

Newsletter Volume 2 # 6

Fall 2007

The Brussels-EU Chapter of the Club of Rome

Annual meeting of the Club of Rome, Madrid 23-25 September 2007

The annual meeting took place in Madrid, Spain from 23 to 25 September 2007 under the general topic "Human Development: Challenges and Opportunities". The organisation was updated, being named co-presidents Ashok Khosla and Eberhard von Koerber and Secretary General Martin Lees. Four members of the Brussels-EU Chapter attended this meeting.

General Assembly of the Brussels-EU Chapter of the Club of Rome (CoR-EU).

The 2007 General Assembly took place the 20 June, 2007 at the Royal Academy of Belgium. Some of the issues addressed were:

- Brief interim report on 2006 activities.
- Financial Report 2006. Report of the financial controllers
- Presentation and approval of the budget 2007
- Admission of new Full Members
- Confirming the current mandates and Board composition

A new board was elected; the annual membership fee was decided to remain the same as the previous years and amounts 100€.

The profile of the activities will be maintained and held at the high pace of the previous years and the international character of the Aurelio Peccei Lectures will be maintained.

Brussels EU-Chapter (CoR-EU), Board meeting 12 September 2007

The review of the strategy of the Brussels-EU was done. The ambition was expressed to set up research projects on sustainability issues in the line of the thinking of the Club of Rome including new scientific approaches and methodologies.

Annual meeting of the Dutch Chapter of the Club of Rome: *Erasmuslezing*

The Erasmus Liga met on 7 May 2007 in The Hague, two member of the Brussels-EU Chapter attended the meeting.

Founding meeting of the French Chapter of the Club of Rome

On September 11, 2007 a preliminary meeting for the founding of a French Chapter took place in Paris. The official founding is scheduled for November/December 2007.

European Support Center , Vienna

In co-operation with the Portuguese EU Presidency, the European Support Centre (ESC-CoR) and the Polish Association organized the event "The Future of Europe - Sustainable Development and Growth?" <http://www.clubofrome.at/events/2007/future/>



THE BRUSSELS-EU CHAPTER

Honorary President
HRH Prince Philip of Belgium

<http://esc.clubofrome.org/cor-eu/cor.eu.secretary@gmail.com>

Aurelio Peccei Lectures & Dialogues

40th Aurelio Peccei Lecture (9 May 2007)

Developing an early warning - reaction system for global and regional threats, by Tapio Kanninen.

The lecture was based on the article: 'A political Early Warning - Response System to Address Global and Regional Threats', which is available on the website of CoR-EU. It presented a simple framework to assess the trends of the future with illustrative examples of its application and how to make this framework more systematic, or quantified, based on the history of similar efforts in economic, social, environmental and political fields.

41st Aurelio Peccei Lecture (24 May 2007)

Wikipedia and the educational landscape, by Florence Devouard.

The Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to encouraging the growth, development and distribution of free, multilingual content, and to providing the full content of these wiki-based projects to the public free of charge. The Wikimedia Foundation operates some of the largest collaboratively edited reference projects in the world, including Wikipedia, a project to build free encyclopaedias in all languages of the world based on concepts such as open source, copyleft, collaborative writing, and volunteer contributions for the public good.

42nd Aurelio Peccei Lecture (30 May 2007)

Antarctica and Climate Change Research in New Zealand, by Dean Peterson and Nancy Bertler.

Antarctica New Zealand was established in 1996 and is responsible for developing, managing and administering New Zealand's activities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, particularly the Ross Sea region. Antarctica New Zealand is also responsible for enhancing New Zealand scientific research, and providing sound environmental stewardship. In addition to supporting scientific research through logistics planning and scholarships, Antarctica New Zealand runs arts, media and education programmes. These increase public awareness and appreciation of Antarctica and its conservation values.

43rd Aurelio Peccei Lecture (20 June 2007)

The Santo-Vanuatu Expedition 2006: Biodiversity in state of emergency, by G. Reinaud & Dr. J. de Gerlache.

The largest international scientific mission on biodiversity ever: 160 researchers from 25 countries with exceptional scientific, human and technological resources.

44th Aurelio Peccei Lecture (19 September 2007)

The Global Marshall Plan Initiative, by Prof. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher.

Globalisation today does not lead the world into a peaceful future and a sustainable state. Instead, insufficient governance structures threaten the ecological stability of the world and increase social and cultural gaps. We are on a route towards collapse or "brasilianisation". Only a new global governance structure, following the principle of balance as implemented in all successful countries and employed in the European Union as a supranational political entity offers a chance for a peaceful future for all. The Global Marshall Plan is a step in this direction.

45th Aurelio Peccei Lecture (22 October 2007)

Small Change Delivers: Mobilising grassroots dollars to save women's lives, by Jane Roberts.

In 2002, the Bush Administration announced they would withhold the \$34 million annually allocated by Congress to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). To bridge the funding gap and to show American citizens' support for UNFPA, Jane Roberts and Lois Abraham established 34 Million Friends of UNFPA; a grassroots movement which hopes to find 34 million Americans to take a stand with at least one dollar. The campaign has to date raised \$3.6 million.

Future Lectures

46th Aurelio Peccei Lecture (5 December 2007)

Presentation of OECD strategy review on China, by Jean Guinet, OECD.

China is one of the emerging powers illustrating that S&T is turning towards East. Mr Guinet will present the recently launched OECD strategy review regarding China S&T, and in more general terms, the policy adopted by OECD for the country reviews already undertaken or in planning for countries such as India, Korea, Russia or Brazil. On the afternoon and preceding the Lecture an open workshop will be organised with support of other think-tanks present in Brussels. Registration is advised for that meeting.

47th Aurelio Peccei Lecture (10 January 2008)

Presentation of the mission and activities of the University for Peace, Costa Rica, by its former Rector, Martin Lees.

New Honorary Members & Speech by Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering

On September 19, H.R.H. Prince Philip of Belgium, Honorary President, has remitted certificates to the three new Honorary Members of the Brussels EU-Chapter of the CoR:

- **Professor Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering**, President of the European Parliament
- **Baron André Jaumotte**, Professor, Former rector of the ULB, Brussels University
- **Mr. Raymond Georis**, Managing Director, European Foundation Madariaga and Former Secretary General, European Cultural Foundation

For such an occasion, the President of the European Parliament, Professor Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, has delivered the following speech:

Your Royal Highness, Prince Philippe of Belgium, Mr. Honorary President, Mr. President of the Club of Rome-EU, Dear Professor Weiler, Professor Radermacher, Baron André Jaumotte, Mr. Raymond Georis, Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to receive, from the hand of His Royal Highness Prince Philippe of Belgium, this certificate of my Honorary Membership in the EU-Chapter of the Club of Rome.

May I also offer my most sincere thanks to the President of the EU-Chapter of the Club of Rome and to all its members. This Honorary Membership means a great deal to me, above all since the task given to us all, to win the peace with our environment, with creation, is a matter of the highest priority for me.

The Club of Rome was the first to have the courage to stress the consequences of human activity on our environment. It thus made a decisive contribution to ensuring that the environment has become a policy imperative in our political thought and action that cannot be ignored.

This was a long process. As with the reconstruction and the political unification of our continent in the European Union, it has been a tough and protracted process requiring patience and conviction in order to awaken in people right across regions and frontiers the awareness of a common sense of belonging, a common fate. In the same way, environmental pollution knows no borders and affects us all, and combating it is an urgent priority and our joint responsibility.

Awareness of the consequences of irresponsible and reckless growth has risen markedly in recent years. Almost 90 per cent of Europe's citizens are concerned at the impact of climate change. Indeed: do we need yet more proof of the global interconnectedness of everything than the evidence which the worldwide consequences of climate change are showing us daily?

Environmental protection, social cohesion and the market economy are the vertices of a strategic triangle: the eco-social market economy shows us the right way forward for the sustainable development of our planet.



Second World War, so the Global Marshall Plan Initiative which Professor Dr. Franz-Josef Radermacher has just described to us so vividly and clearly now offers us a key for joint action to save creation.

Speech by Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering (cont.)

This model of survival for the future presupposes the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns in order to decouple economic growth and environmental damage. In every way it is a strategy from which all involved can only benefit! This way of thinking also closely corresponds to the model of European society, which also prioritises the social and ecological dimensions alongside the free market.

Europe has made a good start with putting these principles of sustainable development into practice: the Lisbon Strategy for growth and development is the concrete political implementation of the strategic triangle of the eco-social market economy: significant initiatives have been taken in the context of the renewed Lisbon Process in the social field and in environmental protection. In so doing, the European Union is also trying to promote all three components in equal measure.

However, rapid global change and the now clear and unmistakable signs of climate change make it essential for greater efforts to be made to keep the European Union on the path of sustainable development. The European Council in June 2005 therefore adopted an ambitious and comprehensive action programme for sustainable development for the years 2005-2010.

With this package and with the measures which the Heads of State and Government decided at the European Council in March 2007 with a view to establishing a joint strategy for fighting climate change and promoting energy efficiency, the European Union remains a leader in sustainable development.

And with the Reform Treaty now being negotiated, which should be ready for the Intergovernmental Conference to vote on this autumn, the principle of sustainable development would be embedded in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and established as an objective of the European Union.

Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union reads: 'The Union shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment'

At the same time the new provisions added to the Reform Treaty in the energy sector and aimed at combating climate change are a clear sign that the European Union intends to devote itself resolutely to these challenges for the future.

In this whole process I should like to emphasise one more thing: education plays a decisive role in promoting environmental awareness and greater sensitivity to environmentally sound behaviour. It is also important to train more environmental specialists and to develop more knowledge in the area of environmental technologies.

The current report of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirms that climate change is a fact. We must make serious efforts to develop new, clean energy technologies and to step up the drive to achieve energy efficiency. This will entail nothing less than a 'new industrial revolution' built on an ambitious research policy to foster eco-innovations and eco-technologies.

The European Parliament has called for rapid and responsible action. At this year's spring summit of EU Heads of State and Government I successfully argued on Parliament's behalf for Europe-wide binding targets to be set.

But we must go one step further and as the European Union acknowledge our responsibility towards the whole planet. We must seek actively to promote sustainable development at a global level; the European Union must play the leading role in securing an agreement on post-Kyoto arrangements.

We will not, however, be able to shoulder alone the global responsibility for protecting the climate of our planet, but must convince our partners in the world to join with us. Any agreement to which the USA, China or India does not sign up will have great difficulty in actually reducing CO₂ emissions.

But signs of a change in thinking can be also made out in China and India, countries which are seeing ever more clearly the impact of climate change on their own environment too. We should make the most of this opportunity!

Failure to act now would create a problem for which future generations would pay an enormous price. That is unacceptable, not least because of the principle of equity between generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The path that lies before us is still a long one. But our goals for achieving development that is sustainable are both technically feasible and economically affordable - but only if we act quickly and resolutely.

Thank you

News from the Club of Rome

<http://www.clubofrome.org/news/index.php>

New from the Club of Rome National Associations

<http://www.clubofrome.at/news/index.html>

tt30 of the Club of Rome

<http://www.clubofrome.org/tt30/index.php>

Aurelio Peccei Foundation

<http://www.clubofrome.at/peccei/>

EU

News and events can be found at:

- <http://ec.europa.eu>
- http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public/default_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.html
- <http://www.friendsofeurope.org>
- <http://www.bruegel.org/Public/WebSite.php?ID=2>
- <http://www.epc.eu/>
- <http://www.euractiv.com/en/HomePage>
- <http://www.agenceurope.com/EN/GobalFrameset.html>
- <http://www.robert-schuman.org/gb/index.htm>
- <http://www.greenfacts.org>

BOOKS

The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics

Riane Eisler. 2007, Berrett Koehler.

Eisler goes beyond the market's parameters to reexamine economics from a larger perspective and demonstrates that the real wealth of nations includes the contributions of people and environment.

Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming

Paul Hawken. 2007, Viking Books

Hawken traces the formation of the environmental and social justice movement as a combination of history, current events, motivation and vision for a future when people are joining together to defend life on Earth.

Fair Future: Limited resources and fair future

Edited by Wolfgang Sachs and Tilman Santarius. 2007, Zed Books

The authors address the two main problems that define our age: social justice and environmental sustainability, proposing a platform for fundamental progress which considers a planet with limited resources, poor countries aiming to raise their standards of living and without putting the planet under additional environmental stress.

European Hope.

Towards a World in Balance.

Global Marshall Plan Initiative. 2006, Global Marshall Plan Foundation

An impressive list of authors and several members of the Club of Rome contributed to these two volumes. Two excellent publications in the long row of documents issued by the Foundation under the inspiration and leadership of our colleagues Professor Franz-Josef Radermacher of Frithjof Finkbeiner and of Dr. Franz Fischler.

This newsletter has been elaborated by Carlos Rodríguez-Casal. For comments please contact: crosal@unavarra.es
Secretariat: Mrs. Céline Broeckaert; cor.eu.secretary@gmail.com