



Press Release

NABCO celebrates launch of International Year of Co-operatives

Dublin, 12 January 2012 – NABCO, Ireland’s national federation for co-operative housing, today joined with organisations across Europe in celebrating the launch of the United Nations International Year of the Co-operative in Brussels.

The United Nations has proclaimed 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives. As declared by UN Secretary General Mr. Ban-Ki-Moon “Co-operatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility”.

Co-operatives are businesses owned and democratically controlled by their members. Co-operatives are locally rooted and guided by shared principals. Around the world more than one billion people are members of co-operatives and in 2008 the top 300 co-operatives had a turnover of \$1.6 trillion, equivalent to the world’s ninth largest economy.

NABCO’s Chief Executive, Niall O’Keeffe, said: “Co-operatives make a real difference to people’s lives and to give communities a meaningful sense of control over their own futures. Members of housing co-operatives will be celebrating the International Year in towns and cities across the country. We’ll also be holding events at a national level with other co-operative organisations as well as celebrating European Co-operative Week (23-27 April) with our colleagues in Brussels. As members of the International Co-operative Alliance, NABCO is proud to represent Ireland’s rich co-operative heritage on the international stage”.

“This is a historic moment for co-operatives, showing how to build a better world that sustains communities and creates jobs. At a time when the flaws in traditional businesses have been exposed, co-operatives can provide the social and economic potential to create a more balanced and sustainable world.”

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NABCO (National Association of Building Co-operatives) is Ireland’s national association representing, promoting and developing the co-operative housing movement. Since 1973 it has supported locally-owned and locally-managed societies across Ireland to meet their own housing need through self-help and mutual effort.

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