

Cooperative Contributions to the EU 2020 Strategy

Workshop 1: The Future Role of the European Cooperative Statute (SCE)

Reactions on the Results of the SCE - Report COM (2012) 72 Final

Dirk J. Lehnhoff

Member of the Board

DGRV - German Cooperative and Raiffeisen Confederation – reg. assoc.

Brussels, April 23rd 2012

4. Positive and Negative Factors Affecting the Establishment of a SCE

4.1 General trend

- Insofar, DGRV agrees with the result of the report

4.2 Positive and cooperative-specific drivers for setting up a SCE

- The SCE is an important contribution to the cooperative movement
 - ✓ European image
 - ✓ Pooling the principles of the cooperative legal form
 - ✓ Simplification of cross-border activities

Despite of fewer SCEs being established (up to now) :

The SCE must be maintained!

4. Positive and Negative Factors Affecting the Establishment of a SCE

4.3 Evaluation of other alleged advantages

- The missing answers don't necessarily indicate a lack of interest
- The affected companies mainly don't participate in consultations

4.4 Negative factors

- Neither the start-up costs, nor the complexity of the procedure, nor the legal uncertainty are the most significant problems
 - ✓ Costs are comparable to those caused by the establishment of other types of enterprises
 - ✓ Being supported by the appropriate experts, the SCE's systematic approach can be rephrased as "easy to handle in practice"

6. The Question of Simplification

„All stakeholders tend to believe that the complexity of the instrument is a major obstacle to the success of the SCE“

- DGRV represents a different point of view:

The main reason for the limited spread of SCEs is not the “perceived” complexity of the Statute but the low level of awareness regarding the SCE as a legal form as well as the wrong estimation of the costs required by its establishment

Thank you for your attention!

lehnhoff@dgrv.de