA members have now three options to clarify their status within the ICA in order to enable them to continue participating in CICOPA (full member of the ICA, associate member of the ICA, or member of a member of the ICA). CICOPA members that were already full or associate members of the ICA on 31 December 2008 do not need to do anything, as their situation is already regularised.

Those 3 options have been explained in a letter we sent you. If you have not done it already, it is very important that you regularize your situation as soon as possible and before the general assembly. Otherwise, you will not be considered as a member of CICOPA any more and you will not have the possibility to participate to the general assembly and related meetings.

Moreover, we would also like to remind you that your organisation will have to settle its membership fees (from now on directly to the ICA head office in Geneva) in order to have the right to vote at the CICOPA General Assembly.

ICA General Assembly (19 & 20 November 2009)



ica general assembly
geneva 2009

Following the ICA restructuring, CICOPA members that were not full or associate ICA members in 2008 can register to the ICA General Assembly on 19 & 20 November 2009 (just after the CICOPA General Assembly and Seminar), once they have regularized their membership situation. In turn, CICOPA members that were already full or associate ICA members in 2008 can register without any membership regularisation to be made.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/ga2009-invite.pdf>

USEFUL INFORMATION

Other useful information on VISA, transport at your arrival, etc. can be found on:

<http://www.ica.coop/calendar/ga2009/ga2009-info.pdf>

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CICOPA seminar

International Organisation of Industrial, Artisanal and Service Producers' cooperatives

18 NOVEMBER 2009 – GENEVA

Working together for the environment:

"How industrial, service, social and artisans', cooperatives can contribute to sustainable environment"

On **18 November** in the afternoon (2pm-6pm), CICOPA organises a seminar on the environment, aimed at having a first exchange on how our cooperative sector can concretely and gradually contribute to improving the environment. Best practices on how our enterprises save energy, reduce waste, or directly engage in environment-related activities, will be presented, and a general discussion will follow.

This seminar comes at a critical time, just before the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference which will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, between December 7th and December 18th 2009. The stake of the conference will be to find a successor to the Kyoto protocol¹ planned to end up in 2012.

More specifically, climatic trends, social disruption, long-term strategy, equity dimensions, inaction and challenges will have to be examined. A preparatory scientific conference held in March this year stressed the urgency to address the aforementioned.

The European Union published in January 2009 a position paper called "Towards a comprehensive climate agreement in Copenhagen"². The communication highlights 3 main points: (1) targets and actions, stressing limits and levels that some countries should embrace, on the basis that "developed countries must lead in meeting this global goal and demonstrate that a low-carbon economy is possible and affordable"; (2) financing low-carbon development and adaptation taking into account the current economic situation and "maximising effectiveness, adequacy, efficiency, equity, accountability, coherence and predictability"; (3) mitigating GHG emissions and raising revenue on a global carbon market, fixing an emission cap and creating new offsetting mechanisms.

In view of those major commitments, it is time for our cooperatives to evaluate where they stand and how they can contribute to a sustainable planet. The conclusions of the seminar will be transmitted to UN representatives in Copenhagen.

¹ The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These amount to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012.

² COM(2009) 39 final