

# MIND OUR BUSINESS

## The transformative power of sustainable and inclusive business models

1 December 2020, 14:00 - 15:30 CET

[Registration link\\*](#)

\*only registered participants will receive the zoom link

As COVID-19 continues to rage across the globe and we all await the arrival of a vaccine, CONCORD, FTAO and Cooperatives Europe believe we should use this time to fundamentally rethink and rebuild our current systems better. Current economic and business models have proven to be brittle and unsustainable, while viable and resilient alternatives capable of pursuing simultaneously social, environmental, economic and governance goals, should be supported, scaled up and become mainstream. Only then will we be able to coherently address the massive setbacks in our progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

With the political priority to construct an economy that works for people, the upcoming European Social Economy Summit and Action Plan and human rights due diligence and sustainable corporate governance legislation, European political leaders seem to share this reflection. Over the coming months, unique opportunities present themselves to integrate these ambitions also in the EU's external action. The EU is agreeing on its 2021-2027 external funding instruments and programmes, its Team Europe initiatives and responses to COVID-19. The EU is reviewing its trade policy, agreeing on a new relationship with African Caribbean and Pacific States and will continue to shape its bi-regional partnership with Africa. High time to discuss with key decision-makers, civil society, business and partner country representatives how to make the most of these opportunities, which we simply cannot miss!

## Draft programme

- 14:00-14:05 **Welcome and introduction** by Tanya Cox, Director, CONCORD
- 14:05-14:40 **Inspirational presentations of what is happening around the world today and where we would like to be in 2050 and Q&A**
- Mr. Diego Isabel la Moneda, Co-Founder and Director of the New Economy and Social Innovation (NESI) Forum*
- Ms. Margarita Hernández Naranjo, Superintendent for the Popular and Solidarity Economy, Government of Ecuador*
- Ms. Yetnayet Teklewold, Manager of the International Cooperative Development, Relations, and Research Office of Awach Saving and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS), Ethiopia*
- Moderator: Lonne Poissonnier, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, CONCORD Europe*
- 14:40-14:50 **Presentation of the main findings and recommendations from the new CONCORD-FTAO-Cooperatives report 'MIND OUR BUSINESS. Amplify the transformative power of sustainable and inclusive business models through EU external action'** by Heleen Heysse, Policy Officer, Cooperatives Europe and Luisa Fondello, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Caritas Europa
- 14:50-15:25 **Exchange with EU decision makers and Q&A**
- Mr. Antti Karhunen, Principal Adviser Trade and Development, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission*
- Ms. Manon Aubry, Member of the European Parliament*
- Mr Michele Cervone, Head of Development Cooperation Coordination Division, European External Action Service*
- Mr. Michael Krake, Director Private sector, trade, employment and digital technologies, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development*
- Moderator: Lonne Poissonnier, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, CONCORD Europe*
- 15:25-15:30 **Concluding remarks and upcoming political opportunities** by Sergi Corbalan, Executive Director, Fair Trade Advocacy Office