

15th June 2018

Fellow Co-operators

The Premises and Legacy Review Committee (PLRC)

Like you, I have given a significant part of my life to building, promoting and serving the co-operative movement. I have had the great privilege to see Co-operatives changing the lives of people across the world. I know that the Co-operative movement works. It gives people a stake in their working environment, it builds their skills, and it engenders confidence and is often a bridge between local communities and the world in which we all live.

To do all those things and much more, it needs to respect and walk the talk of the co-operative values and principles.

Many of you will know that co-operatives here in Malta have been going through a frustrating and sensitive time –that the movement has been fractured and has not been working well together. In the last few weeks, real strides have been made to draw a line under these difficult years and start to build a new culture and spirit that will serve the grass roots co-ops and individual co-operators, much better.

In order to keep this momentum and complete the process, it is now time to deal with some of the most sensitive issues that have arisen over the recent years. For instance, the belief that some co-ops or national co-operative organisations have not received appropriate support and funding from the Central Co-operative Fund (CCF).

I have been invited to Chair a small three-person Committee established by the CCF to try to find answers to these problems.

I write to invite any co-operative organisation or society that thinks that it has a legitimate claim for redress, to submit their claims to PLRC by the $14^{\rm th}$ July 2018.

Each claim will be examined rigorously, and the process of decision-making will be conducted as transparently as possible. The members of the PLRC are committed to dealing with your claims in a fair and just way.

It is time to move on and I very much hope that we can complete this work and allow you all to enjoy a period of growth and success.