

KEY TO EUROPE

1997/98



**Education
and mobility
for the Europe
of tomorrow**





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Introduction

by **SERGIO CAREDDA**
President of AEGEE Europe

Year 1997 has been an important year for AEGEE. The new office in Brussels, as been able to better the work of the Comité Directeur, by putting AEGEE-Europe in constant contact and confrontation with the European institutions. Useless to indicate all the benefits that this change brought to our association.

Year 1997 has been as well the year of a new European conscience for AEGEE. Stimulated by events and institutions AEGEE has slowly began to take firm positions on European issues, in the fields of expertise that belong to our association.

The year 1997 began with the important support given from AEGEE to the Students Protest in Belgrade. The support of the Democracy in all levels is a duty the we feel. But supporting Students is our obligation.

Year 1997 has been also the year of the Euro. AEGEE took an important role in the discussion on the Euro, by clearly stating that the Young European have to be involved in this process, and, furthermore, that the EMU is not only a process made of statistic criteria. We did this again with actions. The «Europe and Euro» campaign carried by AEGEE has received, during the year, the support of lots of people: individuals, politicians, government responsible.

Year 1997 saw again AEGEE very active in the fields of Education. Our participation in the

European Round for the preparation of the World conference on Higher Education is a prove of this engagement. This is also the main reason why this issues is especially delicated on Education.

Year 1997 saw AEGEE being stronger and more influent at European level. For the future our main engagement will be the development of new strategies for strengthening our network, that reached presence on all the continent, in 42 countries.

Year 1997 has as well been the year of the confrontation with the rest of the world. This mainly in the occasion of our participation in the Transatlantic. Conference as well as in the participation to the IIMCR seminar in the Hague last summer. In the perspective of an even more globalise world, being truly Europeans means also being able of an open confrontation with the rest of the world, especially in those areas (Like the Mediterranean) that are inevitably linked to Europe.

In a changing Europe, we have demonstrated to go always beyond. Beyond usual schemes, beyond the European idea simply linked to the European institutions. Beyond the idea of a Europe as state. Thats AEGEE, and we demonstrated it again.



How we work ...

AEGEE, Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe, which was founded 1985 in Paris by a group of students, promotes since 10 years the idea to put European cooperation and integration among the young generation into practice, especially in the students' world. In AEGEE, which is a voluntary, non-profit-making, financially independent student organisation, not linked to any political party, young people work together in organizing European events to which member from all over Europe are invited.

In the last 10 years more than 15.000 members from 170 «antennae» contributed to the idea of constructing a «European society». AEGEE members are building bridges across Europe on basis of friendship and understanding free from national way of thinking. They see problems in a global perspective and understand Europe as such as well as all the diverse cultures it is created from. 1995 AEGEE can look back on 10 years critical and active confrontation with Europe by combining ideals with energetic pragmatism.

AEGEE does not consider any national level of organisation. One of its greatest assets is to show how young Europeans with cultural, historical and other differences can work together within unique structures. So AEGEE recognizes only the local and the European level.

The local level is composed of «antennae», the so-called AEGEE locals, which form the backbone of the organisation. Antennae and contact antennae cover the whole continent from Las Palmas to Sankt Peterburg, from Trondheim to Istanbul and they initiate European events.

The european level is composed of the Agora, the general assembly which functions as the main legislative body, the Presidents' Meeting where practical work is planned and accomplished, the Comité Directeur which is the elected executive body of the association, the supervising Comissions and the Working Groups.

Conferences are the main part of AEGEE activities. They are organized by antennae

and Working Groups which are free to choose the topic. The conferences are place where people from all over Europe meet and discuss a variety of subjects considered to be important for our lives and our common future, like «Europe-Past and Future», «Environmental Problems», «Education and Discrimination» and «Tolerance and a Peaceful Coexistence».

Working groups work concretely on a specific subject that is of importance for Europe. They organize meetings, congresses and support locals with similar events in order to establish a common position for AEGEE and to present it constructively towards the outside world. Until now Working Groups exist in the fields of education, east-west, environmental problems, north-south, Europe and regions and human rights.

Summer universities are organized by students for students from all over Europe. They give the possibility to study the language of a country as a key to another culture. A lot of AEGEE members spend their university break in a Summer University to have a deeper look into the problems and the understanding of the varieties of European culture.

Team, the European Academic Manager, offers students and companies the possibility to communicate individually in a very concrete way. It is a job fair where the international student can join personal meetings, discussions and workshops and get in touch with international companies.

Moot court is a competition wishing to increase awareness of European law by allowing competitors to develop legal skills. It unites them in a common purpose overcoming cultural and personal barriers. Students and young lawyers are invited to examine their knowledge on current issues of European Community Law in small teams.

Schola is a project where young people get informed about Europe, its different institutions, its cultural aspects, and diversities. The Schola initiative educates Europe at some schools through games, speeches and meetings with foreign students.

In principles we believe

We, the members of AEGEE,

realizing that the European Youth is building the future of our continent, aspiring to a peaceful Europe free of obstacles and enmities, of false divisions and forced differences, believing that our organisation, by supporting all expression of European culture and civilisation and by encouraging student mobility and intra-european understanding, enables us to materialise our vision of Europe.

hereby declare:

our belief that, while cherishing our diversity and respecting the characters of our regions, we can find on the basis of our common cultural and historical heritage the principles that unite us in our effort to strengthen the European conscience;

our faith in a Europe that stands as a symbol of freedom, democracy, human rights, mutual respect and of a community law, and our will for collaboration with any European institution fostering this concept and promoting European co-operation;

our conviction that education as a fundamental right is a means to mutual understanding providing a fair chance in life;

our resolve to help establish an open Europe that recognises and cherishes the contribution of non-European cultures in the shaping of its past, present, and future and actively contributes to the security and prosperity of the world-community;

our desire to create a European continent where prosperity, unhindered creativity and progress co-exist with respect for the environment and care and compassion for the deprived nations of the world.

13 years of history

AEGEE was founded in Paris in 1995. This founding was based on the outcome of a huge conference «EGEE 1», which was organised in cooperation between the five Grand Ecoles in Paris. Their aim was to create a platform for young Europeans to discuss European matters and present their ideas to European and National Institutions. Due to the uniqueness of the idea, EGEE was able to stimulate many students to establish locals in their cities.

AEGEE faced a major discussion in 1990, in times of changes in Central and Eastern Europe. The question was whether AEGEE should limit itself to merely the EC countries as it had done since the beginning or if it should widen itself to the whole of Europe. The network decided with an absolute majority to widen and include Eastern Europe and the EFTA countries. This decision, prepared by the East-West Working group and the CD, the «Quo Vadis» list, led to a huge growth of the network.

In the 1980s AEGEE's external relation was dedicated mostly to the European Union, where AEGEE was actively supporting the instalment of the ERASMUS programme as well as the TEMPUS project. This changed when AEGEE opened itself to the whole Europe. Consequently AEGEE became a candidate member as NGO at the Council of Europe.

In 1996 the AEGEE headquarters moved to Brussels. The positive effect: AEGEE is now closer to the European institutions.

Antenna is the name of an AEGEE-local. An antenna organises at least one European event per year apart from all local activities. Currently there are 211 antennae and contact groups in AEGEE, from Moscow to London, from Istanbul to Stockholm.

The **Agora**, AEGEE's general assembly, meets twice a year. Up to 600 AEGEE-members gather for three days to discuss proposals and projects, take decisions and set up the guidelines for AEGEE.

At the **Presidents' Meeting (PM)** local boards meet to discuss the ongoing work of AEGEE. It is also a preparatory meeting of the Agora and takes therefore place twice a year, in the beginning of March and October respectively.

The **Comité Directeur**, the board of the directors, consists of a maximum of nine persons from at least four countries, each with its own area of responsibility. Every CD member has his or her own task. As a who-

le, the CD is the administrative and representative body of AEGEE, with responsibility for contacts to the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Working Groups are the thematic backbone of AEGEE. They are multinational research groups of AEGEE-members organising events on specific topics, such as education policy, minorities in Europe and environmental issues.

The **Commissions** are supporting bodies to the CD. They consist of the Audit Commission, the Members Commission, the Juridical Commission and the Network Commission.

The **Project Teams** coordinate the work of the European-wide projects of AEGEE. These projects are mainly series of conferences and other activities on certain defined subjects. The team consists of AEGEE-members from the different AEGEE locals.

European Law Moot Court competition: a chance for young and brave

The European Law Moot Court Competition, organized since 1988, is a bilingual competition in European Union Law wishing to increase awareness and knowledge of European law and allowing competitors to develop legal skills. The competition is organized by the European Law Moot Court Society and AEGEE, in cooperation with Elsa. After a written round, and the 4 regional finals taking place in different cities in Europe with 100 participating teams, the finals are hosted by the Court of Justice of the European Union. Each participating team is expected to argue both sides of the case. Moot Court also means an excellent opportunity to meet professionals in the fields of European Union Law. It has the official support of the Commission of the European Union.

Every year AEGEE is organising at least one of the regional finals of the ELMCC in cooperation with ELMC Association in Stockholm. This year it was AEGEE-WARSZAWA that took chance to hold this tradition, organising the event in the middle of Polish winter (31.01-2.02.97). There were 10 teams participating in the pleadings, from five European countries, almost 40 young lawyers from the best universities.

Three stages were exhausted. The best teams in the finals appeared to be Heidelberg and Stockholm. «We were facing a tough competition. Till the end of finals nobody knew who will be the winner» - said Marcin Polak, the coordinator from AEGEE-Warszawa, «and the level of teams was equal and of highest quality».

The criteria of evaluation based on the quality of presentation of a case, both in writing and on paper, the ability to persuade and convince the jury, and the fluence of speaking English and French. Every team had to present both applicants and defendant's arguments. It was not an easy task and the international jury, composed of English, Dutch, French and Polish judges, had a difficult job to find out the best team. It took them over 1,5h. to take a decision. The Stockholm team won and passed to the European final in Luxembourg. For all it was a great experience.



The Court at the Moot Court in Warszawa during the Final Pleading

Spring PM Warszawa

Warszawa strikes again! Tripple event: Presidents' Meeting plus

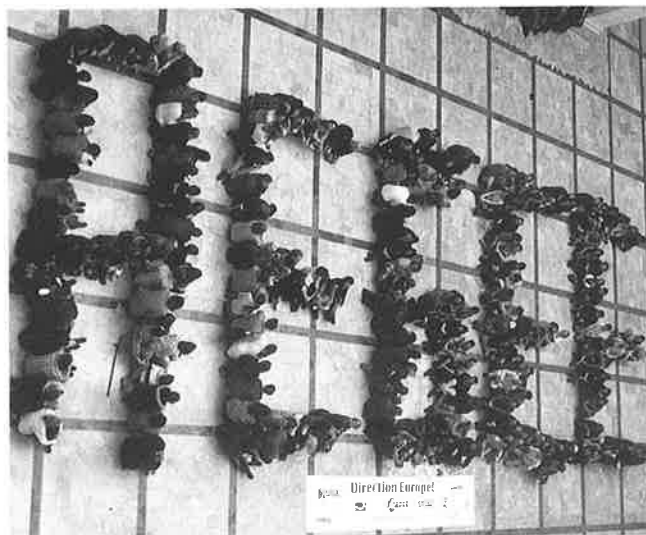
Over 500 university students from across Europe visited Warsaw for Spring Presidents' PLUS, held at the University of Technology, March 7-9. The event was composed of three parallel paths: the first - the statutory meeting of AEGEE-Europe, then Direction Europe II congress and finally a Managing AEGEE training. A new «PLUS» idea was an effect of cooperation between old partner antennae from WARSZAWA and ENSCHEDE. Both statutory meetings of our association were enlarged by conducting a conference about the European integration issues (especially in the light of the IGC developments) and giving the fast growing network occassion to learn about the management, FR an PR policies in AEGEE.

For AEGEE-WARSZAWA most important event was Direction Europe II, a conference devoted to questions connected with the European Union's expansion. The topics focused were especially the politica and economic cooperation between Central European countries, prospects for monetary union and various nations' attitudes toward integration. Guests of the congress were Mr. Frans Andriessen, former Vicepresident of the European Commission, Mr. Cees F. Wittebrood, member of cabinet of the Commissioner for Relations with Central and Eastern Europe and Mr. Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, current Chairman of the EU-Negotiation Committee of Poland. «Although 80 percent of Poles want Poland to join EU, not many know what this would involve», said Dominik Adamski, AEGEE-WARSZAWA president. «Through such meetings we want to increase young people's awareness of being Europeans».

The PM PLUS appeared to be a big success. It was the first time in AEGEE that three independent events were conducted at the same time. «It required a lot of work, mainly because of the management challenges, but we did it!» - stressed Marcin Polak, PM PLUS coordinator: «We thought that most of problems were due to the logistic problems - like where to put over 350 participants from abroad or how to make this number of people to come for workshops or lectures at the same time - added Jaroslaw Kotowski, responsible for flow of participants.



Former Vice President of the European Commission Franz Andriessen, speaking at PM PLUS.



Participants at PM PLUS

Autumn PM Veszprem

In September 1997, the Presidents Meeting was organised in Veszprem, Hungary. Veszprem is a very old and small University city near the Lake of Balaton, which is the biggest lake in Central-Europe. With its beautiful hills and slopes, nice climate is one of the widest known-wine producing area of Hungary.

The PM: we had very little time organising it. We always wanted to do a very big event, to brush up Veszprem a little bit. But we had a very short notice making everything ready. The Board of AEGEE-Veszprem: Laszlo Kalocsai, President, me (Orsolya Peter, at the time Vice-President of AEGEE-Veszprem) Ferenc Zenkovics, the Treasurer, Geza Csakvari, our PR-Responsible and Kinga Adam, SU-Responsible were spending almost their summertime on finding contacts, writing them letters constantly, organising everything and also Laszlo's very good business contacts and Ferenc's great ideas helped a lot. We had also a very good cooperation with the CD at that time, and I would especially like to thank Janina Victor's great job. Also the University, the City of Veszprem and several companies were supporting us financially and morally.

During the PM we had a great weather, we had the opportunity to walk around the nice Castle District, or drink a coffee in the centre, if we had time. The timetable was very sharp, and at the end of day there were the great parties in the Fintor Club, which is the students favourite place in Veszprem, and in the Student Centre which is brand new, and still has the stickers of several AEGEE antennas on its white walls.

So we think it was a great PM, hope you did not have any problems with the food, lodging parties and ice creams. Hereby I would like to thank the 250 people coming to us and last but not least the great help of AEGEE-Budapest and AEGEE-Szeged. Without them we wouldn't have done such a great job.

See you somewhere in Europe!!!

(Article by Orsolya Peter)



Rally, Balyno, Caroline and Peter



The payment is also funny ...

Spring Agora Enschede

726 people, 5 cubic metres of bread, 648 litres of coffee, more than 25.000 Xerox-copies, 26 nationalities, and more than 1200 people at the European Night, which meant 2450 litres of our own Grolsch beer ... There are some of the results of the successful Spring Agora Plus, on the 18th and 19th and 20th of april 1997 in Enschede, The Netherlands. It all started on Friday evening with a Grand Opening in the «Grote Kerk» (the Big Church), where opening speeches were accompanied by a classical ensemble and an organist. After this, there was a pub crawl, which of course centered around Asterion, AEGEE-Enschede's beautiful own pub. It started with workshops in which certain topics were discussed. Among other things these prytania focused on the Long Term Program and Yearplan, the proposal on the membership fees, Plan de la fayette and revisions of the Corpus Iuridicum. Radio Index and B92 were elected for the AEGEE-award, because of their dangerous work during the war in former Yugoslavia. The proposal on the membership fees was made very clear to all people present at the prytanium and after that in the plenary sessions. Anyhow, some people thought their Eastern European antenna had to make a raise in their fee, while it's only a possibility for the western locals to give AEGEE-Europe more financial support. AEGEE-Enschede would not be AEGEE-Enschede if there wasn't more. Alongside the statutory program we organised two interesting programs, in coordination with AEGEE-Warszawa who did this on the President' Meeting, for the ordinary visitor. First of all there was «Managing AEGEE», which focused on teaching skills needed in running an antenna and otherwise being active in the network. Next to interesting lectures on P.R. and Finances, there was a real management-game, in which attendants learned how to organise their own conference. The third program was «Direction Europe?» about the Intergovernmental conference of June. In contrast to most conferences focusing on the future of the European Union, we left room for people who are more critical towards European integration. This resulted in lively, sometimes even emotional, but always very interesting discussions and after all, this was our goal.



Everybody is in the Gym ...



The new CD elected by the Agora: from the left Marijke Moed, Dan Luca, Sergio Caredda, Caroline Bruins, Peter Ginser, Andrea Spellerberg, Janina Victor, Paolo Balistrieri, Johanna Fryksmark

Autumn Agora Ankara

Hundreds of AEGEE members must still be remembering the Agora in Ankara with smiles on their faces.

Autumn Agora '97 took place between 30 Oct. - 2 Nov. 1997 in the campus of Middle East Technical University in Ankara with the participation of nearly 500 AEGEE members from all over Europe. Most of the participants took the flights of Turkish Airlines with the discount AEGEE-Ankara had managed to provide for them, 200 USD from several cities in Europe.

The participants were glad to see the friends at the airport, from the Agora Meeting Coordination Team waiting to pick them up and take them to the campus.

This was the first sign of a great Agora ...

Then, the four day Agora started. On the first day, Aegee-Ankara organized a conference on «The Perspectives on Current Issue in Turkiye» to inform the participants about the current situations in Turkiye.

On the following days, the Agora continued with many proposals and discussions on hot topics ... Finally the membership fee proposal made it in its third Agora which means the Western European locals can increase the membership fee up to 30 ECU.

The Review Commission proposal was withdrawn by the delegation of Aegee-Aachen because the Agora did not understand the text of the proposal in the way, Aegee-Aachen wanted it to be understood.

Most of the discussions were about the proposal by Aegee-Aachen to protest against the exclusion of Turkiye from the Socrates programme. After long discussions and a couple of hours of voting, the original proposal was accepted by the majority of votes in favour, which means Agora has approved an official resolution in favour of the enlargement of Socrates with a special focus on the entrance of Turkiye.

«The event probably destroyed lots of stereotypes that Western Europeans tend to have about Turkiye» as Gunnar Erth stated. During the Agora you could see the massive West orientation of Turkiye everywhere.

Also the support of the university for Aegee-Ankara was astonishing. In several speeches and meetings the university representatives expressed their pride of having an organization like AEGEE in Middle East Technical University.

Besides all, AEGEE-Ankara was very happy to hear the «big thanks» about the perfect organization, starting with meeting at the airport, about the delicious Turkish food, the lodging and the crazy parties every night.

The highlight was for sure the speech of the Turkish President Mr. Demirel, who visited the Agora on Sunday morning and took his visit seriously (The morning after the European Night!). Again one of the best AEGEE spirit we have shown was during the speech of Mr. Demirel. In the room, students coming from 42 different European countries, speaking at least 30 languages, spontaneously started singing «Happy Birthday Mr. President» ... It was really great ...

As Peter and many other participants stated «The Angora was by far the most impressive AEGEE event ever ...

The Angora ended on Sunday, but 200 participants continued their unforgettable stay in Turkiye on the way to Cappadocia!

The best Agora since ...

«We had a really great trip! Caves and churches inside, beautiful landscape and nature and long hot nights!» «It was not only a perfectly organized Agora but also wonderful trip to the marvelous region of Cappadocia!». some participants expressed their feelings with these words about the unforgettable 3 days ...

A most 200 of the Agora participants gave one of the best decision of their life which they would never regret and joined this 3-day-bus-tour to the region situated about 300 km south-east of Ankara ... We started our trip early in the morning with 5 busses to the «land of beautiful horses» namely Cappadocia. It was impossible to fall a sleep on the road since there was so much to see on the way to Cappadocia, formed by the violent eruptions of two volcanoes three million years ago, which covered the plateau surrounding Nevsehir with tufa, ash and mud. The wind and the rain have eroded this brittle rock and created a spectacular surrealistic landscape of rock cones, capped pinnacles and fretted ravines, in colors that range from warm reds and golds to cool greens and greys.



Trip to Cappadocia

On the first day, we saw one of the biggest underground cities of Cappadocia. The underground cities of Kaymakli and Derinkuyu were all used by the Christians of 7th century, who were fleeing from persecution. A complete and self-sufficient environment, included roughly 300 rooms for grain, storage, stables, sleeping chambers, kitchens and air shafts, in 5 to 7 different floors reaching a depth up to 90 meters. Later on, we had a chance to see/buy stone-handycrafts and to see/experience how they are manufactured... We were all happy when we reached to our ★★★★★ hotel! We were exhausted and hungry enough to finish everything in the open-buffet dinner after smelling the atmosphere of the caves. The lucky participants had another chance to taste delicious Turkish meals during their stay

in Cappadocia ... Then it was time to party! The greatest feeling was that, the ★★★★★ hotel was only full of with AEGEE members. As usual, the parties continued in some of the rooms afterwards.

The second day was an unforgettable day! We had 8 hour - visit to the Goreme Open- Air Museum, a monastic complex of rock churches and chapels covered with frescoes which is one of the best-known sites in central Turkiye.

A visit to magnificent Goreme city with a perfect 360-view of the incredible landscape with all its different-coloured layers and stones top of an old castle was unbelievable...



Mustafa Kurgun,
AEGEE Ankara
PR - Responsible

During our visit to «do-it-yourself pottery course» we realized that there are some artisans in our network ... (Jacobo Orsi). After this long day, all of us were looking forward to our daily massage in the Turkish Bath!

The highlight was the «all-drinks-included» Oriental Turkish Night in a cave ... (caves ... caves ... we had the feeling that we were like the Flintstones ...). It was like in the farytale «Sheherezade: 1001 nights»...

The belly dancer was approaching to every table and some of the excited guys (especially our funny & crazy bus drivers), put money under her bra and panths ... Again it was a great fun when we were dancing outside around a fire like cannibals ... At the end to the night, as I expected, the party continued by another disco-night at the hotel. After the wake-up trumpet early in the morning, we had our last open-buffet breakfast and this time act like a climber and walked/climbed through an astonishing 16 km canyon in Ihlara Valley which had a gorgeous panorama ...

Many of us thought that places like Cappadocia could only be imagined by our minds ... but on the way back to Ankara, we had to wake up and remember those unforgettable and glorious 3 days in our dreams ... The feelings of everyone after the trip was: «I will never forget this Agora, Cappadocia, and Turkiye ...»

Multiculturalism at Work

On Sunday afternoon the results of the elections, always the most waited part of the Agora. The results are a new Comité Directeur (European board) composed of nine people of eight different nationalities: Sergio Caredda, *President* (Italian, coming from AEGEE - Gorizia); Markus Schönherr, *Treasurer* (German, coming from AEGEE - Passau); Orsolya Péter, *Secretary General* (Hungarian, coming from AEGEE - Veszprém); Hélène Berard, *Member* (French, coming from AEGEE - Aix en Provence); Carmen Hilario, *Member* (Portuguese, coming from AEGEE - Coimbra); Marina Aubert, *Member* (French, coming from AEGEE - Toulouse); Stelios Mystakidis, *Member* (Greek, coming from AEGEE - Athina); Metin Turan, *Member* (Turkish, coming from AEGEE - Ankara) and Dan Luca, *Member* (Romanian, coming from AEGEE - Cluj Napoca).

«Working in international Teams is one of the main added values that our association offers to its members» reports Sergio Caredda, the newly elected President «and it is the main way we can foster the European integration».



INIZIATIVA EUROPEA

Si chiama Progetto Ise, il programma della Commissione europea sull'informazione sociale promosso per una sensibilizzazione sulle politiche dell'Unione con particolare attenzione a quelle che hanno ricadute sui diritti di cittadinanza, sul mondo del lavoro e sul territorio. Per il Friuli-Venezia Giulia partner per la Ue è l'Associazione Iniziativa Europea, sorta a Gorizia due anni fa e da allora molto attiva nella diffusione delle tematiche europee. Il 1998 sarà, sotto questo profilo un anno cruciale, non soltanto per le questioni legate alla moneta, l'Euro, ma anche per quelle connesse all'allargamento verso i Paesi dell'est (che riguardano particolarmente la nostra realtà) e quelle di ordine sociale legate soprattutto all'occupazione e alla riforma dei fondi strutturali, che nella nostra area riguardano soprattutto i cosiddetti obiettivi 2, 3, 4 e 5b, con una previsione di spesa di circa 540 miliardi nei prossimi tre anni.

Su questi temi si è concluso un intenso ciclo di appuntamenti iniziato con l'assemblea regionale per i diritti di cittadinanza, ospitata nel Polo universitario di Gorizia, con l'intervento dei responsabili del progetto Franco Chittolina e Anna Catasta e proseguita con una serie di convegni su giovani, formazione, occupazione e riforma dei fondi europei, che hanno visto la partecipazione di esperti e di rappresentanti della Comunità (Sergio Caredda, Petra Oberrauner, Massimo Sabatini, Giorgio Tassarolo e l'on. Livio Filippi). Gli incontri hanno visto, di volta in volta, il coinvolgimento diretto delle realtà associative, del volontariato e studentesche (dalle Acli, alla Caritas, all'Aegée). Ora si sta impostando il programma di attività per i prossimi mesi del quale tema di fondo sarà certamente l'Agenda 2000, cioè il documento elaborato dall'Unione europea per prepararsi alle sfide dei prossimi anni. Si tratta, insomma di promuovere la consapevolezza dell'importanza di questo processo e nello stesso tempo di rendere la commissione sensibile alle istanze delle regioni per avvicinare le istituzioni ai cittadini e alla risoluzione dei problemi concreti legati alle fasi di costruzione della nuova Europa.

OCCUPAZIONE E COLLABORAZIONE TRANSFRONTALIERA

Il mercato del lavoro e gli strumenti finanziari europei sono stati i temi discussi nel corso di un seminario organizzato dal Consiglio Sindacale Interregionale Friuli-Venezia Giulia — Carinzia con il sostegno della Direzione Generale V della Commissione Europea. I lavori hanno consentito di approfondire in particolare le problematiche della mobilità dei lavoratori frontalieri, nonché le opportunità dei programmi EURES (lavoro), OBIETTIVO 2 e 5b (sviluppo territoriale) e INTERREG (collaborazione interregionale).

Ai lavori hanno partecipato operatori sociali e rappresentanti degli istituti di formazione e delle realtà istituzionali. Le attività del progetto si sono sviluppate nei mesi di gennaio e febbraio 1998.

Journée de l'Europe

In 1985 was established to «bringing the European Idea in the middle of the European Youth». 1997 saw a new action project taking place in this direction. The Journée de l'Europe project.

The idea was simple. Small local events in some 150 locals all over Europe, coordinated through a central co-ordination would have had a huge impact in all Europe. About the topic of the project or the modality, all AEGEE-chapters were completely free to decide upon the most suitable idea. In this sense, the minimum requirement would have been to organise an Information Point. For distributing material on European Issues and European Institutions.

The project was well established only in January 1997. This meant little time for the organisation and for financing. We tried to involve the European Commission, and we found full support, expressed especially by the patronage of MR. Marcelino Oreja, member of the European Commission, but due to the lack of time, no financial support.

However we decided to continue. Here some of the original locals which wanted to organise the event had to give up. At the end, we managed to get 45 events, comprising the big One European Night which linked 11 parties in Europe through a satellite link.

The project has been successful, and this brochure shows it. Thus, we decided to go on, and also 1998 will see the Journée de l'Europe running, actually in the days 8th, 9th and 10th of May 1998.

Francois Mitterrand told in his letter of Patronage to our association, that we «had the ambition of building Europe through the European Youth». That's what we are today doing. Concrete actions for a European Idea that overcomes normal approaches to Europe.

I truly hope you will appreciate our effort in this direction, both our european-wide projects and our network actions.

The 9th of May was chosen by the European Union and the Council of Europe as the Day of Europe. A day on which the people of Europe should think about their future together.

In 1997 the European Union also celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. This treaty, a milestone in our history, meant for us numerous radical changes. Economy, politics, society, lifestyle, everything has consequently changed.

Considering these changes, 12 years ago some students established in Paris AEGEE, the Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe in order to raise European students' awareness on European issues.

Following this idea in 1997, AEGEE decided to organise the first Journée de l'Europe project. More than 150 locals applied for organising an event, and thousands of AEGEEists were ready to organise local events such as information points, conferences, exhibitions, parties and receptions.

The average person, and especially the average student, has sometime only partial knowledge of what is happening, what words like Monetary Union, European Commission, Socrates and Tempus mean.

Taking into consideration the spirit of our association, we did not limit us to the European Union but we decided to cover Europe as a whole. Therefore from Warszawa to Las Palmas, from Palermo to Turku we tried to bring the European Idea to Europeans. Due to financial problems we could not reach aims completely. But the development demonstrated that we are on the right path.





AEGEE - USA

Partnership

AEGEE is an independent, international, interdisciplinary, widely spread association of European students. As such it has always been striving to foster and strengthen the contacts between young people - not only in Europe, but also across the continents. The new Transatlantic Agenda is a very good opportunity for us to start a discussion that will build bridges between the United States and the European Union, especially as far as the youth is concerned.

We are convinced that students' organisations can make very valuable contributions in this process and thus should play a decisive role. As NGO active in the Civil Society, they can help the youth, which will shape the world of tomorrow, to develop democratic structures. As representatives of the young generation, they can help in providing direct links between young people - coming from their midst, they have good knowledge of the students' desires, of the possibilities and limits concerning future projects.

These links across the Atlantic should ideally be based on the modern technologies of communication, and especially on the Internet standards. This is both an attractive and a very useful tool, the possibilities of which cannot be over-emphasised.

Since 1991 AEGEE started to make intensive use of e-mail for its internal communication. In 1993, already 35 locals had their own web-pages. Today our European-wide network is running 74 communication list-servers. The association thus relies almost completely on the Internet in order to develop ideas, to co-ordinate its administration and to and carry out its projects.

Making use globally of the possibilities which Internet can offer gives NGOs in general the opportunity to extend their range of action considerably. AEGEE has proven how important cheap and effective means of communication can be in helping to foster democracy all over Europe. In the support of the Beograd students' movement, the major contribution of AEGEE was to provide education on how to use the Internet. This permitted the students' movement to communicate with the outside also without using normal media channels which were controlled by the government, eventually to weaken the anti-democratic government. On the other hand we see the case of Albania, where a primitive electronic system limited the flow of information to the outside.

By using wide-spread electronic networks, the whole Civil Society can improve the effectiveness of its actions by saving time which was previously taken up by slow communication via normal mail. The AEGEE network functions without any national level, consisting only of the local and the European level. But this was only possible thanks to Internet, which made communication, co-operation and administration possible without inserting this extra level. Today we are the biggest European students' association.

In our internal communication, list-servers are the main tools which help us to carry out projects. With normal means of communication, that would involve much higher costs (communication and tra-

vel) and of course much more time. The AEGEE project series *Find Your Way To and Within an Open Society* which took place in 1996 is proof that is possible to set up a well-functioning co-ordination team of people who live all over the continent without using large financial resources, and without damaging its speed and effectiveness.

The AEGEE Working-Groups also make intensive use of list-servers, making possible real international team-work. Here, the work is not limited to a certain project, but consists of a wide range of projects all initiated by an independent, not locally organised group of members.

Electronic means make some projects possible which would not have come into existence at all without the, mainly by decreasing the expenses on travel and communication, and by offering new opportunities of dialogue and co-operation. For example, this year an exchange took place between AEGEE-Istanbul and AEGEE-Athina, follow-up of a previous project. This was sensational because of its value for peace and progress and was given broad attention in the Turkish and Greek media. It was actually born after some nice ideas, exchanged through a couple of e-mail messages.

The Informatics Society thus has far-reaching influences on the Civil Society.

But it is far from being perfect itself. We also have to face an information-overflow, thousands of useless messages and documents that are carried by the Net and that need to be scanned by the reader.

The absence of a hierarchy, of a logical structure, makes it difficult to search out the relevant information on the Web causes the user to waste a lot of time once again.

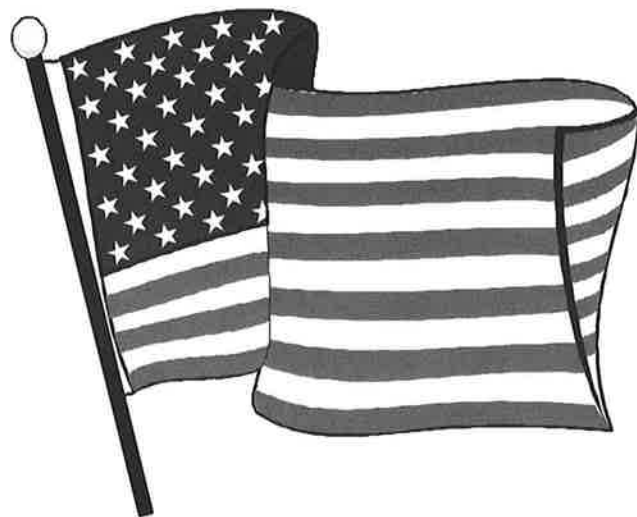
That puts us in need of education on how to use the Internet. This does not only mean basic rules of behaviour, so-called web-etiquette or netiquette, but refers to influencing the habits of every body who belongs to the Internet community: on the one hand those who are offering the information, on the other hand those who are looking for it. The main point is that the Internet should be a tool and not a goal in itself. Behind every action we need a structure, a working - plan. The Internet can only facilitate its implementation, but it cannot be the content itself.

In order to be effective, the exchange of information needs to work in both directions. For this reason AEGEE is now implementing the common use of a powerful database system, Lotus Notes. This means that every user, according to the status he receives when registering, can access common documents, but can also update them, add new information, edit the documents and so on.

AEGEE would like to share the ideas and prin-

ciples which permitted us to become what we are. A big network of young-people, avoiding any national level of organisation and the implicit recognition of borders, working for peace, democracy and development. We are proud of the things we have reached and would gladly assist in developing similar structures also in other continents.

A true across-the-ocean co-operation depends on the exchange of information between the two sides of the ocean. So a first step could be to establish a permanent common forum based on the Internet which would then offer a platform for discussion and information.



Secondly, we propose a better developed structure of exchange programmes in higher education between the U.S. and Europe. It should be based on a strong network of people, based on a strong electronic communication network, based on an extensive students' mobility scheme. One of the success stories in the existence of AEGEE has been the determinant role we played in the initiation of the ERASMUS student exchange project. Based on the experiences gained from the highly successful ERASMUS programme, we can start a discussion on new possibilities for student mobility. We regard this as the key for a new development!

With more intense help for students and Youth NGOs by governments and international organisations, new structures can be developed which could prove to be a similar success. In twelve years of activity, we demonstrated how much is possible! According to a famous theory, America developed in the 18.th/19.th century because of an «internal frontier». In today's Europe, where the borders are real, and really divide the continent, growth seems to be the result of a similar process. In a more and more globally determined «tomorrow», Europe and America must grow together by finding ways to overcome the physical border-line which is constituted by the Atlantic.



Democracy and human rights in Central and Eastern Europe

by **HANS VAN DER BROEK**

Member of the European Commission for the External relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and other European Countries

Introduction

1997 has been a crucial year for the future of Europe, as the foundations were laid for the enlargement of the European Union with our neighbouring Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEEC). On the basis of the conclusion of the Luxembourg European Council the EU will start negotiations with six candidate countries, including Cyprus, and reinforced preaccession strategy. This strategy will address the weaknesses in democratic and economic development as identified by the European Commission in its Opinions on every individual candidate country. Let me focus on the human rights and democracy aspects of our relations with the CEEC.

European Challenges

The EU is committed to the closest possible relations with its European neighbours and partners, and will seek in a parallel to the enlargement process, the strengthening of relationships with our European partners through co-operation and support for democracy-building in Europe. A crucial element in these relations is the promotion of the rule of law, democracy, and the protection of human and minority rights. All these principles are now enshrined in every agreement with third countries.

These principles are not only the foundation of a civil and democratic society but also the foun-

dation of economic development. Freedom of thought, stable institutions and legal certainty are crucial to every area of modern society.

The Importance of Democracy for the EU

The principle that all European states should adhere to democracy, the rule of law and human rights stems from the very foundations on which the EU is built.

In these circumstances, it was only natural that the European Union makes the rule of law and democracy a key condition of any future membership. It cannot and will not accept as a member any country which is not fully committed to these principles. The success of the EU depends on its ability to implement its legal order, including the principles underlying the single market in all its member states. Without an «Etat de droit», this task would be impossible.

The state of democracy in the candidate countries was a central element in the preparation of the Commission's Opinions. During this work the Commission went beyond an assessment of formal democracy. It evaluated progress in the real opportunities for individuals to influence the conditions in which they live. This includes their ability to participate in and influence debates about the key decisions which affect them.

Equally, the Commission has found that respect for fundamental human rights is, in principle, guaranteed in most of the applicant countries.



All have acceded to the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as well as the Protocol allowing citizens to take cases to the European Court of Human Rights.

However, some of the applicant countries do not yet have the institutional stability to enable the public authorities to function properly and democracy to be consolidated. All

the applicant countries have flaws in the rule of law which they need rectify. In some cases there is a lack of suitably qualified judges and guarantees of their independence. Many police forces are poorly paid and require better training and discipline. And, importantly, the autonomy of local government requires a firmer legal basis in several countries.

Freedom of expression and of association is assured in all applicant countries, but the independence of radio and television needs to be strengthened in some cases. Many of the applicant countries have minority populations, whose satisfactory integration into society is a condition for democratic stability. In general, this integration is satisfactory, except for the Roma minority in a number of applicant countries. Their situation needs to receive extra attention.

Overall the Commission concluded that progress still is to be made in a number of applicant countries particularly with regard to the actual practice of democracy. However, the Commission found that only one applicant State - Slovakia - does not satisfy the political conditions laid down

by the European Council in Copenhagen.

The Future of Democracy in Europe

As the Union enlarges, we will have to pay more attention to overcoming the democratic deficit. A key question is how to organise an enlarged Union of more than 20 member states on the basis of democracy, transparency and efficiency.

We have much to learn from each other. One idea is how together we might best create a European democratic space. A new forward-looking concept might be associated with the Europeanisation of national administrations, political decentralisation, community development, cultural exchanges, and extending democracy. This approach would focus on those features of a real democracy which are weakest: the judiciary, local media, minorities, the public service, etc. The essential point of this construction would be that critical voices from different parts of Europe and at all levels of society - regional, national and European - would be heard and have input into policy-making.

Conclusion

Democracy is a cardinal principle of the European Union and is at the centre of our policies. The Commission stands ready to sharpen focus of its programmes which promotes these goals. The main task is to make democracy a reality in everyone's daily life.

Do I know my neighbours?

“Neighbourhood in Europe” project brought more confidence into AEGEE network

Europe is fast changing. After Second World War only few people believed in a peaceful Europe without real borders and barriers, with every country being a member of Europe-wide community. Those who were fathers of the European integration probably haven't supposed that within a period of 50 years it will be possible to invite most of European states and nations to participate in one common economic and political structure. Today this idea becomes a reality, despite the existence of a huge gap between East and West, a consequence of the long term division into hostile political blocks. That's why in the process of the European integration various citizens' initiatives play bigger and bigger role - here in the CEE countries many non-profit organisations try to fill in those remnants of the past and build up a platform of civic society. Also AEGEE, the association of students all over Europe, joins those efforts. After a success of 1996 "Find Your Way To and Within an Open Society" project, new ideas appeared and in effect new project - "Neighbourhood in Europe" - was launched for 1997.

To spread democracy

The main aim was to promote peaceful coexistence, tolerance and mutual understanding in



Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and New Independent States (NIS) through intercultural learning and training. As a part of this objective the project aimed at educating young people, the future leaders and opinion-makers, with necessary cross-cultural skills so that they will be able to meet future challenges arising in front of their countries. "Once prepared - said David Stulik - we hope, they will be able to prevent future conflicts". "These challenges - he continued - include the future integration of countries from Central and Eastern Europe into European structures and broader international relations. Without appropriate human resources this process of integration would be more difficult and painful".

Intercultural differences and their consequences on relations between nations will be considered in two ways:

- *within a country (minorities, migration and refugees),*
- *cross-border co-operation and differences.*

That's why this project stimulated inter-cultural learning (both in east-east and east-west perspective) and aimed at the increase of the organisational, communication and leadership capacities of project participants. At the same time activities held within the project represented supplementary forms of civic education, which is rarely part of university curricula. To make that knowledge more complete, the broad forum of co-operation with other non-governmental organisations in fields of democracy, civic society and cross-border communication was established - like e.g. with Open Society Institute, European Human Rights Foundation, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Central European University.

"Neighbourhood in Europe" had to increase the awareness and improve information about intercultural differences and barriers in CEE and NIS, too. "People from this region should know better each other, ought to have basic knowledge what their neighbours are like and what values they have" - concludes Gunnar Erth. "Without this mutual exchange of opinions and cultures it

will be very hard to speak about integration, cross-border co-operation and understanding especially among young people in Central and Eastern Europe" - adds Oleb Kyriyenko, one of "Neighbourhood in Europe" co-ordinators.

The project goes on

The first event was in April 1997 in Prague (CZ). AEGEE-Praha organised the "Intercultural training course", in order to give a general overview of topics, key-words and problem-matters which should be focused during next events. Then in May "Neighbourhood in Europe" turned to Gdansk (PL) for "Gdansk - city of transformations" congress. History of Gdansk is a good point to start discussion on the cross-border co-operation and peaceful coexistence of nations. Gdansk was always a place where many nations, especially Germans, Poles and Jews lived in peace together. The city played a significant role in Hanseatic League, here 2nd World War began, and also the "Solidarity" movement was born, which finally opened the gates for freedom and democracy in Central and thereafter in Eastern Europe. It was another reason to organise AEGEE conference there - in 1997 Gdansk was 1000



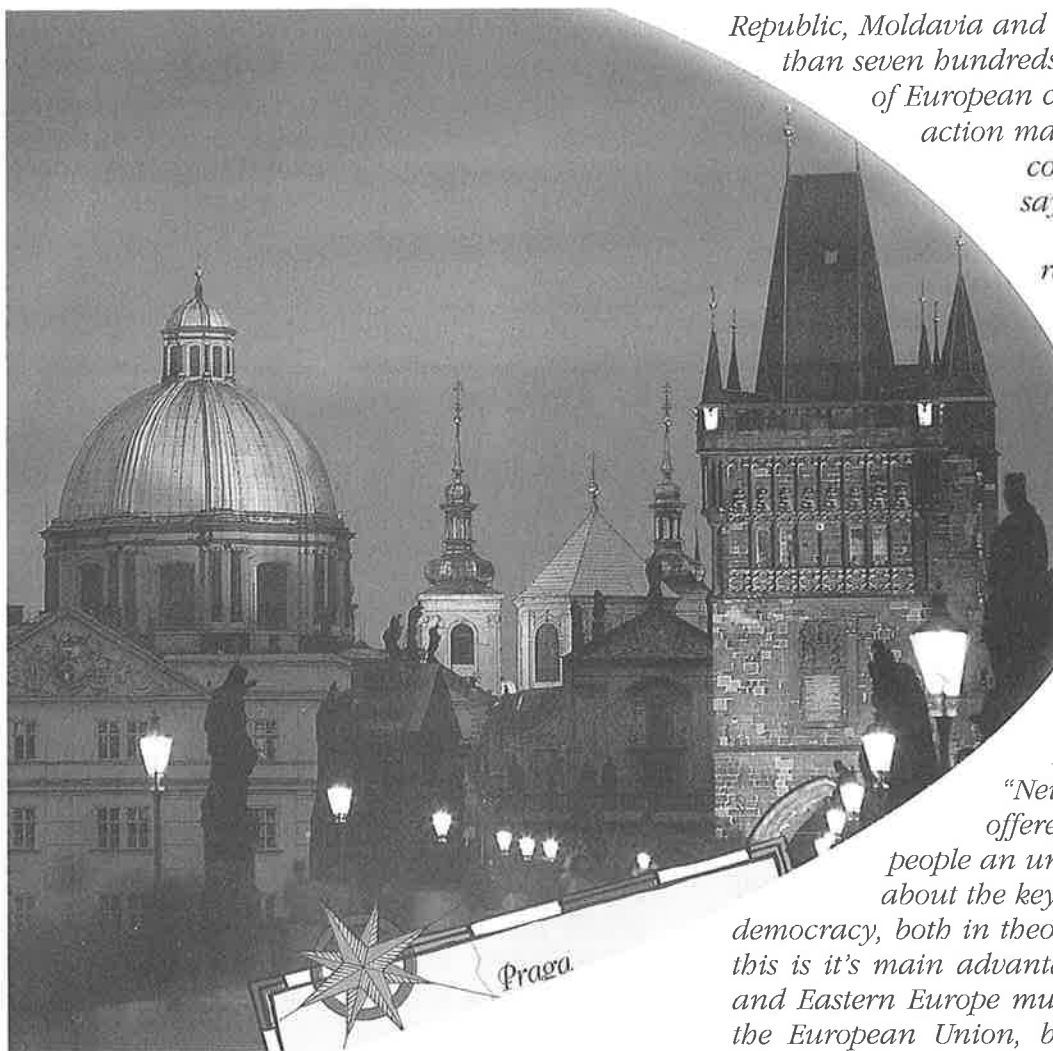
years old. Next step (September 1997) was Debrecen (HU) and "Historical roots of stereotypes and prejudices in Central and Eastern Europe".

Here the participants explored the history of the region especially from the cultural point of view. Such issues like coexistence of different nations in supra-national states (Russian empire, Austro-Hungarian Empire) and their influence on today's situation were the main focus.

At the same time "Case Study Trip to Moldavia" took place. This two-week study trip focused on the progress made in the economic and political transformation in the visited areas after the fall of the Iron Curtain, as well as on students' life, minorities and history. The start was in Cluj-Napoca, situated in Transilvania, Romania. At next station, Iasi, the old capital of Moldavia, participants learned about Moldavia's history. Another few days were spent in Chisinau, the capital of the Republic of Moldavia. One day trip took participants to Tiraspol, the capital of the split-away Transnistrian Republic (Pridnyestrovskaya Moldavskaya Respublika PMR), which legally belongs to the Republic of Moldavia, but tried to gain its sovereignty for the mostly Russian speaking population in a civil war in 1992. According to many opinions that was one of the best events of the "Neighbourhood in Europe".

In October the project continued in Budapest (HU) at the "Migration across borders: refugees, minorities and racism in CEE and NIS" conference. The main question was the role of law in regulating the relationship between different ethnic groups and nations, and protection of minorities in Europe with the special focus on CEE and NIS, this second topic presented by the representatives of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). A perfect way to learn about minorities was the round-table discussion with the representatives of Hungarian minorities (Gypsy, Croatian, Slovak, Romanian, German).

Next station was Lviv (UA) with a subject of "Unemployment among Youth: Regional differences". Here the participants concentrated on the impact of culture and national identity on young generation. The question matter concerned mainly countries in transition and especially problem of coping with fundamental economic, social and political changes. One of the most important issues was how this generation fits for the free market and for labour market. What is the role of education, received degrees, how far is the success on the labour market influenced by communication skills and how far can the na-



Republic, Moldavia and Ukraine, facing more than seven hundreds participants from most of European countries. "The common action made associations in those countries much stronger - says Marcin Polak, project co-ordinator and fund raising responsible - and brought lots of confidence and experience to people. Now they are aware they may develop as good projects as their friends in Western European branches. However, for the building of civic society next projects should be planned in Central and Eastern Europe" - he continued.

"Neighbourhood in Europe" offered to hundreds of young people an unique possibility to learn about the key problems and effects of democracy, both in theory and in practice, and this is it's main advantage. Citizens of Central and Eastern Europe must learn not only about the European Union, but should also look at their closer neighbours and develop the integration process between the neighbouring countries. Only then the common Europe can take place.

tional identity determine chances on this market in global perspective of integrating Europe- where main discussion fields of the seminar.

During AEGEE-Katowice (PL) event ("National Minorities - From Racism to Tolerance") participants discussed the reasons for national conflicts and divisions in CEE and NIS due to the national differences. The role of language, traditions, culture and the historical development was assessed and judged. Then the project continued in Poznan (PL) at the "Media Session" seminar. The role of mass media during transformation of economic and political structures in CEE and NIS was analysed, as well as a question of media's ethic and influence on peoples' behaviour. The Final Conference in January 1998 in Warszawa (PL) embraced and summed up all project topics of "Neighbourhood in Europe".

The goal achieved?

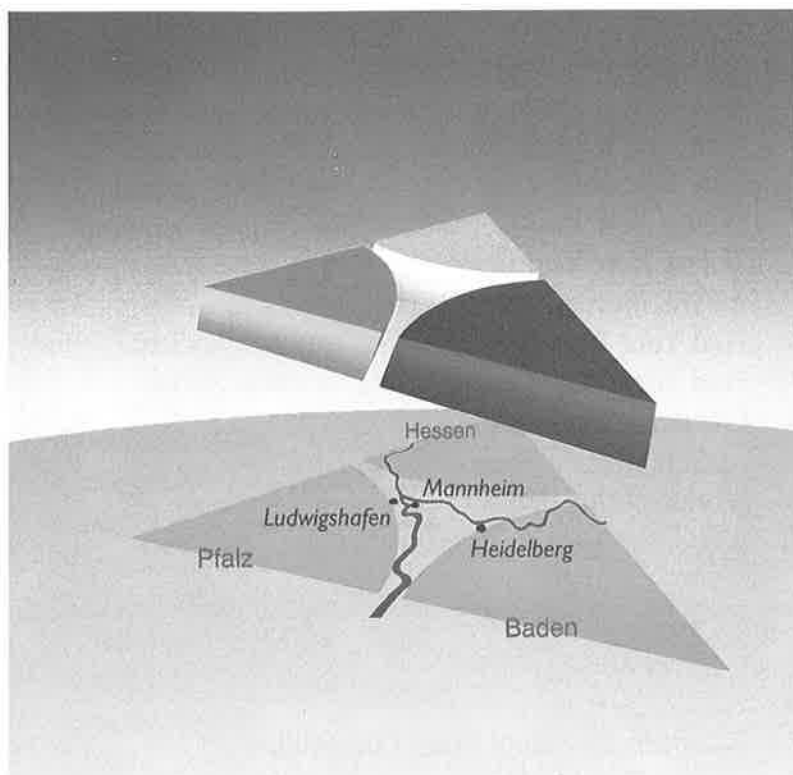
Altogether seven conferences, one intercultural training week, one case study trip and eight co-ordination meetings took place within the frame of "Neighbourhood in Europe" project. The events were placed in Poland, Hungary, Czech

Thanks

"Neighbourhood in Europe" could not happen without sponsors. That's why we are very grateful to: European Culture Foundation, PHARE Programme (Warszawa), Matra Kap (Gdansk, Lviv), East-East Programme of Soros Foundation (Katowice, Debrecen, Lviv), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Poznan), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Praha), Polish-German Co-operation Fund (Warszawa) and all others who have had confidence in AEGEE organisers.

(Article by Marcin Polak
Co-ordinator of "Neighbourhood in Europe")

If the choice is yours...



...you can think yourself lucky – at least in the Rhine-Neckar triangle, which offers a variety of enviably attractive locations for research, investment or training. In the BioRegion, there are already more than 13,000 people working in the field of biotechnology; some of the world's leading research facilities are based in the region. They all appreciate the close link between industry and science, providing a dynamic environment in which innovative research results can be developed into marketable products.

BASF is particularly active in promoting the transfer of knowledge in the Rhine-Neckar triangle. At its Ludwigshafen site, more than 7,000 employees work in the world's largest research center for chemical engineering know-how, and in 1997 it teamed up with an American partner to found BASF-Lynx Bioscience in Heidelberg. Cooperation with universities, research facilities and technical colleges is a matter of routine for BASF researchers.

The Rhine-Neckar triangle BioRegion – an attractive location for BASF, and for others too. The choice is yours...

BASF

Calendar of events

December 96

12/31/96	01/02/97	New Year's Eve in Roma	Roma	I
12/31/96	01/01/97	New Year-Party Lodz	Lodz	PL
12/29/96	01/02/97	Skiling New Year Celebration '96	Slovak mountains	SK
12/27/96	01/02/97	Skiling New Year Celebration '96		
12/14/96	12/15/96	AEGEE Meeting Münster '96	Münster	D
12/12/96	12/15/96	Find Your Way To and Within an Open Society	Budapest	HU
12/12/96	12/15/96	Find Your Way To and Within an Open Society		
12/06/96	12/08/96	Christmas Weekend '96	Stockholm	S
12/05/96	12/07/96	AEGEE Meeting Passau '96	Passau	D
12/05/96	12/07/96	Workshop for UNESCO on higher education	Torino	I

January

01/31/97	02/02/97	European Law Moot Court Competition '97	Warszawa	PL
01/24/97	01/26/97	Energy: Today and Tomorrow (local event)	Kaiserslautern	D
01/24/97	01/26/97	Evergy: Today and Tomorrow (partially cancelled)	Kaiserslautern	D
01/11/97	01/12/97	SU workshop Celle '97	Cella	I
02/27/97	03/02/97	Britain's Voyage Towards Europe	London	GB

February

02/02/97	02/23/97	Berlinale weekend '97	Berlin	D
02/20/97	02/23/97	Berlinale weekend '97		
02/15/97	02/16/97	AEGEE Meeting Bayreuth '97	Bayreuth	D
02/07/97	02/14/97	Carnival in Sardinia	Sardinia	I
02/07/97	02/10/97	Understanding Europe Symposium Skopje	Skopje	MK
02/06/97	02/16/97	«Snow University» '97	Tampere	FIN
02/02/97	02/04/97	European Law Moot Court Competition '97		

March

03/25/97	03/25/97	40th Anniversary of the signing of Treaty of Rome		
03/19/97	03/19/97	Connecting Europe	Aix-en-Provence	F
03/07/97	03/09/97	Presidents' Meeting Spring '97	Warszawa	PL

April

04/29/97	04/30/97	Queensday '97	Amsterdam	NL
04/28/97	04/30/97	Europe and Euro ... the Political Frame	Gorizia	I
04/26/97	04/27/97	European Job Fair: «A Guide to the Top»	Utrecht	NL
04/25/97	04/27/97	When Man Plays Graal	Lund	S
04/25/97	04/27/97	The quest of the Holy Graak		NL
04/25/97	04/27/97	When Man Plays God		
04/25/97	04/27/97	When Man Plays God		
04/21/97	04/25/97	Training Course	Praha	CZ
04/18/97	04/20/97	Training Course PR and Fund-raising (part II)	Enschede	NL
04/18/97	04/20/97	Direction Europe (part II)	Enschede	NL
04/18/97	04/20/97	Agora Spring 97		
04/10/97	04/13/97	Europe, Industrial Revolution and it's Links to Tomorrow	Hertogenbosch	NL
04/06/97	04/13/97	Germany in Tomorrow's Europe	Bonn	D
04/06/97	04/13/97	Germany in Tomorrow's Europe		
04/03/97	04/06/97	Wine: a Reason to Live	Verona	I





May

05/28/97	06/01/97	Game With(out) Frontiers	Münster	D
05/23/97	05/23/97	Lustrum Gala	Utrecht	NL
05/22/97	05/25/97	Literature of Postcommunist Countries in a New Reality	Katowice	PL
05/17/97	05/20/97	Regional AEGEE-Meeting	Ankara	TR
05/15/97	05/18/97	Science Meeting	Trieste	I
05/12/97	05/16/97	MedTech 1997	Delft	NL
05/10/97	05/11/97	AEGEE-Meeting Cluj-Napoca 5/97	Cluj-Napoca	RO
05/09/97	05/09/97	Day of Europe	Szeged	H
05/09/97	05/11/97	Cake Congress	Cluj-Napoca	RO
05/08/97	05/09/97	Envirortmental Conference	Gdansk	PL
05/08/97	05/10/97	Gdansk - Town of Transformation	Wien	A
05/08/97	05/10/97	Brainstorm - Exploring the Mind	Maastricht	NL
05/01/97	05/03/97	Growing up in Europe	L'viv	UA
05/01/97	05/04/97	Nuclear Europe: Chernobyl-the tragic experience		

June

06/19/97	06/22/97	Nature and music II	Strasbourg	F
06/16/97	09/29/97	Summer Universities 1997	all over Europe	
06/05/97	06/08/97	Meeting Islam	Passau	D

July

07/17/97	07/20/97	Green Volley 1997	Faedis	I
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August

08/24/97	08/30/97	European School Summer 1997	Delft	NL
08/07/97	08/17/97	European Creation Camp - 97	Vadul-lui-Voda	MO

September

09/26/97	09/28/97	Oktoberfest Weekend	München	D
09/24/97	09/28/97	Historical roots of stereotypes in CE Europe	Debrecen	H
09/20/97	09/21/97	The Social Future of Europe	Leiden	NL
09/19/97	09/21/97	Presidents' Meeting Autumn 1997	Veszprém	H
09/17/97	09/29/97	Case Study Trip Baltics		LT
09/10/97	09/25/97	Case Study Trip Moldavia	Moldavia	MO

October

10/31/97	11/02/97	AGORA Autumn 1997	Ankara	TR
10/23/97	10/26/97	Unemployment of Youth: Regional Differences	L'viv	UA
10/16/97	10/19/97	Ecology and Progress, a Conflict?	Innsbruck/Lechtal	A
10/16/97	10/19/97	Migration across borders	Budapest	H
10/10/97	10/18/97	Find the World in Barcelona	Barcelona	E

November

11/29/97	11/30/97	Fear Your Mind	Enschede	NL
11/28/97	11/30/97	Think Europe II	München	D
11/28/97	11/30/97	Foreing Direct Investment	Ljubljana	SL
11/27/97	11/30/97	Europe and Euro ... Starting the Political Union	Dublin	IRL
11/24/97	11/26/97	Europe and Euro ... the long way to the Euro	London	GB
11/20/97	11/23/97	National Minorities from Racism to Tolerance	Katowics	PL
11/14/97	11/16/97	Advertising in CEE/NIS	Szeged	H
11/07/97	11/09/97	Europe and Euro ... Unification vs. Marginalisation	Thessaloniki	GR

December

12/26/97	01/02/98	New Year's skiing week	Banska Bystrica	SK
12/18/97	12/20/97	The EU and the Mediterraeen	Aix-en-Provence	F
12/13/97	12/13/97	10th Birthday of AEGEE Münster	Münster	D
12/08/97	12/10/97	Great European Cultures - Past and Present	Thessaloniki	GR
12/04/97	12/07/97	Role of Mass Media in CEEC and NIS	Poznan	PL
12/04/97	12/06/97	Europe and Euro ... the Political Frame	Lyon	F
12/04/97	12/07/97	Europe is dancing - Part II	Passau	D

Europe and Euro...

Young Europeans involved in EMU preparations!

In 1997 and the beginning of 1998, AEGEE has organised its biggest project ever so far: «Europe and Euro ...». With conferences, seminars, local events and an essay competition, AEGEE has successfully managed an information campaign for young people, concerning the Emu and the introduction of a single currency, the Euro, on the first of January 1999.

With the support of the European Commission, AEGEE took the opportunity to inform them about the implications and possible consequences of the EMU. As the EMU will have a huge impact on our society, it is this generation that has to be involved actively and to be informed objectively. The results will be presented in April 1998.

Europe and Euro ... first step towards federalisation?

Aix-en-Provence, Local Event, 2nd April 1997

Mr. Philip, professor University Aix-Marseille III, presented the historical backgrounds of the question and Maitre Lefebvre, member of Groupeuro, tried to explain how Euro will be realised. After very technical explanations, Mr. Myard, member of French Parliament, against European construction and Euro, demonstrated how both events could «kill» France and French economics. About 200 people followed the discussion. The event made AEGEE a bit more known in Aix; but Mr. Myard «won» the debate and a lot of people in the audience must have thought that our association is against the European construction ...

Europe and Euro ... what do I face?

Rotterdam, Conference, 16-18 April 1997

The opening conference of the project took place at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. «During three days about 150 students were able to discuss the consequences of the EMU for the European public and the way people are involved in the process», says Jane Zoutendijk from AEGEE-Rotterdam.

Dr. A. Wellink, currently President of the Dutch Central Bank, gave an overview of the historical process towards economic and monetary union in Europe. He stated that «when a single currency was propagated in the past, this was usually done in the form of a plea in favour of a politically united Europe». Mr. A. Metten, member of European Parliament, showed that this link is not that clear anymore nowadays as he talked about the present state of the EMU. The debates are dominated by economical arguments; an evaluation of the criteria and the participants. During a panel discussion, Mr. A. Klamer, economist and euro-sceptic, stated that «debates in the international media are necessary so as to make it possible for citizens to get a clear view for themselves of what «being a European» really means».

The central theme of the second day was «the consequences of the EMU for the European citizens». Mr. A. Swings, a Groupeuro speaker, pointed out that the euro will give both mathematical and psychological problems for individuals.

Also the implications for business were discussed in Rotterdam. There were workshops given by ABN-AMRO and at Moret Ernst & Young. A reception was offered by the City of Rotterdam in the old City Hall. The opening conference showed that the (personal) implications of EMU will be far-reaching and should not be underestimated.

Essay competition

Young Europeans were given the opportunity to state their opinion about the EMU. Posters in six languages were sent to all higher education institutes in the European Union and to the AEGEE-network. The competition ended on the 15th of January 1998. Hundreds of young people reacted and have sent their essay to AEGEE. The 5 best essays have been selected by a professional panel. It is of crucial importance that the young generations is involved in the preparations concerning the EMU as they will be tomorrow's decision-makers. This essay competition gave them this opportunity.

The events ...

Aix-en-Provence	Local Event	2nd April 1997
Rotterdam	Conference	16-18 April 1997
Frankfurt	Conference	8-11 October 1997
Coimbra	Conference	17-19 October 1997
Athina	Conference	24-26 October 1997
Veszprém	Local Event	4th November 1997
Thessaloniki	Seminar	7-9 November 1997
Trieste	Local Event	17th November 1997
Bayreuth	Seminar	21-23 November 1997
Utrecht	Local Event	24th November 1997
London	Seminar	24-26 November 1997
Dublin	Seminar	27-29 November 1997
Lyon	Conference	4-6 December 1997
Eindhoven	Final Conference	11-14 December 1997
Kyiv	Local Event	19th December 1997
Iasi	Local Event	24th January 1998

Europe and Euro ... the financial markets

Frankfurt, Conference, 8-11 October 1997

«It was no coincidence that the first conference organised by AEGEE-Gießen took place in Frankfurt. Frankfurt is near to Gießen and the site of 400 banks, 180 insurance and 200 leasing companies. Furthermore, it is the site of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the predecessor of the European Central Bank», explains Jörg Neumeyer, main organiser of the conference.

In total 10 lectures, 8 workshops and a concluding panel discussion were given for 150 participants from all European countries. Dr. von Rosen, one of the leading pro-Euro speakers in Germany, explained the need of the creation of a European stockindex. Robert Deane, Secretary for Economics and Finances at the British Embassy in Bonn was very sure that London will not lose its leading position on the European financial markets to Frankfurt. Robert Deane, Secretary for Economics and Finances at the British Embassy in Bonn was very sure that London will not lose its leading position on the European financial markets to Frankfurt.

During the second day, excursions lead to the Frankfurt airport, the German stockmarket, the Hessian Central bank and to the EMI. The president of the Hessian Central Bank even gave a present to the participants: 75.000 DM - unfortunately cut into pieces and pressed as a cube.

The highlight of the last day was a panel discussion with an economics professor from Madrid, a German politician and two representatives of banks, one being Mr. Burghagen, the Euro-coordinator of the Dresdner Bank Group. He was positively surprised about the high quality of the conference. «If the EMU fails, and the single currency is not introduced, the idea of the EU fails», said Professor Spahn from the University of Frankfurt.

Europe and Euro ... starting the Political Union?
Coimbra, Conference, 17-19 October 1997

«You are the future of Europe. Organisations like AEGEE can, must and will construct Europe». Mr. M. Soares, former Portuguese President, said this during his stay at the conference. Some of the participants had the possibility to talk personally with European Commissioner Pinheiro. Peter Ginser, President of AEGEE-Europe at that time, took part in the opening session of the conference and became master of exclusive drawings of Mr. Pinheiro. As there were many prominent speakers and guests, the social and cultural program was very exclusive, also for the participants. The conference was divided in four different main panels, each one comprising different distinctive political personalities. The first panel was named «The European Monetary Union - Past and Present» and was meant to introduce and analyse the EMU process. In this panel it became clear that a lot of people fear the loss of the national currency as it could be problematic for the weakest European economics. They lose one of the most important economic correction tools, often used in the past. The members of the panel named, «EMU, the beginning of a Political Union?», clearly stated that there was no doubt for them that the EMU should and would be a step towards further political integration. Some of the panellists warned about the importance not to forget the social cohesion in the European Union during the current developments. The conference was an important discussion forum to inform young people about Europe and the EMU and to show that Europe isn't alive only in the minds of the politicians in Brussels.

Europe and Euro ... EMU, EU and Hungary
Vesprém, Local Event, 4th November 1997

The Orchestra of Hungarian anti-aircraft defense, played at the opening ceremony. Our special guests were Laszlo Kovacs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Marton Kardos, President of the Economical Committee. Laszlo Kovacs spoke about the EMU, Nato and about future possibilities of European Union fellowship. Marton Kardos pointed on some important economical and financial problems of the EMU and gave possible ways of solving them. After the lectures there was a press-conference with a participation of local and major papers and TV companies.



Europe and Euro ... unification vs. marginalisation
Athina, Conference, 24-26 October 1997

The conference in Athina included four sessions: Introduction, Perspectives and problems of EU countries deriving from the EMU, Marginalisation risks of social groups, the EMU and the sacrifices in its name - who is benefited from the EMU? In average 200 persons attended the conference. We welcomed two former ministers, members of the Greek Parliament, the General Secretary for Youth, MEPs, the President of the National Youth Council of Greece, and several ambassadors. Notably, the conference was honoured by the moral support of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. K. Stefanopoulos. The opening ceremony took place in the Ceremonial hall of the Athens University of Economics and Business. This first day ended with an official reception. The main part of the conference, lodging of the participants and all meals took place in the luxurious hotel Titania.

The discussions proved out to be extremely fruitful. The elements that marked the conference were the strong interaction of the audience with the lecturers and the diversity of scientific backgrounds and points of view expressed by the speakers. Among the speakers were MEPs, prominent professor of major universities in Athens, novelists, historians, representatives of trade unions and NGOs and specialised journalists as chairpersons. The main sponsors of the conference were the European Union, the General Secretary for Youth, Alfa Pisteos Bank, and the AUEB.

The last time AEGEE-Athina organised a European conference was in 1988. The conference was a success for AEGEE-Athina with multiple positive effects: the response and participation in the event demonstrated the impact we can have on the discussion on European issues in the local society. The quality of the event established AEGEE as a major partner in the field of Youth and European issues in Greece.

Europe and Euro ... unification vs. marginalisation
Thessaloniki, Seminar, 7-9 November 1997

The seminar in Thessaloniki, the cultural capital of 1997, tried to deepen the topics that were dealt with in Athina. More than 120 persons attended the opening ceremony in the amphitheatre of the university of Macedonia. Among them were the Rector of Aristoteles University, members of the Greek Parliament, professors of the University of Thessaloniki, consuls and representatives of youth organisations. The ceremony opened with some songs from Chatzidakis. A reception took place at the university hall offered by the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

One of the most interesting lectures was given by Mr. Tsorbatzoglou. He explained national currencies cease to exist as elements of national identity. He pointed out that the «EU for the citizens» is a necessity for the success of the EMU. He concluded his lecture by stating «The key to success is unity». In one of the workshops the participants were able to extend the conversation concerning the convergence criteria, while in another workshop they were given the opportunity to express their suggestions and views concerning the future of EMU. Participants from the Balkan were concerned about the possible effects of the EMU on their region. Although many of the Greek participants expressed their wish to enter the EMU from the beginning, they came to the conclusion that this is impossible in 1999.

Europe and Euro ... enterprises and the EMU

Trieste, Local Event, 17th November 1997

The opening speech, in the conference hall of the University of Trieste, was given by the university pro-rector, Mr. L. Cossar. Mr. S. Pilotto spoke about the historical perspectives of monetary unification, followed by a delegate of the Industrial Association. Mr. Marelli lectured on juridical implications of the Euro. Present were representatives for the European Agricultural Politics, the president of the Italian food company Cirio, Mr. Micolini, and Mr. De Puppi of Zanussi-Electrolux. About 200 participants showed up. A summary of the event was published in all university magazines and one city newspaper. Two radio stations reported about the event as well.

Europe and Euro ... the social consequences

Utrecht, Local Event, 24th November 1997

A panel consisting of Mr. Velthuis, Mr. Sprenger, Mr. Schouten and Mr. van der Tas, explained the 50 participants of this event the possible social consequences of the introduction of the Euro. Could the introduction of the Euro be 'asocial' for some groups in society? What are the advantages and disadvantages? And what are consequences as the Euro becomes a major international currency? These were the most important topics discussed here.

Europe and Euro ... the financial markets

Bayreuth, Seminar, 21-23 November 1997

The seminar of Bayreuth was thematically connected to the conference in Frankfurt. On this occasion 65 students from all over Europe came together at the Akzent Hotel Bayreuth. The introduction was held by Dr.

Hoepfner, who gave a general survey over the recent developments of EMU and an outlook on future perspectives. This was followed by a workshop about the political and social situation in Europe by Mr. Asimus. He argued that foreign investors see the Euro as a factor of facilitation of the trade with European enterprises. After the lunch break Dr. Schlick talked about external fundraising of enterprises followed by Dr. Huecks' workshop concerning the development of government bonds on the European capital markets.

Sunday began with the presentation by Mr. Wetzel, first director of the National Central Bank of Bavaria. He talked about the future tasks and the role of the EC. On their lunch-break the participants improved their knowledge of Bavarian like-style eating Weißwurst and Leberkäse, a typical Bavarian dish.

So prepared they heard the last presentation by Mr. Hegarty, the secretary general of the Fédération des Experts comptables. He explained the consequence of the EMU on the capital markets and talked about possible trends of investment banking.

Concluding, one can say that this seminar offered a survey as well as specified information about the financial markets in the EMU and therefore completely fulfilled the expectations of the participants.

Europe and Euro ... stepping stone towards a Political Union?

Dublin, Seminar, 27-29 November 1997

"This seminar was our first event. We had 35 participants who sampled the internationally known Irish hospitality and beer", Dombnall Egan said, main organiser of the seminar in Dublin. The seminar began with a debate, having been preceded by a wine reception, on Ireland and the EMU. The issues were trashed out here and the participants really got into the spirit of things with some very hard hitting questions being posed. The Irish position is a delicate one as Irish people themselves are quite positive about the EMU but many fear the close relations with Britain. As Britain will not join from the beginning.

On Friday there were two lectures: "Political Union in the US will it happen in the EU?", and "EMU and ECU are they really related?". It became clear that the word "Political Union" is a complex one and that it can be

defined in several ways. A simulation game followed and the evening was spent investigating a hand-picked selection of Irish pubs.

On Saturday morning a bleary eyed audience listened to experts on the implications of the EMU for business. The conference was then wrapped up by a series of workshops in the afternoon.

The conference was great fun organising and although we were an inexperienced committee we managed to make it a reality.

Europe and Euro ... the long way to the Euro

London, Seminar, 24-26 November 1997

Unlike the other seminars, this one was not thematically coupled to any of the project's conferences. This was due to the fact that Britain entertains her own and very specific views on Europe, let alone the single currency. Britain is still very detached in even thinking about engaging in any pact with the rest of Europe.

There was general consensus between the extraordinarily high quality and calibre of speakers (MEPs, MP, academics, journalists and economists) that Britain will not be joining EMU before 2001 i.e. the next general elections. Probably 2003 will be possible some speakers said. A referendum will then decide whether or not Britain will participate in the EMU. The outcome of this referendum will depend on whether the British can distance themselves from the traditional view that Britain is an island and instead start realising that it is merely a country surrounded by water. The role of media could be a crucial one in this perspective although some speakers argued that media in Britain represents public opinion, and doesn't influence public opinion that much in itself.

A reception with Mr. Bond, a CD of £2 only of a well performing rock band, and the use of 'real' euro-money during the European Night were the highlights of the social program.

Europe and Euro ... the political frame Lyon, Conference, 4-6 December 1997

«We are a motivated group of students in Lyon that took the challenge to organise a big event that would be the start for a new antenna in the second town of France», Sebastien Garreta of AEGEE-Lyon says. «AEGEE-Lyon will become an official AEGEE antenna after only a few months of existence».

In total over 500 people visited the conference, mainly from high schools. During three days, lectures and panel discussions took place in two universities: EM Lyon (business school) and Centrale Lyon (engineering school). Among the lecturers was Christian de Boissieu, a famous French economist from the university Paris-Sorbonne. In his speech he clearly explained why the discussion of a strong or weak currency was an irrelevant one and that people have no reason to have fears about this. «What matters is a stable Euro, this is our concern», he said. Other speakers were Alain Malegarie, Executive officer of the Euro Institute and member of the Groupeuro, Nicolas Resseguier, Director of Regional Affairs at the Banque de France, Bernard Courbis and Jean-Pierre Allegret, economists at the University Lyon III, and Bernard Laurent, economist at EM Lyon.

For our first event, held in French and in competition with two other AEGEE events, we didn't attract that many AEGEE members. Nevertheless, the ones that attended the event could profit from a rich social programme including a dinner in a «bouchon lyonnais» (Lyon is the world capital for gastronomy). Our biggest satisfaction was when they wrote to us, sending us photographs and promising they will come back to Lyon.

Europe and Euro ... the first steps Kyiv, Local Event, 19th December 1997

Several professors from different Kyiv universities discussed topics such as monetary policies in the European Union, impact of the Euro on the relations within EU and with respect to the outside world were discussed. The audience consisted of rather small group interested people, mainly students. This has to do with the general very low level of information in Ukraine about the European Union and its activities. Nevertheless one can already speak about growing interest to all matters related to the EU. It is of huge importance that such events are organised. They are just the first steps ...

Europe and Euro ... the Final Conference Eindhoven, Final Conference, 11-14 December 1997

This is what was stated on the posters with the fair blue sky and the Euro-plane. More than 300 students from all over Europe listened to this warning.

In 1999, a single European coin, the Euro, will be introduced. Since the consequences of this introduction are not as plain as «the nose on one's face», people should be informed sufficiently in order to be able to comprehend the many, many consequences. The Final Conference, AEGEE-event of the year, addressed the introduction of the Euro from three perspectives.

On the first day, the social and cultural consequences were discussed. The day started with a brief introduction on the recent development of the Economic. Monetary Union

by the president of the European Investment Bank, Sir Brian Unwin. Next, the influence of the introduction of the Euro on culture was discussed. Is this the beginning of a European culture? Are we losing our identity or are we gaining one? What is social Europe? Dr. Olila, president of Corporate Anthropology consultants BV, stated that culture is not a problem. However, it can and probably will be used as an excuse. During the second day, the financial and economical consequences were addressed. For the first time in AEGEE-history, a conference was organised for and participated by both students and entrepreneurs. Famous speakers from Dutch enterprises, like Mr. Jan timmer (former president of Philips electronics), gave lectures and discussed the financial issues in interactive workshops.

On the third day, the political consequences were discussed. Next to discussed the financial issues in interactive workshops.

On the third day, the political consequences were discussed. Next to discussion of what consequences the introduction of the Euro would imply for the politics in Europe, Prof. Dr. Von lazar discussed the American point of view. In the afternoon, the European Parliament was simulated. Point of discussion was: which countries should participate in the first group to join the EMU?»

After a «good old magical» European night, everybody had the opportunity to become human again before the conference was closed with a panel discussion. Besides some small comments on the boring breakfast and the «almost» perfect sleeping facilities, most participants really enjoyed the Final Conference. Especially, the great speakers and the fancy suites of the organisers were appreciated. And most of all, they prepared themselves ...

Europe and Euro ... consequences for Romania Iasi, Local Event, 24th January 1998

Mr. M. Astefanei, manager of the local branch of the Commercial Bank of Romania, explained what the EMU means for the EU member states and for Romanians. Many argued that the EMU is indeed an attractive option but unfortunately not a realistic one for Romania. The questions mainly focused on what the EMU actually would mean for the Romanians. The conclusion was that it would facilitate banking procedures in the future, and will offer easier ways to survive when travelling from one place to another in the EU. We organised this event in order to offer students more information and to get an open discussion on this matter also in Romania.



Network Campaign 1997

Another success in the name of quality

In 1997 AEGEE made another successful network campaign, expanding this year up to 40 countries, raising the number of locals up to 252.

The policy followed has been of expanding in the name of quality rather than of quantity, reports Paolo Balistrieri Network Responsible of the Comité Directeur, in charge of the campaign ...

In fact new strategies had been adopted to spread information about AEGEE among young Europeans, main target of the organisation.

A decisive tool for this success has been the newly elected body Network Commission, which started immediately his regional work, becoming an indispensable reference, both for the local level and the European Board of Directors (see below)

Thanks to them the concept of Regional Meetings and information exchanges between close Contacts and Antennae had successfully become a permanent appointment useful to share common experiences in every side of such a spread Network.

Besides that two intensive European Schools, one week of internal training courses forming European student leaders, were organised in April (Bonn, D) and in August (Delft, NL).

Big Network actions had nevertheless been taken during the second half of the year: long network trips, especially in areas where AEGEE had been un-



der-represented in the last years (see next page).

Internet had once again been used in a very large scale: listservers, newsgroups, renewed Web page with interactive access gave the possibility to local boards and single members to be informed in actual time about the news of the Network.

Thanks to all these actions AEGEE saw, in 1997, several new contacts easily undertake their way to become full members of the network signing the Convention d'Adesion and already organising events, such as international conferences in few months.

Nevertheless many existing Antennae and contact Antennae could take real benefits from the policy of direct approach of AEGEE-Europe and they could strengthen their activities through direct participation of their locals to big international projects.

NETCOM: a decisive tool for the Network

Netcom stands for Network Commission, the new AEGEE Europe body, elected for the first time at the agora in Enschede, in April 1997. It consists of ten members, each responsible for a specific region of Europe. Their main task is to enhance the information flow between AEGEE-Europe and the locals, as well as to help through advice and action. As already quoted, the Netcom organised and participated to various.

Regional meetings, as well as



promotion tours (see next page) or local activities, giving a new fresh input to the Network. Contacting and advising constantly the locals of their region the Netcom became, already from his start a useful tool for enlarging and efficiency to the Network.

Nevertheless the Commissioners are officially entitled to represent AEGEE-Europe towards National, Regional or local institutions or authorities giving to AEGEE a furthermore 360 approach.

Network Trips

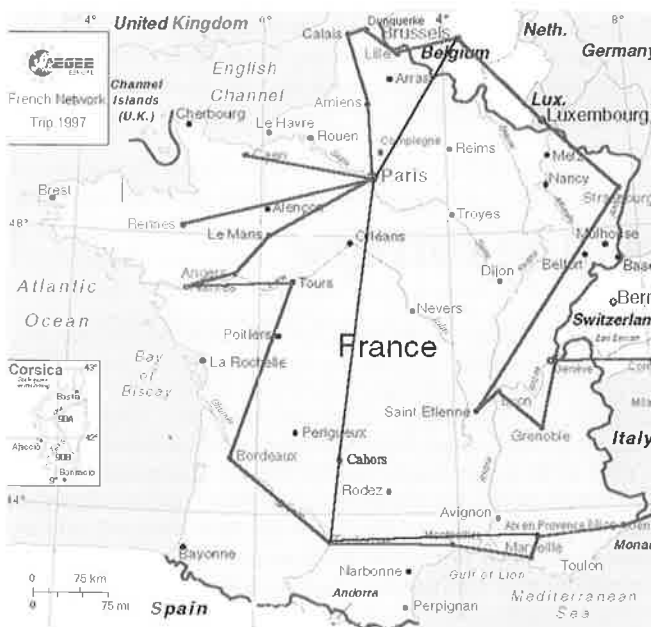
Promoting AEGEE across Europe

In 1997 the Network Campaign of AEGEE-Europe had surely characterised by the so called "Network trips". In May, AEGEE-Europe launched its "French Network Trip", undertaken by Paolo Balistrieri of the Comité Directeur, who travelled around France (also for few days in Italy and Switzerland), covering 20 University towns in 26 days.

In the last years, AEGEE was a bit under-represented in the region, so the aim of this trip has been to give new inputs to the area.

Important co-operation with institutions like the French Socrates Agency, local Association and student magazines has been achieved.

Nevertheless the students have been reached and various locals of the area could take real benefit from the trip, as well as new promising contacts were born; among them, Lyon could already organise an international conference in December, included in the EMU cycle.



In October, together with Goosje Meulemans (representing AEGEE-Amsterdam Network Commission), Paolo went to the UK for a similar promotion tour.

In 15 days, they visited 10 University towns, distributing, besides AEGEE material, also official EU material, provided by the prestigious partner of this trip: the EU representation in the UK.

Like in France, AEGEE was, lately, not enough present in the island; participating in important student happenings like the London Freshes Fair, meeting the International Relation officers or the Deans of various Universities, with the Student Unions as well as with our AEGEE locals, they could bring a new input to the local regeneration of the Network.



"Very important, during this trips, is that we could get in touch and understand deeply the educational systems of these countries.

Speaking directly with AEGEE locals and their university responsables, with students, professors, media or institutions, we could reach a significative range of people in the student scene.", says Paolo.

Nevertheless other minor (but not less important) trips were organised:

Sweden: September, Netcom-Hamburg visited the Swedish Network in a Week.

Moldova, Romania: September, good Network results of the Case Study Trip, new contacts in the region.

Greece: October, new contacts in Iraklion and Joannina, organised by Netcom-Athina.

Cyprus: see beside.

(Article by Paolo Balistrieri)

Amsterdam:

Queensday '97

The Master of Celebration's guide to partying

Have you ever visited Amsterdam during Queensday? Well, don't worry, you can get a chance every year. Of course the programme varies a bit from year to year, but most elements are the same (see the Calendar of Events for details about Queensday '98). Here is a report about a typical Queensday, Q-day '97: It started on the 29th with a 'Nedertop', a meeting of the boards of all Dutch locals. Topics like membership fee, PR and multi-local events are discussed here. After that the world famous Soccer-tournament took place, your chance to finally beat those famous dutch teams like 'Go Ahead AEGEE' (Amsterdam) or 'Spartak AEGEE' (Delft).

The next attraction is my personal highlight of the day. I think you all know stories of student associations where first year members have a 'green period' (if that is the correct expression for it - Latin speakers would call it 'novitiat'), that is they have to do stupid things and serve the older members, etc. Of course AEGEE doesn't have any of these weird traditions...well at least you might think so. But at Queensday it IS a tradition to humiliate the new board of AEGEE-Amsterdam (we change in April) and soak it with smoke and oil. You may think that Holland still has quite primitive habits, but we call it a barbecue. The freshly elected board members stand behind the BBQ and make hamburgers, sausages and the like.

And after everyone ate enough the board is allowed to stop crying their eyes out with smoke and clean the whole mess in the kitchen.

In the meantime it's around ten o'clock, time for Queensnight to begin. We all go to one of our regular pubs, the 'Diesel'. It's always very crowded here so you should feel lucky if you get a seat at the bar. At this time Amsterdam starts to get as crowded as 'Diesel'. But come and see for yourself. For the die-hards the party continues until early in

the morning. Be warned: it can be quite a long night and you might have quite a drowsy head on the next morning. So to overcome this bad feeling it's wise to drink some beer immediately. So get out of your bed and come to, yes, you guessed it right: 'the Diesel'. A lot of fully awake and happy looking AEGEE members will await you here. And in combination with a brunch it isn't so bad at all. Ok, after you re-strengthened yourself it's time to explore Amsterdam. On the 30th of April (the real Queensday) Amsterdam is one big party, pushing, pulsing and beating on every street corner. Normally you will be able to walk at around 1 meter per minute (or less) at this time. By this time there were participants from Hamburg all the way down to Greece and a lot of people in between that.

After so much drinking and partying everyone was longing for some cultural stimulation, so 40 - 50 AEGEE members went to a theater in the north of Amsterdam. Here the famous cultural contest was taking place. Numerous acts presented by talented AEGEE members were presented to satisfy the audience.

The 'old' board did a painting-on-music performance, whereas the new board did a famous dance act of Pulp Fiction. Also artists from abroad were present, like the living legend 'Queensday-toy' from Karlsruhe who amused the audience with a dutch song. Star of the Night was Niels from Amsterdam with a very sad and at the same time funny song about a boy who killed his own brother. I have to ask him for the lyrics and the put them on our homepage.

This was last years Queensday in Amsterdam. Finally there is only one thing left to say: Visit the next Queensday, explore and enjoy, see and believe. And don't blame us if you miss it again.

13th June

Business in a changing Europe

Friday the 13th is not always a bad day. The 13th of June was in fact a lucky day - not only for AEGEE-Amsterdam. On that day an ambitious project reached it's top, it's Eurotop. Three days before the Inter Governmental Conference (IGC) took place in Amsterdam, AEGEE-Amsterdam showed that students can organize a symposium with an impressive program as well as important speakers, that did not have to hide behind it's political counterpart. The aim of the symposium was a better understanding of the European integration as a whole and the role of business in particular.

The organizing committee choose the World Trade Center Amsterdam as location for the symposium, because that's the place where everything evolves around business. AEGEE called and everyone came. Starting with speakers like member of the European Parliament Ms. Plooi van Gorsel, Mr. Boonstra, EMU-coordinator and deputy chief economist of Rabobank Netherlands and the Consul-General of the British Embassy Mr. Robbins to mention just a few. During the first lecture session Board Director of Labouchere Mr. Bierman and Mr. Van Drooge, Manager of PR and education of Amsterdam Exchanges explained the ways in which

they have adapted to the unification of Europe and the formation of the EMU. After that a discussion took place about the effect of the introduction of a single currency on Europe's position on the financial world market. One of the conclusions was that foreign trade will become more attractive due to the introduction. In the second session changes in the industrial market were the point of interest. Director General Affairs of Shell Netherlands, Mr. B. de Beer and Mr. De Leij, Director Human Resources of Akzo Nobel, raised questions like will Europe still be attractive to invest in, or will multinationals turn to low wage countries. The roots of a company will always be in a national soil, but with an eye to continuity these roots should not influence business today and tomorrow.

The participants of the symposium from all over Europe were not only satisfied intellectually but also culinary. No effort was spared and so a luxury lunch was offered to the visitors as well as speakers. To end this informative day, later in the afternoon a forum discussion took place about the relationships of national governments, the European Union and multinationals.

(Articles by Michael Neuhlen)

Cluj - Napoca:

Politics in AEGEE?

European Parliamentars in Cluj-Napoca

«AEGEE's conferences are so closed by politics. Your Network is gorgeous and it covers actually all the Europe», concluded Ms. Edith Muller, European parliamentary in Green's Group, one of the lecturers invited at the conference «Environmental Protection in Central and Eastern Europe».

«The conference took place on the 9th of May, Day of Europe, in order to link two subjects: the en-

vironmental protection and Europe's contemporary history. Having as guests the European Parliamentars from Brussels and the Romanian Minister of Environment, Mr Ioan Olteanu, all gathered in an AEGEE event, proves that we have found the key to reach a good image and credibility of our European association», stated Dan Luca, the coordinator of the conference.

10th - 11th May

AEGEE-Meeting: Analysis and future

Between the 10th and the 11th of May, AEGEE members from Romania, Bulgaria and Moldavia Republic, gathered in Cluj-Napoca and made a real analysis on the meaning of our association in this part of Europe. There has been elaborated a general strategy for future actions, too.

Taking part to these discussions, Markus Schonherr, the Network Commisar for Hungary, Moldavia Republic and Yugoslavia, said that «being actually lectures about AEGEE, these meetings are very important for us».

In the end, there has been settled that every year, since now on, the European students from these regions to meet in Cluj-Napoca.

«The events organised by AEGEE Cluj-Napoca have made this antenna known, in this period of developing the Network in Central and Eastern Europe. The experience gathered by AEGEE active members has to be handed down to the new members and that really happened here», concluded Dan Luca, AEGEE-Europe CD member.

Cagliari:

Carnival in Sardinia

Together with AEGEE Firenze we had organized our third international event for the Sartiglia day's, known as one of the most beautiful traditional happenings in Sardinia. The premises were among the best: twenty of the most active members of AEGEE Cagliari moved mind of this project and Annalisa Sita) arrived there with 20 foreign students, from all Europe.

This is the part of the chronicle of Patrick, an our Swiss applicant of the event started Saturday 8 February with so much bottles of wine and mirto, music and all the necessary to enjoy and do something of different: «... moreover, the participating Greek, German, Austrian, Swiss, Spanish, Italian people and some exotics from Budapest and Canada made up a group really explosive.

Arriving after a night of torture on the ferry, we got off the ship like Zombies at the sunrise of an incredibly beautiful day. The first few days were dedicated to Oristano and its famous Carnival.

A long tradition of horse riding and the intense trade and exchange with Spanish and other Mediterranean cultures resulted in colourful costumes and masks combined with the admirable skills of Oristano's horsemen. Sa Sartiglia, the better known of the two big Carnival parades, consists of the aim to stab a metal star pendant from a rope while the rider is approaching at full gallop. The second competition, so called Pariglia, is best described as a stuntmen's

show on galloping horseback.

Furthermore, we visited Tharros, a phenician-punic-roman archeological site, the wine cooperation (try the Vernaccia di Oristano), and the beaches, where we reinvented volleyball. Finally, a Swiss cowboy couldn't to take a chilly February sea bath.

For the second part of the week we «pullmanned» to Cagliari. On the way we visited the best documented and preserved nuraghe, a tower-like stone fortification some 3000 years of age. In Cagliari we enjoyed the excellent company of the Sardinian students. Thanks for the super disco and the «pizza & calcio» dinner you organized for us! Anyhow, did you know that you can actually see flamingos in Cagliari? No kidding! The last day was dedicated for our benefit: an excursion to Nora, famous for its greek theater (right, Eleni?), and a relaxing lunch at one of the nicest beaches of Sardinia. Unfortunately, the end quickly approached and we had a hard time saying goodbye (in the form of Macarena) to this marvelous island and its fantastic people.

NB: Carlo and Enrico are the best tour guides in town and do not miss aride in the fastest Cinquecento of Sardinia».

Now we are preparing the Autumn President meeting and you can find all about Aegee Cagliari and our activities in this site: www.sardegna.com/aegee-cagliari.

Europeanly yours

Ljubljana: "Foreign Direct Investment"

In the end of November 1997, AEGEE Ljubljana organised their 10th conference and first time in cooperation with two other student organisations: Management Group and Student Section of Slovenian Marketing Association. More than 200 AEGEE members mostly from Slovenia, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Croatia, Slovakia, Spain and Macedonia took part in this incredible event.

Organizing committee put a lot of effort into realizing this conference in order to give students from all over Europe the chance to inform themselves about the impact of Foreign direct investment and consequences which derive from it. The participants discussed about all issues after privatisation process in Central and Eastern Europe, from the new investments which bring fresh cash technologies and knowledge, legislation issues, forecast of economy «till the role of Marketing Agencies and some examples of successful companies with foreign share».

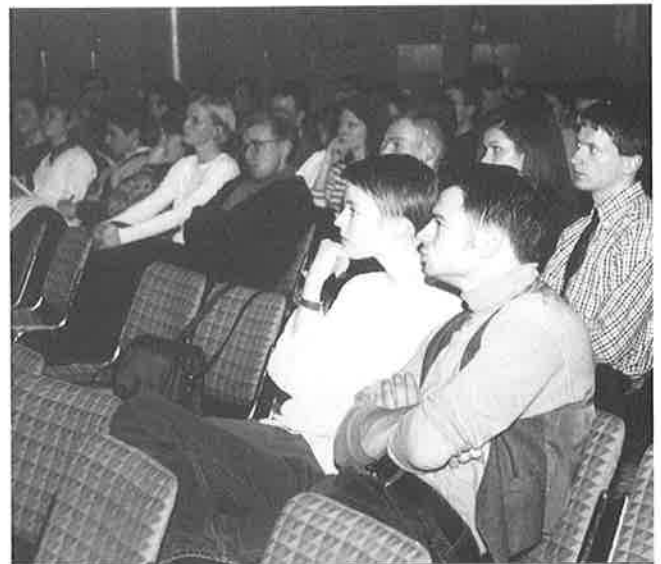


Rok Mejak (project manager): «Foreign Investment is a key to Europe for Central and Eastern European Countries».

The privatisation process attracted the bulk of Foreign Direct Investments directed to Central and East European countries. As the first wave of privatisation is already behind us, the slowdown of the pace of investing in this part of Europe in 96/97 was to be expected.

What are the perspectives for the upswing of FDI in the post-privatisation period and what

is the competitive position of CEE countries? At present three main sources of FDI can be identified: In order to preserve their market position, some companies in domestic ownership will have to look for foreign strategic partners.



United colors of AEGEE during lectures waiting for the announcement of the winner of braindnew car.

Using incentive schemes, governments will compete to attract FDI to provide new jobs. Due to the shortage of budget funds, governments will have to develop ways of luring foreign investors.

To keep the atmosphere up, the general manager of IBM slovenia gave to the one most enthusiastic participant one-week free education of management in Slovenia.

Next to this challenge thematic, AEGEE Ljubljana prepared «night social programme» on which they are famous for. Not even, that they kept the promise, they gave during AGORA in Ankara to give the best participant braindnew car, but they also organised three wonderful nights with Mexican dinner, free drinks and live music. To finish with the words of Rok Mejak, project manager and chairman of the conference, «The motor of AEGEE Ljubljana is still running and we are looking forward to organise European School, Ski week, Summer University and one similar congress in Autumn. So, do not miss our next event!!»

Passau: "Meeting Islam"



Rioting Kurds, suicide assassins in Israel, appeals to murder European authors; Islam - a threat? Hospitable Turks, beautiful mosques, strong belief in family tradition; Islam - a synonym for peace and humanity? Prejudice are mixed with fascination. But what do we really know about Islam?

More than 6 million people live in Europe who profess a belief in Islam. They form cultural and religious minorities in the pluralist European communities. Eventually they will have their place in the "European House" and we would do well to get to know our Muslim neighbours.

Meeting Islam wanted to expose his participants to the lifestyle, attitudes and religion of our Muslim neighbours - as a prerequisite for mutual understanding and a better way of living together. We gave an introduction to the principles of Islam: the Koran, the history and spread of Islam. Later on there were workshop and lectures on a wide variety of

fields, such as Islamic law, Economic System as well as the role of women in Muslim society.

Interesting questions were raised: There have been great changes in the world in the course of globalization, whereas the pre-Arabian idea was that world is unchanging. What is the impact of Islam on the economic system? Do Islam and capitalism contradict each other?

But let's not forget the unforgettable Oriental Night. AEGEE belly-danced, and thanks to our Moroccan friends we had a really fantastic Islamic meal.

Of course, it was impossible to present a complete picture of Islam - especially in such a short period of time. But we hope to have promoted a climate of discussion and analysis of both Islamic and Christian marked societies. Only communication can create an environment, in which we accept the other in their otherness.



Education and Mobility

by **DANIEL TURSCHYS**

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

It is with pleasure that I accept the invitation to contribute to the AEGEE yearbook for 1997, devoted to Education and Mobility for the Europe of Tomorrow. Education and mobility are, as the title of the yearbook rightly points out, a «key to Europe». It is also an area to which the Council of Europe has made and continues to make substantial contributions.

Before offering some thoughts on tomorrow, I would like to take a few moments to point out that education and mobility were also important yesterday. The idea of mobile students is far from new. As early as the 12th century, Dom Sancho I of Portugal set up a kind of scholarship programme allowing Portuguese to study at European universities. In the later Middle Ages, the community of scholars was a truly European one in which a degree holder who had all of his - rarely her - education from just one university would be regarded with some suspicion.

Still, it would not be correct to say that we are only trying to reestablish the situation of the Middle Ages. In those days, the student population was very small, restricted by gender, social and economic considerations and mobility mostly left to free movers. One of the most important changes in Europe over the past couple of decades is, in my opinion, the sharp rise in organised mobility programmes for a large number of students. There are various formulas for these programmes, but they have a number of factors in common:

- *simplification of administrative procedures;*
- *provision for a limited time of studies abroad (often one or two semesters), allowing students to combine elements of at least two higher education traditions and lowering the risk of massive brain drain;*
- *some kind of financial support.*

An important part of this «new» mobility has taken part within the European Union,

through programmes like ERASMUS and SOCRATES. Even though most of the 10 million or so EU students did not go abroad, the number of those who did so is impressive. The 170,000 ERASMUS students in 1995 - 96 could make up the population of a medium sized European city or fill 550 or 600 large airplanes.

While the EU programmes are the most important ones in numerical terms, they are not alone. Recently, the Council of Europe and the Nordic Council of Ministers examined regional cooperation in higher education, including regional exchange programmes. This joint activity gave rise to a major conference held in Reykjavík in September 1997.

The regional programmes have shown a remarkable ability to adapt their working methods to local circumstances. The Nordic Council of Ministers runs the NORDPLUS programme aimed at students from the five Nordic countries, in which strengthening Nordic identity is an important goal. The Nordic Council of Ministers also runs another scholarship programme to increase cooperation between the Nordic countries and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as Northwest Russia. This programme is an excellent example of how the political changes since 1989 make it possible to find new ways in regional as well as pan-European cooperation.

Another example is the Central Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS), involving Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia. Already in its first year of full operation, 1995/96, almost 900 students participated in the scheme, which has adopted a very interesting financial scheme in which the «currency» is a scholarship month. The exact cost of a CEEPUS month depends on the country in which it is offered, and it is paid in local currency. For a student going from Austria to Bulgaria, the «CEEPUS currency» is

worth a month's stay in Bulgaria. For someone going from Bulgaria to Austria, the currency is worth a month's stay in Austria.

Regardless of the forms which student mobility takes, it is of vital importance that the qualifications that students earn abroad be recognised for further studies as well as for later employment. It is in this area that the Council of Europe has concentrated the main part of its work to facilitate mobility. With UNESCO, the Council of Europe has elaborated a new Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, bringing the European framework for the recognition of qualifications up to date. It is normally referred to as the Lisbon Recognition Convention, as it was adopted in Lisbon in April 1997. Among other things, the Lisbon Recognition Convention:

- clearly states that applicants are entitled to a fair recognition of their qualifications;
- require that applications be considered within a reasonable time limit;
- states the need for transparent, coherent and reliable recognition procedures;
- require the competent recognition authorities to state the reasons in cases where recognition is refused;
- gives applicants the right to appeal a recognition decision, within the procedures set up by the Party concerned;
- takes as its point of departure that recognition should be granted unless the competent recognition authority can show that there is a substantial difference between the qualification for which recognition is sought and the corresponding qualification of the host country.

Just as the proof of the pie in the eating of it, no law is of much use unless it is implemented. Therefore, the Council of Europe and UNESCO have established a joint European Network of National information Centres on academic recognition and mobility (the ENIC Network). This Network cooperates closely with the corresponding NARIC Network of the European Commission and will play a key role in the implementation of the Convention. In each country, the ENIC/NARIC is the one address students and others interested can turn to for information on the recognition of qualifications earned abroad and the body primarily responsible for providing information on its own country's education system to foreign partners.

I am convinced that academic mobility is one of the most important factors deciding the shape of the Europe of tomorrow. Mobility breaks down barriers and brings people closer. It also forms a part of the wider exchange of information that in many countries has proven deadly or at least very troublesome for dictators. A Russian proverb says that the tears of strangers are only water. Thanks to academic mobility, less water will be shed. I find it encouraging that the AEGEE devotes an issue of its yearbook specifically to education and mobility and wish you every success in your work.

Declaration on Students' Mobility

The Agora (General Assembly) of AEGEE approved a resolution concerning Students' Mobility.

AEGEE would like to emphasise its desire to provide all students in Europe with equal opportunities to conduct some time of their studies in a foreign European country. The support of AEGEE is therefore of fundamental importance for students from all the countries with problematic standing for their involvement in the EU programme Socrates.

AEGEE wishes to stress the importance of exchange programmes building up a European society of different cultures and understanding, for which personal experiences are indispensable. The great success of ERASMUS calls for further extension of the programme, reaching clearly beyond the borders of the European Union.

Consequently, AEGEE feels that also Turkish students should be given the possibility to participate in the EU programme SOCRATES, and likewise other European students should be encouraged to study at a Turkish university. (11 november 1997)



AEGEE brings Cyprus together (ACT): a Challenging Project

Within the Network Trip Project, a very special one has been organised by AEGEE-Europe a trip to Cyprus. This beautiful island and its people had always suffered of their particular status of crossroad between continents, cultures and interests, which brought, in the past decades to a traumatic division, effecting not only the international and regional political relations but also everybody's souls and emotions. AEGEE had always tried to give its contribution, in every situation of Peace Making Processes, addressing itself to young people, backbone of every society. After years of indecision on the possibility to include Cyprus, in the Network, due to the particularity of the issue, in 1997 long term projects on the island began their course.

At the end of October a delegation of AEGEE-Europe, Peter Ginser as President, Paolo Balistrieri as Network Responsible and Fani Zar accompanied by Stella Stynianou (Cyprus citizen) representing the Network Commission for the Area (AEGEE-Albina), went to the island for a week.

The EU Ambassador Mr Anouil, the Cyprus Government, US and German Embassies, the University, the Fullbright Commission and UN officials in the South; the ViceRector of the Famagosta University and other Academicians in the North, received the delegation during their stay. All this official meeting showed clearly the interest and the importance given to such an initiative. AEGEE is an International NGO, offers a significant stage for uncountable matters, interests and claims, but above all tries to create a European union of students not because of political motives but for the high ideals that they possess and for achieving any kind of positive step in peace processe.

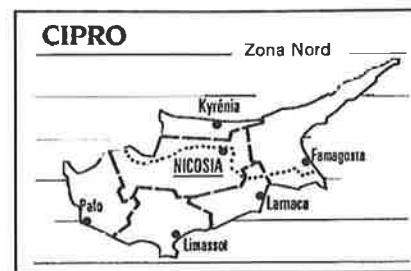
Since some years students, workers and other different classe of the society are joining each other in bicommunal meetings between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, organised by the Fullbright commission in the UN Buffer Zone Nicosia: among them a student group from the North organised in the association «Europa Team», had already been the referent for AEGEE since 1996. Nevertheless the delegation could also meet in the South with the National Youth Board and The Yourth Council for international Co-operation.

Contacts with other students, either active or not in the bi-communal activities, were organised.

Indeed many people have a common septicism on these kind of initiatives, due to an already too many times strummentalised situation.

In all the meetings, AEGEE experience was as a tool to overcome understandable psychological barriers towards each other. What was tried to achieve is anyway a major involvement of Cypriot students in AEGEE, participating in European events and projects, creating their owns in the framework of the association and beyond.

In December, an important follow up of the trip was already undertaken:



Within the Conference organised by AEGEE-Aix-En-Provence, «the EU and the Mediterranean», the Cyprus issue had a major role: about 40 AEGEE members from all over Europe could follow and participate to workshops and panel discussions: Professor Bicac From Eastern Mediterranean University of Famagosta (already met by the delegation) and Mr. Zemenos of the Cyprus French Embassy partecipated, the moderator was Mr. J. Boarinet Director of the international Research Center in Aix. AEGEE Working Groups like the Europe OF The Regions-WG, Human Rights-WG and International Politics WG are going to organise thematical conferences of seminars, in order to bring more knowledge to European students on the issue. Nevertheless the action plans will see a new Trip on the island of Markus Schonher, current Network Responsible of AEGEE-Europe, in February and above all the scheduled Case Study Trip, which will see 25 European Students visiting and studying the Region the month of April 1998.

Hopefully, once AEGEE had decided to take off with all this projects on the island, could in the future give a real contribution to the break down of the last wall dividing a European Capital, Nicosia, helping its people to leave in a peaceful country.

(Article by Paolo Balistrieri)



AEGEE as an international mediator

Greeks and Turkish students meet together

The local groups of AEGEE in Athina and Istanbul organised in March and April 1997, an exchange.

The event consisted of two one-week long visits (Istanbul 16 - 23.3.97 & Athens 9 - 15.4.97) for their members. In the frame of these visits: discussions and workshops took place between Greek and Turkish students. The aim of the workshops was to stimulate in-depth discussion and to formulate a common vision of young people of both countries in three selected topics:

- *Examination of history books in Primary & Secondary Education in order to locate a) differences in the approach of common historical events and b) subjective statements in the form of stereotypes, prejudices etc. which forge a negative image for the other country in tender school ages*

- *Family Education*

The perception of one country in the family life of the other, was the aim of the carried out research with jointly created questionnaires in both cities.

- *Building the Bridge of Friendship by defining the concrete, necessary - in the eyes of young people - steps to be taken in fields such as politics, education, culture, military for the smoothening of the relations among the two countries.*

Another aspect of great symbolism is the demand made by the two groups to the Head of the Orthodox Church, Patriarch Mr. Bartholomeos, to become their common Patron.

Declaration of greek-turkish friendship

We, AEGEE-members and young people of Greece and Turkey

- aware of our past and history,
- recognising the differences and the common elements of our national identities,
- aspiring a peaceful coexistence and co-operation of our countries in the future

hereby declare

- our awareness that between the two countries there are disputes

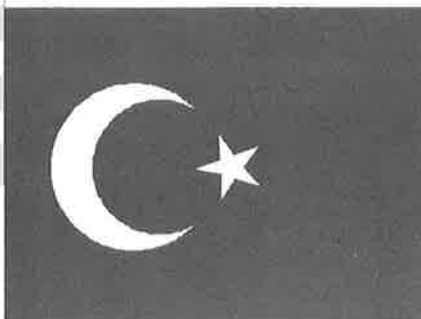
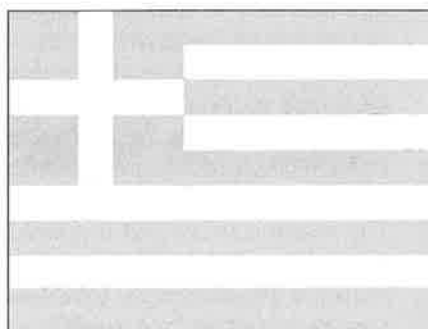
- our strong belief that these disputes derive primarily from aggressive claims on sovereignty right, prejudices that were spread throughout the peoples in the past, and the infringement of international treaties whenever it happens

- our certainty that solutions to every dispute must be political and based on mutual respect, sincere intentions & good will, gradual dialogue and international law

- our condemnation of the use of war and violence along with the outburst of irresponsible threats against national integrity as a means of resolution of disputes

- our belief that the two countries must get to know and help each other for symmetrical social progress, economic development and improvement on the field of human rights

- our faith in the fact that although the two nations have important differences in their civilisation and common misfortunate history, the common elements in their culture could sustain the basis for building a «bridge of friendship» between the two countries.



The role of the Information Communication Technology (ICT)

From the beginnings to the concept of Electronic Democracy



From the left: Roman Noack, Jordi Capdevila Gurrera, Giacomo Marini, Gerhard Kreß and David Stulik

If you surf the Web take the time and go to <http://www.aegee.org>, the official site of AEGEE Europe, and you will find one of the best students' sites on the Internet. You have the possibility to discover an association of European students, with members coming from all over the continent. If you go on to read through the more than 60 pages of the site, without counting the numerous links, you will also find out about how to subscribe to one of the 4 main listservers that connect more than 600 subscribers in 40 different countries, in order to receive all kinds of information and reports about the students' activities from all corners of Europe. You must not miss a "visit" to our "Virtual Office" either ...

But ... even if you are already familiar with AEGEE you do probably not know how it was possible for the association, which in 1992 had only 20 people with Internet facilities, to organise and set up one of the biggest European students' Intranet.

From the very beginnings of AEGEE onwards, one of our major problems has been the one of internal communication. Handling the contacts within a network that has its bases in different countries is hard work that demands lots of financial and organisational effort. The means of communication were the so-called "traditional" ones; mail, telephone, and for those who had the possibility fax. Amongst AEGEE members one could also find a strange "race"; a group of students - the majority of them studying science - who had the

possibility to access the Internet. Some people were exchanging ideas and programs over the Net, talking with friends, at a time when the Internet was not as famous as it is today. From 1993 onwards, one year after the birth of the World Wide Web, the first official page of the association could be found on the Web, thanks to our two Internet "pioneers": Jens-Erik Weber and John Stienen.

Something had started to change!

Something that would revolutionise our communication system and even the structure of the association! Bit by bit AEGEE began to abandon the classical means of communication in favour of those offered by the Internet: FTP in the beginning, Gopher, e-mail and Web pages ...

What has caused this increasingly quick change?

- easy access to and by members
- decreasing costs
- easier organisational handling
- time saving
- handling of on-line databases

The possibilities of networking have developed to an enormous degree with e-mail and listservers. People subscribed to a list have the possibility to reach all others who are subscribed to the same list - no matter whether there are 10 or 1000 of them - with a single message and in real time, which permits to create co-operation between the association's members in a simple and direct way.

The costs for access to the Internet and its services are virtually zero, and if one has the possibility to use an account at the university or at work it is for free. Nowadays the costs for a business connection at a professional provider are practically negligible for a normal antenna in comparison with the costs of traditional means of communication.

One of the biggest problems that associations like AEGEE face is the continuous updating of their own e-mail databases, as the addresses of which they consist change very quickly: new members that have to be reached, members who leave the association etc.

The solution to all that is offered by listservers, too: the users themselves look after the registration for and cancellation from the lists, via some special software that can be activated by e-mail, too.

In this way the association can handle its own internal communication easily and with little effort. Simple periodic checks allow to find out who has access to the information that is exchanged.

The World Wide Web

An ever-increasing part of the people who have access to the Internet can also access the WWW. Special software programs to access the Web - to "surf" through it - are called browsers, the most popular ones at the moment are Netscape and Explorer, which even allow you to check your e-mail via the Web. These browsers are able to read files of different formats from all the computers that are connected to the Internet and offer their services to users.

Some of these formats are:

HTML, Java, FTP, Gopher, Archie and text.

The Web pages offer great possibilities to inform current and potential new members about the purpose and structure of the organisation and about activities that have already been held or are planned for the future. The Web can be used without human interaction (which usually makes information retrieval slow and costly), for storage of documents like the statutes, the external and internal policy files and information on how to contact the organisation on different levels.

The birth of the Electronic Democracy Project

Given the increased use of services provided by the Internet, three major problems arise: the formation of two different and separated classes within the association (Internet users and people without access to these facilities), the need to set up rules concerning the use of the Internet and the necessary education on how to use it.

Whereas the problem of the rules for the use of Internet within the association has in principle been resolved by the implementation of listservers and by the facilities offered by the Web, the two others still threaten the association by constituting serious problems, even if they become less threatening with every day.

Thus it was necessary to develop and ameliorate the electronic network of AEGEE.

The network was complaining about discrepancies between the rates of information distribution, accusing the Comité Directeur of a strong lack of attention towards antennae without electronic facilities.

And that despite the fact that more than 90% of the association's bodies could have had access to the Internet (even if not on a regular basis).

The Electronic Democracy Project

The idea to develop "electronic democracy" inside AEGEE was born some years ago, the first CD member describing this concept being Alex Ootes in February 1996.

Under the presidency of Jordi Capdevila, AEGEE's first project for the development of the electronic network was developed.

The project was supposed to ameliorate the electronic network between the antennae by providing them with computers and training courses for trainers, thus not only giving them the means to access the Internet but also teaching them how to use these facilities best.

The project would thus have given all AEGEE members the possibility to be in touch with the rest of the

network. Geographical and cultural distances could be overcome by supplying free contact channels to a huge network like AEGEE, contributing to the European integration. Full and equal participation in the life of the association through the Internet could partially replace expensive (and often not included in students' budgets) travelling and meetings all over Europe to discuss, decide and vote. The realisation of a totally virtual PM was the ultimate aim of all this.

As a project concerning the Internet, something that is absolutely not discernible, the network could apparently not profit from positive results that could have been brought about by this "famous" project.

The current development of Electronic Democracy in AEGEE

A lot of people have been working for its development. And even if there is no marked line to follow, some enormous steps forward have been achieved.

This has been due to multiple favourable factors: the interest of certain people to find sponsors, the support of the Internet User Group (IUG) and of all the members that - maybe without doing so on purpose - have voted for the use of e-mail as principal means of communication within the association (by using it).

The possibilities offered by the electronic structure of the association has been growing exponentially and reached an enormous level.

The official pages of the association are continuously updated, offering today: on-line Databases, public ones and others for members only, the possibility to register for events, access to statistical data and - even if it's only on an experimental level for the moment - the possibility to "web-vote".

With the importance of the network commission steadily growing, numerous "regional" listservers have been added to the numerous general and special interest listservers that existed already.

It must not be forgotten either that seminars about how to approach the Internet and how to use its facilities best have already been offered during statutory meetings by experienced members (normally IUGs) and often as part of normal events or to single members.

It has to be admitted that AEGEE could not survive without using the Internet today, the achieved productivity would never have been possible without the Internet, and in the near future it will be possible to have as a perfectly normal thing what was the final aim of the ED project: a totally virtual statutory meeting ... having connected people connecting Europe!



(Article by Giacomo Marini)

For a European Youth Policy in the Union

by **SERGIO CAREDDA**
President of AEGEE Europe

The role of Youth in the European construction has been acknowledged by many sides. But still, in many cases this recognition is only made of empty wordings.

Young people in Europe are called to be active players in the European construction. At the same time the Youth policies in Europe are stuck into wonderful projects with very few resources and unbelievable bureaucratic complications.

The new Amsterdam Treaty does not even recall at all Youth Policies. This even if AEGEE, both as single organization, as well as in the frame of the Permanent Forum of Civil Society, called several times for a more open discussion on these issues.

Therefore AEGEE would like to welcome the concrete initiative of the European Parliament's Committee for Culture, Youth, Education and Media to organize this Public Hearing. Our wish is that this initiative will be followed by further actions.

Hereby AEGEE makes itself promoter of more realistic Youth Policies across Europe. This in order to establish a tangible way of promoting the European Idea among young people and especially students. An evaluation of the past is necessary. A serious evaluation. In our position paper you can find some criticisms to the evaluation policy of the European Commission. But we want to look forward, and on the base of our own evaluations, especially for what concerns the Socrates Program, we want to put forward some more proposals.

The new European Youth policies of the Union and in the Union, should be based on the following issues.

Intercultural education

Multicultural is one of the best expressions to identify the European Culture. We get our common identity of European because we all belong to different cultures.

Programs of students mobility are in this case one of the main pillars of a feasible intercultural education.

Three main issues have to be taken into account:

- 1) Cross-border co-operation, both inside the Union as well as between the Union and third

countries. Borders represent the first challenge for an intercultural education. People leaving in borders' regions should be encouraged to study the neighbour's language, as well as to get in touch with their culture and their spirit. Furthermore, the exchange programs should be reinforced by an interaction between the higher and lower education structures of the two countries.

- 2) Intellectual mobility should be reinforced, through training of teachers and courses of languages and civilisation. Here it is important to stress how teachers should as well become mobile, especially in their early years of teaching. Incentives should be offered to those teachers who decides to go abroad for teaching or learning. Here also the new Information and Communication Technologies can be used for a better interaction between cultures.
- 3) A new frame should be given to the NGO initiative, especially for what concern students' and youth exchange programs. This will enable more effective actions and a minor overload of the public bureaucratic structures. Here a restructuring of the programs of Youth for Europe, should allow the realisation of more low-budget projects, that are really aiming at creating a people-to-people link.

Intercultural learning means also further co-operation with other continents and other cultures outside Europe. This through the development of exchange programs and support for study and exchange initiatives among the continents. The policy should in this case go in three main direction.

- *Trans-Atlantic dialogue. Apart being a good commercial partner, the USA and Canada (or in general, the NAFTA countries) should become a great cultural partner for Europe. Here the best solution is a development of a serious students' exchange program, possibility focused around the dialogue on certain determined issues. One of them could be the next Information Society. AEGEE already presented a Position Paper in this sense for its participation to the Trans-Atlantic Agenda.*

- *Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.* The Mediterranean has played still a major role in the cultures of Europe. It is therefore of utmost importance to stimulate the dialogues with the countries on the Southern and Eastern part of the sea. This especially if take into account the problems arising in some Mediterranean countries like Algeria.
- *Euro-Asiatic Dialogue.* Asia represents the most natural border for Europe. A strategy that sees the involvement and the inclusion in the Youth Programs of the EU of Turkey will already give more inputs to the relationships with Asiatic countries, especially in the Middle East. Exchange programs in the frame of the TACIS program should be further developed. Finally, a serious dialogues on youth issues should be developed with countries like China and Japan.

Lifelong learning

For what concerns like-long learning, we have to strive for a more coordinated work in Europe on this issue.

Life-long is possible only through a serious development of partnerships programs between the private and the public sector. This in the frame of a global vision and a new approach to the concept itself of education. More training events, more support to NGOs and voluntary organizations are the keys for the success of this policy.

Moreover, more support should be given to the internal mobility inside the job market, especially in the early stage of formation.

Towards the Information society

The Council of Ministers of the European Union of 6 May 1996 issued a resolution encouraging the use of educational technology in partnership with the private sector.

One of the main role of educational systems is to enable people to cope with the changes brought about by the move towards the Information Society. In fact the main challenge of the future years is exactly the Information Society. How we want to become involved in the new era depends very much from the type of education we can give.

Furthermore the use of new technologies can help fostering the European dimension in education as well as help the removal of obstacles which hinder the take up of new technologies in the private sector.

We need in particular to accelerate the entry of schools and universities in the Information Society. Countries with a long-lasting tradition in education, have lowest rate of Internet access then some underdeveloped countries. This has to be improved, and a European dimension has to be given to this issue.

Secondly, we have to get a European approach to the new Information and Communication Technologies, in order, for example, to protect and support minority languages (which, in today's Internet world, means all tongues apart English). This will enable the new Information Society to be democratic and respectful of cultures and traditions.

Thirdly, only a correct education will enable the future Information Society to be a tool for everybody, and not just for one class of people.

How can we concretely reach these aims?

We would like to propose some concrete actions.

First of all, encouraging the usage of Internet at grass-root level. In lots of countries young people still have difficulties in getting e-mail accounts. This means support for Universities and high-schools networks, which effectively offer access to the new means of communication, as well as direct support to NGOs and Foundations involved in projects of support to these initiatives.

Training for webmasters. The ability of interacting on the web should be given to all students.

Offer support for the realization of new effective teaching tools. Through new innovative tools, we will be able to reach also the basic educational level.

This should come as an interaction between the public and the private sector, in order not to create new gaps between schools and job-market.

Recognition of the educational acquis

One of the most important gaps between the Public and the private system is visible in the different evaluation of curricula. Due to the gap existing between the Educational Systems and the current situation in the production world, companies are increasingly evaluating the *acquis* instead of official credits.

The main proposal in this direction is to get a general policy of recognition of the *acquis* in order to reach more flexibility.

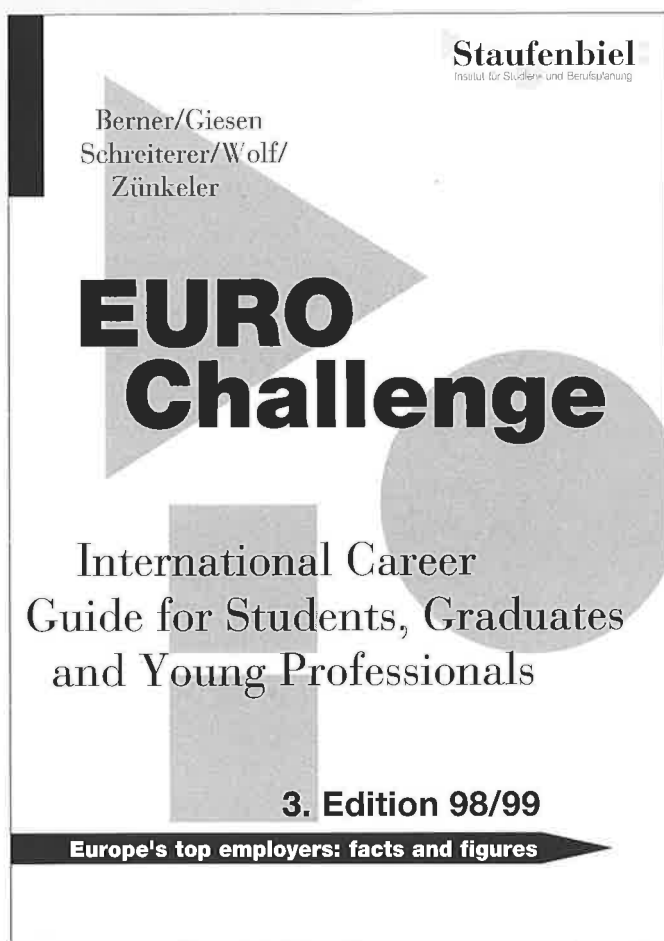
How? By recognizing different working and cultural experiences, (work in NGOs and voluntary organizations) as well as other Educational Experiences considered "extra-academic".

As shown there is room for actions and projects in the near future. We, as European Youth NGOs, need to have a better working environment, more substantial help and support, not only financial.

Without a careful look at all these issues here expressed in a compressed form, a real European Youth Policy is senseless and not realizable. We therefore call, again, for a better involvement of the direct actors in the European building process: Students, Young People and their Organizations.

(Speech delivered at the Public Hearing "Jeunesse au coeur de l'Europe", European Parliament)

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The voice of AEGEE

1997 Press Releases

may 3

Today is the International Day of Freedom of Press.

As the developments in Croatia and Serbia have shown during the last months free and objective journalism is all but guaranteed in Europe. In some countries people are still fighting for free media and free information while some governments still try to combat the internal opposition by suppressing newspapers, TV and radio. However the sheer existence of independent media in those countries is an important tool in the struggle for democracy.

The promotion of the idea of democracy in all Europe can only be based on the free flow of information through free media. That's why AEGEE in its continuous engagement for democracy in Europe, asks to better support free media in Eastern Europe.

Only free and democratic countries can aim to build a better Europe.

For this reason AEGEE - Europe organises a panel discussion with the protagonists of the fight for the freedom of press in South-East Europe. Journalists from Radio 101 Zagreb, Radi B92, and Radio Index/Belgrade will take part in the discussion on May 9 at 18.00h in the Aula of the University of Aachen (Templergraben 55). The discussion takes place on the occasion of the 1997 AEGEE-Award which will be presented to Radio Index and Radio B92 on May 10 at 15.00h, Aula of the University.

German president Roman Herzog is patron of this year's AEGEE-Award.

june 9

With the summit of the European Council coming up next weekend in Amsterdam, AEGEE is once again taking a close look at the current political changes in Europe. The association is drawing attention to the final results of its IGC projects carried out last year. Next to that, a congress is organised by AEGEE-Amsterdam at the same time as the summit.

AEGEE, the largest pan-European student organisation, has been involved in reshaping the Treaty of Maastricht already in the early stages. The organisation participated in the public hearing of the European Parliament on February 26th-27th 1996 representing the European students.

Throughout last year, AEGEE, organised a series of events involving students all over Europe in the discussion about the future of our continent.

It comprised a series of international conferences and local events. AEGEE was thus one of the forerunners in creating awareness of the upcoming political events among young people.

At these conferences, the participants were provided with factual information about the IGC and other European issues. But especially the active involvement was emphasised through debates, workshops, and role-plays. All ideas and conclusions were collected in a Results Brochure, comprising students' essays and summaries of the conference discussions. The booklet is available under ISBN 83-906-299-0-9.

At this moment, AEGEE is running its project series «Europe and Euro», in the frame of which the 20.000 AEGEE-members and other students are analysing and discussing different aspects of the EMU.

september 2

«The Amsterdam Treaty is really a new chance for the European Union» says Peter Ginser, President of AEGEE-

Europe, «and we all have to work together to reach the goals that this new treaty poses, however, some criticism is still called for». This, in brief, is the official position of the European Students' Forum AEGEE, which is developed in detail in a paper submitted to the European Parliament on request of the Committee for Institutional Affairs.

Already on February 26th 1996, Tina Dörffer represented AEGEE-Europe in a public hearing at the European Parliament. In her speech she stated that one of the biggest challenges of the Inter-Governmental Conference was to reach all people, especially the young ones. Today this challenge remains, and therefore AEGEE suggests a simplification of the European Treaties. Mr. Ginser comments: «The new Treaty should be the Constitution of the new Europe. Being the base of the future European society, it needs to be easily understandable». This aligns AEGEE with the position of the Permanent Forum of Civil Society of which AEGEE is a member.

The most interesting points in the new Treaty, according to AEGEE, is the concrete reference to social issues like unemployment and discrimination, the introduction of a European citizenship, and the strengthening of the basic principles of the Union.

AEGEE also has some criticism: «We regret the absence of a precise reference to Youth Organisations, which is fundamental for our work», concludes Mr. Ginser.

There is also disappointment about the extremely small steps towards reforming the European institutions. Future challenges of the EU are directly linked to this treaty, especially concerning enlargement.

AEGEE, wide-spread all over Europe in 41 countries, looks forward to future development of Europe with a critical but constructive eye.

october 2

Today worrying news are coming again from Beograd.

Rally for defence of Studio B was held on Republic Square in the presence of tens of thousands citizens: Journalists of Studio B, representatives of students and party leaders, including V. Pesic and the presence of tens of thousands citizens.

Journalists of Studio B, representatives of students and party leaders, including V. Pesic (president of the Civic Alliance of Serbia) and Zoran Djindjic (Democratic Party president) addressed the people.

After the rally strong police forces without warning attacked the people who had began the protest walk. Several people were beaten, including Zoran Djindjic, student leader Cedimir Jovanovic, and several others were arrested.

This news, again spread through students channels, as during the students protest of some months ago, again show how weak the democratic structure of Serbia is. Again the government attacks the free media, but declaring the TV station Studio B, closed.

«Last May, during the presentation of the AEGEE-award, thought that things had already changed - reports Andrea Spellerberg, Vice-Presidente of AEGEE-Europe - but today's news seem to confirm that democracy is far from being reached in the Republic of Yugoslavia». «By giving the award to Radio B92 and Radio Index we took a clear position in support of free media as they are very important instruments for the progress of democracy» - continues Johanna Fryksmark, member of the European board of AEGEE - «in this way we will continue in striving for democracy and we invite all political bodies, especially from western Europe, to take an active stand on the issue. This our engagement for the future».

Again AEGEE asks for concrete actions in support of Democracy in the whole Balkans region.

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Calendar 1998

02/05/98	02/08/98	Live Your Imagination	Seminar	Eindhoven
02/27/98	03/01/98	Presidents' Meeting Spring 1998	statutory	Aix-en-Provence
03/06/98	03/08/98	Together in the Integrating Europe	AEGEE meeting	Kracow
03/11/98	03/12/98	EGEE XIV Event Why the European Union?	conference	Warwick
03/13/98	03/15/98	Poland-Ukraine Dialogue	conference	Lublin
03/27/98	03/30/98	AEGEE European Film Festival	conference	Szeged
03/29/98	04/04/98	European School 1998 Spring	internal education	Turku/Abo
04/09/98	04/12/98	Present Political & Economic Relationships between Germany & P	conference	Gdansk
04/10/98	04/12/98	How safe is Fortress Europe?	conference	Amsterdam
04/13/98	04/16/98	Sexuality in Europe	conference	Leiden
04/17/98	04/19/98	AGORA Spring 1998	statutory	Maastricht
04/20/98	04/22/98	Electronic Media	conference	Delft
04/23/98	04/26/98	Quo vadis Slovakia?	conference	Bratislava
04/24/98	04/26/98	Poland seen by Ukrainians-Ukraine seen by Poles	conference	Lviv
05/01/98	05/03/98	Co-operation over Frontiers	AEGEE meeting	Lviv
05/08/98	05/10/98	«Brainstorm» - Exploring the Mind	conference	Wien
05/08/98	05/10/98	Music, experienceyour Lifestyle!	conference	Rotterdam
05/08/98	05/10/98	Alltag	conference	Bonn
05/09/98	05/09/98	Journée de l'Europe	celebration	all over Europe
05/12/98	05/15/98	European Integration in Process of Cultural Communications	conference	Moscow
05/14/98	05/17/98	Poland-A Bridge between East & West	conference	Warszawa
05/15/98	05/17/98	From cloning a sheep to cloning a Human being	conference	Kyiv
05/20/98	05/24/98	Pax Westphalica Anno 1648 European Peace Congress	conference	Münster/ Osnabrück
05/21/98	05/26/98	Quest for Competence Towards a Knowledge Society	conference	Enschede
05/28/98	05/31/98	European Cinema - Get the Picture!	conference	Passau
06/05/98	06/07/98	Waste I - a European approach	conference	Augsburg
06/11/98	06/14/98	Facing the New East	conference	Frankfurt/Oder
07/05/98	07/19/98	Special European School	internal education	Ljubljana
09/04/98	09/06/98	Presidents' Meeting Autumn 1998	statutory	Cagliari
10/01/98	10/04/98	Crossing the Boundaries	conference	Koeln
10/22/98	10/26/98	AGORA Autumn 1998	statutory	Hamburg
10/29/98	11/01/98	Surviving the 21st Century Chances for a Sustainable Society	conference	Heidelberg

