



Hyphen 41

Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux
association sans but lucratif | Spring 2008



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Heart-Slopes

Rainer Maria RILKE (1875-1926) translated by A.S. Kline

Out on the heart-slopes. See, how tiny down there,
See, the last village of words, and higher,
But how little still, one last
Farmhouse of feeling. Do you know it?
Out on the heart-slopes. Stone ground
Under the hands. Something still
Grows here: on a dumb ledge,
An unknowing plant blooms, sings out.
And the knower? Ah, who began to know
And is silent now, out on the heart-slopes.
There fully conscious many a mountain
Creature, sure-footed, lingers,
Passes. And a huge bird securely
Circles the pure peak of denial. – But
insecure, here on
the slopes of the heart.



Activity report 2007

The executive board is pleased to submit you the activity report of the last exercise.

■ 1. Internal affairs

The executive board has met since the last statutory meeting on March 16th, and November 24th and 25th, 2007 as well as on March 7th, 2008.

The executive board has discussed in its meetings above all the problem how to present the movement better both from an internal and an external point of view. It has made the necessary preparation in order to adapt the affiliation fees after an application period of ten years. They should now take into consideration the new number of affiliated members and guarantee at the same time a good functioning of the Office. The executive board has as well made an evaluation of the study session organized by the Nordic countries.

The publication of the Hyphen could be continued this year thanks to the good cooperation with the German federation. Very hearty thanks go to the German federation, to Mr. WAGNER and his colleagues for this appreciated support. The same thanks have to be addressed to the Austrian federation and Thomas GINDL for the keeping up-to-date of our Home-page. Without this modern means of communication, that should however be improved, a federation cannot exist any more today.

During our March meeting a co-operation agreement could be signed with the Japanese allotment gardeners

in a nice ceremony. Since more than ten years the Japanese allotment gardeners regularly take part in our congresses and they felt the necessity to increase the image of their movement on national level by establishing closer contacts with the Office. Certainly this co-operation with these allotment gardeners will bring new experiences to the Office and one can expect that the co-operation will be positive for both sides.

With regret the Office had to acknowledge that the Czech federation is planning to withdraw from the Office by December 31st, 2008. The grounds that motivate the Czech federation have been discussed in writing and the Office has proposed to meet the Czech federation.

With great sadness we got in June the news that Ivan LARSEN, member of our executive board and president of the Danish federation passed away. We will not forget Ivan LARSEN's constant efforts for the Danish, Nordic and European allotment gardeners and his friendly manner towards all of us.

■ 2. Study session

The mission of the Office consists not only in defending the interests of the allotment gardeners. It has as well to put at the disposal of the federations the necessary means and experience in order to enable them to carry their activities out better.

This year the study session of the International Office took place in the Nordic federations from August 31st

till to September 2nd. Its subject was: "How can the authorities, the public and the allotment gardeners be sensitised for the allotment gardens?" The lecturers in their areas of competence i.e. the national politics, the European Union, the communes and the federations presented us their ideas and suggestions on how one could best present the allotment garden movement. It is now the mission of the federations to take up these suggestions and to start an adequate lobbying, which is absolutely necessary for the development of our movement.

It was the first time that such a study session was organised according to the guidelines adopted by the International Office i.e. that it should take place exclusively in English. Because we realized during the preparation that many federations had problems to send adequate delegates due to an insufficient technical English knowledge, it was decided to have the lectures in English and then to discuss and work in the workshops in German, English or Polish.

The executive board has discussed this situation and is of the opinion that this adaptation was useful and should be maintained.

Beside the interesting lectures and the good technical discussions, the delegates could on board appreciate the splendid entries and departures in and from the ports in Copenhagen and Oslo and get then acquainted with the allotment gardens in Oslo. Many hearty thanks are due to the Nordic federations for the organisation of this fruitful study session.

■ 3. Cooperation with the federations

In 2007 half a day was reserved during the statutory general assembly in order to enable the federations to present their national activities and explain their problems.

This has meanwhile become a tradition and an essential component of our statutory assembly. So the allotment gardeners can better understand the ways of acting of their colleagues and understand the problems they face. The written national reports were added as well as appendix to the report of the assembly.

The secretary general assisted together with representatives of the German federation and two specialists from Austria and Switzerland to the congress: "Allotment gardens with future – human towns" organized by the town of Hamburg. This congress aimed at finding out how the allotment garden law could be improved in order to support a legislative initiative presented by the senate of Hamburg.

The German federation battled against this initiative because it thought that the final result of this initiative was the abolishing of the allotment garden law and the protection flowing for its member from this law. The participation of the German federation and the foreign guests took only place after the senate had withdrawn its initiative. One can only hope that the lectures will support the efforts of the German federation in order to maintain a strong legal protection for the allotment gardeners.

The Office was represented as well by its secretary general during the congress of the Luxembourg federation, the assembly of delegates of the Swiss federation as well as the Day of the Garden, organised in Hamburg by the German federation.

This year again several articles were written for national publications.

The general secretary visited the exhibition "Het abc van de Volkstuin – Down to Earth" organised in Gent (Belgium). The Office flag could not be sent to the organisers as they had wished. One has however to regret that they did not accept to expose the Office's exhibition boards, which would have allowed to present the Office much better than the scarce pictures shown.

Wilhelm WOHATSCHEK represented the Office at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Slovakian federation in Nitra. During this ceremony he could discuss the existing problems with the president of the Czech federation and proposed once more a meeting in Prague to clarify the situation.

■ 4. International Organisations

Council of Europe.

The Office has taken part in all the meetings organised for the NGOs.

Because of financial difficulties, the work within the Council of Europe will be reorganised. Accordingly the NGOs have to adapt themselves to these new conditions. One can expect that next year the two groupings in the "Rural area" and in the "Town area" have to unify in one commission. The NGOs are however discussing if this commission should not have two sub-commissions in order to safeguard a certain independence of the two existing groupings and to enable them in this way to discuss their specific problems in a better way.

The NGOs think that the consequences drawn from the JUNCKER report is unsatisfactory. The difficulties to go any further are probably due to the fact that there exist no NGOs working with the European Union. There are only pressure groups and so the European Union is not yet sufficiently sensitised for the necessity to associate the NGOs and the civil society.

The memorandum concerning a co-operation between the NGOs and the local and regional authorities is

not yet ready. The representatives of the congress for local and regional authorities formulated oppositions against the presented text. They thought in fact that the text granted too many rights to the NGOs and that therefore the text was unbalanced. They will present a new proposal and the mixed expert group should then have the opportunity to make his comments and amendments.

European Union

Beginning of the year the secretary general had twice the opportunity to meet the Chief of Cabinet of Mrs Viviane REDING member of the European Commission. Following to the suggestions made during the study session, a meeting was organised on October 16th, 2007 in order to find out if there are new possibilities for a co-operation between the Office and the Commission.

This meeting was positive.

The Commission has issued a position paper "Health Check", which is the basis document for the discussions in order to establish the European strategy starting in 2013. The allotment gardeners can take position hereon and bring in their knowledge concerning biodiversity.

A new possibility of co-operation with the direction of agriculture may exist on basis of the changing in the European agriculture policy, a shifting of the allocation of subsidies and the production shortages in agriculture. The cultivation of replacement grounds and urban agriculture could possibly now be subsidised.

The executive board and the general assembly have now to take up the challenge, make the necessary contacts and take the adequate decisions in order that this chance will not be wasted.

As well as the lecturers had advised us during our study session, the importance of concluding strategic alliances has been underlined in Brussels.

■ 5. Contacts with federations that are not member of the Office.

National federations continued to have contacts with allotment gardeners that are not member of the Office.

For example the Nordic federations met again in June the Russian allotment gardeners in the area of Saint Petersburg.

The Austrian federation has tried to establish contacts with the allotment gardeners in the Baltic States. It had however to acknowledge that the gardeners it met did not comply with our statutory requirements.

The Belgian association of Sint-

Amandsberg has contacts with allotment gardeners in the Philippines and has started a new project to create there additional community, respectively allotment gardens.

An allotment gardener in Italy has informed the Office on his intention to create allotment gardens in Italy. He wishes to establish in future regular contacts with the Office. One has to mention, that the Italian allotment gardeners were members of the Office before the Second World War.

In December 2007 the French federation went to Moscow for an exploratory mission. Its aim was to find out, if allotment gardens could be created in order to reinsert retired soldiers into society. The European

Union could possibly support this mission financially over 1 or 2 years. If the result will be positive, the French federation plans to ask other federations affiliated to the Office to cooperate in this project.

The Office has as well last year given much information to students dealing with the allotment gardens in their dissertations or the Phd works.

In 2007 there have been no contacts with the Hungarian allotment gardeners.

Luxembourg, November 2007

The executive board

Report of the extraordinary general assembly held in Luxembourg on March 7th, 2008

Were present: the federations of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland

Was represented: the federation of Denmark

Were absent: the federations of Czechia, Norway and Slovakia

Beginning of the meeting: March 7th, 3 p.m.

1) The international president welcomes all the delegates.

2) The agenda is adopted with unanimity.

3) M. WEIRICH explains the aim and reason to propose one specific and limited amendment of the statutes.

4) After discussion the proposed amendment of article 15 is then adopted with unanimity with following wording:

“The General Assembly shall lay down the general policy of the Office.

It has as mission:

a) The acceptance of the activity report of the executive

board, the approval of the accounts of the last year after report of the auditors;

■ the discharge of the executive board;

■ the determination of the annual affiliation fees;

■ the adoption of the draft budgets;

■ the election of the members of the executive board, the treasurer, maximum three accountants and a substitute.

b) the admission of new members, the demission and expulsion of members;

c) the conclusion and the resiliation of cooperation – and association agreements

d) the nomination and revocation of the general secretary; the admission or refusal of his demission”.

5) In the German version the word “Austritt” will be replaced by the word “Rücktritt” in order to guarantee the similarity with the French text.

End of the meeting: 3.10 p.m.



1st row Ingo KLEIST (D), C. ZIJDEVELD (NL), L. PARNELL (GB), L. VASAMA (SF), G. STOKES (GB), M. WEIRICH
2nd row J. KIEFFER (L), W. SCHAFFNER (CH), A. FRIEDRICH (D), J. HERREMAN (B), M. ROINILA (SF),
W. WOHATSCHEK (A), H. BONNAVAUD (F), L. OSCARSON (S)
E. KONDRACKI and A. FARIN are missing on this photo

Decision protocol of the general assembly held in Luxembourg on March 7th and 8th, 2008

Were present: the federations of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland

Was represented: the federation of Denmark

Were absent: the federations of Czechia, Norway and Slovakia

- 1) The international president welcomes all the delegates.
- 2) The agenda is adopted with unanimity.
- 3) The reports of the general assembly held in Copenhagen are adopted with unanimity.
- 4) The activity report of the executive board is adopted with unanimity.
- 5) The delegates acknowledge that despite efforts of the Office to clarify misunderstandings and to propose solutions for the future, the Czech federation has confirmed its demission from the Office by December 31st, 2008.
- 6) The delegates acknowledge that on the basis of the received answers concerning the inscription of the allotment gardens in the town planning schemes, this subject has still to be dealt with. It is decided that the federation will send a short information on the principles and procedures on how the allotment gardens are included in the town planning schemes to the Office before June 1st, 2008. This report will then be dealt with during the congress in Cracow and will also be put at the disposal of the federations for their national activities.
- 7) Following the federations' information on their efforts to deal with the subject "health", it is decided to first translate Dr. KRAUSE's information paper of the subject health. It will then be put at their disposal while waiting for Dr. KRAUSE'S lecture in Cracow. After the congress it will be decided how this subject should be dealt with in the future.
- 8) The delegates having participated in the study session in the Nordic countries have a positive opinion on it. In modification of the decisions taken before, it is decided that in future during the study sessions, the lectures will continue to be made in English. However the discussions and work in the workshops will be carried out in the Office languages.
- 9) The programme of the international congress in Cracow, as proposed by the Polish federation, with the amendments made by the executive board, is adopted. The lectures will be made by a Polish, a Slovakian and a German lecturer. The key ideas for these lectures will be sent to the federations together with the invitation by the Polish federation so that the subjects can be prepared on national basis.

It is underlined that the documents of the study session as well as those of the congresses and seminars have absolutely to be put at the disposal of the federations.

The congress fees for a delegate amount to 920 € and for an accompanying person to 630 €. An additional night in the hotel Sheraton will be 186 € for a single room and 204 € for a double room.

It is decided that the resolution has to be short and precise and should cover 1 page maximum. It is as well considered to make a press communication in addition to the resolution.

At the occasion of the congress there will be both an executive board meeting and a general assembly, as well as a meeting with the Japanese allotment gardeners.
- 10) After an intensive discussion it is decided that the demand of the Belgium federation, not to take into consideration for the calculation of the affiliation fee to the Office, the total number of members but to consider only the allotment gardeners and not the gardeners with an individual garden, is rejected with 12 votes against 1 vote.

After explanation and an intensive discussion the proposal to maintain the calculation method basing on a graduated lump-sum (73 % of the calculation basis) and a variable according to the national members (23% of the calculation basis) is adopted by 12 votes and 1 abstention.

The affiliation fee for 2009, as proposed in appendix 2b, are adopted with 12 votes and 1 abstention.

It is decided that the affiliation fee is guaranteed by an index adaptation. The choice of the index will be made in a next meeting. This principle is adopted with 12 votes and 1 abstention.

- 11) M. WEIRICH gives explanations concerning the report on the cooperation with the international organizations and thanks the federations for their support.
- 12) J. KIEFFER as treasurer presents the financial report and gives the necessary explanations.
- 13) The auditors inform that they did not find a mistake. They ask that the financial report is adopted and that discharge is granted to the executive board.
- 14) The general assembly adopts the financial report for 2007 with unanimity and grants discharge to the executive board with unanimity.
- 15) The draft budget for 2008 is adopted with unanimity.
- 16) The draft budget for the solidarity fund for 2008 is adopted with unanimity.
- 17) L. OSACARSON has been co-opted into the executive board after the death of I. LARSEN, to finish his mandate. After the demission of I.KLEIST from the executive board of the German federation, A. FRIEDRICH was co-opted to finish his mandate.

The general assembly confirms with unanimity the co-optation of these members of the executive board.

- 18) It is decided with unanimity to organize the international congress 2014 in the Netherlands.
- 19) C. ZIJDEVELD, as president of the Dutch federation and organizer of the congress 2014 will be vice-president of the Office from August 30th, 2008 onwards.
- 20) The Belgian federation has proposed to organize a seminar in Belgium in 2009 under the condition that there will only be 5 delegates per federation.

It is underlined that there is no limitation of the number of delegates for seminars and congresses. The meeting to be organized in Belgium can therefore only be a study session.

The delegates decide with unanimity to organize a study session in Belgium.

- 21) The English federation has proposed to organize a study session in England (Birmingham) in 2010.

The assembly asks the English delegates to check if instead of a study session, a seminar could possibly be organized in England in 2010. If this should however be problematic, it is decided to organize a study session in England in 2010 too.

- 22) After intensive discussions it is decided not to fix now the congress subject for 2011 because in 2009, there will be no seminar aiming at preparing this congress.
- 23) The subject of the study session in Belgium should be the following:
"Allotment gardeners, as bearers of valuable knowledge and keepers of most valuable genetic material." The Belgium federation is charged to present a draft programme for the study session at the occasion of the congress in Cracow. A proposal concerning the subjects and lectures will be sent to the Belgian federation in writing.
- 24) On proposal of the executive board, the general assembly decides to grant the "Golden Rose" of the Office to the town of Caen and to Dr. Mainczyk at the occasion of the congress in Cracow.

The Polish federation will still make a demand to give the "Golden Rose" to a Polish institution.
- 25) The contents of the Hyphens 42 and 43 are completed and then adopted.
- 26) The national federations present their activities and problems and answer the questions of the delegates.
- 27) The next general assembly will take place on August 28th, 2008 in Cracow.
- 28) The next statutory general assembly will take place in Luxembourg on March 13th and 14th, 2009.

Subject of the congress: “The future for the allotment gardens in Europe” 28.-31. August 2008

XXXV. International congress of the Office International du Coin de
Terre et des Jardins Familiaux

Thursday 28th August 2008

- 13.00 - 13.30 Arrival of the participants
- 14.30
- Inauguration of the conference by the President of the International Office, Eugeniusz Kondracki
 - Speech of the Chairman of the executive board of the International Office, Wilhelm Wohatschek
 - Speech of the Secretary General of the International Office, Malou Weirich
- Speeches by the invited guests
- Award of the Golden Rose
- 15.00 Lecture: „The function and the significance of the national federations for the future of the allotment gardens” – Polish lecturer
- 15.25 Coffee break
- 16.00 Lecture: “The future generations of allotment gardeners. Who should benefit of an allotment garden ? – Slovakian lecturer
- 16.25 Lecture: “The adaptation of the functions of the allotment gardens to the changing needs of the society under the specific view point of health” German lecturer
- 17.00 End of the works
- 17.30 Departure to the „Wieliczka“ Salt Mine
- Tour of the salt mine
 - Concert
 - Banquet
- 22.00 Return to the hotel
- Ca. 22.30 Arrival at the hotel

Friday, 29th August 2008

- 9.00 - 12.30 3 Workshops
- Workshop 1:**
“The function and the significance of the national federations for the future of the allotment gardens” (Languages: Polish, English, French, German)
- Workshop 2:**
“The future generation of allotment gardeners. Who should get an allotment garden?” (Languages: English, French, German)
- Workshop 3:**
“The adaptation of the functions of the allotment gardens to the changing needs of the society under the specific view point of health”

(Languages: German, Polish, English)

10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
12.30	Lunch at the hotel
14.00	Departure from the hotel to the Family Allotment Gardens in Krakow, Tour of the gardens
17.00	Return to the hotel
17.30	Departure to the „Folwark Zalesie” • Folkloristic event • Dinner
21.30	Departure to the hotel
Ca. 22.00	Arrival at the hotel

Saturday 30th August 2008

9.00 -12.00	Plenary proceedings - Presentation of the activity report by the Secretary General of the International Office - Summary of results of the work groups - Vote of the resolution - Conclusions of the chairman of the executive board of the International Office - Transmission of the Presidency
10.30 – 11.00	- Coffee break
12.00	- End of the congress proceedings
12.15	Departure from the hotel
12.30	Lunch at restaurants in groups
13.30	Tour of Krakow - Royal Palace - Market square and Sukiennice (the Cloth Hall) - Kazimierz district
17.00	Return to the hotel
19.00	Farewell reception at the hotel

Sunday, 31st August 2008

7.00 – 12.00	Departure of the congress people
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Lecture: Allotment gardeners and nature (Part 1)

Soil is the basis of any allotment garden. In Poland, allotment gardens are frequently located on abandoned land or plots of devaluated land that were formerly used by constructions as industrial sites. Thanks to the intervention of the allotment gardeners, these grounds could gradually find a new life.

In the constitution of the natural soil, stones (local) as well as plants and plant residues contribute to the production of humus. Furthermore, growing roots promote the decomposition of organic compounds. A uniform use of the land, as frequently observed in intensive agriculture without the intervention of regenerative measures, frequently with the help of heavy tools and important energy consumption, lead to a further degradation of the soil. The amount of humus in the soil is gradually reduced (by 20% last year in Germany – and a similar situation is very likely to occur also in Poland and in other European countries). The level of nitrates in the soil increases gradually by a mass production due to the unilateral use of mineral manor. In this situation, allotment gardens can have a positive impact on the generation of humus thanks to the cultivation of many plants covering the soil during the entire vegetation period and protecting it against erosion. A surface of 300 m² produces more than 10 m³ of « vegetal waste » per year resulting in a total of 0,8 m³ of humus with about 30 kg of distinct components.

Procedures for the protection of the soil in allotment gardens:

- Adjacent and alternative cultures – for a better use of the surface, a li



Prof. Dr. Wiech

mitted loss of water and the growing of weed to act on the reduction of herbivore organisms (parasites) and the increase of useful organisms,

- Culture of fruit covering the soil – to reduce the erosion of the soil, to lower water evaporation and the growing of weed,
- Addition of humus (use products on the basis of bark, shavings, dry grass, wood shavings, cut grass) –to keep the amount of humus in the soil and to limit water evaporation,
- Use of green manor – to increase the amount of nutritive components in the soil.

III. Biodiversity in the allotment gardens

Diversity of species in allotment gardens

There is no need today to convince anyone about the necessity to protect the diversity of plants and animals in the allotment garden. Even without understanding the role of every plant or insect of whatever size, this goes far beyond the satisfaction we can draw from esthetical aspects this diversity of species and “plant and animal composition” can bring. I would like to recall a principle that all allotment gardeners should adopt:

„Don't forget that the more species you have in your garden and the more complex is the interaction between plants, insects and other organisms, the more this interdependent net will last and be resistant”, in other words: „A garden with many plants attracts more insects, mites and other plant eating animals and thus there is more nutrition for useful organisms, a larger place for their development and comfortable living conditions for them“.

In an environment in which we can find many species, pest only difficultly finds a plant on which it can stay as smells mix (smell marking) and some species growing in the neighbourhood form a “close green gate” (material barrier) preventing the free movement of parasites and preventing the finding of a plant on which they can feed themselves (visual marking).

The presence of many plants and flowers providing pollen and nectar attracting many useful organisms to the allotment garden, that after they have consumed sufficient quantities of pollen or nectar, produce a larger quantity of eggs and look for places to grow in colonies of lice, caterpillar bodies, larvae and cocoons of other insects. Thus, there is no surprise if in a garden, where the smell of insecticides is absent, spider eggs are destroyed up to 90 % by the parasite insect *Trichogramma* sp. or other parasites. *Trichogramma* sp. also destroys a large part of pest eggs attacking apple and pear trees, of the mamestra brassicae, ochroleuca plecta and pieris brassicae. *Cotesia glomerata*, which also feeds on pollen and nectar can destroy between 50 – 90% of caterpillars in a parasite manner. Another caterpillar (*cotesia rubecula*) can destroy between 20 – 40 % of the eggs of pieris rapae. Furthermore *diadegma fenestralis* – the hymenoptere of the caterpillar family destroys every year between 70 – 90 % of the caterpillars of *plutella maculipennis* or diamond black moth, small cabbage moth), a greedy larvae of syrphidae can eat more than 1000 lice! Carabidae living on the surface of the soil can eat an incredible amount of insect eggs, larvae, cater-

pillars and lice falling from the trees and even ants. In general, it is possible to say, that protective organisms as well as other biotic and abiotic factors (for instance climate) destroy up to 95 % of plant eating insects and mites in various stages of their evolution. But in many cases, the high mortality rate is not sufficient and insects with a strong reproduction potential may cause important damage. This situation is rare and only some of the thousands of plant eating insects can cause severe damage. The evaluation is frequently exaggerated and we consider as damage or harmful organism parasites that are only negative for the harvest and the development of the plants, damage that we see but which is only a non-dangerous apparition of an insect.

I would propose to take the following approach:

“90 % of the fruit are sufficient for me, 10% can go to other organisms”. In any case I am not able to eat or process the entire harvest so insects, birds and other animals, can also have their share.

Every person committed to protect biodiversity should have a similar approach for the garden and ask the question:

“What is acceptable and what is no longer acceptable for me?”

Understand the diversity of species

We can see nature surrounding us as a large mosaic composed of many thousands / millions of elements or as a puzzle with the picture of a forest, a meadow or a garden. Every element of this game is a distinctive plant or an animal species and taking into account that nature is much more complicated than a puzzle and that each of these elements is related to a large number of other species that “go together well” and complete each other. Removing one from these elements from nature can lead to this harmony getting lost and create damage from pests never encountered before.

Why protect the diversity of plants and animals?

Examples:

- a leaf of an apple tree is covered in average with 50 eriophyes ribis or Black currant mite in various stages of evolution,
- 15 – 50 tetranychus althaeae mite in various stages of evolution,
- 1 – 3 harmless mites (enemies of the two species named above)
- on a tree we can find between 30 – 50 lice colonies (one lice colonies can count up to 500 units)
- Mining insects – in general one 1 mine/100 leaves (30 – 100 on a tree)
- in spring many coleophora or pistol casebearers with an average of 1 per 100-200 leaves
- Phycitinae (5 % of damaged ends and low growth), important pest
- Caterpillar of cheimatobia brunata or winter moth – 1 caterpillar/50 – 100 leaves
- Caterpillar eating buds (frequently the percentage of destroyed buds is low and does not exceed 10 % but in some years this can be more than 50%)
- Shells and other cassides in the bark with about 10 cassides per 2 meters in average
- Buds and flowers are visited by many miridae and anthocoridae
- Furthermore it is difficult to define the amount of flying insects, fertilizing flowers, parasites and those growing inside fruit –syrphidae and useful asilidae and bibionidae.
- The list of all these insect groups (more than 300 species) and mites on a single apple tree exceeds the frame of this paper.

Protection of the diversity of species

- Maintaining the largest diversity possible of species in the vegetal world has an influence on the increasing number of plant eating organisms of which normally the number is low (does not lead to damage) in relation with the normally high number of protective organisms;

- The guaranty of a permanent access to food – pollen and nectar during the entire season (a so called flower banner) for increasing the number of insects and protective organisms (pests and insects), hymenoptera and diptera, brachycera;
- Creating parts in the garden with wild growing plants allowing protective organisms to develop are places for an alternative development;
- Keeping wild plants in the allotment garden to allow rare and beautiful insects to develop (various types of

butterflies on nettles as the admiral; on apiaceae : few harmful organisms but mostly useful insects: syrphidae, exorista rustica, chrysops relictus), on neutral plants: (lucanus cervus, hymenoptera);

- Creating places where birds, animals and insects can live, bird nests, bars, heaps of stones for wild animals, wood heaps;
- Additional food – culture of plants with pollen.

Protection of protective organisms

Protection of protective organisms should be a concern of every allotment gardener. Every plant-eating insect is linked to a more or less larger number of pests and harmful organisms playing an important role in reducing the number of plant eating insects and mites.

The following table shows, on the basis of some examples, the functioning of this complicated system of interrelations between plant eating organisms (sometimes called harmful) and their natural enemies.

„Harmful organism “	Pest	Importance of pest
Anthonomus pomorum	Hymenoptera– Pest of larvae and anthonomus pomorum	+
Cydia pomonella	15 species of hymenoptera – Pest of eggs and caterpillars	+
Phycitinae	Over 30 species of hymenoptera	+++
Yponomeuta malinellus	Over 20 species of hymenoptera – Pest of caterpillars and cocoons	+++
Spiders	5 species of mites	+++
Lice	Numerous pest and harmful organisms of various systematic groups	+++
<p>+ minor importance ++ average importance +++ high importance</p>		

The use of chemical insecticides in the allotment garden has a negative impact on protective organisms and frequently leads to their complete disappearance. Non-chemical protection methods may also have a negative influence on the presence of protective organisms. Stages of evolution

of plant eating insects (also called harmful organisms) are frequently the target of pests and should be kept outside of the garden in order to allow the protective organisms to complete their evolution.

Below some examples for the use of a non chemical protection with the

possible consequences for protective organisms:

Autor: Prof. Dr Wiech

To be continued

Species	Procedure for non chemical protection	Notes
Malacosoma neustria	Collect caterpillar groups	A large part of the caterpillars is already infected by pest
Pieris brassicae	Collect eggs	A large part of the eggs collected in August is already infected by Trichogramma
Plutella maculipennis	Destroy caterpillars in May and June	Biologic or chemical destruction of caterpillars leads to the destruction of the natural enemies of plutella maculipennis
Yponomeuta malinellus	Collect nests with cocoons	The yponomeuta maelinellus cocoon contains about 30 species of pest



Luxembourg: „The allotment gardeners look over the garden fence “

Jean Kieffer, President of the Luxembourg's allotment garden federation

The following contribution aims at making you acquainted with the Luxembourgish allotment garden federation called “Ligue Luxembourgeoise du Coin de Terre et du Foyer” and in Luxembourgish « Gaard an Heem ». It is however very often called lovingly, and not disdainfully “leek association”.

Origins of the allotment garden movement in Luxembourg.

Similarly to many other European countries affiliated to the International Office of allotment garden societies,

the centre and origin of the allotment garden organisation were and are still today the local allotment garden associations. The first allotment garden friends gathered in these associations in order to be able to better stimulate both their social and their material interests.

The allotment garden movement has its origins at the end of the 19th century. There exists however as well a picture showing a flag of a flower and horticulture association mentioning the year 1879. It is documented that the first allotment garden association

was founded in Luxembourg in 1886.

Knowing that a common lobbying was easier to realize and was more effective if the people concerned were more numerous, the existing allotment garden associations constituted first of all small groups and then organised themselves into federations.

An additional step was taken in 1928, i.e. exactly 75 years ago. In long and difficult discussions during which one had to acknowledge first of all a new splitting and the creation of an additional association, the three associ-

ations "Coin de Terre et du Foyer", "Cercle Horticole" and "Amis de la Fleur" affiliated finally together in a unique national federation called the "Ligue Luxembourgeoise du Coin de Terre et du Foyer".

The pressure of the government was decisive in this unification.

The federation is a central organisation regrouping the different sections. Those sections are not only the founders but as well the only and finally determinant partners of the federation.

The delegates of the sections exercise these rights during the General

By ministerial nomination the allotment garden federation is member of the Superior Council of Benevolent Work, created in order to stimulate benevolent work.

The Luxembourgish allotment gardeners work with same-minded organisations both on national and international level. Their aim is to support each other and share advice.

So the Luxembourg allotment garden federation is member of the federation of nature protection organisations NATURA and member of the International Office of allotment garden societies.

The Luxembourgish federation is politically and denominationally neutral.

The missions of the Luxembourg allotment garden federation.

The aim of the federation is above all the simulation of the vegetable and fruit cultivation, the cultivation of flowers and flowerbeds as a leisure occupation and the incitation for the acquisition of a home and a garden.

Additionally the federation encourages the purchasing of permanent grounds by the sections in order to create allotment gardens as well as the legal protection of all allotment garden sites.

It supports the environment protection and the creation of school gardens.

As far as family and leisure time occupations are concerned its aim is to sensitise people to the cultivation of a garden, that gives the family the basis of a meaningful leisure time occupation which enriches the family life and embellishing its home.

Our concern is as well to protect a natural and healthy environment and to spread the knowledge of nature and its interrelations.

Our local associations with their members make an important contribution to the embellishment of the



The influence of the French worker-priest Abbé Lemire was as well very important.

This gathering in a national organisation does however not mean that the autonomous work and the independent self-administration of the local sections disappeared. The defence of common interests by the federation does not mean that the local associations were dissolved in order to constitute one national federation. This unification means only a co-operation by observing conditions precisely fixed in the statutes of the federation.

The mission of the federation consists certainly in stimulating the work of the sections but it has no right of interfering with their autonomous administration.

Assembly. They are neither individually inherent in every section, nor in a group of sections, nor in a region but they are indivisible and common to all the sections that are members of the federation.

The legal form of the federation is an agricultural cooperative.

The Luxembourgish allotment garden federation has become a nature protection association recognized by the State since a ministerial decision dated February 28th 1993.

At the present time the federation counts 139 local sections with more than 32.000 affiliated families and is in this way the biggest horticulture, family and environment protection organisation in Luxembourg.

villages and the safeguarding of their substance. They work to create and protect green spaces in the living areas in order to improve the quality of life.

The federation tries to include the allotment garden sites as integrated green spaces in the public green areas, which are put at the disposal of the population and are close to the urban zones.

On a social level the building of a community spirit is essential in order to establish human contacts between other people.

Therefore we stimulate the associative and cultural life, the community spirit and the readiness to assume missions in the society. We favour additionally the integration of foreign citizens.

The work programme of the federation includes advice and information.

All garden owners can get advice for the planning, the protection and the cultivation of their gardens.

By lectures, film projections and practical training in seminars, we try to give our members the basic knowledge for an adequate work in the garden by maintaining a healthy soil, air and water and by protecting biodiversity.

In our monthly published allotment garden review "Gaard an Heem", in the yearly published pocket booklet that is distributed free of charge to our members and on our website www.ctf.lu the gardeners having a home garden and the allotment gardeners get important ideas and information on the subjects "garden, home and environment".

So the federation contributes in an important way to the environment protection by the safeguarding and cultivation of the family and allotment gardens, especially by encouraging an ecological cultivation in the family and allotment gardens.

Our mission includes the stimulation of the cooperative movement by buying seeds and plants etc. in common as well as by sharing commonly used machines and tools.

By our PR works the idea "allotment gardens green for all" is propagated amongst large circles of the population.

We support as well competitions, exhibitions and seminars in order to present the aims of our federation and of the allotment garden movement among the population.

The federation negotiates with the au-

thorities and political powers. It supports the sections in order to create new allotment gardens, to protect the existing sites and give them a legal status. In Luxembourg there exists no allotment garden law, but since the adaptation in 2004 of the law dated 1937 concerning the urbanisation of towns and communes, the communal authorities can determine allotment garden areas on basis of these new legal dispositions on urban planning. The Luxembourgish federation also supports the efforts of the International Office in order to create laws for

the stimulation of the allotment garden movement both on national and European level.

We, family and allotment gardeners are convinced that the garden and the work in the garden provide possibilities as for example: rest and recreation in the fresh air far away from the daily stress, a physical activity far away from the obligations of the society, meeting of same-minded people in the nice family and allotment garden atmosphere far away from the traffic pollution and the mass media as well as the discovery of nature and its yearly circle, the awareness of which has been lost by many peop-



le in our modern society. The knowledge of these beneficial facts has to be transmitted to a much larger part of the society.

To be continued

Latvia: Latvian Allotments and Smallholdings

Richard Copland

We followed a strip of dazzling white beach along the Baltic coast as our flight from Denmark began the descent to Riga airport. Then we banked hard, taking us inland along the broad estuary of the River Daugava. Our trip to Latvia was to visit new friends who are keen gardeners.

Below our small aircraft, the dense pine forest gave way to factories, suburbia and our first glimpse of allotments. There were extensive patchworks of square and rectangular gardens that stretched along riverbanks and rail tracks.

After a snack of pickled herring, cream cheese, sweet gherkin and rye bread at the smart airport, we took a taxi to the centre of Riga. Whilst dodging trams and trucks, the driver told us that allotments (Darzina in Latvian) are very popular amongst town people. Until the 1990s food shortages were common and allotments were an essential source of fresh produce for many families.

Our hotel, in the old town (Vecrīga), was surrounded by many art nouveau buildings, beautiful churches and attractive squares with cafes and restaurants. A group of huge Zeppelin hangars, from the First World War, houses the largest market in Europe.

One great stall sells cheeses, another bread and another fish. Outside in the strong sun there were the horticultural stalls with vast displays of fruit. Local gardeners were there; selling bouquets of bright flowers displayed in tins and jam jars set on the pavement. We chose a bunch of sweet peas to take to our friends.

In Janis and Dzintra's 14th floor flat, we enjoyed chilled beetroot soup as we looked out over panoramic views of the city and planned a day out at their allotment. Janis explained that allotments are seen as a precious piece of countryside where the whole family can escape for a day out and a picnic.

The following morning we traveled by heavily powered diesel train to Jurmala, the local seaside. Beyond the railway fencing, allotments spread out in all directions with gardeners tending their plots, chatting or just soaking up the sun.

Our friends' relatives and their children met up with us at the beach. After paddling in the cold clear Baltic sea, we walked back through the pine trees up to the high street to buy some picnic provisions, including blueberries and cherries from one of the many stalls selling local allotment produce.

Strolling along a narrow dusty track by the wide river, Janis told us that his family had trod this route most weekends over the past fifty years – even in the snow.

Many of the buildings around this coastal resort were made entirely from local timber, including a Lutheran church which was painted inside with angels set against a starry sky.

Opening a hurdle gate, we entered the world of "darzina". Each allotment plot had its own hedge boundaries and most had a substantial timber hut with a couple of large fruit trees. The children raced ahead to their allotment and squeezed through a gap in the damson windbreak.

A patch of meadow sloped down to the reeds of the riverbank. There were groups of blackcurrant and gooseberry bushes amongst the rough grass and ox-eye daisies. Rows of radish, spring onions and lettuce were mixed in with bright orange pot marigolds and pink cosmos.

We lounged on the veranda of the summerhouse, shaded from the midday sun by a plum tree. A hornets' nest in the rotten trunk kept us away from most of the fruit.

Yellow and brown sunflowers nodded in the warm breeze. We enjoyed "Zelta" beers, kvass (a drink made from fermented rye bread) and piragi (chopped bacon in pastry rolls). The children worked on their den up in a gnarled apple tree.

After watching a couple of anglers in dinghies fishing for pike in the river, rods and reels were recovered from the rafters. Worms were searched for and the competition commenced. A campfire was made from tree prunings. Freshly dug potatoes were pushed into the embers.

Several perch were caught, gutted, wrapped in foil and placed with the potatoes. It was a rather bony and charred meal, but delicious. We stayed until sunset when the mosquitoes eventually made it too uncomfortable for us.

Our next trip was planned on the open rooftop restaurant of the Gutenberg Hotel, next to massive Dom cathedral. We were invited to visit a smallholding in the countryside far from the city life.

As we drove north early the following morning, the pine forests and sandy soil of the Bay of Riga gradually gave way to patches of fertile farmland. After three hours we were on unsigned dust roads, where we saw no other vehicles, no shops, no people, just occasional timber farmhouses amid the vast open plain. Storks stood in the grass. We looked at our maps and compass and argued where we were. Eventually a roadside lake surrounded by birch trees was recognized as a landmark.

A little collection of wooden farm buildings grew out of the wide expanse of grassland. As we climbed from our vehicle there was silence apart from the clucking of chickens scratching amongst cabbages. A dusty guard dog, lying in the shade of a barn, wagged its tail.

Our elderly host, Ruta, came smiling from her timber bungalow, shielding



her eyes from the sun. She told us that it was very rare and an honour to have visitors from abroad.

Ruta gave us a guided tour of the smallholding, with "Duxie" the Alsatian sauntering alongside. Immediately by the front door was a huge log store to see the winter through. Tall white phlox flowers were massed around the porch.

A little further on were the salad crops and herbs. From a muckheap, squash plants spread their runners and steel blue fruit over a wide area. In a small greenhouse, gherkins were grown for pickling.

Out in the meadow bees buzzed and horseflies bit. One very large brown cow was tethered in waist high wildflowers. She was milked three times a day. Ruta took most of the milk by bicycle to the nearest dairy five kilometers away.

No herbicides had ever been used here. Corn marigolds, filed poppies,

cornflowers and wild pansies thrived. The only fertilizer was manure from the cow and chickens that were kept indoors through the winter. There was no farm machinery. Ruta worked the land alone and everything was done by hand. She pointed out the hay that had been cut with a sickle and was drying on wooden frames.

In the orchard we were encouraged to help ourselves to dark fruit from the tall cherry trees. Several wickerwork beehives were stationed here. A wooden cartwheel fixed on top of a telegraph post provided a nesting platform for a pair of stork, which traditionally bring good luck to farmers.

As we walked further out into the meadows, the rasping and droning of insects became louder. Ruta took us to a raised clump of birch trees where harebells grew in the sandy soil. Carrots and potatoes were stored here buried deep to avoid winter frost damage.

We were invited indoors. Jars of jams

and chutneys lined the kitchen. The metal and wooden utensils were spotlessly clean and neatly arranged. Everything was functional, no clutter. There was no fridge nor freezer, no television, no running water.

Ruta fetched a pail of milk from the cool of the deep well. We sat around a trestle table enjoying cups of the creamy milk along with fresh bread, homemade butter and chunks of honeycomb. An enormous wood-burning stove dominated the living room. Ruta reassured us that this device kept the place warm in winter, but explained that there were days when it was dangerous to venture out, even for a moment, without full arctic clothing.

We eventually said our goodbyes. We accepted an invitation to stay for a few days next year and try our hands at some jobs, maybe haymaking or cutting firewood

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NATUROPA 97/2002**



Switzerland: From work to leisure

Werner Fricker

In the newspaper "Der Bund" dated February 10th, 2007 an essay of Edouard Kaeser was published. It was granted the first prize in the competition on essays organized by this newspaper. Born in Berne in 1948, Edouard Kaeser is a teacher of physics, mathematics and philosophy in a secondary school. The Swiss allotment garden review has taken interest in this text for the simple reason that this scientist, aged 63, has analyzed in great detail the gardening work, a leisure time occupation, in his essay dealing with the principle of work. Unfortunately as far as newspaper articles are concerned it is only possible to publish extracts of these texts:

www.ebund.ch/essay

First of all the author analyzes the industrialization at the end of the 18th century, which has taken their work away from many people. A century and a half later the producer of writing machines IBM has declared in a very optimistic manner that machines have to work and human beings to think. However the reverse is probably more accurate. This affirmation seems meaningless and without justification. Because in the same way as the fabrics some time ago it is now the office that is made automatic. In any case we invest much intelligence in systems that make intelligence al-

ways more unnecessary. We have now a lot of sophisticated engines that facilitate our life at home and in the garden. Despite all this, one can observe that many people today wish to work themselves intensively in their garden. With great effort they turn over the earth, layout platforms and cultivate their own vegetables. It seems that the physical direct contact with the earth brings more comfort, more well-being and strength than all the techniques that keep us away from it.

It is easy to make fun about the allotment gardeners. But I am convinced, according to my analyses, that there

is an increasing unease of a lifestyle that becomes more and more virtual. The returning to an active life in the allotment garden is the compensation from the tendency replacing more and more our activities by technical means and so disconnecting us from physical work. Within such a tendency the vegetables become themselves a tool in the sense that they are no more linked to the natural condition of growing and maturing in nature. The vegetable is less and less linked to the soil, to the season, to the weather and to the climate as for example the tomato grown outside the soil. The latter has become the most well known form of a technical nutrition of the human being. Considered from this point of view an increasing protest against the supermarkets offering fruit without identity and without soul is expressed by the private gardening.

What most people are looking for is a horticultural practice linked to the local area, which takes more and more its distances from modified products. If the modern productivity is guided by the principle of many products for little work then in opposition to that the activity in the garden means, few products for much work. Our, very often tiring leisure activity goes in the opposite direction of today's technical world. On reality one does not produce tomatoes but one's own small happiness.

I work hard in my garden to produce vegetables not for my own needs of subsistence. But I can, if I wish so do a physical activity in my garden. This wish one does it during one's leisure time. I have precisely a leisure time. During this leisure time I have the capacity to do a human work. Therefore I strongly recommend giving a greater value to leisure time as a counterpart of work.

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allotment garden review
„Der Gartenfreund“ no. 4/2007**



Switzerland: Inauguration of gardens for physical handicapped people

Texte und Photos: Jean-Paul Gygl



Mr. Frédéric Schär and Herr Michoud.



Mrs. Mylonas and Mr. Houlmann

On September 14th, 2007 the newly created gardens for physical handicapped people were inaugurated in Plan-les-Ouates by splendid late summer weather. We were welcomed by president Thierry Houlmann. Were also present city counsellor François Longchamp, responsible for the department for solidarity and labour, François Baertschi, president of the town of Lancy, Laurent Seydoux, counsellor in charge of the administration of the commune Plan-les-Ouates, Arnold Michoud, president of the allotment garden federation of Geneva as well as Frédéric Schär, honory president of the allotment garden federation of Geneva.

After the official part of the ceremony a nice buffet was dressed for all those who had taken part in this project in order to thank them for their work.

Cultivating one's well-being

Physical handicapped people are confronted with important difficulties while gardening. But are there possibilities to solve these problems? The allotment gardens in Plan-les-Ouates are in this context an example to be imitated. The work in the vegetable garden is of course linked to big efforts. But these moments in direct contact with the earth have as well a

meditative character and enable people to disconnect from all day stress.

People with physical and mobility problems are normally excluded from gardening. But is the pleasure to do gardening exclusively reserved to healthy people?

The example of the allotment gardens in Plan-les-Ouates should prove and show that gardens can be planned and created in order to allow a less difficult gardening.

An elevated plot as vegetable garden

"Because of my leg problems, I can bent no more" explains Sandrine Mylonas. Despite the fact that one of my legs and arms is paralysed I can however work and cultivate a surface of 100 sqms, because the level of the ground is elevated. So the working surface is at the adequate height for me", continues the allotment gardener with a smile. That she has a real talent for gardening is proven by the plants in the surelevated plot. One has however to mention that Sandrine Mylonas is a trained gardener. The neighbours, with whom she has excellent contacts, help her with watering the plot.



From left to right: Mr. Longchamp, councillor ; Mr. Michoud and Mrs Madeleine Francoz.

A well planned garden

“To elevate the level of the earth is one fact, but there are as well quite a number of other details that have to be considered”, explains Thierry Houlman. Between the plots there has to be sufficient space so that people with a wheel chair can pass. Additionally an adequate soil structure has to be foreseen. These equipments have to be checked during a testing period and have if necessary to be adapted. Watering remains an important difficulty for handicapped people.

Integration and Relaxing

Thierry Houlman considers that every person has the right to garden. When Frédéric Schär explained him the project, he was immediately convinced by this idea. I cultivate myself a plot and so I know both the relaxing effects of gardening after an hectic working day and the pleasure flowing from the contact with the neighbours. The activity in the garden is a possibility for a better integration of excluded persons into society. Fellowship is very often developed through a common activity.

Gardening despite a handicap

In order to make a contribution for handicapped people, the allotment garden federation of Geneva has sup-

ported this project consisting in the creation of adequate garden plots.

“There is no reason why allotment garden plots should not benefit to all people”, explains Thierry Houlman. These equipments are an example in Switzerland and we hope that there will be other associations to follow it.

To make these equipments really adequate for the needs of their user, a study was made under the direction of project initiator Frédéric Schär and Claire Kreuss, member of the central federation of the allotment gardens in Geneva. Institutions dealing with handicapped people as for example the Foyer Handicap in Cressy were contacted and assisted us in this project. This project could be realized thanks

if the necessary financial support can be found. I know several inhabitants who would be happy to cultivate their vegetables themselves. The contact with the earth and with plants have a positive influence on both healthy and handicapped people.

The examples in Plan-les-Ouates as well as in the allotment garden sites Blanchets in Grand-Saconnex/GE sensitize people in Switzerland for such initiatives. These small projects are very important for people that live often at the border of our society, states Mark Zumbühl, member of the executive board of Pro Infirmis, an institution battling for the integration of handicapped people. The more important programmes, as for example the creation of adequate equipments



Plots for handicapped persons

to the financial support of different institutions as for example the Fonds Helios, the foundation Hans Wilsdorf, the allotment garden association of Geneva and the Swiss allotment garden federation, the allotment garden federation of West Switzerland as well as the FGJF.

Model gardens

These equipments created especially for physical handicapped people did not leave people indifferent. Ralph Buschmann, cofounder of the holiday home for physical handicapped people in Saint Ursanne/JU called “Fil du Doubs” considered these gardens in Geneva as an example to be imitated

for handicapped people in football stadiums, do not always fit best the needs of the concerned persons”.



Plants, seeds and gardening tips were available in abundance to both beginners and more advanced gardeners.

Finland: Russian gardeners appeal to President PUTIN

Maija Roinila, secretary of the Suomen Siirtolapuutarhaliitto ry

The National Congress of the Federation of Russian Gardeners that convened in St. Petersburg on August 23. and 24, 2007 appealed to President PUTIN. In their petition participants of the Congress pointed out among other things that "Development of the gardening movement is slowed down by the global economy, social and political processes as well as problems in our society. National plans aiming at improving people's health, solving

problems of production of foodstuffs, housing and demography as well as improving the quality of education were passed by the дума.

In supporting gardeners and creating a civilized infrastructure for gardening villages the government will have a chance to considerably alleviate problems of foodstuffs production and housing, improve the public health, help senior citizens in adjusting to the

old age, provide children with a place of rest in study camps and initiate them in tilling a plot of land of their own, strengthen the family ties and improve the demographic situation.

In order to be able to successfully put into practice the above mentioned plans, the government needs to pay serious attention to the development of the gardening movement."

Mrs. Liisa Vasama, President of the Federation of Finnish Allotment Gardeners attended as a guest of honour the III Congress of the National Federation of Russian Gardeners. She reports from the Congress as follows:

Gardening is big in Russia

As far as the number of people involved is concerned, allotment gardening (datša) is the biggest social movement in Russia. There are 80 local organizations in the Federation of Russian Gardeners. In the local organizations there are a countless number of gardening villages (equivalent to local associations in the member federations of the International Office) All in all, the Federation of Russian Gardeners representing

is improved by 15-20% among those people who do gardening and spend their leisure at the cottages.

Gardening is a socially and morally significant movement

Interestingly enough, the Congress pointed out that the gardening movement has a real social and moral significance in Russia. It strengthens family ties, keeps retired people active and solves housing problems. Furthermore, children learn to respect the land.

In St. Petersburg a "Gardener of the Year" is nominated every year and every year there are a lot of entries in the competition.

improved. Children will be offered activities during school holidays; even medical help will be made available.

Finally, the Russian Federation has drawn up a programme of development, which reaches out to the year 2010. The 150th Anniversary of the successor of the Imperial Russian Gardeners' Association is celebrated in 2008.



President Vasili i. Zaharjashev of the Federation of Russian Gardeners speaking to the Congress

appr. 70 million Russians promote gardening and pushes the aims of gardeners both in the cities and the countryside.

According to the calculations made by the Ministry of Agriculture 70% of vegetables, 80% of potatoes and 49% of fruit and berries cultivated in all Russia are cultivated by allotment gardeners and in gardening villages.

Gardening is a healthy pastime

Academy of Military Medicine has made research on people who pursue gardening as pastime and come to the conclusion that life expectancy

St. Petersburg favours gardening

The Head quarters of the Federation is situated in St. Petersburg.

There are 800 000 plots in an area covering 58 000 hectares in the city of St. Petersburg and Leningrad area and more than 2,5 million people pursue gardening and spend their leisure on these plots.

Activities of the local gardening villages will be subsidized by 1 billion roubles in the coming 8 years by the city of St. Petersburg. It is spent on building of electricity, plumbing and waste management. Security, too, will be

Meetings

Switzerland
Nature congress in Basel

The Netherlands
Annual Congress: June 14th, 2008 in Utrecht

France
General assembly and congress on 24th and 25th May, 2008 in Dijon
Subject: Water : the challenge for our gardens
Roundtable discussions:

- The water resources
- The reasons of the drinking water pollution
- Good praxis in the garden

Lectures:

Jean-Marie PELT, Founder of the European Institute for Ecology
Jacques MY, General director for enterprises dealing with the protection of gardens
and green areas François VEILLERETTE, President of future generations

Germany

6 seminars (3 days each) with approximately 50 participants coming from the national federations affiliated to the central federation concerning the subjects:

- Legal questions
- Specific gardening matters
- Society and social questions
- Public relations

■ Day of the Garden in Neu-Ulm on June 8th, 2008: opening ceremony for the whole Republic

■ 2nd Allotment Garden congress in Bielefeld from October 9th - 10th, 2008

Finland

- Get-together event of allotment gardeners, 19th July 2008 in Tampere
- Training session for presidents of local associations (How to run an association successfully)

Documentation

Switzerland
■ Information leaflet on allergies in the garden

the Netherlands

■ Brochure: „National Spatial Strategy and allotments“ (Nota Ruimte en volkstuinen) - joined production of the AVVN and the Department of Spatial Strategy and Environment especially for city councils.

■ Brochure Ecological Gardening (Natuurlijk Tuinieren) - by the AVVN

France

■ Newfilm Gaumont 1910-1915 about Abbé Lemire and official visits of allotment garden sites (12 Min.)

Germany

- Brochure: Soil pollution in the allotment garden
- Weekly garden advice by dpa
- Monthly garden advice on Internet
- Monthly newsletter

- The review: Der Fachberater no. 1 -4 /2007
- Activity and financial report 2003-2006 at the occasion of the 25th congress of the federation 2007
- „Grüne Schriftenreihe“ no. 189 - 193

Finland

- Guide of waste handling in allotment gardens

Useful informations

the Netherlands

- In November 2007 the Dutch parliament decided to make available a fund of 4 million euros for the stimulation of the development of new allotment sites. This was proposed and decided by the parliament after an intensive lobbying by the AVVN

- The opening of the new AVVN Activity and Information Centre for Garden and Nature in Utrecht in May 2008

- In 2008 we will start a new project. Together with the city of Utrecht we will develop a Toolkit Ecological Gardening especially for home owners with a garden.

France

- Creation of an Environment protection charter for the affiliated associations in order to adopt gardening practices that are respectful of the environment.
- Draft for the amendment of the legislation that has been postponed for years. 2008 could now present a new opportunity. This amendment should concern the protection of the gardens, the obligation to replace the garden sites, that are expropriated for public purposes or town projects.

Germany

- 2008: Publication of the federal survey: The social importance of the allotment garden movement as well as its
- importance on urban planning and ecology, ordered by the federal ministry for transport, building and town development
- Publication of a new brochure: Nature friendly gardening
- Publication of a new brochure: Biodiversity
- „Day of the Garden“ Public Relation eventon Subject: Health from the garden



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The European Cultural Convention and nature

Roberta Alberotanza in collaboration with Alexandra Wolfram, Chair of the Steering Committee for Culture



Landscape in Slovenia near Portoroz

“Nature’s above art”, said Shakespeare’s King Lear, suggesting that nature and art are antagonists, with nature dictating its conditions: human life, the need to understand the world and the attempts of art to reach beyond its limits. In that respect, King Lear appears to be quite right.

Yet between nature and culture, alongside that dichotomy, there is also a positive link: the consideration of nature is in fact a cultural act. In the earliest expressions of human culture, nature was already the subject. That much is evident from rupestal art, the first acts to transform the intellectual perception of nature into art, at the same time the birth of the sacred. That transformation was made possible by a belief in the magical powers of images, the most ancient examples of which date from around the same time as the earliest expressions of human know-how. Over the history of humankind, cultural relations with nature have taken on increasingly varied and diverse forms, such as garden art, literary works – Goethe’s

“Metamorphosis of plants” or “Journey to Italy” for example – and cultural tourism, which has origins going back to the Middle Ages, when the pilgrims on the Santiago de Compostela route probably inspired travelers on their Grand Tour.

Attraction to nature has encouraged travel, and in turn travel has influenced nature: the age of discovery, beginning with the crossing of the Atlantic in the fifteenth century, brought agricultural produce to Europe which transformed farming and rural landscapes on the continent. The voyages of Portugal’s Vasco da Gama helped to enrich the diversity of known and cultivated plants in Europe.

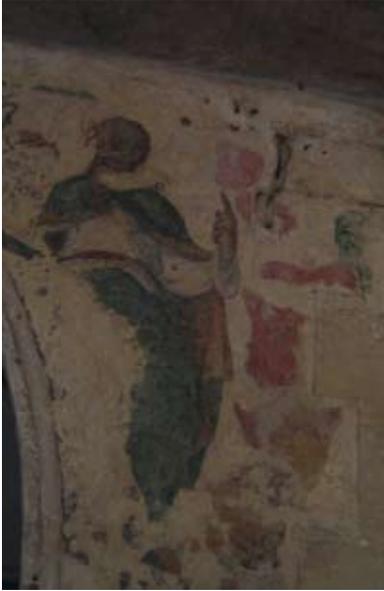
Cultural interest in nature continues to take form through art today. The works of Paul Klee or “land Art” are good examples. This interest is also expressed in the perception of the aesthetic aspects of given areas, i.e. the landscape. In this context, even agriculture has sometimes had to adapt to new cultural needs linked to nature. It is no accident that agri-tourism

and organic farming, with their more respectful approach to nature, have been so successful.

The consideration of nature in terms of law – itself also a cultural act – has given rise to a number of standard-setting instruments (International conventions, national laws and European Union legislation). The emphasis placed on nature by these instruments is not limited to nature in the strict sense of the term but also to related subjects, such as landscape, that are strongly linked to cultural experience. The Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention is a noteworthy example.

A reference text

The Council of Europe’s European Cultural Convention of 1954 can serve as a reference text today for the protection and enhancement of these approaches and interests. The level of appreciation of nature in the 1950s, when this international treaty was adopted, was very different to what it is today. At that time the need



Wall painting in Malta



Travel has brought new agricultural products and changed agriculture and the rural landscapes

to deepen friendship and understanding between peoples, stemming from the Europe-wide disaster of the Second World War, took precedence. Accordingly, the provisions of this fundamental legal instrument attach considerable importance to the study of the languages, history and civilization of the contracting parties but do not directly refer to nature.

Certainly, co-operation between people remains the priority objective. But the notion of “culture” and its impact must be reconsidered in relation to the socio-cultural changes in our societies. In the economically and industrially development countries, human

beings are ever further removed from nature, and yet – or perhaps precisely for that reason – they feel a need to draw closer to it. In the light of the European Cultural Convention’s chief aims of exchange and co-operation, activities to implement it should try, in future, to cater for that need. This objective can be attained only through a cross-sectoral approach taking in the activities already pursued within the Council of Europe: programmes geared to sustainable spatial development, the cultural heritage and cultural routes.

The 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention is a tremendous

opportunity to discuss these new prospects, so that nature can finally be established as a further focal point for exchange and co-operation between the peoples of Europe.

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NATUROPA 102/2004**

The European Landscape Convention, synthesis of nature, culture and human rights

Enrico Buergi, Chairman of the European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention, which came into force on 1 March 2004, is the latest Council of Europe convention on the European heritage.

Given the importance of the Council of Europe's role for the whole European community, the lack of a "landscape" strand in its battery of instruments binding on its member states was seen as a major omission.

The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention) and the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) had concentrated on the archaeological and architectural heritage, and the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) on wild fauna and flora

and natural habitats. This meant that some of the major components of the European natural and cultural strand had been dealt with, but the overall framework was still absent.

So it was no coincidence that the authorities responsible for protecting our natural and cultural heritage noticed this gap, and the corresponding work began in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, later moving on to the intergovernmental level, on preparing the European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention), which was signed on 20 October 2000.

Building a united Europe

This instrument, covering both nature and culture, is now applicable to the whole European landscape and all its various expressions. It opens our

eyes to the fact that the protection, rehabilitation and promotion of the overall landscape in accordance with sustainable development criteria are, quite simply, a sine qua non for succeeding in the vital challenge of building a united Europe.

During the ministerial conference at which the convention was opened for signature, most of the European states, together with a number of European organisations working to promote the landscape and under the aegis of the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (DG IV), set out the preconditions for implementing the European Landscape Convention at all levels (local, regional and national) and with all the relevant partners and stakeholders (general public, administration, applied research and decision-making



Convent garden in Luxembourg

bodies). Many practical examples of modes of implementation have been presented and made available to all interested parties (see website www.coe.int/europeanlandscapeconvention). Furthermore, an entire issue of the Council of Europe's *Naturopa* magazine, in four different language versions, has been given over to this convention.

So this is the first real follow-up to Recommendation 150 (2004) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to the Committee of Ministers, enabling the monitoring system of the convention to:

- guarantee an integrated approach to the convention and ensure that the role of local and regional authorities is duly taken into consideration;
- be sufficiently flexible for decisions taken by the expert committees to be quickly translated into concrete action in the field.

The Congress recommends that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe invite the member states,

which have not already done so to sign and ratify the European Landscape Convention so that it can be rapidly implemented in the whole of Europe.

The main advantage of the convention is that it lays down the basic guidelines for minor and major development work anywhere in Europe in accordance with the criteria of sustainable development and enhancement of citizens' everyday living environment. This applies to all landscapes, because for each of us, our everyday landscape is, precisely, our landscape, no matter how ordinary it may seem.

Implementation

Implementation of the convention therefore represents a challenge to all, and more particularly to those responsible for development work with direct or indirect repercussions on the landscape. Engineers, architects and decision-making bodies are accordingly invited to root their action even more solidly in the present. They are called upon to respect the expression of our identity and cultural

heritage by protecting and enhancing natural and cultural landscapes. It is a case of promoting diversity rather than uniformity, and encouraging creativity, which is not necessarily synonymous with monument making. Their action must be based on the realization that respect for the landscape is first and foremost respect... for oneself.

The European Landscape Convention is closely bound up with the Council of Europe's priority field of activity, namely respect for human rights. The convention requires all parties to undertake to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of the people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity. In this connection we should also mention the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (Recommendation Rec (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe), which highlight the spatial dimension of human rights and democracy.

Proper implementation of the Con-

vention is a unique means of ensuring spatial planning considerations are taken into account at all levels. This is why the Committee of Senior Officials of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) is involved in monitoring Council of Europe activities in this field, in co-operation with the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity (CO-DBP) and the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage (CDPAT).

The key assets of the European Landscape convention

The convention:

1) concerns all kind of landscapes (urban, suburban, agricultural,

- natural);
- 2) is the first ever international treaty dealing exclusively with the landscape;
 - 3) advocates legal recognition of the landscape;
 - 4) covers land, water and sea areas;
 - 5) covers urban, suburban and natural areas;
 - 6) is committed to protecting, managing and enhancing landscapes in accordance with specific needs;
 - 7) proposes an active role for the ordinary citizen;
 - 8) on accession, states:
 - define and implement their own landscape policy;
 - set out nationwide landscape quality objectives;
 - secure the requisite resources for

action;

- integrate landscapes into their spatial development, town planning, social, cultural and economic policies;
- undertake to train specialists.

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urban landscape (Brussels)

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

Moreno BUCCI, Former Chairman of the Committee on Sustainable Development



Council of Europe in Strasbourg

Local and regional authorities can make a substantial contribution to national sustainability strategies. They already played a key role at the 1992 “Earth Summit” in Rio, which drew up a framework for future action on sustainable development across the globe. Their understanding and implementation of sustainable development has evolved since 1992, now viewing sustainable development as more than an « environmental » movement. Priority local sustainable development issues also include poverty reduction, equity, social justice and security.

Over the past ten years, European lo-

cal and regional authorities have built on their inherent strengths to become champions and facilitators of sustainable development. They can provide good governance and respond to the needs of their communities, thus creating a positive, cumulative effect on environmental, economic and social conditions, despite jurisdictional and other barriers, which continue to hamper sustainable development efforts.

Sustainable development issues have always featured high on the agenda of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CL-RAE). Throughout the last decade a

number of reports, resolutions and recommendations have been adopted on environmental and sustainability questions. Let me mention just a few of the texts adopted in this period.

The report on « municipal and regional environmental policy in Europe » (1972) investigated the way in which local and regional authorities organise themselves to meet their environmental responsibilities. The report on the “quantity and quality of drinking water in Europe” (1992) highlighted the problems of water provision and suggested measures for solving them. The report on “combating the greenhouse effect and protecting the ozone layer” (1993) recommended a



Meeting room of the Congress of local and regional authorities

number of policy actions to help avert a climatic catastrophe.

The report on « sustainable development » at local and regional levels » (1997) made an inventory of local and regional government initiatives aimed at making sustainable development a key objective in policy-making. The report on “local and regional economic instruments for the environment” (1997) showed how such instruments can be effectively implemented at the local and regional levels. The report on “nuclear safety and local/regional democracy” (1998) called for rights to consultation, access to information and accountability from the European nuclear industry to local and regional authorities.

The European Landscape Convention, which offers European citizens an international legal safeguard to satisfy their demand for protecting the landscape, was also an initiative of the Congress.

Based on this solid heritage, the CLRAE established a new Committee on Sustainable Development – one

of its four statutory committees – as part of the structural reforms in the year 2000. By setting up the committee, the Congress reaffirmed that local and regional authorities need to be key components of national sustainable development strategies if such plans are to succeed.

The committee, which – similarly to the Congress itself - works in chambers (one for local and one for regional authorities) in addition to the plenary committee, started its activities by elaborating a report on « mobile telephone base stations and local/regional authorities » (2001).

The report was prompted by the increasing proliferation of telecommunications masts in Europe, often erected close to residential property, without the public being informed or consulted. There is a great variety of national standards concerning the limits of exposure to electromagnetic fields. This situation is causing concern with the public as well as local and regional authorities, with the majority demanding an enhanced

level of control. According to the report, the gaps in present knowledge are sufficient to justify a precautionary approach. The recommendation aims at introducing stricter exposure limits and reinforcing the authority of regional and local governments over decisions regarding the placement of telecommunications facilities in their area. The committee also drew up a report on the “liberalization of the energy market and its implications for sustainable development” (2002). This stresses that the major effects of deregulation, namely lower electricity prices and higher uncertainties for investors in generation capacities, have a negative impact on environmentally sound technologies. In its recommendation, the CLRAE calls for an integrated energy strategy that involves all levels of government and all sectors of the society to meet the challenge of the rapid growth of energy demand and the growing threat of climate change.

Another recent report deals with the problems of Europe’s countryside. Major forces of change affect

Europe's rural communities. The rural heritage is rapidly being eroded and even destroyed by social or technological changes, modern agriculture, urban growth, neglect and other forces. Concentrated effort is needed to revive and strengthen the rural economies: programmes of rural development should recognise the main concerns of the countryside, raise the awareness and enlist the energy of rural people. The recommendation puts forward a broad range of policy measures that necessitate the involvement of many bodies, governmental and non-governmental, at local, regional, national and international levels.

Major disasters and emergencies in recent years have caused widespread damage and loss to communities. Whether they be natural disasters, such as floods, storms, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, forest fires, or man-made, such as water and air

pollution, industrial and transport accidents, local authorities have a role in prevention, information, training and rehabilitation. The report on local authorities confronting natural disasters and emergencies identifies some current short-comings and points the way for improvement of response. It also suggests that the CLRAE prepares, subsequently, a manual for local authorities on dealing with disasters and emergencies.

Finally, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Rio Conference, the CLRAE prepared a report on « Rio + 10 : Towards the next World Summit on Sustainable Development ». This reviews the progress made by local and regional authorities in implementing Agenda 21 and the principles adopted at the 1992 Rio Conference. It also includes a declaration, which is intended as the CLRAE's contribution to the next World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held

in Johannesburg in August 2002. The declaration calls on the different tiers of government to implement concrete actions directed towards sustainability, and to accelerate the transition towards secure, equitable and sustainable development.

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NATUROPA 97/2002**

Adoption of the European Landscape Convention

Roberta Alberotanza, Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee

Urban landscape (Bruges)

This article voices three different feelings, reflecting the Italian Government's commitment to the adoption and opening for signature of the European Landscape Convention, now also known as the Florence Convention.

This achievement, which is the result of a joint effort, suggests that European co-operation in this area will be greatly reinforced in the future.

Gratitude

My first feeling is one of gratitude to the colleagues in the various ministries and embassies who, each in their own area of responsibility, did their utmost to ensure that during Italy's chairmanship of the Council of Europe, the convention would first be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg on 19 July 2000,

then be opened for signature by the member states in Florence on 20 October of the same year.

This commitment was based on the work of the Committee for Cultural Heritage and the Committee for the Activities of the Council of Europe in the field of Biological and Landscape Diversity.

Under their balanced supervision, between September 1999 and February 2000, a drafting committee validated the draft convention drawn up between 1994 and 1998 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

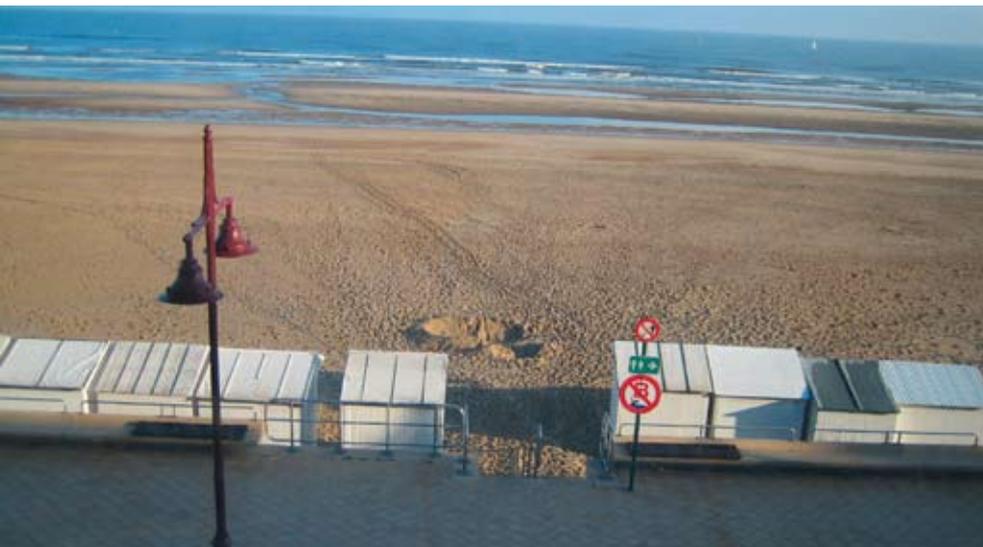
I am also grateful to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which always provided the political support required to bring the intergovernmental negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Satisfaction

My second feeling is one of satisfaction that a dream has finally come true. One of this Organisation's primary aims is to transform into legal principles the ideals that underpin European civilisation and enable it to develop.

Aware of its role and experience and relying on its closeness to the public, the Council of Europe acts as a permanent think-tank aiming to identify the ideals that help consolidate European cultural identity, particularly in the wake of the far-reaching political, social and economic changes that have marked the history of our continent over the past decade.

As part of this ongoing process, the landscape ideal has been recognised as an essential factor for the quality

**Sea landscape****Urban landscape (Rome)****Rural landscape**

of our living environment and a basic component of our multiple identities. It has accordingly been translated into legal principles common to all European states, in a text widely recognised as innovative – partly as a result of the democratic methods used in drawing it up.

I welcome it even more warmly in view of the complexity of the subject of the convention and the difficulties surrounding the extension of its scope. Some resistance has been expressed by various bodies specialising in nature or heritage conservation who wanted to keep landscape within the narrow confines of their own responsibilities. In response to these trends, while also referring to concerns associated with nature and cultural heritage, the initial draft of the convention was based on social considerations. That may be why it was able to overcome the conceptual difficulties attendant firstly on the definition of landscape, with its multiple meanings and pluridisciplinary nature, and secondly on its dual subjective and objective aspects.

Thanks to the tenacity of the draft's authors, the convention is now based on a highly innovative conception of landscape capable of altering the public policy approach to the environment, cultural heritage and spatial planning at national and European level.

The convention actually establishes that landscape must be recognised and legally protected irrespective of the value or quality it embodies. This implies that landscape protection must not only be afforded to areas of outstanding landscape value or quality, but must be extended to all areas, particularly ordinary and damaged landscapes.

The Council of Europe has thus managed to democratise landscape by giving governments a key to opening up a new sphere of public activity that will improve people's quality of life and cover the whole territory of each country.

Hope

My third feeling is one of hope, since the political importance of the European Landscape Convention is apparent to our governments, who have decided to sign it through their representatives. However, a signature is no more than a promise.

If this promise is to be kept and the convention is not to remain a dead letter, the authorities responsible for incorporating international treaties into the domestic legal systems of the member states should now complete the works started by intergovernmental co-operation.

The Council of Europe's response must also be commensurate with the political success of the treaty it has created. It must reflect the expectations of the governments, which, via this convention, have confirmed in law and in fact the Council's exclusive role in landscape protection in Europe.

From this point of view, it is to be hoped that the activities aimed at promoting and monitoring the convention organised by the Council of Europe Secretariat will continue to fulfil the member states' expectations regarding the nature and purposes of this new European treaty.

On this point, our authorities are pleased to see that the directorate concerned has recently been reorganised to guarantee:

- the cross-sectoral, comprehensive and multidisciplinary scope of the convention;
- the necessary co-ordination for dealing with the very diverse scientific fields concerned;
- the flexibility required by the relevant sectoral policies of the member states.

In my view, these three points are the guidelines for future work on the subject, I am convinced that observance of these principles will ensure that

the landscape ideal underlying the Florence Convention will continue to afford us spiritual strength as an irreplaceable source and guide for the success of our joint activities.

PS: In 2007 26 States have ratified the convention and 8 have signed it

**Article published in the review
NATUROPA 98/2003**

Joined –up policy-making: the London Conference

Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General World Health Organisation

It was in 1987, when I chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development, resulting in the report *Our Common Future*, that it became clear to me that sustainability relies on joined-up policy-making. Without sector talking to sector and working together, we could never pursue a holistic approach to a precious planet with limited resources, on whose integrity human life depends.

Two years later, the World Health Organisation brought together Ministers of Environment and their colleagues the Ministers of Health from WHO's member States of the European Region. The aim was to identify and formulate joint policies, and the Ministers drew up the European Charter on Environment and Health at the First European Conference on Environment and Health in Frankfurt in 1989. The next landmark was an environment and health action plan and declaration endorsed at the Second European Conference on Environment and Health in Helsinki in 1994. After policies and planning, the next step was implementation. The Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, which was held in London on 16-18 June 1999, had the theme of partnership in action.

For London' 99 we were concentrating on areas where our member States believe they will get the highest return in positive health effects: water, transport, industry and the workplace;

national environment and health action plans, economics and public participation. To these, we have added the emerging issue of the environment and children's health. European member States have global responsibilities too, and so climate change and ozone depletion and human health are also on the agenda.

In Europe we have had to learn that even the richest societies cannot afford to destroy their natural basis of human existence. Governments are aware of this: convincing data has been provided and widely disseminated. But when policy-makers are asked to focus on investment in health and well-being, they have often showed a dangerous reluctance to act. This is changing. As the economic ramifications of inaction are dawning on today's decision-makers, they are increasingly making the necessary decisions: to reduce emissions of ozone layer-depleting substances, to reduce CO2 emissions to counter global warming, and other crucial, global environmental action.

Public concern about a degraded environment is directly linked to concern about its effects on human health. Ten years ago, there was simply no tradition for different departments and ministries to work hand in hand on these crosscutting issues and for many countries it is still a challenge. Too many countries are still in such a pressed economic state that

short-term survival takes precedent over sustainable long-term solutions. Others are still choosing the short-term benefits of listening to politically powerful industrial lobby groups at a risk of increasing health costs and ignoring the environment as if we had a spare planet just next door.

Among the issues on the agenda for London, transport is one of the most striking examples where renewed and honest analysis of the economy within the context of social welfare, health and environmental costs shows the way ahead to a better future. The bill to EU citizens for the present hazardous road traffic is 162.000.000.000 ECU – yes you read correctly, 162 billion ECU every year. The benefits to the economy from ever-increasing transport efficiency can be questioned when you consider the evidence about damaged health and well-being through air pollution, noise, accidents and "sedentary" short distance traffic.

Partnership and public participation are comfortable words, but turning them into action is a profound challenge. Governments will have to be told that health- and environment-oriented policies will gain and not lose votes if they are based on evidence and supportive to the needs and wishes of the citizens. These policies will also re-build confidence of the actors in the economy. We have already seen that commercial forces, which at

first opposed policies protecting and safeguarding the environment, have found such policies – once they have been executed – profitable venues for new market opportunities.

We have to demonstrate new successful strategies, or how else can we give the confidence to poorer countries that there is a way out of poverty, disease and destruction of natural resources? London'99 is a starting point for little steps – as well as huge leaps – towards a better future. We hope that Ministers will grasp the opportunity to adopt a protocol on water and health, a charter on transport, environment and health and a Declaration covering the important steps that need to be taken on all the topics.

The century of competition is nearly over. It has left us with some impressive results, but also with a lot of damage to repair and injustice to undo. The 21st century has to be the century of partnership and London'99 will help set the stage.

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