

Nationwide Scientific Conference
“Centenary of the Enactment of the Cooperatives Act of 29 October 1920 –
Past, Present and Future of Cooperative Law”
Lublin, 5 November 2021

Ogólnopolska Konferencja Naukowa
„Stulecie uchwalenia ustawy z dnia 29 października 1920 r. o spółdzielniach –
przeszłość, teraźniejszość i przyszłość prawa spółdzielczego”
Lublin, 5 listopada 2021 r.

Общепольская научная конференция
„Столетие принятия Закона от 29 октября 1920 года о кооперативах –
прошлое, настоящее и будущее кооперативного права”
Люблин, 5 ноября 2021 года

Національна наукова конференція
«Сторіччя прийняття Закону від 29 жовтня 1920 р. про кооперативи –
минуле, сучасне та майбутнє кооперативного права»
Люблін, 5 листопада 2021 р.

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On Friday, 5 November 2021, the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin hosted a nationwide scientific conference entitled “Centenary of the Enactment of the Cooperatives Act of 29 October 1920 – Past, Present and Future of Cooperative Law.” The National Cooperative Council and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin organised the conference. Due to the sanitary protocol associated with the epidemic, the conference had a hybrid format. Representatives of the organisers and guests were present at the Knowledge Transfer Centre of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. In contrast, most presentations were delivered remotely, using the MS Teams platform.

Dr. habil. Piotr Zakrzewski, Professor at the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), Chair of the Department of Civil Law at KUL, welcomed the conference participants. His Magnificence, Rev. Prof. Dr. habil. Mirosław Kalinowski, Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, officially opened the conference. In his introductory speech, His Magnificence, Rev. Prof. Dr. habil. Mirosław Kalinowski expressed his joy that the conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of the enactment

of the Cooperatives Act was being held at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and pointed to the presence of cooperative issues in the structure of the University's scientific and research, teaching and social activities. Then, Dr. habil. Andrzej Herbet, Professor at the Catholic University of Lublin, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration at KUL, took the floor and emphasised the high legal standard of the Cooperatives Act of 29 October 1920. The President of the Board of the National Cooperative Council, Dr. Mieczysław Grodzki, drew attention to the important role of cooperatives not only in economic activities but also in social and cultural activities.

The conference was divided into three parts. The opening paper of the first part, *Stanisław Wróblewski – the first commentator on the 1920 Cooperatives Act*, was presented by Prof. Dr. habil. Andrzej Mączyński. The paper presented a biography of the eminent jurist of the Krakow School, Professor Stanisław Wróblewski and his contribution to drafting the Cooperatives Act of 1920. On the other hand, in his paper entitled *Centenary of the codification of cooperative law*, Prof. Dr. habil. Krzysztof Pietrzykowski presented the evolution of Polish cooperative law. Dr. habil. Piotr Zakrzewski, Professor at the Catholic University of Lublin, followed with a paper entitled *The future of Polish cooperative law – legislative challenges in the context of European Cooperative Law*. He analysed against the background of the draft Principles of European Cooperative Law, the legitimacy of undertaking work on a new cooperative law and the principles and values on which it should be based. Another presentation entitled *Bankruptcy of a housing cooperative and the situation of persons with ownership rights to premises. Observations in light of Supreme Court jurisprudence* was delivered by Prof. Dr. habil. Joanna Misztal-Konecka. It was focused on changes in the Supreme Court's jurisprudence relating to the assessment of the effects of the transformation of the ownership right to premises into the right of separate ownership of premises during the bankruptcy proceedings of a housing cooperative. The first part of the conference concluded with Dr. habil. Grzegorz Kozieł, Professor at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, who presented a paper entitled *A monistic system in a cooperative operating under the general rules of Polish cooperative law as an option for managing the cooperative de lege ferenda*, devoted to considerations on the need to introduce into Polish cooperative law, as one of the options, a monistic system for managing cooperatives operating under the general rules.

The second part of the conference began with a presentation of the 1920 Cooperatives Act with explanatory notes by Professor Stanisław Wróblewski, whose edition was reissued by the National Cooperative Council and a commemorative medal to mark the 100th anniversary of the enactment of this Act. Another item on the agenda was the announcement of the winner of the 17th edition of the

competition for the best research paper on cooperatives. The competition results were announced by Professor Antoni Magdoń, head of the competition jury. Subsequently, Dr. habil. Anna Zbiegień-Turzańska of the University of Warsaw delivered a paper entitled *Representation of cooperatives*, in which she discussed the development of the principles of representation in Polish cooperative law. On the other hand, in a paper entitled *On the legal problem of farmers' cooperatives and energy cooperatives – past, present and future*, Dr. habil. Aneta Suchoń, Professor at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, attempted to identify trends in the development of agricultural cooperatives and energy cooperatives. President of the Management Board of the Franciszek Stefczyk Credit Union Joanna Mędrzecka delivered a paper entitled *Evolution of the legal framework for the operation of credit unions* devoted to the evolution of the legal framework for the operation of credit unions. The second part of the conference ended with a presentation by Dr. Katarzyna Królikowska of the Koźmiński University in Warsaw entitled *Post-war reforms of cooperative law in Germany*, which focused on the analysis of German solutions in the field of cooperative law, with particular emphasis on the issue of the liability of cooperative members for its debts.

The third part of the conference opened with a lecture by Dr. Mateusz Żaba of the University of Silesia in Katowice, who, in his paper entitled *On the need for amending the Polish regulations on the possibility of transferring shares in a cooperative and acquiring membership in it. Observations in light of Czech, Slovak and Slovenian solutions* confronted the issue of the amendment of Polish regulations on transferring shares in a cooperative and acquiring membership in it with the Czech, Slovak and Slovenian legal order. The presentation by Dr. Tomasz Dabrowski of the Kazimierz Pułaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom entitled *Cooperative organs in Polish and German law: yesterday – today – tomorrow?* illustrated the evolution of the regulation of cooperative organs in Polish law compared to German solutions. This speech was followed by Dr. Paweł Widerski of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, who, in his paper entitled *Power of attorney to participate in the general meeting of a cooperative*, described the legal characteristics of a power of attorney to participate in the general meeting of a cooperative. Next, Dr. Dominik Bierecki presented the paper entitled *The legal nature of cooperative action in the interests of its members*. He addressed the issue of the differences between the activities of cooperatives and those of other corporate legal persons, taking into account the historical, European and comparative perspectives of Polish legal regulation. The last paper in the third part of the conference, entitled *Objectives and effects of dairy cooperatives in Poland*, was delivered by Dr. Maria Zuba-Ciszewska of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. It dealt with the

functioning of dairy cooperatives in the context of their tasks and their fulfilment of general social and economic objectives.

The conference was rounded off by discussing the cooperative issues raised during presentations. The conference chairman, Prof. Piotr Zakrzewski, thanked the participants for taking part in the conference. He gave special thanks to Prof. Andrzej Mączyński and Prof. Krzysztof Pietrzykowski. He then closed the conference.