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Title of abstract:

Drafting a general law on cooperatives in Greece: The challenge of co-construction

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Abstract:

The evolution of the Greek co-operative legal framework from an initial model of a general law (L. 602/1915) towards an ever-growing number of only special co-operative laws with overlapping and at times conflictual provisions, consolidated a legacy of institutional fragmentation. In this context, the law-making process, the law enforcement and the associated everyday operations affected by it, focus on the heterogeneity among the different co-operative types, while disregarding their shared and distinct co-operative identity. As a result, no comprehensive public policy plan is effected towards co-operatives' development while few synergies are developed among the various types of cooperatives on the ground.

In order to address the above fragmentation, experts, practitioners and representatives of SSE support organizations have initiated a process of co-constructing a general co-operative law which would set common provisions applicable (in principle) to all types of co-operatives.

This article documents the ongoing co-construction process to draft a general law on cooperatives in Greece. It aims to examine the rationale behind this initiative, the emerging challenges as well as the mechanisms through which these challenges were navigated so far.

As such, this article aspires to enrich the relevant discussion on the importance of bottom-up collective organization in driving forward the agenda of unified cooperative legislation in Greece and abroad.

Keywords: co-construction, law harmonization, law unification, general cooperative law, cooperative legislation