

## Annex D – Norwegian Cooperative Rules

The **Norwegian Act on Cooperatives** was adopted in 2008. The most important achievement of this Act is that cooperatives received a formal legal status as “cooperative” company.

The Competition Act sets forth exemptions relating to agriculture and fishery. This exemption means that farmers are given an opportunity to cooperate, and take dominant market position, if it is in line with the market regulatory role of the particular company, or where there is an agreement between the government and the agricultural or fishery company being granted market regulatory role.

The Act on the enhancement of the sales of agricultural products (omsetningsloven) was an important milestone in the long history of Norwegian agricultural cooperatives.

This Act formed and defined the role of cooperatives in the promotion of sales of certain types of agricultural goods. This Act is an important factor in regulating the market of agricultural products in Norway.

Agricultural cooperatives in Norway are good examples for cooperation established to achieve a particular purpose. As the various cooperatives serve to address various needs, a number of farmers are members to a number of cooperatives. Such cooperatives include the cooperative of milk producers, another one includes cooperatives for the procurement of production inputs, a third type of cooperatives provide loans or other services for the farmers. The three largest cooperatives received market regulatory roles from the government in the market of agricultural products. Their role is defined by the decree on the regulation of the market of agricultural products. Three cooperatives, namely Nortura SA, Norske Felleskjøp SA and Tine SA were granted dominant role as defined in Article 2 of the decree.<sup>233</sup>

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<sup>233</sup> In paragraph 2, the three largest agricultural cooperatives are given a marked regulating role: § 2.Definisjoner  
a) Markedsregulator: Nortura SA, Norske Felleskjøp SA og Tine SA.