

Announcement and call for expression of interest

Background

On 16-18 November 2016, the Co-operative Law Committee (CLC) of the International Co-operative Alliance (Alliance) will organise the **1st International Forum on Co-operative Law**, in collaboration with the CLC of Cooperatives of the Americas, which will hold at the same time its Continental Congress on Co-operative Law.

The 1st International Forum on Co-operative Law is a response to the growing interest in co-operative law. The Alliance Statement on the Co-operative Identity and the [2001 United Nations Guidelines](#) aimed at creating a supportive environment for the development of cooperatives. The [2002 International Labour Organization Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation](#), as well as other instruments, recognise co-operative law as one factor of co-operative development and of economic and social development in general. As a follow-up to the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives in 2012, the Alliance adopted its [Blueprint for a Co-operative Decade](#), in which it identifies co-operative law as one of five work areas and establishes the CLC.

Despite these encouragements and the positive economic, social and societal role of co-operatives worldwide, knowledge on co-operative law remains scarce. Together with the Continental Congress on Co-operative Law, the 1st International Forum on Co-operative Law will address this shortcoming.

Aim

The 1st International Forum on Co-operative Law and the Continental Congress on Co-operative Law will:

- take stock of initiatives related to knowledge on co-operative law and
- explore how co-operative law can respond to 21st century economic and social challenges.

Themes

1st International Forum on Co-operative Law :

- Co-operative law and co-operative principles
- Worldwide database on co-operative law
- Horizontal and vertical integration
- Co-operative law and economics

Continental Congress on Co-operative Law

- The 'acto cooperativo' notion, content and scope, and its inclusion in national positive law

- Co-operative sector-specific regulations, savings and credit cooperatives, other financial cooperatives
- State control and co-operative autonomy, co-operative self-control
- Exclusion of co-operatives from certain activities, like insurance, banking, specific health care provisions, pensions – reasons and critique

Both events

- National constitutions and co-operatives
- Taxation of co-operatives and its effects on capital, transactions and income
- Capital and financing of co-operatives, accounting regulations
- Worker co-operatives, labour law and social security, bankruptcy and worker buy-outs

Proceedings

According to the themes there will be separate and joint sessions, but these will be organised in such a way that all participants can participate in all sessions, if they so wish.

Interpretation in English and Spanish will be provided.

Call for expression of interest

To express your interest in attending and/or speaking at the event, please send an email to Hagen Henry of the CLC (at: hagen.henry@helsinki.fi) no later than 1st September 2016. If you would like to speak at the event, please indicate on which subject you would like to present and in which language.