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REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development
and Cooperation

on cooperatives and the cooperative movement in
development policy

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***** = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

****II** = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of the majority of the Members of Parliament

****I** = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

******* = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of the majority of the current Members of Parliament

By letter of 14 October 1987 the Committee on Development and Cooperation sought authorization to table a report on cooperatives and the cooperative movement in development policy.

At Parliament's sitting of 16 November 1987 the Committee on Development and Cooperation was authorized to draw up a report on this subject.

At its meeting of 21 October 1987 the committee appointed Mr Trivelli rapporteur.

The committee considered the draft report at its meeting of 27 September 1988. On 29 September 1988 it unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole.

The following took part in the vote: Mr McGowan, Chairman; Mrs Cassanmagnago and Mrs Daly, Vice-Chairmen; Mr Trivelli, rapporteur; Mr Bersani, Mr Chinaud, Mr Clinton, Mr Cohen, Mrs de Backer-van Ocken, Mrs Focke, Mr Guermeur, Mr Ligios (deputizing for Mr Michelini), Mr Pearce, Mrs Pery, Mrs Simons and Mr Telkamper.

The report was tabled on 3 October 1988.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which it is to be considered.

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The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

A
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on cooperatives and the cooperative movement in development policy

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the enormous international growth in cooperatives, and especially in agricultural, credit, consumer and insurance cooperatives in the industrialized countries,
- B. whereas, although the cooperative movement has had scant impact in many ACP countries, more and more countries are committed to a policy of systematically encouraging the growth of such institutions,
- C. having regard to the relatively important role of the cooperative movement both in Latin America and in Asia,
- D. firmly believing that cooperatives should be treated as a structural constituent of the Community's development policy and that in consequence cooperative enterprises are destined to play a front-line role in the socio-economic development of Third World countries,
- E. whereas, while there is no single cooperative model which is universally applicable, the growth of agricultural, credit and consumer cooperatives in many LDCs and the development of polyvalent or multi-purpose cooperatives can make a contribution to the achievement of local or regional goals,
- F. whereas cooperative enterprise is an instrument capable of ensuring integrated development which can meet all the needs of the population,
- G. whereas cooperative development programmes should be geared not merely to economic goals, but should also take account of social goals,
- H. firmly believing that cooperatives should spring from the peoples concerned so as to contribute to their endogenous development and self-reliance and that the development of the cooperative movement requires the creation and strengthening of representative and properly structured agricultural organizations,
- I. noting that the financial aid given by certain international institutions and international development banks has fallen owing, amongst other factors, to external indebtedness and the imposition of conditions and guarantees which are socially and economically unacceptable,
- J. having regard to the lack of involvement of women in cooperative societies in most developing countries, the paucity of studies of their position in this sector and the absence of any special legislative provisions in this regard,
- K. whereas cooperatives in the ACP and EEC countries are among the economic and social partners included in the Lomé Convention,
- L. having regard to the report of the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. A 2-205/88),

1. Stresses the right of each country to set its own development goals and priorities, but recalls that many LDCs have already made the development of a genuine cooperative system a part of their plans for economic development;
2. Regrets, however, that insufficient attention has been paid within the framework of ACP-EEC cooperation and the Lomé Convention to the development of cooperatives and likewise regrets the fact that many ACP countries are insufficiently aware of the development aid possibilities which the cooperative movement within the EEC can offer;
3. Calls, therefore, upon the Community institutions and the Member States to consider the possibility of including this sector in the next Lomé Convention and to do likewise in the context of financial and technical cooperation with the developing countries of Latin America and Asia;
4. Recommends that the states involved formulate national policies which define clearly the different roles of the government and the cooperative movement; stresses in any case the need for the government's macro-political goals and the specific goals of the cooperatives to be attuned and for the latter's autonomy to be fully recognized and respected; calls also upon the developing countries and the international organizations for public development aid to try to channel administrative and financial aid in such a way as to enable cooperatives progressively to assume responsibility for meeting their own needs;
5. Considers that rural development and self-sufficiency in food should continue to be prime objectives of the Community's development policy and states its belief that agricultural cooperatives have a fundamental role to play in meeting these objectives and that food aid should also be directed towards this end;
6. Believes for this reason that the cooperative movement can make a decisive contribution in this field to the achievement of self-sufficiency, the creation of food surpluses and the development of the market;
7. Stresses that existing local resources should be mobilized before resorting to external financial assistance, which should complement, but never replace, the contributions from the members of the cooperative;
8. Believes for this reason that it is absolutely necessary for the states concerned to show a firm commitment to the creation of systems for mobilizing rural and urban savings via savings and credit cooperatives by introducing legislation designed to foster their creation and development;
9. Calls upon European cooperative organizations to do more in terms of a 'movement-to-movement' aid policy and to devote greater economic resources to fostering the development of cooperatives in the developing countries;

Aspects relating to cooperation with the ACP countries

10. Calls upon the Commission to examine ways of enabling the cooperative movement in the ACP countries to secure greater access to the existing funds and instruments of Community development policy and to establish the necessary mechanisms for ensuring that cooperatives play an increasing role in development cooperation policy;
11. Calls upon the Commission to examine, in collaboration with the European cooperative movement and specialized international organizations, the possibility of financing pilot projects involving small-scale cooperative ventures in a number of ACP countries with a view to the subsequent assessment of the results;

12. Calls on NGOs to encourage the involvement of local cooperatives in those projects and programmes implemented with the help of Community finance;
13. Regrets the absence or ineffectiveness of public training and information programmes in the ACP countries on the potential of cooperatives;
14. Calls on the Commission to make available, through its delegations, to the state institutions, cooperatives and NGOs of the developing countries all the information they need, using whatever means of communication are appropriate to help foster an awareness of the potential of cooperatives among members of the cooperatives themselves, their families and the entire local population, paying special attention to women;

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15. Considers that the work of training should be carried out before cooperatives are set up and should be a continuous process implemented by specialized institutions (cooperative training centres, agriculture or education ministries, etc.); calls upon the European cooperative movement to devote a percentage of its resources to setting up an education fund;
16. Regrets that in many cooperative sectors within the EEC, notably in agriculture, the women's cooperative movement has no proper structure and lacks sufficient independence to be able to provide cooperative support to the women's movements of the developing countries; calls, therefore, upon the European cooperative organizations to set up a data bank on the involvement of women in this sector;
17. Calls upon the Commission to encourage and strengthen any projects involving women which are susceptible of taking on a cooperative form, and stresses that services cooperatives - credit and savings cooperatives, consumer cooperatives and those concerned with family welfare (health, hygiene, nutrition) - are particularly suitable in this respect, while leaving open the possibility that at a later stage full integration in mixed cooperative societies will come about;
18. Suggests that the Commission devise and implement a policy for fostering the development of cooperatives in Third World countries in accordance with paragraph 1 above;
19. Calls upon the Commission to make regular use of the potential, in terms of knowledge and experience, of the EEC cooperative associations, and the specialized international organizations, informing them of projects with a cooperative basis so that they can help in setting them up;
20. Calls also upon the European cooperative organizations to strengthen their structure and to endow themselves with an organization which can speak on behalf of them all and thus enable them to be recognized by the EEC institutions as a permanent partner, distinct from NGOs and private consultants;
21. Calls upon the European cooperative movement to make greater use of its technical and financial possibilities in development aid and urges all cooperative sectors to examine ways in which they might involve themselves;

22. Suggests that the Commission consider the possibility of initiating intercontinental conferences between the Community and the developing countries on the problems of the cooperative movement so as to provide a structured framework within which EEC cooperative organizations and those from other continents (Asia, Africa, Latin America) can meet. In particular, an initiative should be launched with the African countries to take up and develop the initiative of the Gabarone Conference, which designated the period 1985-1995 'Cooperative Development Decade';
23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Member States, the Council and Commission of the European Communities, the Presidency of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, the Presidency of the OAU and the organs of the European, African, Latin American and Asian cooperative movements.

B
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

1. The spread of the cooperative movement throughout the world, irrespective of political regimes, is undoubtedly justification enough for the submission to Parliament of the present report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation. This spread stems not only from economic factors, which make cooperatives a successful form of enterprise capable of maintaining and creating jobs, but also from political and social ones. Cooperatives are also a means of cultural betterment and contribute to the democratic development of society, often being supported by a substantial degree of political consensus - a consensus reflected in some constitutions, where the value of the cooperative movement is affirmed.

2. It is not the intention of this report to establish any very precise definition, and the term 'cooperative' will be used to refer to a form of private and voluntary grouping of people with the aim of achieving, by their common efforts, economic and social benefits for each individual member. Clearly, such a broad definition does not meet the requirements stipulated in Recommendation No. 127 of the ILO (1966) nor the requirements for membership of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the world body of the cooperative movement.

3. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) has more than 500 million individual members belonging to some 750 000 cooperatives in 72 countries: 13 in Africa, 14 in North and South America, 17 in Asia, 26 in Europe and 2 in Australasia. If we include the countries and movements which do not belong to the ICA, the figures are much greater. In terms of the economic activities in which they engage, three kinds of cooperative stand out: agricultural cooperatives (34.6%), credit cooperatives (27.6%) and consumer cooperatives (9.4%). In terms of membership, however, it is the consumer cooperatives which, with 26% of the total, predominate, followed by credit cooperatives (25%) and agricultural cooperatives (13%).

4. The European Community has some 60 million members of cooperatives, 60 million members of mutual associations and several tens of millions belonging to comparable associations, enterprises or establishments. This means that one in two Europeans is a member of an undertaking based on the organized solidarity of its membership rather than a return on capital.

Outside the European Community, the success of cooperatives in the Scandinavian countries, Austria, Canada, the United States, Japan and Israel is well known. It is also noteworthy that among the ten countries with the highest number of members of cooperatives, four are socialist countries (China, the Soviet Union, Romania, and Poland).

5. In the developing countries, which will be looked at in more detail in later sections of the report, 80% of the cooperatives, according to ICA data, are to be found in Asia and the Pacific region, 10% in Africa and the rest divided between Latin America and the Middle East. Closer analysis shows - rather worryingly - that in the LDCs, with the notable exception of China and India, cooperatives are relatively few and far between. The figures speak for themselves: while in some countries a high percentage of the population belongs to some form of cooperative - 43% in Dominica, 39% in Kiribati, 32% in Senegal, 30% in Argentina - in others the percentage is very small - 0.28% in Malawi, 0.91% in Zambia, 0.87% in Mexico, 0.35% in Haiti.

The contrasts are also enormous if one looks simply at overall numbers. Thus Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria and Sri Lanka have millions of members of cooperatives, while Benin, Cape Verde, Swaziland, the Central African Republic, Barbados or Vanuatu scarcely muster 30 000. Details of these and other figures are given in the annexes.

6. All these figures prompt a number of observations:

- (a) the lifestyle, and sometimes the economic survival, of a significant number of people, many of them in the LDCs, is bound up with cooperative institutions;
- (b) as Alex Laidlaw states in his report 'Cooperatives in the year 2000', cooperatives are to be found in all countries and in all kinds of economies and cultures, although there could not be said to be any uniformity as regards their activities and there is no simplified single model that can be made to apply to them all;
- (c) there is a considerable degree of regional dispersion which means that cooperatives can make a substantial contribution to the opening up and economic development of large regions.

7. This spread of the cooperative movement has not gone unnoticed by the various international bodies. Within the framework of the United Nations, the energetic involvement of the ILO in international fora contributed to the general recognition by the United Nations of the importance of cooperatives(1).

8. From that point on, it became clear that the numerous cooperative development initiatives launched by governmental and non-governmental organizations, cooperative or otherwise (trade unions), had to be coordinated if they were to be effective(2).

9. Finally, the institutions of the European Economic Community began to understand - and, since 1981, to stress - the importance of cooperatives for the various Community policies. On 13 April 1983, for example, the European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report by Mr Mihr (OJ No. C 128 of 16.5.83), which constituted a landmark in the history of relations between the institutions of the EEC and the European cooperative movement. This resolution, as well as calling upon the Commission to step up its activities in this field, also (paragraph 5) urged the Commission to

'... investigate whether special programmes should be drawn up both for regions of the Community threatened by crises and for cooperative development plans in countries which are signatories to the Lomé Convention which promote the establishment of cooperatives in certain production and service sectors; in both these areas too the Commission should draw on the experience of the cooperative movement'.

Following the Mihr report, the Commission undertook to look into the best way of placing the Community's resources and institutions at the disposal of cooperatives(3). For its part, the Council, in a resolution of 7 June 1984 (OJ No. C 161 of 21.6.84), stressed the role of cooperatives and called upon the Commission to adopt further measures aimed at ensuring the development of enterprises, including cooperatives and other forms of collective enterprise. In 1986, the European Councils of the Hague and London called upon the Commission to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the policy on cooperatives. In the final part of this report the cooperative movement and Community development policy will be looked at in more detail.

II. THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

10. All developing countries have, since decolonization, shown an interest in cooperatives and many such countries have adopted development policies in which cooperatives play an important part. However, despite the constitutional recognition granted to cooperatives and the abundance of legislation in relation to them in many LDCs, the attempt to introduce cooperative societies has generally encountered numerous difficulties and in consequence the results obtained have fallen far short of what is required. In consequence, the conclusion has often been reached that the cooperative model was not appropriate for the farmers, craftsmen, workers and consumers of certain LDCs, especially those in Africa.

11. Such a way of thinking fails to consider why cooperatives have such a bad reputation, both among development planners and the people of Africa. It is only by taking account of such reasons that a strategy for the effective development of cooperatives can be identified.

12. These reasons are varied and well-known. In the LDCs, cooperatives have been established more as a result of state action than as the product of popular movements, as was the case in the industrialized countries. Excessive state intervention and excessive support and/or control by the public authorities have led to psychological dependence on the government. Some LDCs have attempted to take on too much too quickly, the result of which has been a cooperative model imposed from above. All of this has led to a loss of control and confidence on the part of members of cooperatives, who have come to see the cooperative as an extension of the government.

13. Moreover, external agents (states, private organizations, international organizations) have often not based their aid on a detailed analysis of the needs of the populations concerned and have not sufficiently educated the latter as regards the demands of cooperation and the tasks which it imposes, assuming that bonds of solidarity already existed. It is not therefore surprising that this 'cooperative model' has acquired such a poor reputation.

14. Such criticisms, however, should be the basis for a more constructive approach. External agents (among them the Community and its Member States) and the European cooperative movement should, in relation to cooperative projects, take full account of the reality of rural society in the Third World. In many LDCs, traditional and pre-capitalist rural societies are less integrated than is often supposed and cooperatives will be a success only if it can be demonstrated to their future members that coordinated collective effort is more rewarding than individual effort. Thus educating public opinion, both in Europe and the LDCs, is a necessary precondition for success, along with better education and training so as to create, with the help of appropriate technology, less complex forms of cooperative organization than those which are usually suggested, such that they can be easily administered and controlled by the poor and deprived masses of the Third World.

15. At present, the cooperative movement enjoys the support of the public authorities in many ACP countries. African cooperatives received high-level political support in the course of the first African Ministerial Conference on Cooperatives, which met in Gabarone (Botswana) in May 1984 and brought together the countries of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. At this conference, the decade 1985-1995 was declared Cooperative Development Decade.

16. There are already numerous LDCs which, with the help of organizations such as the ILO, have initiated legislative reforms with a view to providing a favourable institutional and legal framework for their governments' official policies in regard to the cooperative movement. Additional efforts are perhaps required to enable institutions to be set up in each state where the government and the representatives of the cooperatives could take decisions jointly, so as to make the cooperative movement entirely self-sufficient, following the progressive withdrawal of government aid.

17. Development planners, moreover, have often ignored something which merits greater attention: the existence of mutual self-help organizations born of a reaction against useless governmental cooperatives, as in the case of Zambia and Zimbabwe.

18. Such organizations, commonly known as 'pre-cooperatives' or the 'informal sector', show that self-help has an enormous potential. Many of them already receive support from NGOs, the FAO and the ILO aimed at getting these local models, based on family systems, to work together at a higher level within a cooperative structure. Such ideas underlie the new cooperative development policy and new legislation on cooperatives in Senegal and Burkina Faso, introduced in both cases in 1983.

19. This would constitute a solid basis for the construction of a model which both integrates local traditions and the cooperative principle by establishing institutional links between them and ensures that the people are genuinely involved.

III. AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LDCs

20. Rural agricultural cooperatives should play a frontline role in the LDCs, especially in Asia and several regions of Africa, where the position in regard to food and agriculture is far from meeting the needs of the population.

21. At the moment there cannot be said to be a large number of genuine agricultural cooperatives in many of the LDCs, nor indeed representative agricultural organizations (agricultural trade unions or chambers of commerce) capable of representing farmers' interests vis-à-vis the government. In consequence, some of the funds assigned to aid should be used to enable small farmers to develop their own organizations, from local right up to national level, without losing sight of local traditions or undermining the existing social fabric.

22. At the moment, a major problem in many LDCs, especially in Africa, is the lack of self-sufficiency in food. It should not be forgotten that in Africa food production rests mainly on small-scale producers, marginal farmers and people without land. Security of food supply begins at local level and can be arrived at via a cooperative system for increasing production which would enable disasters to be prevented. This would naturally depend on political arrangements whereby farmers, above all the very poorest among them, could take part in the formulation and implementation of rural development programmes which would make available to them an adequate system of savings and credit, enable them to obtain a sufficient income and secure transport and marketing networks for their produce. Cooperatives, like other enterprises, are affected by government policies and by the system within which they have to work: a cooperative cannot be viable if the price of its produce is kept artificially low by a policy which favours certain social groups but does not enable costs to be controlled.

23. Another important aspect of the problem is the need to achieve policies which will encourage the participation of cooperatives in the three phases of food production (production, marketing and consumption), a participation which varies substantially from one country to another. There are particularly well-developed processing cooperatives in countries such as Brazil and India because a significant degree of vertical integration has been achieved: there is a link between production, processing and marketing which ensures that the producer shares in the benefits of each of these three phases.

24. Special attention needs to be paid to encouraging localized food industries in the rural environment. The decentralization of such industries is an important element in slowing down the exodus from the countryside. Cooperatives can facilitate such a process of decentralization and help to forge a major alliance in rural areas with commercial industries and manufacturing industries which use local raw materials.

IV. OTHER KINDS OF COOPERATIVE AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF DIFFERENT POPULATION GROUPS

25. Other cooperative sectors are worthy of special study. Consumer cooperatives, which are widespread in the LDCs because of the latter's fundamentally rural character, should continue to receive particular attention. Housing cooperatives, on the other hand, have had insufficient impact in the LDCs, largely owing to the absence of external aid and the fact that, in terms of development, housing is not regarded as a priority.

26. Given the developing countries' need to consume animal protein, livestock and fisheries cooperatives need feasibility studies to look into the possibilities for storage and marketing networks. It is therefore important to encourage pilot projects and training centres for livestock farmers. As for fishing, joint auctions with cooperative societies or organizations in the industrialized countries could be organized.

27. Craft cooperatives are expanding fast in Asia, and especially in India, but remain a marginal phenomenon in the ACP States, although there is an element of growth in Kenya, Togo, Ethiopia, Benin and Cameroon. The main problems they encounter are those of supply and demand, since they lack knowledge of potential markets.

28. There are cooperative insurance bodies in some African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia) as well as in some Asian and Latin-American countries. It is true that traditional insurance principles are for a variety of reasons difficult to apply in many LDCs, but, given the limited nature of social security in these countries, they have advantages for the people insured and also open up the possibility of insurance cooperatives re-insuring themselves with similar cooperatives in the industrialized countries.

29. The importance of women in cooperatives, not only as active members and managers but also as a group with the potential for setting up their own cooperative, is something which the international cooperative movement should bear very much in mind. The FAO estimates that women produce, by volume, more than half of the food which is consumed and yet the World Food Council has shown that less than 1% of official development aid is aimed at women. Until national policies, the cooperative movement itself and international bodies make a determined effort to eliminate this contradiction and remove the barriers to the integration of women in society, it is unlikely that women will be able to make a positive contribution in the field of cooperatives(4).

30. In the same way, similar efforts need to be made to secure the effective involvement of young people, the disabled, the elderly, refugees and immigrants in cooperatives. Only a small number of cooperatives in the LDCs have special programmes to encourage these sections of society to become involved in cooperatives. With the help of the UNHCR and the International Rural Development Agency (IRDA), some cooperative projects involving Angolan refugees in southern Zaire have been carried out.

V. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

V.1 Education and cooperation

31. As Lambert said, education is an essential part of cooperation. Both the ILO and the ICA recognize this inseparable link(5). There has been a certain degree of political pressure in some LDCs to speed up the growth of cooperatives. This has led to failure, since cooperatives cannot successfully develop any faster than the individuals of whom they are composed. There is thus a need for ongoing education and training, the lack of both of which is one of the biggest obstacles to the development of cooperatives, especially in view of the number of illiterate farmers in the Third World.

32. The ICA itself recognizes, however, that education is not a task undertaken by most cooperatives. Cooperative movements would do well to look into this problem and to suggest ways of resolving it. In this task they could perhaps count on the cooperation of universities and centres of education, both in the LDCs and in the industrialized countries. In any event, the educative function should form part of concrete development projects and be subject to periodic assessment and readjustment in the light of the results obtained.

V.2. Financial assistance and aid on a movement-to-movement basis

33. It should always be borne in mind in relation to aid of any kind that its object should be development through cooperatives rather than the development of cooperatives. It is governments which have provided most of the aid for the international development of cooperatives, but they have done so in a limited form. In the specific case of Europe, with the exception of the Scandinavian countries, the contribution has been a slender one, and this in spite of the existence of powerful cooperative organizations, among them banking cooperatives.

34. Governments, however, should not be the only agents involved in the development of cooperatives. External aid should be complementary to the aid from within the LDCs themselves, although it is a well known fact that the lack of capital is a chronic problem which has not made the development of cooperatives any easier. The indifference of commercial banks to the needs of cooperatives makes the situation even more serious.

35. Thus the public authorities should cooperate closely with the cooperative movement to find new ways of obtaining capital to replace the sources to whom farmers in the LDCs normally turn (private lenders, usurers, etc.) with financial institutions appropriate to the rural environment and capable of offering a solution to the problems of mobilizing loans and savings. Only in this way can loans be made available to those sections of the population with the lowest incomes. These beneficiaries should, moreover, be part of the decision-making process in such institutions.

36. The fact that rural populations are capable of saving is demonstrated by the striking expansion of credit and savings cooperatives in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America, where there are nearly 20 000 such cooperatives with approximately 7 million members(6), acting as the financial arm of the cooperative movements in the various countries. It is a system, moreover, which has been shown to be the most appropriate for directing resources, since loans of three or five million dollars are usually somewhat large for cooperatives and extremely small for international institutions such as the World Bank.

37. The idea of external aid points to something which should be inherent in the cooperative movement: aid by an established cooperative movement to a similar movement in another country without recourse to governmental or official intermediaries. Direct contact between the donor and recipient organizations is swifter and less bureaucratic than a chain running from a movement to a government to another government and on to another movement. Moreover, as cooperative movements in the LDCs become stronger and acquire greater resources and experience, there is a growing chance of aid within a South-South context becoming more widespread.

38. The movement-to-movement approach also permits uninterrupted long-term support. The development of cooperatives is a slow process and the normal time span of a development project (between 3 and 5 years) is of no use to the cooperative movement, which normally requires between 10 and 20 years.

VI. COOPERATIVES IN ACP-EEC DEVELOPMENT POLICY: THE PRESENT SITUATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

39. Evidence that cooperatives have been a sector neglected by Community development policies is not difficult to find. Projects prepared by Community bodies have thus far been few and far between and rarely based on the experience and specialized knowledge of experts from European cooperative organizations, perhaps because the Commission has not been sufficiently aware of the enormous aid potential of the cooperative ideal in development policy.

40. The Lomé Convention has also taken insufficient account of the cooperative principle, a worrying state of affairs given that one of the major components of rural development as described in Lomé III is the objective of encouraging the active involvement of rural populations in their own development by encouraging them to form groups.

41. However, if we examine the extent to which farmers have been involved in ACP-EEC cooperation programmes, or how often farmers' organizations have been involved in the planning and execution of the various projects and programmes, the picture which emerges would perhaps be more likely to show a general lack of recognition of the major role played by peasant organizations and cooperatives at all stages of the development process and a consequent lack of information in the ACP countries as regards possible aid from such organizations.

42. While acknowledging the right of each country to choose its own development priorities and goals, it can nonetheless be said that cooperative ideas and practices have a considerable bearing on ACP goals and the instruments which the EEC has chosen to use in its development policy. In general terms, many ACP countries are predisposed towards cooperatives and representative agricultural organizations and for this reason the Community institutions could launch a special initiative at the next Lomé Convention, involving also the cooperative movement in the Member States.

43. what is needed, in short, is a new approach based on a period of critical reflection and wide-ranging consideration of the issue aimed at identifying the instruments which the Community (the Commission) and European cooperative organizations need in order to encourage cooperative action in regard to the ACP countries.

44. The European cooperative organizations do not benefit from Community funds for development aid, since they are regarded neither as NGOs nor private consultants, and they therefore work entirely with their own resources. We believe that the fact that a third of the economic and social partners are cooperatives should lead to a recognition by the Community that cooperatives constitute a third group, distinct from NGOs and private consultants, and that as such they should be seen as an integral part of aid in the ACP-EEC context. While it may often be difficult for the Community institutions to find a valid interlocutor, the European cooperative movement should work together to set up a single body to act as a link between the institutions of the Community and the cooperative associations as a group.

45. The idea of a relationship between cooperative movements (aid on a movement-to-movement basis) has recently gained ground. This is closely linked with the role which cooperative banks - and specifically the European ones - should play in financial aid. The international cooperative banking system is solidly based, with most of its resources in the hands of cooperative banks in France, Canada and Japan. There is general agreement that more use could be made of the financial resources of this system and additional efforts made over and above the praiseworthy initiatives already taken by the EEC's Association of Savings and Credit Cooperatives.

46. In their work in the developing countries the cooperative banks give priority to requests for technical and professional back-up for indigenous partners. These institutions have a twofold role:

- giving aid and advice in respect of organization and management;
- providing encouragement, publicity and training.

The cooperative banks are the most suitable bodies for providing an answer to the problem of mobilizing savings, since they create a local market for bank deposits, and are best placed to respond to the credit needs of people living in rural areas. Indeed, the mutualist spirit which inspires their activities and their in-depth knowledge of the local social fabric give them the edge over other institutions based on mercantile and centralist principles.

Moreover, the cooperative banks offer opportunities for training on much more favourable terms than, say, private consultants. By encouraging partnership, by advising and encouraging, whether on the spot or through seminars, the cooperative banks make available to the people both able and disinterested men and means adapted to their needs which can be managed by the people themselves.

47. The present internationalization of the cooperative banks(7) should facilitate close cooperation between the various financial institutions with a view to identifying the areas of economic activity which would be mutually beneficial for the cooperative banks and movements of both the North and the South, and to exchanging staff and know-how in relation to priority areas within an overall framework agreement. In this way, integrated planning by the cooperative movement involving various economic sectors could be achieved. A small but integrated increase in production is more important than a short-term increase in production in a specific economic area. In other words, projects involving not only the financial aspect, but also training, health and social services, etc.

48. In short, what the present study is trying to do is to get the Community, in the light of the present situation and the numerous gaps therein, to draw up a development policy in regard to cooperative organizations in the ACP countries and to secure the preparation of plans based on this policy which would develop procedures to enable the European cooperative organizations to be involved. This policy should be jointly prepared by the EEC and the ACP countries, drawing on the experience of the ICA, the FAO and the ILO.

49. For its part, the cooperative movement should look closely into its ability to transmit the cooperative self-development and self-management message to future generations, bearing in mind that they are not enterprises whose primary objective is the making of profits.

50. The countries of the Community should devote some thought to the methods of financing cooperative undertakings and consider to what extent cooperatives are appropriate instruments for combating commercial, financial and cultural alienation and how ethical or moral principles opposed to discrimination and intolerance can be encouraged through the cooperative movement.

The LDCs, and specifically the ACP states, should also consider to what extent cooperatives are a way of stimulating technological progress, equipping the population to cope with agricultural reforms, helping to combat illiteracy or, in short, democratizing economic life.

SUMMARY

51. There is a close link between cooperative development and development as such. The social and economic problems of the LDCs cannot be resolved solely by the efforts of the public and private sectors. Consequently, we believe in encouraging, developing and structuring a cooperative sector to act as a 'third force' alongside the public, semi-public and private sectors.

52. The national or international cooperative movement is not an end in itself. Its objective is not to ensure its own survival but rather to attempt to secure a 'new cooperative international economic order', the aim of which would be to secure more equitable relations based on greater solidarity, progress, democracy and human dignity.

53. If this goal is backed by a commitment to international coordination there is no limit to the contribution which cooperatives can make in meeting the needs of the underdeveloped world.

Notes

1. See the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on cooperatives, particularly Resolution 33/4 of 14 February 1978, and the Secretary-General's reports on the experience of member countries in encouraging the cooperative movement for 1978, 1981, 1983 and 1986.

Moreover, the importance of cooperatives and other forms of voluntary organization was made clear at the world Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) organized by the FAO in 1979. See also the report of the World Bank for 1987.

2. The ICA obtained the status of a consultative body on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). COPAC was set up with the participation of the ILO, the FAO, the ICA, the FIPA, the IFPAAW, the United Nations and the WOCCU.
3. Commissioner Burke, speaking to the European Parliament on 13 April 1983.
4. This problem is dealt with more fully in, amongst other publications, the following:
'Women's involvement in cooperative societies and groups', published by the ILO;
'Women in cooperatives', published by COPAC.
5. The ILO's CEMAS (Cooperative Education Materials Advisory Services) programme and MATCOM (Material and Techniques for Cooperative Management Training) project are concerned with teaching materials for the managers of cooperatives. The MATCOM material has been used and adapted in many countries, especially those with more vulnerable population groups (Sudan, Cameroon, Indonesia, Burma, etc.). Other ILO technical cooperation projects are the COOPTRADE programmes, which are concerned with promoting trade relations between the cooperatives of the industrialized countries and those of the developing countries. These have been particularly useful in the less-developed countries (Botswana, Haiti, the Sudan, Gambia). The ACOPAM project, also run by the ILO, is concerned with measures to assist groups in need of food aid, with the aim of implementing projects with a cooperative basis (Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Fasso, Senegal and Central America).
6. According to figures given by WOCCU, the African Confederation of Cooperative Savings and Credit Associations (ACOSCA) has a membership of 24 countries and is one of the few genuinely pan-African organizations. The Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, to which eleven countries belong, is striving to achieve ever greater penetration in the rural sector. The Caribbean Confederation of Credit Unions represents 17 national movements, and the Latin American Confederation of Credit Unions (COLAC) is the biggest confederation in the LDCs and gives financial and technical aid to sixteen countries.
7. In addition to the EEC's Association of Savings and Credit Cooperatives, there also exists the International Cooperative Alliance Banking Committee, the World Council of Credit Unions, the International Raiffeisen Union and the International Liaison Committee on Cooperative Thrift and Credit. Moreover, the North American cooperative banking system works with the Latin American Association of Development Financial Institutions (ALIDE) and with the ASEAN and Pacific Regional and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA).

ANNEX I

COOPERATIVES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WORLD SUMMARY - BY REGIONS AND TYPES OF COOPERATIVE

	Agriculture		Consumer		Credit		Fisheries	
	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members
Africa	44,451	12,582,692	7,128	2,636,605	12,597	1,537,829	942	31,355
Asia/Pacific	275,073	154,229,317	49,575	16,580,854	161,323	88,045,232	12,249	1,546,066
Latin America/ Caribbean	15,427	2,075,700	4,013	3,014,292	6,667	7,571,512	1,167	79,367
North Africa/ Near East	24,824	6,719,406	6,604	4,021,941	389	488,009	152	53,462
Totals	359,775	176,407,195	77,320	26,253,692	180,976	97,642,582	14,510	1,710,250
	Housing		Industrial/Workers		Other		Totals	
	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members
Africa	250	22,517	3,692	135,465	3,193	196,119	83,634	16,980,605
Asia/Pacific	35,004	2,197,833	59,112	4,668,097	106,947	14,501,274	702,706	203,253,301
Latin America/ Caribbean	2,709	505,372	3,052	369,729	6,445	5,562,369	38,072	19,567,923
North Africa/ Near East	2,180	774,737	1,067	61,363	5,662	124,175	32,009	19,567,923
Totals	40,230	3,500,459	65,923	5,234,654	122,247	20,383,937	850,221	331,953,924

Source: COMMITTEE FOR THE PROMOTION OF AID TO COOPERATIVES (COPAC)

Africa	Year	Agriculture		Livestock		Credit		Education		Housing		Industrial/Workers		Other		Totals		Coops Members as % of Pop	Ratio Coops to Coops
		Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members		
Angola (3)	1977	50	60,000	50	60,000											90	60,000	6.30 %	1 : 1,500
Benin (3)(5)(7)	1981 1985	1,323	20,136	-	4,000	54	1,427	71	655			13	293	627	3,019	2,005	26,137	0.66 %	1 : 1,921
Bolivia (6)(7)	1977 1982	63	36,000	10	22,312	31	4,310	1	130					13	4,290	126	67,134	6.22 %	1 : 0,563
Burkina Faso (4)(5)(7)	1985	26	21,977	1	50	44	14,055					4	87	77	25,126	140	61,365	0.91 %	1 : 42,300
Burundi (7)	1985															207	60,751	1.16 %	1 : 22,372
Cameroon (5)(7)	1985	17	-	1	-	290	-	2	-			11	-	23	-	604	-	-	1 : 24,004
Cape Verde (7)	1984	27	501	62	11,045			1	6	7	114	19	363	2	60	110	12,969	1.76 %	1 : 2,924
Central African Rep (7)	1984	6	23,079													6	23,079	0.95 %	1 : 410,000
Chad (3)	1974	1	315	3	269			1	131			0	242	3	812	16	1,769	0.06 %	1 : 251,07
Comoros																			
Congo (3)	1981	799	20,247	19	245			3	59			20	357			841	20,900	1.19 %	1 : 1,704
Dominican Republic																			
Ecuador (3)	1981	60	-													60	-	-	1 : 5,471
Ethiopia (3)(5)(7)	1981 1982	4,052	4,643,553			171	22,371					817	51,005			5,040	4,716,909	16.67 %	1 : 6,301
Ghana (3)	1975	13	-													13	-	-	1 : 77,154
Ghana (7)	1984	62	100,000			62	3,000									74	103,000	16.15 %	1 : 5,001
Ghana (4)	1981	797	-	0,092	-	1,060	-	309	-	97	-	1,453	-	26	-	12,004	-	-	1 : 1,002
Ghana																			
Ghana- Togo (7)	1985	2	120									9	206			11	326	0.06 %	1 : 80,010
Ivory Coast (3)(5)(7)	1986	3,217	203,440			70	0,011	44	541			11	605			3,362	213,605	2.10 %	1 : 2,931
Kenya (4)(5)(7)	1981 1985	1,206	1,206,307	90	11,162	720	300,000	36	6,540	51	17,010	25	5,645	109	10,067	2,243	1,564,319	7.90 %	1 : 9,104

Africa	Info	Agriculture		Livestock		Credit		Fisheries		Forestry		Industrial/Workers		Other		Totals		Coop Members as % of Pop.	Ratio Pop. to Coops
		Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members		
Lesotho (4)(5)(7)	1903 1904	111	16,541	5	1,476	114	34,556					29	2,926			299	53,499	3.61 %	1 : 5.21
Liberia (5)(U)	1906	250	65,274	3	6,500	40	12,000									301	65,774	2.91 %	1 : 7.27
Madagascar																			
Malawi (3)	1903	1	69			30	13,000					1	3,060			40	16,909	0.20 %	1 : 152.51
Mali (4)	1906	95	-	140	-			31	-			37	-	14	-	325	-		1 : 24.07
Mauritania (3)	1974	200	-	3	-			4	-					11	-	242	-		1 : 6.57
Mauritius (5)(7)	1901 1905	16	300	01	26,000	311	24,454	17	240	4	659	14	1,510			441	53,179	5.06 %	1 : 2.30
Mozambique (4)	1905	569	49,236	2,492	1,120,130			74	2,174			137	2,720			3,272	1,174,260	0.36 %	1 : 4.30
Namibia																			
Niger (4)	1903	10,360	1,200,000													10,360	1,200,000	20.79 %	1 : 55
Nigeria (4)(5)	1906	10,799	427,342	1,430	207,720	6,950	645,541	751	10,320	1	850	361	13,140	2	20	21,132	1,622,500	1.70 %	1 : 4.50
Rwanda (7)	1903	111	42,109			49	-	9	469	2	-	23	3,379	1,620	35,329	1,019	41,366	1.63 %	1 : 3.13
Sao Tomé/Príncipe																			
Senegal (4)(5)(U)	1905	330	2,050,000	120	6,000	22	2,600					75	7,135	92	0,300	647	2,076,115	31.01 %	1 : 10.07
Seychelles (3)	1900	14	4,000	01	26,000	187	44,000					2	100			206	76,000		
Sierra Leone (U)	1904	101	39,042	16	1,771	079	36,461	4	251			3	96	1	4,637	1,006	43,061	2.35 %	1 : 3.26
Somalia (7)	1904	496	55,036	70	9,059			23	2,092			55	0,300			644	75,207	1.39 %	1 : 0.62
Sudan (4)	1979	1,040	193,256	2,561	490,550									140	25,000	3,747	712,555	3.90 %	1 : 4.77
Swaziland (4)(5)	1979	67	4,190	7	400	25	1,222							16	1,244	117	7,136	1.32 %	1 : 4.61
Tanzania (4)(5)	1904 1906	3,000	600,000	1,000	100,000	450	61,020	74	2,425	20	2,116	92	4,336	321	56,919	4,907	906,024	6.10 %	1 : 4.42
Togo (5)(7)(U)	1905	753	39,010	10	1,500	111	10,169	14	190			6	200	26	5,591	920	57,459	1.97 %	1 : 3.17

Africa	Date	Agriculture		Livestock		Credit		Fisheries		Forestry		Industrial/Workers		Other		Totals		Coups Members as % of Pop	Ratio Coups to Coups
		Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members		
Uganda (5)(7)	1907	2,415	110,270	27	1,552	590	175,200	14	1,600	3	41	11	360	17	1,300	3,077	1,050,410	7.53 %	1 : 8,560
Zaire (5)	1904					79	06,065												
Zambia (1)(4)(5)	1979 1904	400	47,262	42	24,604	100	34,949	4	2,320	70	071	140	23,204	17	3,706	912	160,345	0.91 %	1 : 42,300
Zimbabwe (4)(7)	1904	041	92,304	106	3,292	30	2,602	5	73	2	40	326	5,220	36	4,707	1,434	111,326	1.32 %	1 : 5,900
Asia/Pacific																			
Bangladesh (4)(7)	1905	13,031	3,063,362	4,154	1,269,992	11	13,301	4,204	462,493	191	19,345	7,700	655,271	10,122	714,251	117,401	6,130,015	6.11 %	1 : 061
Bhutan (3)	1979															2			
Burma (3)(7)	1905	1,013	117,106	2,440	1,522,609	2,691	700,501	626	50,030			654	110,011	13,156	4,619,234	20,500	6,923,023	17.53 %	1 : 1,912
China * (in 1981)	1905	130	132,000													130	132,000	12.66 %	1 : 0,031
Cook Islands (3)	1971	9	1,029	9	1,360	25	1,796							7	243	50	4,420	24.6 %	1 : 160
Fiji (5)(7)	1904	124	-	794	-	302	61,076	10	-	42	-					56	1,400		1 : 479
Hong Kong (5)	1905					53	20,950												
India (4)	1901	13,014	11,229,000	10,590	6,900,000	122,474	70,000,000	5,067	675,411	34,036	1,054,605	45,154	3,301,000	69,994	7,676,904	312,007	112,521,000	17.74 %	1 : 1,955
Indonesia (1)	1970	16,206	2,909,000	10,044	3,562,730	12,964	1,662,119	1,275	120,222			3,336	230,110			51,655	0,492,197	5.72 %	1 : 2,874
Kampuchea (3)	1974	700	430,000													700	430,000	6.06 %	1 : 10,160
Kiribati (3)	1904	3	577	25	23,395	1	219							4	-	33	24,191	39.02 %	1 : 1,879
Korea (Rep) (4)(5)	1902 1904	1,473	2,072,720			1,433	1,015,776	72	137,030					126	76,071	3,104	3,320,605	0.26 %	1 : 12,906
Korea (P.R.C) (7)	1905															3,524	1,640,100	7.97 %	1 : 5,697
Laos (4)	1904	2,546	140,072	104	-											2,546	140,072	3.25 %	1 : 4,025
Malaysia (4)	1906	940	110,076	593	961,657	350	700,770	92	59,074	63	51,436	154	92,343	1,247	700,659	3,355	2,792,741	10.17 %	1 : 4,532

Latin America/Caribbean	Info Date	Agriculture		Commerce		Credit		Fisheries		Housing		Industrial/Workers		Other		Totals		Coops Members as % of Pop	Ratio Pop to Coops
		Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members		
Antigua-Barbuda (5)(6)(7)	1904	3	85			7	1,309					1	10	1	14	12	1,817	1.17%	1 : 6,667
Argentina (7)	1905	1,367	470,930	241	1,416,936	334	2,726,094	4	550	323	174,683	401	30,256	1,202	4,515,089	3,072	9,343,346	30.57%	1 : 7,074
Bahamas (3)(5)(7)	1901 1905	0	680	1	-	10	4,217	1	200	1	176			1	-	22	5,193	2.09%	1 : 11,273
Barbados (7)	1904	3	100	4	1,405	41	12,942							6	240	54	14,783	5.50%	1 : 4,907
Belize (4)	1905	73	1,706			39	35,177	11	1,159					7	559	130	30,631	24.40%	1 : 1,215
Bermuda (3)	1900			1	707	1	2,012									2	2,799	4.91%	1 : 20,500
Bolivia (7)	1906	240	149,946	331	243,916	1,020	682,647	27	2,000	80	44,074	49	6,441	574	106,310	2,337	1,317,022	20.67%	1 : 2,726
Brazil (5)(6)(7)	1903	1,171	1,176,925	301	656,543	495	603,711	36	2,100	203	150,691	299	230,024	243	324,024	2,903	3,170,325	2.44%	1 : 40,690
Cayman Islands (5)	1904					1	1,242												
Chile (4)(7)	1906	440	-	90	-	91	-	30	-	1,062	-	32	-	339	-	2,113	-	-	1 : 5,714
Colombia (6)(7)	1905	179	300,000	352	-	1,101	-	5	-	114	-	305	-	034	-	2,005	-	-	1 : 9,953
Costa Rica (4)	1904	92	32,569	20	4,332	139	00,012	7	002	6	794	39	0,813	73	70,655	376	190,777	0.11%	1 : 6,516
Cuba (3)	1904	1,454	65,000																
Dominica (4)(5)(6)(7)	1904	25	7,000	1	166	22	33,777	3	500			6	120	2	250	59	37,013	42.97%	1 : 4,192
Dominican Rep (4)(5)	1903	29	0,400	21	5,954	120	90,000	6	40	2	02	6	604	54	52,033	205	110,000	1.06%	1 : 29,070
Ecuador (2)(5)	1902 1904	2,134	70,041	945	55,007	395	445,200							1,423	29,157	4,097	601,005	6.61%	1 : 1,056
El Salvador (4)	1904	121	0,753	34	2,995	306	69,030	9	419			33	1,019	52	1,455	625	63,674	1.10%	1 : 0,621
Grenada (4)(5)	1904	9	139			10	5,711	2	19			9	60	3	49	41	5,906	5.34%	1 : 2,732
Guatemala (6)(7)	1905	632	69,179	110	20,721	103	126,100	10	234	70	7,017	62	2,070	30	2,000	905	109,675	2.50%	1 : 9,205

Latin America/Caribbean	Info Date	Agriculture		Consumer		Credit		Fisheries		Housing		Industrial/Workers		Transportation		Utilities		Members as % of Pop.	Ratio Pop. to Coops
		Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members	Coops	Members		
Cayman (5) (7)	1905	100	7,453	74	16,392	765	114,401	73	1,110	65	6,200	104	2,674	200	17,547	1,505	165,047	17.60 %	1 : 633
Cuba (2)	1973	19	2,743			37	13,232							5	1,010	61	16,993	0.35 %	1 : 100,656
Cuba (4)	1901	477	47,465	0	6,136	156	50,722	9	234	13	2,416	26	1,214	02	4,992	771	113,179	3.10 %	1 : 4,617
Jamaica (4)	1902 1904	75	29,606	12	1,944	100	239,749	20	1,785	21	7,992	10	607	14	2,853	252	354,616	15.49 %	1 : 9,007
Mexico (5) (6)	1903	2,407	25,237	1,205	291,232	175	139,709	096	64,459			949	51,204	192	7,075	5,906	649,690	0.87 %	1 : 12,716
Montserrat (3) (5) (7)	1901 1904	4	-	6	-	2	530	1	-							13			
Netherlands Antilles (5) (7)	1900 1904	2	40	3	3,700	32	12,945					2	47			39	16,732	6.13 %	1 : 7,000
Nicaragua (2) (5) (6)	1903	3,057	60,044	7	1,176	32	13,293	21	-	7	-	263	-	16	1,852	3,403	74,513	2.44 %	1 : 890
Panama (2) (6)	1903	74	11,497	22	5,927	124	54,321	9	469	23	3,362	31	3,450			203	79,024	3.70 %	1 : 7,362
Paraguay (2) (5)	1902 1904	102	14,653	10	9,043	52	25,110					107	3,000	8	315	281	52,921	1.40 %	1 : 12,726
Peru (4)	1903	776	135,329	70	60,556	421	1,574,700	6	471	290	75,597	134	10,720	274	194,090	2,032	2,054,785	10.99 %	1 : 9,201
St. Christopher/Nevis (5) (7)	1904	3	44			3	1,775	4	130			4	142	19	2,397	33	4,700	5.96 %	1 : 2,394
St. Lucia (4)	1904	5	240	1	430	14	6,909	9	691			3	720	1	167	33	9,173	7.20 %	1 : 3,010
St. Vincent (5) (6)	1903 1904					6	3,051	2	143					10	2,685	10	6,679	6.40 %	1 : 5,722
Suriname (5) (6)	1903	27	-	2	-	34	7,500	2	-			2	-	1	-	66	-		
Trinidad & Tobago (5) (7)	1905	146	0,197	23	7,946	231	174,790	4	088					290	20,494	694	212,321	10.99 %	1 : 1,611
Uruguay (7)	1904	102	42,401	04	197,203	01	202,000			376	19,621			227	32,943	770	474,240	16.53 %	1 : 3,043
Venezuela (6)	1903	12	3,610	10	1,999	79	34,946	2	70	31	3,067	153	6,902	166	91,411	464	141,025	0.82 %	1 : 37,032

North Africa	Year End	Date	Agriculture		Livestock		Credit		Fisheries		Forestry		Industrial/Workers		Other		Totals		Temp. Members as % of Pop.	Ratio Pop. to Coups
			Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members	Coups	Members		
Algeria (7)	1976	6/59	73,000	179	73,300							33	1,300			671	147,600	1.0%	1 : 21,012	
Algeria (3)	1981	6,000	-	070	4,650						9,356	10	2,000				123,220	0.72%		
Bahrain (3)	1970	30	-	2	-												32		1 : 10,930	
Cyprus (5) (7)	1984	31	17,535	101	67,637	349	215,369					1	53	20	7,176	510	817,370	66.59%	1 : 1,272	
Egypt (4)	1970	5,263	2,993,000	4,050	2,039,000			74	46,492	1,500	200,000	227	41,493	2,115	11,675	13,229	6,201,600	15.13%	1 : 1,090	
Iran (1)	1970	2,911	2,942,336	1	23,730			40	3,667	77	13,909	27	2,006			3,063	2,985,726	0.91%	1 : 10,940	
Iran (1) (7)	1970	2,315	369,000	101	145,615					140	302,964	24	2,577	5		2,593	800,156	7.01%	1 : 6,060	
Israel (1)	1970	600	105,000	6	250,000	1	230,000	1	115	1	75,000	134	10,700			743	670,015	17.96%	1 : 5,007	
Jordan (3) (7)	1982 1984	176	16,329	4	720	13	2,037	1	18	01	6,238	6	109	137	16,540	410	42,791	1.27%	1 : 0,074	
Kuwait (7)	1986	1	-	27	-	1	-					4	-	1	-	33	-		1 : 54,091	
Lebanon (3)	1983	156	0,931	52	20,300	0	1,320			56	1,190	7	52	5	53	201	31,066	1.03%	1 : 10,976	
L. Bya (3)	1979	26	116,101	1,040	206,907					151	06,000					1,451	409,160	17.10%	1 : 1,971	
Malta (3)	1969	109	-																	
Mexico (7)	1985	2,775	-	10	-			20		165			360		2,727		6,005		1 : 3,029	
Oman																				
Oman																				
Small Arabis (3)	1977	23	7,401	19	12,907									51	13,019	93	33,407	0.41%	1 : 07,527	
Syria (3) (7)	1976 1985	3,305	-	75	199,000							221	-	396	-	4,077	-		1 : 2,592	
Tunisia (3) (5) (7)	1979 1985	130	45,000			17	30,403							197	5,712	352	61,195	1.11%	1 : 20,600	
United Arab Emirates (7)	1985			12															1 : 105,000	
Yemen (AIC) (7)	1981	60	-					3		1							66		1 : 135,000	
Yemen (I) (AIC) (7)	1985	66	45,693	35	90,295			13	3,170			0	1,075			121	140,231	6.90%	1 : 17,810	