

# News

## march 14



Hilde Vernailen  
President

**In a few weeks' time, we will be called to participate in the European elections. The composition of the new European Parliament will then have to be taken into account when a new Commission President is appointed – and in the autumn, Europe will have a new Commission for the next five years.**

**To welcome the new policymakers we are currently working on a European Mutual Manifesto. The purpose of this policy document is to provide the European Commission and European Parliament with pro-mutual policy ideas under which the institutions can help to maximise the contribution of mutual and cooperative insurers to Europe's economy and society.**

Dear friends,

Preparations for the AMICE Congress in Nice in June are in full swing on both sides, at the co-organisers, our French mutuals' associations, and in Brussels at the AMICE Secretariat. All of you have received the Congress brochure and you will have seen that the common thread running through the whole event is the focus on our customer-owners, the preoccupation that unites us across countries and across markets, despite – or rather supported by – all our diversity. You will find further information about the Congress and an interview with our keynote speaker in this newsletter.

The European Parliament and the Commissioners' college may come to a halt during the summer. Work, however, goes on in the Commission's Directorates General and in EIOPA, and of course at the national level. We have received the extremely challenging timeline for the consultations on Solvency II implementing measures and I can only appeal to you to continue to support AMICE and its Secretariat in our efforts to advocate for appropriate consideration of the concerns of mutual and cooperative insurers, notably of smaller undertakings. The paramount importance of our role has again been demonstrated recently when AMICE was the only organisation to answer a call by the Commission to provide concrete examples for simplifications in the standard formula.

That Solvency II remains the major concern among AMICE members was also demonstrated by the record attendance of 80 participants at AMICE's seminar on the Preparatory Guidelines at the end of the year. If you missed it and are interested in the presentations, please visit the AMICE website or contact the Secretariat.

As we start preparations for the General Meeting on 5 June, I invite you to share with me your thoughts about the future of our sector and of our association. You know that we at AMICE are as member-driven as you are in your daily operations.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Nice!

*Hilde Vernailen*

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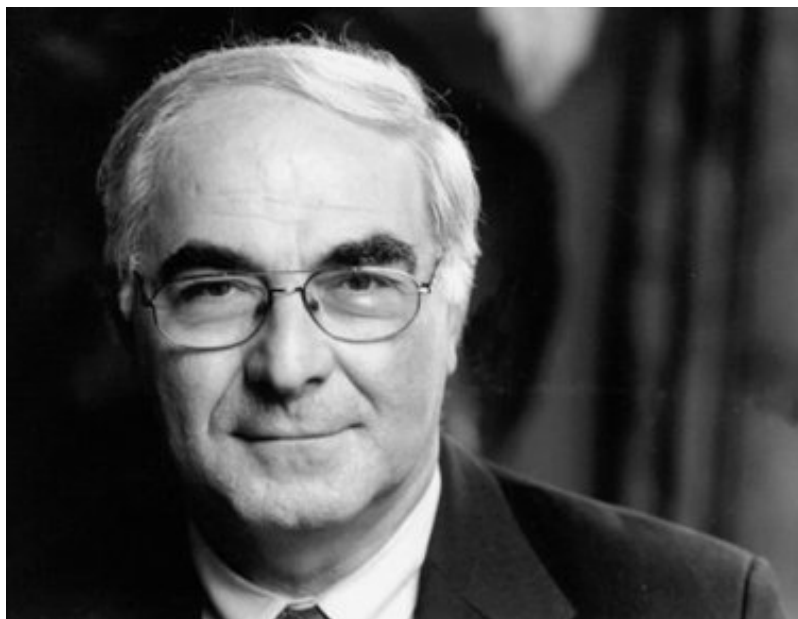
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# THE MUTUAL WAY

**Riccardo Petrella is a political scientist and Professor Emeritus at the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. We asked him to give our readers a preview of his presentation at AMICE's Congress 2014. Join us in Nice to find out more!**

*When did the mutual model begin to play a significant role in our economy?*

In the last thirty years or so, interest in the many types of economic activities in the so-called social economy, where mutualism occupies a key position, has increased greatly. This interest has led to a renewal and a significant redevelopment of the role and function of these activities in today's economy.



*In which sectors do we find the mutual model today?*

The mutual model is no longer primarily pursued in insurance, credit, labour and consumer affairs. It has spread to productive sectors, commerce, education, new technologies (IT) and has taken on hybrid entrepreneurial forms of ownership and management arrangements.

How do you explain the fact that the mutual model has developed in such wide-ranging sectors? What are people saying about this phenomenon?

Some focus on the market failures and, more generally, on the structural breakdown of capitalism, not only on the financial side but also on the industrial side. As a result, mutualism is regarded as an alternative to capitalist and market structures.

Then we have the environmental globalists and the many currents of humanist globalism who believe that mutual cooperation is the leading path to enable our societies to deal with the great worldwide challenges of today, such as:

- growing socio-economic inequalities in a world that claims to be increasingly wealthy;
- the certain and devastating effects of climate change, whose structural factors are anthropogenic;
- the troubling persistence of racial, religious and power conflicts;

Lastly, some people believe that grand systems and top-down worldwide solutions are finished and that the time has come for proactive solutions among groups that are based on agreements between planners and

communities of interest at a local level by means of mechanisms of engagement and participatory management.

The wide range of fields of intervention and the many forms that cooperative and mutual activities take in the various countries often make it difficult to come up with a decisive and clear-cut response.

*What is your personal opinion on the matter?*

Personally, I believe that the primary explanation is found in the origins and profound development of the cooperative and mutual movements in the history of Western societies that "westernised" the world. But my impression is that the second and third explanations are closest to what we see in the reality of today. You only need to look at what is happening in the United States, Europe (even in the south), China, Brazil and India. Moreover, it seems that at least among the ruling classes the prevailing opinion, which is broadly reflected in the plans and decisions of large international organisations such as the UN and its many agencies that define the political agenda of the international community, is that the world today urgently needs a plurality of economic systems and, furthermore, that it is time to liberate the future of mankind from the imprisonment created by the perception that there are no alternatives to capitalism except via the persistent duality of capitalism or socialism.

*Based on these observations, what issues will you be examining during your presentation at the AMICE Congress 2014?*

In the first part, I will talk about the consequences of the currently expanding mutualist forms. Are these forms evolving beyond the mutualism of the 19th century and the mutualism prevalent in the era of the Welfare State and Welfare Society without altering the founding principles and the structural operational rules? Or should we recognize that the mutualist movement of today reflects a radical change in the very nature of the system? And in what direction is it moving?

In the second part of my presentation I will try to answer these two questions based on an analysis of specific examples.

Since the future of our societies has yet to be written, the third part will attempt to explore whether and under what conditions new avenues of mutualism could be mapped out in order to depart from the path pursued over these last 30 years against the backdrop of the largely unopposed domination of a worldwide oligarchy that is entirely convinced of the supremacy of the creation of value (wealth) for use as capital, in particular shareholder and stakeholder value, which are regarded as a significant goal of individual and collective creativity.

# Solvency II seminar

AMICE's November Solvency II seminar in Paris with a focus on EIOPA's Preparatory Guidelines turned out to be one of the most successful seminars ever organised by the association. External guest speakers from EIOPA, the French supervisory authority and the Ministry of Finance, and from the ECB provided the 80 participants with up-to-date information about the regulatory developments.



“Mr Solvency II”, Karel Van Hulle, gave his insight on the way forward, and seven speakers from AMICE members shared their experiences and concerns in the preparation for Solvency II implementation. Thus, the seminar was a successful mix of two of AMICE's core missions: assisting members to achieve business success and advocating appropriate and fair treatment for all mutual and cooperative insurers.

FNMF, the French association of health mutuals, hosted the event in their auditorium. For Emmanuel Roux, the Director General of FNMF, it is of highest importance that no more time is lost in the discussion process. *“Supervisors and insurers must embark on a constructive dialogue to jointly reach the very ambitious implementation date of 01 January 2016.”*

AMICE Vice President Marcel Kahn closed the seminar with a reminder to the AMICE members present to remain alert and to even intensify their discussions with their national supervisors: *“We have our job to do at home, and at the European level it is our strong association that speaks for us and defends our sector. For this, we have to cooperate and to show solidarity – for mutual benefit.”*

# AMICE's input to the Solvency II discussions

After the political agreement on Omnibus II, we published and distributed to all relevant stakeholders a **position paper** with key comments on the results of the trilogue and with important messages to EIOPA regarding their Preparatory Guidelines. We wrote in essence that Europe's mutual and cooperative insurers:

- welcome the Trilogue agreement that paves the way for the further legislative process;
- fear that any further delay in the already very tight and challenging time line towards 01/01/2016 will make good preparation impossible;
- see the need for improvement of the EIOPA Preparatory Guidelines with regard to proportionality in reporting and governance;
- warn against gold-plating and uneven implementation in Member States.

The paper is available in EN, FR and DE from [http://www.amice-eu.org/publications/position\\_papers.aspx](http://www.amice-eu.org/publications/position_papers.aspx).

Around the turn of the year, we delivered to Commission, Council and Parliament a **paper on simplifications** in the standard formula (on Level 2), following intense work in the Solvency II Working Group. To date, AMICE is the only organisation to have submitted a specific document on this issue of particular importance for smaller insurance undertakings. We have received encouraging signals that the Commission is prepared to take on board several of our suggestions when presenting their final proposal for the Level 2 Delegated Acts in a few months' time.

In parallel, AMICE is in permanent contact with EIOPA on detailed proposals from the regulators' side, e.g. recently on ring-fenced funds, on a definition of “written premiums” and also on proxies and simplifications.

EIOPA has recently published a timeline for the **consultation on their ITSs (implementing technical standards) and Level 3 guidelines**. This timeline, together with some more granular information, is available from [silvia.herms@amice-eu.org](mailto:silvia.herms@amice-eu.org).

## Strategy Review

**The implementation of the association's new strategy continues:**

- In line with their respective meeting schedules, the various working groups are reviewing their Terms of Reference to bring them into line with the revised strategy.
- The Executive Committee discussed and endorsed a reporting structure from the working groups to the Commission chairs (and through them to the Executive Committee) with a traffic-light system (green-yellow-red) to indicate progress on the groups' work.
- The new WG Promoting mutual and cooperative values had its kick-off meeting together with the Communications WG and one further meeting in which the members discussed a draft of the European Mutual Manifesto which AMICE intends to finalise with the help of UK-based consultancy Mutuo in time for the Congress and the arrival of the new MEPs.
- The Communications WG has unanimously nominated Julien Hayen from Belgian member P&V as its new Chair.



More information on the Mutual Manifesto project and on the implementation of the revised strategy can be obtained from [gregor.pozniak@amice-eu.org](mailto:gregor.pozniak@amice-eu.org).





## Conference: 'Social entrepreneurs: Have Your Say!'

On 16 and 17 January, the European Commission organised a large conference in Strasbourg with the title "Social entrepreneurs: Have Your Say!" with the aim of shaping the European agenda for the next 3 to 5 years and of offering a place to network for representatives of the sector.

In many European countries, mutuals and cooperatives see themselves as part of the "social economy" and AMICE had been invited to share a stand with ICMIF, AIM, FNMF and other organisations under the overarching theme 'mutuals4u'. AMICE had the opportunity to present to some 2,000 participants the role and the importance of mutual and cooperative insurers in Europe. We also produced an information flyer about "Mutual Insurance – the natural way to cover your risks" which we distributed at the stand. The flyer is available in EN and FR at <http://www.amice-eu.org/today.aspx>.



At the end of the conference, a declaration in favour of social enterprises was passed which, among other issues, emphasised the importance of a business model that values social cohesion as a source of collective wealth and that balances financial, social, cultural and environmental needs.

## European Mutual Statute – Impact Assessment

During the Strasbourg conference, Commission Vice President Tajani announced that the Impact Assessment on the follow-up to the Commission study on mutuals would be closed a few days later and that legislative action would follow. Indeed, the Impact Assessment Board gave its approval on 22 January, but urged Commission services to improve the IA and to work out more clearly the benefits to be achieved and the respective advantages of the various options: an information campaign, the creation of a Statute for a European Mutual Society, or an extension of the European Cooperative Statute.

At the time of finishing this newsletter, AMICE is involved in responding to a list of further questions about the actual barriers for mutual insurers in Europe; the Secretariat has also asked AMICE members to provide additional input that would assist Commission services in choosing an appropriate option and in preparing a proposal during the first half of this year.

## Corporate Social Responsibility at AMICE

AMICE's strategy 2013-2018 set up a new Assistance Commission, chaired by Anu Pylkkänen from LähiTapiola, Finland, to help implement its mission "enabling AMICE members, and in particular small and medium-sized insurance undertakings to be successful". The objective of the CSR working group, which is part of that Commission, is to do just that by facilitating knowledge exchange and joint learning among members in the area of CSR.

At the working group's last meeting in December, five AMICE members from Belgium, Finland, France, Italy and Spain shared their expertise in environmental aspects of CSR activities and engagement, covering topics such as climate change effects on claims, energy efficiency, and responsible investments, and which led to interesting discussions about sustainable insurance products. Members can download the report from the meeting and the presentations from the [meeting folder](#) on the AMICE website.

The next meeting of the working group will take place on 26 March at AMICE's offices and will look at CSR and regulation, including the soon to be adopted EU directive on non-financial disclosure and case studies from members. Topics for later in the year include "CSR driving innovation" and "CSR strategies". Please contact [helen.sheppard@amice-eu.org](mailto:helen.sheppard@amice-eu.org) for more information.



# Business – the mutual way

## AMICE Congress 2014, Le Méridien, Nice

AMICE's next Congress will take place in Nice from 4 to 6 June around the theme "Business – the mutual way". The event is co-organised with the three French mutualist families: GEMA, Mutualité française, ROAM.



Check out the outline programme below or see the congress brochure available on our website for more information. Registration is also open on-line at [www.amicenice.eu](http://www.amicenice.eu)

For more information, contact [helen.sheppard@amice-eu.org](mailto:helen.sheppard@amice-eu.org).

Wednesday 4 June		
16.00-19.00	Board meeting	
20.00	Welcome Reception	
Thursday 5 June		
09.00-10.30	General meeting	
11.00-12.30	Congress Opening Session	
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.30	Session I: More regulation for more protection for the customer?	Gabriel Bernardino will explain how EU regulation benefits customers of mutual and cooperative insurers. Practitioners from two AMICE members will react to this position with concrete examples.  This session is the opportunity to <b>advocate for appropriate and fair regulation</b> for the mutual and cooperative sector.
15.30-16.00	Break	
16.00-17.30	Session II: Social security – the mutual sector for better value to society?	Following an introduction with up to date information on key influencing factors such as the financial crisis, changing priorities in public finance, aging societies and other demographic changes, practitioners from two AMICE members will present examples from their markets.  The session is the opportunity to <b>raise awareness of the potential role for mutuals</b> in social security for the benefit of society.
20.00	Gala dinner	
Friday 6 June		
09.00-10.30	Session III: The mutualist model – the future of free enterprise?	Inspirational political scientist Riccardo Petrella will discuss whether the mutual model represents a new era in economic and societal terms; is it the natural response to citizens' expectations in the future?  Practitioners from AMICE members will demonstrate how the mutual and cooperative insurer recognises and reacts to the new model of society.  The session is the opportunity to <b>promote the mutual model</b> as the natural solution for business for the benefit of European citizens.
10.30-11.00	Break	
11.00-12.30	Session IV: Reliable data for customer-focused solutions?	The introductory speaker will defend the value of good data and help you to think out of the box on how data collection and evaluation can maximise customer value.  Two practitioners' from AMICE members will provide practical applications of good data use  The session will <b>assist mutual and cooperative insurers</b> in finding the best solutions for their customers.
12.30-13.00	Closing Session & Invitation to the AMICE Congress in 2016	
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
15.00-17.30	Walking tour of Nice	



► Welcome Reception at the Villa Masséna



► Gala Dinner at the Domaine de Mont Leuze

## → AMICE meetings and events

- 25 March . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Communications working group
- 26 March . . . . . Brussels . . . . . CSR working group
- 31 March . . . . . Budapest . . . . . Board
- 09 April . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Solvency II working group
- 05 May . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Promoting working group
- 06 May . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Communications working group
- 07 May . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Executive Committee
- 14 May . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Solvency II working group
- 04 June . . . . . Nice . . . . . Board
- 05 June . . . . . Nice . . . . . General Meeting
- 04-06 June . . . . . Nice . . . . . AMICE Congress
- 12 June . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Solvency II working group
- 09 September . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Executive Committee
- 09 September . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Presidency Meeting
- 10 September . . . . . Brussels . . . . . Reinsurance working group
- 04 November . . . . . Turin . . . . . Board
- 27 November . . . . . Online . . . . . Reinsurance working group

## → External Events Calendar

- 24 April 2014 . . . . . Istanbul . . . . . Conference on insurance cooperatives  
Koru Mutual
- 6-7 May 2014 . . . . . London . . . . . Insurance Telematics Europe 2014  
Telematics Update  
£100 discount for AMICE members.  
Please contact the Secretariat for further information.
- 12-13 May 2014 . . . . . London . . . . . Advanced Certified Sustainability (CSR) Practitioner Training (IEMA Approved)  
Centre for Sustainability and Excellence  
\*15% discount for AMICE members.  
Please contact the Secretariat to get your promotional code.
- 13 May 2014 . . . . . London . . . . . A Regulatory & Technical Update on Solvency II Reporting  
Infoline  
\* 20% discount for AMICE members.  
Please contact the Secretariat to get your promotional code.
- 9 - 10 June 2014 . . . . . Miami . . . . . Moro - Meeting of Reinsurance Officials  
ICMIF
- 11-12 June 2014 . . . . . Malta . . . . . 6th International Insurance Conference & General Assembly events
- 25 -27 June 2014 . . . . . Bruges . . . . . General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings  
AIM