

Statement by the Honourable Mauril Bélanger following Monique Leroux's election to the presidency of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA), this Friday, November 13th, in Ankara, Turkey:

My sincere congratulations to Ms. Leroux who, by her election as head of the ICA, becomes the first Canadian and first North American to chair this important international organization.

ICA is an independent and non-governmental organization created in 1895 to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide.

Ms. Monique Leroux is Chair of the Board of Desjardins Group, as well as President and Chief Executive Officer. She is also a founding partner of the Quebec International Summit of Co-operatives. The second Summit was held in October 2014 and involved over 2,500 participants from 100 countries. The first one was held in October 2012, during the International Year of Co-operatives. The third summit will again be held in Québec City from October 11th to 13th, 2016!

I am confident that Ms. Leroux will fulfill her new duties in the service of the co-operative sector, with a passionate heart and a sharp mind.