



Co-operative “Offshorism”

Why don't we ALL bank off-shore?

If the entire global co-operative economy (taken as a single national economy, it would be 5th largest on the planet) banked off-shore, two things would happen in very short order.

- 1) National treasuries would suddenly redouble (or quadruple) their efforts to close off-shore loopholes.
- 2) While the national governments are busying themselves with those loopholes, we could fund health, education, and social welfare for all our members ourselves. Just as we did at the very outset of the movement, we could neatly side-step governments totally opposed to such "socialist" ideas.

(One of the advantages of not being an actual national economy means the mainstream economies wouldn't know where to start bombing.)

National governments could be left to fund "defence", "security", war adventurism, the compromised legal systems, and the ridiculous pageantry for the ruling classes and the minority who still support them.

Drawn by the benefits, membership of the global co-op movement would increase dramatically, and significant wealth could be generated through co-operative sharing and enormous global economies of scale. With the increased proceeds, the movement could hire top-notch legal teams and lobbyists to press for ways to disengage from national taxes where it is clear they are offering no or redundant benefit to members.

As crypto-currencies come into regular use (which many feel is now inevitable), we can then set up a global co-operative crypto treasury (perhaps using FairCoin - the "Proof of Co-operation" currency?) and disengage completely from the entire mainstream finance sector.

As more and more members joined the global co-operative movement, the "mainstream" economies would gradually lose relevance and become the sideshow for gamblers that they should always have been.

As is often the case, we tinker around with non-essentials as the movement shrinks, its assets are slowly stripped, and windows of opportunity slip by without comment. The opportunity to go “off-shore” and/or delve into crypto-currency needs closer examination and perhaps a pilot study or two. But now is the time to do it. We cannot continue to flatter ourselves that we can function within such a dysfunctional mainstream economy. As we do so, we risk losing not just the economic battle, but the informational and educational one as well. If the ecosystems of the world survive the ravages of human corporate intervention, the entire history of the co-operative movement will become a forgotten footnote in the mainstream narrative.

- Martin Strube, September /19