



*2014 International Summit of Cooperatives*

## UK positions itself as a world leader of the cooperative model

**Quebec City, Canada, August 19, 2014** — Cooperative companies not only offer sustainable solutions to the UK's socioeconomic challenges, they also represent a big part of the British economy. With a total turnover exceeding £37 billion in 2013 according to Cooperatives UK,<sup>1</sup> over 6,300 cooperative businesses rendered a variety of services to 13.5 million members. The UK will be strongly represented at the International Summit of Cooperatives by a delegation of 16 of the country's top experts, who will take part in discussions with representatives from around the world. The event, a real Davos of cooperation, will take place in Quebec City, Canada, from October 6 to 9.

British cooperatives have posted stable, sustainable growth since the last recession. While the UK's annual GDP dropped in 2009 and has not posted growth higher than 2% since then, the revenues of cooperatives have not only increased each year, they have often exceeded the British economy's growth rate during this same period.

It therefore comes as no surprise that a number of UK experts will be sharing their expertise at the Summit. The following will explain their vision of the cooperative business model:

- **Marc Bell**, President and CEO, Benenden Healthcare Society, United Kingdom
- **Rhiannon Colvin**, Founder, AltGen, United Kingdom
- **Sarah Deas**, Chief Executive, Co-operative Development Scotland, Scotland
- **Mo Girach**, Special Advisor, NHS Alliance, United Kingdom
- **James Graham**, Chief Executive, Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society, Scotland
- **Liz Green**, Senior Vice President, Communication, International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), United Kingdom
- **Robert Kelly**, President of the Board and Director, Association of British Credit Unions Ltd. (ABCUL), Scotland
- **Richard Lochhead**, Member of the Scottish Parliament, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Scotland
- **Iain MacDonald**, International Cooperative Consultant, Former Director General of the International Co-operative Alliance, United Kingdom
- **Ed Mayo**, Secretary General, Co-operatives UK, United Kingdom
- **Cliff Mills**, Principal Associate, Mutuo, United Kingdom
- **Anthony Murray**, Executive Director, Co-operative News, United Kingdom
- **Ben Reid**, CEO, The Midcounties Co-operative, United Kingdom
- **Fiona Reynolds**, Managing Director, Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), United Kingdom
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uk.coop/performance-co-operative-economy>

- **Shaun Tarbuck**, Chief Executive, International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF), United Kingdom
- **Richard Wilkinson**, Professor Emeritus, Equality Trust, United Kingdom

They will join other world-renowned experts like Robert Schiller, Jeffrey Sachs, David K. Foot, and many more who chose the Summit to demonstrate that cooperatives are an important part of the global economy and serve as key socioeconomic actors. They will take advantage of the event to discuss the competitive advantages cooperatives offer in the 21st century economy, marked by faltering growth and volatile markets in a number of regions of the world since the most recent economic crisis. The Summit will be an opportunity to hear more than 195 renowned speakers and discover 27 world-class studies that will make their grand début at the event.

“In my opinion, the power of cooperatives to innovate is demonstrated by the tremendous resurgent interest in cooperative and mutual ideas across the board. It is now our job to turn this momentum into modern and sustainable new businesses,” explains Cliff Mills, Principal Associate at Mutuo.

“Attracting such a large contingent of experts to Quebec City illustrates the growing importance of the cooperative and mutual movement in the world economy,” says Monique F. Leroux, Chair of the Board, President, and CEO, Desjardins Group and a co-host of the Summit. “The Summit, which is clearly becoming a must-attend event for political and socioeconomic leaders, will help showcase the role of cooperative enterprises and highlight all the solutions this business model offers to meet global economic challenges.

The cooperative movement has proven successful in times of economic and financial crisis, as cooperative enterprises around the world have demonstrated their resilience. They are also an important part of the world economy and serve as key economic actors. In fact, cooperatives represent the equivalent of the world’s ninth largest economy, with revenues exceeding \$2.5 trillion. With more than 100 million workers, they contribute to the livelihoods of one out of every two people in the world.

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International Summit of Cooperatives website: [www.intlsummit.coop](http://www.intlsummit.coop)

Current list of speakers and panelists:

[http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en\\_CA/home/edition-2014/conferenciers-1.html](http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/home/edition-2014/conferenciers-1.html)

Full list of studies to be unveiled during the Summit:

[http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en\\_CA/home/edition-2014/etudes.html](http://www.sommetinter.coop/cms/en_CA/home/edition-2014/etudes.html)



## About the 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives

Decision makers and influencers from the international cooperative and mutual community will gather in Quebec City, Canada, from October 6 to 9 for the 2014 International Summit of Cooperatives. The Summit's bold, ambitious themes will garner the attention and interest of cooperatives from around the globe as well as world leaders and politicians.

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