



**ASSOCIATION
DES
ETATS
GENERAUX
DES
ETUDIANTS
DE
L'EUROPE**

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EDITORIAL

What's the most important factor of any action like organising an Agora or publishing NB ?

Isn't it a team ?

No individual can bear a task of preparing an event. Even the strongest individuals have to find partners so that they can succeed in doing their job. But very often, when they join forces, one question appears : who is the leader ? The following questions are : Should I treat our leader seriously? Whose opinion (or order) is more important - mine or leader's one ?

On the Agora, we choose our leader - president of AEGEE. Wouldn't be better to answer mentioned questions first?!

There is more questions we face in Budapest at Agora Meeting.

AEGEE starts its second tenth. How shall it look like ?

In the first (not pilot) issue of NB you may not find the final answer for this question, although we publish another chapter of discussion about our organisation.

Of course, one can find these subjects not interesting. To draw his attention to our beloved paper, we propose also an interview with AEGEE VIP, some 'up to date' informations from CD Newsletter and, as usual, a calendar of events.

In this issue we would like to introduce to you a new rubric: Antennae Self-Presentation. The first - AEGEE- Enschede. Next, there are about 139 to come...

The last but not least : we are still waiting for your opinions about NB. Once we get them we know what should be changed. It's a great pleasure to see articles coming from all over the Europe. Nevertheless, there is one big discomfort : almost nobody care about deadlines. You ought to know that we are pleased to publish every text appearing on AEGEE - list, but once the deadline is slighted, we are not able to do it. So, try to treat our deadlines like the date of exams!

Have a nice time reading NB !

Konrad Niklewicz

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The Future of AEGEE-Europe - Suggestions for its main aims in 1996 by Jordi Capdevila and Christoph Strohm, members of AEGEE

Although AEGEE has been successfully working on its aim, to promote the European idea, for ten years now, it will need more time until a more united Europe (in whatever form or structure) can be created by truly European

Citizens. AEGEE should improve its efforts in fulfilling this important role in the European Society, especially within the student's world. It is the task of the Comité Directeur to lead AEGEE according to its aims.

In 1996 there are three groups of tasks which we think should be initiated or fulfilled by AEGEE, led by its board of executing Directors, the Comité Directeur.

These are:

1. the structural improvement and reorganisation of the European level of AEGEE,
2. the important themes as set out in the Yearplan for 1996 and the objectives of primary concern as set out in the Long Term Program (LTP)
- 3.- The Improvement of relations with other associations and Institutions.

1. - Structural improvement and reorganisation of AEGEE-Europe There are several factors in the organisation of AEGEE-Europe that seem to paralyse the development of AEGEE. Most of them are structural problems in the Comité Directeur hindering the Comité Directeur to fulfil its duty to lead the association.

a) The Comité Directeur

The Comité Directeur as it is now are up to 16 people working in all different places in Europe on the task of directing AEGEE. They try to coordinate their efforts by regular communication and meetings. This coordination is problematic for very practical reasons. Meetings can only be held every 6 to 8 weeks because they presuppose travelling (which limits availability and time) and costs (about 1800 ECUs per meeting). Communication is also cost intensive, but the main problem here is that in reality direct responses (or even discussions) are impossible because even if the Comité Directeur communicates by calling, there can never be all people involved. E-mail gives a chance to communicate cheaply and quickly, however availability is still very different throughout Europe (many students can only use it twice a week or less). For these reasons it is hardly possible for the Comité Directeur to find a decision between meetings. The situation will be different, once the members of the Comité Directeur live and work together in one place. Then it would resemble the situation of local boards, where everybody can meet everyone else at any point of time to talk things over and travelling and communication costs will decrease. This place

should be in Brussels. The location of the future head office has the advantage of the closeness of most European Institutions and youth platforms. That's where AEGEE receives a lot of support, not only financially. In order to work more efficiently, the Comité Directeur should be smaller. If there are less people involved, decision making will be easier and quicker. Since the work will not get less but rather more voluminous, the members of the Comité Directeur will have to spend more time on AEGEE. They can only do this, if they are liberated from other concerns such as working to pay their expenses or having to pass a lot of exams at the same time. Therefore members of a professional Comité Directeur working full time for AEGEE should be paid an amount high enough to live in Brussels. By this also the contact to the Network can be improved, because the Comité Directeur will be reachable at the one place everybody knows. It will furthermore be of an advantage that all CD-Members can have direct access to the central archives and facilities.

b) Other members active on the European level (the middle-level)

A smaller and more professional Comité Directeur should focus on its main tasks. This should be not only administering AEGEE (as stated in the Statutes of AEGEE-Europe) but even more developing AEGEE by leading it towards the future. A smaller Comité Directeur will not have the time to concentrate on everything. It will have to focus on only the most important tasks, which are mainly coordination- and motivation tasks. AEGEE needs a level between the Comité Directeur and the Locals, an organisational middle-level. This is not to be confused with a geographically based middle-level such as a regional or even national level. The organisational middle-level should consist of members from all Locals in Europe, it is part of the European level of AEGEE. It is the ideal place for all those who would like to go European but cannot commit all their time and energy to AEGEE. They can work there on smaller tasks together in pan-European teams. The smaller time involvement also makes the middle-level an ideal place to learn about AEGEE and to prepare for the Comité Directeur. Those people can be responsible for different tasks like Publications, Fundraising, Public relations, relations with special institutions, etc.

2. - The important themes as set out in the Yearplan for 1996 and the objectives of primary concern as set out in the Long Term Program (LTP)

a) The Yearplan for 1996

The important topics as set out in the Yearplan for 1996 that should be fulfilled by AEGEE are:

- European Citizenship - Our New Identity?
- Towards a Unified Europe

- The Information Society - A New Condition of Living? Those topics have been appointed as priority subjects to be discussed in 1996, due to the importance that they will acquire in the coming months. Also, the Long Term Program proposes for 1996 to focus in the Future of a unified Europe. The Euromediterranean Conference and the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) will be two events in the social and political life of our continent that will mark a new background for the construction of Europe. AEGEE should play an active role in these discussions that will be held all over Europe. We, as a students' Association, should try to explain to the governments, European institutions, and all the other social derisory elements what students think about that. Essential aspects as the possibility of the enlargement of the European Union are basic to keep the process of integration going. Europe should find the appropriate way to integrate all countries in a unity, taking into consideration the cultural, social and economic differences. Also, the relations with the Mediterranean countries are vital. Europe can not ignore their neighbours, who are sharing the Mediterranean sea. At the moment, concepts as Global Village can be heard so frequently that Europe should not try to close into itself. New and prosperous relations should be created. In this ambience, the feeling of being a truly European citizen should be taken into consideration. As the Yearplan says, „The Europeans can support the building of Europe by taking part in its construction. Being European is a new awareness, a new way of thinking about our identity and position in society. We now have to participate in society with an European approach and conscious of a bigger responsibility „Finally, the last but not less important topic that will be discussed is The Information Society, an international new concept. The society is changing due to new ways of communication. New advances in the Media, the Computer Technology or the Information Highways will be a real revolution in the coming years. We, as young people, should be conscient of future changes, in order to be an important part of this new society that is coming.

b) The Long Term Program (LTP)

The objectives of primary concern as set out in the LTP for 1996 are:

- (1) The Future of a Unified Europe
- (2) Network Expansion and Network Development Campaign
- (3) European Mobility Scheme and its Implementation

(1) The Future of a Unified Europe

The first topic is already commented in the previous paragraph, so let's focus on the other points.

(2) Network Expansion and Network Development Campaign One of the primary objectives as defined in the LTP is the expansion, development and evaluation of the Network of AEGEE-Europe. After the Presidents' Meeting in Barcelona we have 139 Locals (= Antennae and Contact Antennae) in the Network of AEGEE-Europe and there are currently about 40 Contacts established in yet other towns all over Europe.

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European level

Conferences:

Bonn 16-18.02 1996 Opening conference:
A whither Europe

This conference is meant to be an introduction to the European structure and the issues at stake at the Intergovernmental Conference. The complex structure of the EU system will be explained, analysed and discussed.

Gorizia 7-10.3 1996 Common foreign and security policy- Which direction for the EU?

Focus will be the CFSP after a possible enlargement:

The role of Nato as a non European organisation and its role within a common policy, internal(ethnic) problems of „new“ EU members a.o.

Warszawa 11-14.04 1996 „Enlargement of the EU and its consequences“

The impact a possible enlargement will have on the social as well as the economical structure going out. Also consequences for the security aspects after an enlargement will be point of this conference.

Munich 29-31.03 1996 „Nationality European ?-European Citizenship

European integration and identity and its interrelation as well as the chance for people's Europe in the Maastricht II shall be focus. Involvement and participation of the citizens as the key for European Citizenship will be basis for its conference.

Maastricht April/May 1996 Final conference:

This final conference gives a chance to discuss the results of the processing conferences and the results of Understanding Europe with specialists in the different fields.

This thematic resume will be the ultimate point for the results brochure, published shortly afterwards.

Local level

Symposium

Podium discussion

IGC University action/ information day lectures

local joint-venture with other student groups

so far participating in the network:

Athina (UE) Delft (UE) Enschede

Freiburg Heidelberg Leeds Lettven

Ljubljana (UE) Mainz/Wiesbaden (UE)

Tilburg *others interested locals to be confirmed*

Network activities

Internet team:

WWW-pages

Igc-server: email discussion

*minutes of workshops

*information

*leaflet and other publications on email

Publication team:

-European Parliament hearing

*document elaboration and preparation
-articles in magazines/newspapers

*publication

*collection of published articles

-poster for conference chain

-preparation of results brochure

Internet:

*IGC listserver:

aegee-igc@ask.informatik.rwth-aachen.de

Subscription to:

aegee-igc request@ask.informatik.rwth-aachen.de

text: „subscribe“<email address>

„WWW pages:

http://wwwcip.informatik.uni-erlangen.de./

user/fkfarmse.html

AEGEE EUROPE new address !!:

Tina Doerfer

PO BOX 244

NL 2600 AE DLFT

FAX:+31.15.786933

Mollwitzstr.5/503

D-14059 Berlin

Fax: +49.221.405003

Getting money from EU : the right way.

Not all the applications sent to Brussels can have a subvention. This is due to different factors: less interest in the topic presented; many applications for the same subjects from other different youth organisations; no integration with the EU policy in that period. The CD responsible for EU institutions has to take care of the presentation of the applications; has to contact (several times) the Commission responsible via phone and with a written brochure; has to introduce during personal meeting in Brussels the application.

The antenna has to write down a very aesthetic brochure, with a very interesting European topic, in which there has to be:

1-a general introduction of AEGEE and of the organising antenna (past activities),

2-a specific presentation of the conference, explaining the aims which they would like to achieve, the source of the interest towards that specific topic;

3-a draft of the programme (not the final one but more or less the official one);

4-a draft of the budget, as more realistic as possible. Don't think to have from the EU the whole subvention of your project! You have to show in it a very professional way of doing things, that means: a good PR and a good fundraising. In the budget there are expenses but also incomes, of course.

5-an explanations of the budget: why some expenses and why some others.

6- a list of the patrons and a list of the requested speakers. If you need speakers from the EU, make it clear in general presentation or and this is better, ask the CD responsible to write some lines for this.

After all of this, you have to wait. In fact you don't receive an immediate answer, especially if you send the application to the general Commissions. After two months is it possible (the CD responsible) to have an answer. If it is possible you have to show the final draft of the programme, of the list of speakers, of the budget; if it is negative you have to work for AEGEE in general... After having received the OK, you will have the first 80% of the subvention when you will show the receipts of the money spent, the last 20% will be given later on. Don't forget to give the 10% to AEGEE Europe. This is not because AEGEE Europe is money -maker but because AEGEE Europe spends a lot in travel costs, in Phone and fax costs for the CD responsible for your application. Of course, together with the financial report you have to include a general report of the organised conference: this is because in this way you show a very professional and serious way and because the Commissions has to put in the archives the proofs of the subvention given to us.

Sometimes it happens that there are some troubles, as for example the application has to be sent two or three times in different Commissions... It means a waste of time of months, especially if there are holidays in between. Bureaucracy is always bureaucracy, but Don't take it as a pure waste of time.. It might be fruitful financially speaking.

Last important thing is the period of applications. Of course it is better to send everything at the end of the year because they have to plan the activity if the coming year. Don't forget to send the applications 6 months before your event because one couldn't imagine their bureaucratic time...

Claudia Cavali

AEGEE AWARD

It is sure that you have already heard of the idea of creating an AEGEE Award. There was such an idea about two years ago. Nice idea, but nobody really worried about working it out properly. It will be different this time.

The Idea:

present the award to people we can totally identify with. He or she should not be too much older than we are. Most important of all: it should not be a person that is already well known throughout Europe. The awarded person should really need our award & support.

What is our support?

We do what we are best at: organise a congress about the person's work. Attract media attention to him or her and -attract media attention to AEGEE!!! We could present the award at changing places thus promoting the idea of AEGEE all over our continent.

Why?

Because the ideals of our generation will be at stake today -and in a couple of years we will be in a position to enforce them. United with the awarded person we are stronger. We could also encourage each other.

Kai.

CD Info Page



NEWSLETTER

Delft, October 15th, 1995

CD-Mailing

Since Delft university warned us not to send out too much stuff (otherwise we have to pay more) it is really necessary, before sending leaflets, flyers or brochures to the office, to ask if it is possible that your stuff can go with the mailing. In this way we can avoid that 2 envelopes have to be sent per local per mailing. So, if you want to include something, call us to see whether enough space is available and send enough copies (ca. 250) to the office. We cannot copy your posters/leaflets/flyers for you! Suzanne

Payment of Membershipfees

This Agora, the membershipfees for all antennae and contact-antennae to be paid, are collected again. The calculation should be known, it is: (local membershipfee) x (amount of local members) x 12.5%. Of course you also have to hand in an activity report, and a member's list. Financial report is only to be handed in at the Spring Agorad's !! Please let me now, by faxing to Delft or sending an E-mail, if you're going to do your payment at the Agora or via bankorder. The deadline for the payment of Mfees by bank is Wednesday, 1st of November !! Lennert

10th Anniversary

Final Conference

This will be the concluding event of all anniversary activities. During the conference both the general developments in Europe and AEGEE's role in it will be discussed. Topics are for example the East-West contrast, the value of AEGEE for society and the persistence of nationalism in Europe. The subjects will be handled during lectures, workshops and forum discussions. In this way everybody can participate actively. Naturally a special social programme will be offered, so time enough to meet everybody again! Organising Committee

Account numbers of AEGEE-Europe

ABN-AMRO account (Netherlands): 56.64.53.851 CommerzBank account (Germany): 55.29714.00 Bank Code: 370.400.44 SWIFT Code: COBADEFF 370 Budapest Bank Rt. (Hungary): 208-38481-7007 (EHE-BP)

DEADLINES

CD Newsletter: Friday, November 17th, 1995 Autumn Agora/PM: Friday, December 1st, 1995 EU Subventions: At least six months in advance BMBF: April 1st 1996

Phare Tacis Democracy Programme

Still we are very happy and proud that the Commission of the European Communities has approved of the application we have made for a wide scope of projects in our Central and Eastern European antennae, during the whole of 1996. For the organising teams of these events are also provided training courses, a Mini-University and a Training Week. The majority of the participants of the Mini-University and the training course, being part of the PTDP programme, will be members of the forum organising teams who will be delegated by the partner organisation that organises these events. The other participants will come from AEGEE locals not taking an active part in the PTDP project, but who are potential organisers of similar projects outside the scope of this project. They will be selected on the basis of their application form and motivation letter. Priority will be given to applicants from the so-called d'Newly Independent States' (NIS). Further details for application and the organisation of the events will be provided in the workshops in Budapest. Jeroen, Szilvia

Distribution to Institutions

At the moment a huge mailing of 10th Anniversary books towards the European Commission and the Parliament is being arranged on the basis of a database of almost 2.000 addresses. This means a very good promotion for AEGEE-Europe within the European Institutions and will help us in the future. Jeroen, Lennert, Suzanne

Press Mirror

At the Agora in Budapest the first issue of the Press Mirror will be distributed. It contains a number of articles on AEGEE-events, which were published in different newspapers in the first six months of this year. We are very happy to have found already a successor (AEGEE-Maastricht) for this initiative at the Presidents' Meeting and we wish them lots of success with this project. Javier, Richard Lemloh, Lennert

Understanding Europe

The scheme for the d'Understanding Europe'-project has been developed further on at the PM in Barcelona. In this PM workshop we have set the points of discussion for the regional d'Understanding Europe'-meetings. We also discussed the way this project is and can be a promotional tool for AEGEE. For this we involved the PRWG. The antennae which are going to organise the regional d'Understanding Europe'-meetings are Mainz/Wiesbaden, Delft in co-operation with Utrecht, Ljubljana, Athina and. Further information can be obtained by us, and of course in the workshops at the Agora in Budapest. Dimitris, Roman Noack, Vincent van Dijk

Members Commission

At the PM in Barcelona the Members Commission was called together to make a decision on the „Bucuresti-case". Having taken all evidence and facts into consideration they have decided to propose to the Agora the exclusion of AEGEE-Bucuresti from our network as they harm our name by abusing the network for personal gains. If you want to join this Commission, then there is the change to candidate yourself at the Agora, since new members are needed from that moment on. CD

Intergovernmental Conference 1996 (IGC)

The IGC activities have progressed very much at the PM thanks to interested people and engaged antennae. The next workshop will be held at the Agora in Budapest. Until then I am still looking and very much encouraging people and antennae to participate in the local activities around the IGC. The same counts for the Internet- or public-relations/publishing team. Interested people who want to know more about it can subscribe to the IGC-server, read the WWW-pages and can also get in touch with either me directly or via the Head office. Tina

Contacts to European/National Institutions

Approaches to European institutions such as the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) etc., are normally done by the CD in cooperation with the locals. Approaches to most (but not all) national institutions can be done by the locals themselves after informing the CD. In these cases the CD just coordinates the approaches, to make sure that your contact is not disturbed by someone else from AEGEE. In our statutes it is written that when the CD does not respond within two weeks after a local contacts them, the local can go ahead and make the contact. CD

Autumn Agora & Presidents' Meeting

We have noticed that it is very difficult for antennae to organise a PM or Agora if they only get selected to organise this event a couple of months before it is supposed to take place. Therefore we decided to have the deadline for the Autumn 1996 Agora and PM very early. It is set at the first of December 1995. If all applications are in at this time, the CD can take a decision on this at its second meeting after the election, at the beginning of December. This will give the organising antennae enough time to work on the organisation. Think about applying!!! CD

SOCRATES

All the information about SOCRATES („Guide for applicants"; general info material; application forms etc.) will be available in your own University starting in September. In the meantime, you can read the text of this wonderful programme on the: „Official journal of the European Communities (20th of April 1995)". No L 87/10. Decision No 819/95/EC of the EP and the Council.

We support a Europe-wide campaign for Soc-

rates: - promote the European dimension in universities; - encourage student mobility and the Erasmus grants - promote and implement the ECTS System - support mobility of teaching staff - implement multi or inter-disciplinary euro-modules in our curricula - include languages of the EU as integral part of our studies - introduce new technologic means of communications to improve open and distance education We want to bring mobile students to Europe and Europe to immobile students. The EWG is looking for people willing to join us in this project. For further information, please contact either me or Monique Frijns. For info and documents about ECTS, call Marielle Rutten. Alessandra

Projects in Tuzla

At the PM in Barcelona we came up with the following projects for our new contact in Tuzla: (library-project; we will try to find (money for) books which students in Tuzla need. These books will be stored in a special student library in the university of Tuzla. From our contact in Tuzla we asked which books they specifically need and how to transport them. We try either (in case of English language books) to find to books or to find money to purchase them. (English language courses; students in Tuzla are eager to learn English, which enables them to communicate with foreigners, study from foreign books etceteras. The idea is that we look for English teachers willing to work for a few months in Tuzla or go there ourselves as assistant teachers. (Computer courses; computers are more and more a part of everyday life everywhere, also in Tuzla. Many students are eager to learn how to use computers. The idea is that we can teach them with our own experience and provide them with learning material. CD,

HRWG

CD on the move...

Once again some new addresses of CD-members! You can also find them in the address book up dates.

Csilla: Borups All, 126 c, 3tv DK- 2000 Frederiksberg Tel: + 45-383 30739

Tina: Mollwitzstr. 5/503 D- 14059 Berlin Tel: not yet

Johannes: 10 B 663 Kringsja Studentby Sognsveien 218 N-0864 Oslo Tel: + 47-221 88801

The e-mail numbers of Johannes and Csilla remain the same, Tina is not reachable via e-mail. You can always try the head-office in Delft. Suzanne

Convention d'Adhèsion

At the PM in Barcelona the following AEGEE-contacts signed the Convention d'Adhèsion and became contact-antennae: Cagliari, s'Hertogenbosch, Kiel and Kosice. Once more congratulations to all! CD

Fundraising Network

In accordance with the idea of the creation of a fundraising network the direct contact between AEGEE-Europe and Shell shall be for account of the board of AEGEE-Delft. Of course the responsibility still lays in the hand of the fundraising responsible of AEGEE-Europe. Werner Naar, Lennert

CD-decisions

In order to improve the communication between the network and the Comit, Directeur we publish a list with the most important decisions taken at each meeting. At the CD-meeting before the Presidents' Meeting the following decisions were taken:

- The task for European Projects have been officially taken over for EMDS, TEAM and CHAMP by Lennert. The Summer University project will get CD assistance by Claudia. - The CD will present a proposal for the move of AEGEE-Europe, the office and the CD-members, to Brussels. This will include a reduced amount of CD-members taking care of the already defined tasks (Agora Utrecht), being able to work full time as they will be financially supported. This implies a change in the structure of our association. - The subvention for Working Groups will not be paid directly to the WG-treasurers anymore. The d'budgetlined' is the responsibility of the WG-responsible in the CD and he can grant applications for specific projects. - For the time being AEGEE-Europe will financially support the forthcoming issues of the NewsBulletin. - As a try-out we decided to have a series of AEGEE-Europe items to be sold and spread at the Agora in Budapest. - After the Final Conference we will organise a meeting for „the oldies”, which will be useful for both parties. The CD can get advices and the oldies will be kept informed on what is recently going on within AEGEE. This meeting will become a yearly event. Tina is the main-responsible for the meeting after the Final Conference. - Different people within the CD are going to write articles on specific AEGEE-topics, like the Yearplan, the IGC and the PTDP, to be published in the next issue of the Newsbulletin, in order to explain these matters in a more extensive way. - The following contact-antennae became antennae: Castellanza, Liège, Peiraia, Skopje, Tartu and Vannes. Congratulations to all!

CD

ANTENNAE self presentation



May I introduce you to... AEGEE-Enschede

Last night, I had just arrived home from an AEGEE-weekend in a lodging-house, when they called me and asked if I could write a portrait of AEGEE-Enschede for this magazine. Having had about five hours of sleep during the entire week-end, I was kind of tired, but I am glad to have this opportunity. So I will try to give an introduction to our local, as we did last week-end to our new members.

Enschede is a town of about 150 000 inhabitants in the East of The Netherlands. In Enschede, there are about 20 000 students. They study at the University of Twente (most technology and applied sciences) and the Hogeschool Enschede. In 1987, some students at the University became familiar with AEGEE and founded AEGEE-Enschede. AEGEE-Enschede has developed from a small group of friends to an association with committees and other structures and a board that consists of five persons. At the moment, AEGEE-Enschede has about 200 members. Since 1987, AEGEE-Enschede has organised the conferences «The World Behind Beer» (April 1992), «Central Europe Ltd.» (co-operation with AEGEE-Warszawa, October 1994) and «Asia, A Changing World» (December 1994). Also, there have been two Summer Universities in Enschede: «Europe United» in 1993 and «Communication and Information Technology» last Summer.

A picture of the structure of AEGEE-Enschede would show two parts. The first consists of committees that organise activities or are necessary for continuity of the local. For example, there is a committee that organises small events like excursions and there is a group of members that publishes the Euronews, our magazine. Other committees concentrate on public relations or fund-raising et cetera. Next to that, we have a department of both the East-West and the North-South Working Group.

The second part of the structure is the part that most AEGEE-locals don't have, that is why I want to characterise it here. Within AEGEE-Enschede we also have Year Groups and three «Disputen», a kind of Fraternities. A Year Group consists of members who became members of AEGEE in the same year. They have chosen to form this group of friends soon after they became member. Thus, it has proved to be a very good way for new members to get to know each other and AEGEE-Enschede. A «Disputut» is vertically orientated. It is not really the same as a Fraternity, which is why I will stick to the Dutch word. A «Disputut» is a group of friends who became member in at least four different years. Most of them are or have been very active. The «Disputen» get some new members every year. A «Disputut» helps older members to stay involved in the

association on one hand, and on the other hand, it gives the younger members the chance to learn from the older ones because of the very tight bonds of friendship. Both the Year Groups and the «Disputen» have to be approved of by the board. This means that they have obligations towards AEGEE-Enschede. They are obliged to organise at least one event each year. These events differ from a cultural week-end in Reims to a symposium in Enschede. So the groups contribute to the association in a very positive way and they actually keep the local vital.

The members of AEGEE-Enschede meet every Wednesday. We rent a pub from another students' association for our weekly meeting and for parties. Our pub is named Asterion, after the brother of the ancient Greek goddess Europa. According to the myths, Asterion rescued Europa from Zeus, who kidnapped her. Though we have our own people behind the bar and at the door, the pub is still open for everyone who is passing by. Still, it gives us the possibility to organise events at pub meetings and create our own atmosphere.

Of course, like every other AEGEE-local, AEGEE-Enschede has its own characteristics. In the above-mentioned, I have tried to explain some. Doing that, I hope you have become a little familiar to our local. You might meet one of our members someday, they can tell you more about AEGEE-Enschede. But perhaps you will join an activity in Enschede in future: the best way of getting to know a local is to visit the local yourself. We will be glad to meet you in Enschede!

Sjoerd van de Geijn



WORKING GROUPS



Working Groups make Europe work

Promoting the European idea among the European youth requires more than regular meetings with like-minded friends in your local, or an occasional visit to a conference organised by an other local. It requires even more than organising an event for participants from other locals—even if it is one of the rare events with a substantive number of participants from abroad. Only working and living together with students coming from a cultural background differing from yours will give you a truly European experience. You have to make the daring step beyond the sheltered world of pub-meetings and regular progress in your studies, if you want to contribute to put the idea into practice. You will gain more from your European experience than you will ever be able to obtain from concentrating on your next exam. Make an effort and join a Working Group on the European level!

Working Groups are active in a variety of fields.

In September, the second Case Study Trip—after Albania it was Ukraine turn this time—took place organised by the East-West WG. The results, including a video-documentary, will be presented at the Agora in Budapest. Hopefully, this will encourage some of you to go in for the preparation of a third Case Study Trip. The EWWG also works on a visa-booklet, touching a field where AEGEE could contribute a whole lot of personal experience, and on facilitating partnerships between antennae. The latter being a project that has grown beyond East-West relations, becoming a means to add a European experience to those local members' lives who are not active on the European level.

After thorough evaluation the Education WG will launch a campaign to promote the new EU-exchange programme SOCRATES during the coming year. Even before the last of the academics celebrating the 10th anniversary of our association—"Education and Discrimination" in Kobenhavn—plans for a conference on new technological means of education and the information society in general taking place next year are becoming more concrete. Furthermore, the EWG co-operates with other organisations to inform students at secondary schools about European integration, studies relevant documents in order to gain competence, and adds a students' point of view at international conferences.

1995 was declared European Nature Conservation Year by the Council of Europe. The Environmental WG is concentrating its efforts to contribute in a meaningful way. Interest in organising environmental events has always been

deep within AEGEE. The EnvWG wants to resume the tradition to publish the results of environmental events throughout a year, closing the gap with a 1993-95 edition. 1996 will witness efforts to examine „Quality of Life in our Cities”.

Throughout this year, the Human Rights WG has made efforts to keep the former Yugoslavia on AEGEE's agenda. The HRWG was involved in the Etudiants pour Sarajevo-campaign, and tried to find ways to support students in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The HRWG contributed to bring students from all involved parties in the former Yugoslavia closer to Europe. A second focus has been the All Different—All Equal campaign launched by the Council of Europe.

Interest in the preparatory work for the Inter-governmental Conference 1996 is uniting a group of people who want to discuss current developments on the way to „Maastricht II”. Counting down to the IGC, a number of events will be organised with a possible intellectual input of subscribers to the IGC-list server.

The Job Fair WG is working on a data base providing information on vacancies for internships.

We are owing a lot to the OneEurope WG for a high-level publication still improving issue by issue. The OneEurope Magazine is making itself a name far beyond the borders of Europe via the WorldWideWeb. Publishing such a magazine in regular intervals requires continuous work and dedication.

As rumour has it, the North-South WG, supposedly occupied with indigenous people, and the Europe-of-the-Regions WG, having enjoyed itself playing the Sleeping Beauty for quite some time now, will be back alive and kicking at the Agora in Budapest.

Supporting Working Groups are the Internet User Group and the Travel Team, both providing important services for AEGEE-members. The IUG provides AEGEE with cheap means of communication which are easy to use, such as the main list-server: aegce@ask.uni-karlsruhe.de; your way to get in touch with the CD: aegce-euro@ask.uni-karlsruhe.de; and list-servers for the various Working Groups (see below). The Travel Team organises cheap transportation to bigger AEGEE-events. Last not least, the Public Relations WG supports the

CD-members working with PR. Their main activities are the „Understanding Europe” project, creating awareness among students, PR-academies, making students fit for PR-work, the press-mirror, collecting articles on AEGEE, and supportive PR-work for other Working Groups.

The Working Groups suffer from a lack of YOUR participation! Most of their boards have problems to find successors who are ready to become the driving force needed to motivate group members to work. By now, most Working Groups are equipped with a list-server facilitating communication at zero-cost. However,

communication on most of these servers is non-existent. At the Agora in Budapest all Working Groups will present moral reports informing you about their activities.

>From next year on, Working Group-expenses will be reimbursed according to certain rules and their individual needs. Reimbursement for participation in conferences, as well as meetings at institutions which AEGEE is in contact with, can be reimbursed under certain conditions. Thus, an other obstacle to a more active role of Working Groups struggling for competence, doing their utmost to become a reliable partner of European institutions, both informing and criticising, and attempting to shape opinion within and outside of AEGEE is eventually removed.

Do not cocoon yourself in your antenna—let's build Europe together!

Working Group-servers:

East-West WG
aegce.ewwg@lists.ut.ee

Education WG
education-wg@lists.ut.ee

Environmental WG
aegce+envwg@abmx.rz.rwth-aachen.de

Human Rights WG
hrwg@lists.ut.ee

Intergovernmental Conference
igc@informatik.rwth-aachen.de

Internet User Group
aegceint@ask.uni-karlsruhe.de

Job Fair WG
aegce.jfwg@lists.ut.ee

North-South WG
aegce.nswg@kadri.ut.ee

OneEurope WG
oem@rwth-aachen.de

Public Relations WG
aegce.prwg@lists.ut.ee

Working Group contacts:

Europe-of-the-Regions WG
aegce@cerber.mat.ub.es (AEGEE-Barcelona)

Travel Team
aegce@studver.rulimburg.nl (AEGEE-Maastricht)

Johannes Kind,
CD Co-ordination
of Working Groups

Internet Info Page



AEGEE and Internet

All right - I assume everybody knows already what is Internet and what is it actually for (at least in general terms). After reading my previous article you must have had your Internet account installed and you even know how to send a message to your cousin in Australia.

But as an ideal AEGEE member you should also know something about how Internet can be useful in your intra-organization work. Of course you can limit yourself to simple exchange of single messages with your AEGEE mates abroad, but what for instance when you want to inform whole Europe about your forthcoming conference or express negative feelings towards the SU organizers?

The most simple thing is to send your message to AEGEE mailing list, located in Karlsruhe. All the messages sent to this list are automatically delivered to all subscribers of the list. But remember: only people subscribed to the list can take advantage of it. To subscribe, it's enough to send a simple message "subscribe aegee <your first name> <your last name> <city>" to the address listproc@ask.uni-karlsruhe.de. Afterwards you will receive all the AEGEE-related information directly to your account (be prepared for spending hours on reading it - it comes in enormous quantities). You send your own messages directed to all

the list subscribers to the address aegee@ask.uni-karlsruhe.de. The messages should be normally identified by a subject indicator in the subject line. The most typical subject indicators are: **+info+** for announcements or info of general information, **+disc+** for discussions, **+address+** for address changes, **+cal+** for Calendar of Events, **+travel+** to find people to travel with, **+cd+** for information concerning the Comité Directeur and **+su+** for Summer Universities info. Also some working groups (like OEM WG or EWG) have their own mailing lists. If you are interested, you should contact them directly.

From time to time you may need to get some files on AEGEE (e.g. the AEGEE - logo) and you cannot find a source. It's also very easy: use FTP (File Transfer Protocol). It was designed to transfer files from and to a remote computer. A lot of AEGEE data is to be found at the address <ftp://ask.uni-karlsruhe.de> in the directory *pub/aegee* and its sub-directories. You can get the data that is necessary for you using the command *get <file name>*. You can also put data of general interest in the directory *pub/aegee/tmp* with the command *put <file name>*. To access the FTP site, login as "anonymous" and enter your e-mail address as password.

The most powerful Internet information system - WWW is also our ally. There is an AEGEE homepage located at the address <http://www.uni-konstanz.de/studis/aegee>. A few AEGEE locals have their own WWW homepages, containing information. You can try the AEGEE - Warszawa homepage under the address (so called UTL) <http://elf.sgh.waw.pl/org/aegee/aegee.html>. However, to take advantage of WWW treasures, you need a browser program such as Lynx, Mosaic or Netscape. With one of this browsers, surfing online is the easiest and most pleasant thing you can imagine.

It is also possible to find AEGEE data in Gopher, another information system. It is designed as a bunch of menus, with menu entries leading to a file (document, picture, etc.) or the next menu. The AEGEE Gopher can be accessed at <gopher.tue.nl:70> in the menu path: *faculteiten, AEGEE*.

I hope now you are able to make out how useful and powerful the tool at your disposal is. The last piece of advice I can give you is: if the number of hours you spend online exceeds six a day, you can be proud of the cybermaniac title, however you should better contact your psychiatrist.

This article is based upon the information provided in the AEGEE Address Book (May'95 edition).

Michał
Rudziecki
rudy123m@plem.edu.pl
AEGEE- Warszawa

Letters



Dear AEGEE News Bulletin,
for the first time in the last five years You gave me the impression that we are going to have soon a new issue of the News Bulletin, that's why I take paper and pen and try to write down something about the discussion between AEGEE Sivilla and Lorenz Spillner seen in the No1, September 1995.

I think that Juan Antonio, Lorenz and Julietta mentioned one of the most important problems of beloved Network, but seems that they didn't know this!

I totally agree with Juan Antonio when he shows his wishes for the applications of the many new members from AEGEE Sivilla, it would be questionable for years, dear Lorenz, about quality and quantity in AEGEE, about motivation, our ideas, aims and projects and so on... And I'm pretty sure that Juan well knows all of these, but the surviving of one single Antenna (we are talking about this, aren't we?) depends on money, besides ideas, aims and members of quality. Membership fees are one of the most important and regular incomes that the Antenna has every year. More members, more fees, and everybody knows that a lot of people is involved into the AEGEE only because the Summer Universities. Should we now consider this a negative fact? Oh, not at all! Every application of an "opportunistic" member I sent, it was a big investment, many of them returned filled up of wish to work for the

Antenna and get submersed by AEGEE. Summer Universities are usable also for this.

So I agree with Juan Antonio if he meant to say that he expected these Summer Universities to increase the amount of active members in Sivilla but I diverge by the evident way to introduce the participation at a Summer University to the non-members as a certain fact, subjected only to the local membership fee. Otherwise I would have 130 members I promised to send them somewhere; not a little problem...

What is interesting too: if it is true that new members accepted to S.U. are potentially new active ones, what about the already active and very active ones that aren't accepted?

The Summer University Co-ordination adopts an admission percentage method, so Lorenz, the quality vs. quantity controversy is forsaken *in pectore*.

New Summer University Co-ordination is introducing a proposal to change the actual system, giving much more decision power to the Antennae and maintaining, on my opinion, a supervisor out of focus role, discomposing every sort of "Kompetenz-Kompetenz", for sure a very risky move.

Aren't these three logical points of debating coming out from the above mentioned discussion that deserved to be developed?

P.Cassandra

What's in a name!

As a member of Aegee-Maastricht, I was lucky to visit the SU in Santiago in the summer of 1994. At that time there were some 30 participants from all over Europe (but no one from Poland, maybe because of Alfonso's name?). We had a great time and believe it or not ALFONSO made this SU to what it was. He did everything to make our stay as good as possible. He was always busy in making everybody happy and he succeeded in that. During our stay we noticed some problems with the cooperation with some other organisers, but this never caused any problems for the participants. From your article I can see that the loyalty among the AEGEE-Santiago members has been deteriorated ever since. You automatically choose the side of the inactives, the people who also caused your SU to be cancelled. I write this because I know Alfonso did everything until the last minute to make the SU of this year happen. In the first place AEGEE-Santiago was going to organise the SU with a team of 3 people! A few weeks later Alfonso was left alone with the responsibility to organise it. And he would have done it by himself - and I'm sure he would have succeeded in that - if he wasn't involved in an accident a few weeks before the start of the SU. I'm sure all the participants of SU-Santiago, would agree on my vision of the person Alfonso Martinez. Thank you again Alfonso for making our SU to what it was!!!

Sincerely yours,
Marjo Haanen.

P.S.: Dear Anna, if you want to blackmail a person, first try to find some real arguments instead of using somebody's name.





Interview with Heino van Houwelingen

A. General

1. What do you study?

I study Industrial Engineering at the University of Twente, university for technical and social sciences.

2. How old are you?

I am 22 years old.

3. Where do you live?

I live in Enschede in a house called «Rachmaninov» with three other AEGEE-members.

B. About AEGEE

1. How did you start with AEGEE?

I was introduced to AEGEE by a friend who had participated in the introduction period for new students at the university (I missed that because I was ill).

2. Do you regret that decision?

No, later I found out what AEGEE really was about and after that I was lost!

3. What are (and were) your main activities in AEGEE?

At the moment I am the Chairman of the AGORA, locally I am active in the EWWG and the NSWG and I'm organising a local symposium. Before I was president of AEGEE-Enschede, organised the conference «Central Europe Ltd.» (Warszawa and Enschede together) and a Summer University «Europe United».

4. What are your aims?

I have many aims, in general I am quite idealistic. With regard to AEGEE it is and has been my aim to make my contribution to shaping AEGEE as an association which brings people together from many cultures, learning from each other. To stimulate people to discover what AEGEE is really about: a beautiful association (GO INTO EUROPE!), to improve the quality of the network in order to make AEGEE an association creating some output towards the outside world and to show that a true long-distance, inter-cultural co-operation is possible (Central Europe Ltd.). So you see a lot of aims I am trying and have tried to contribute to (nothing more).

5. Are you satisfied with current state of AEGEE?

Yes and no. Already now AEGEE is an association which is achieving many things. We are working on our ideal of European integration and co-operation in a very practical way. Being a member is a lot of fun and I've learned a lot from it (you get both if you are active). But when I see the enormous potential that is inside AEGEE I know that a lot more could be done about the aims I pointed out before.

6. What would you change?

Many things, how many pages do you have for this interview?

7. Your future plans in AEGEE?

To do less and less (I really have to start putting my studies first) and to visit some small congresses (they have high participation, are very educational and have a great atmosphere). I also would like to participate in a Summer University instead of organising it.



C. Personality and life

1. What are you doing in your free time apart from AEGEE?

I am a member of the University Council, I like to listen to music, I used to read a lot (not anymore) and I like going to the pub with friends.

2. How would you describe yourself in two sentences?

They tell me I'm a busy guy who is quite idealistic and optimistic, I am considered to be quite chaotic and I talk too much. (Some say I'm friendly)

3. What is important for you?

Many things. In general it all comes back to love and responsibility. We all live together in this world and when we try to give each other some love everyday it will go a lot better in this world, a world for which we as intelligent human beings are responsible for. To be honest we are not doing a good job in these two most important things are we?

4. What do you value most of all in people?

Friendliness, the ability to be open and to share each others feelings

5. What do you dislike in them?

People trying to be tough, being insensitive to other peoples interests and feelings.

6. What do friends mean for you?

They are people I can feel at home with, having fun, forgetting about the work and problems. They are the ones I generally don't spend enough time with.

7. If you won 1 million ECU in the lottery (or cards), how would you spend this money?

I could say that I would give it all away, or that I would buy a nice stereo, but frankly I wouldn't know how much I would keep and how much I would give away to what. I am sure it would be a great dilemma, but I think I could better invest my time in solving other dilemmas useful for today.

8. Your biggest success?

That one is still to come.

9. Your biggest failure?

My exam of next week

10. Are you a happy man?

Not yet. I am positive that a time will come that I will be happy, but essential for that is a woman I can love for the rest of my life (I still have to be patient).

D. Hobbies and favourite things

1. Your favourite meal

My favourite meal is a long one with many courses. Eating with friends with good food and many bottles of wine. Talking, drinking and eating; a great combination. This favourite meal has to end with my favourite drink: Cognac (together with strong coffee).

2. Your favourite anecdote

I am not so good at telling funny stories, sorry

3. Favourite country / city

I always like to get out of the Netherlands but which country or city is my favourite? I wouldn't know.

4. Favourite football team

This is of course Ajax! (already many years)

5. Favourite person (politician, history, scientist or whatever)

There are many persons that are an example for me and others to follow, but since I am Christian my greatest example of how to live your life is Jesus Christ.

6. Your ideal type of woman?

She is sweet and beautiful, she is wise and would like to change the world a little bit. I'd really like to meet her!

INVESTIGATION IN KYIV

Here are news from AEGEE-Kyiv. We want to inform you about our members Artem Skrypka, Slavko Gregirchak and Dmytro Vityk. They are from the former board which functioned until the last local Agora in Kyiv. The main reason for reelection were some mistakes done by our local under their rule. Now we soroughly analysed past events and came to several conclusions:

- 1) The core of misconduct was not in personalities but in lack of knowledge about AEGEE structure and rules. This can be easily corrected with the help of internal education in our CA.
- 2) Looking objectively at money matters new board did not discovered any hidden amounts which were used for somebody's own purposes.
- 3) Actually there were no dictatorship here

and people could get the information about AEGEE events without any problems.

So, we decided: Standing aside personal matters and emotions not to exclude anybody from AEGEE. Especially, because these people did a lot of work establishing an antenna here in Kyiv. They will remain our members and we are sure will usefully participate in our common work. We ask everybody to except these people as normal AEGEEists and to consider such affairs as our local problems. We invite everybody from former CST group to ask for the information if you still have some claims or doubts. We work openly and will satisfy your inquires. Hope to meet you at Agora in Budapest. Anna Usikova, President of AEGEE-Kyiv.

of the military industry have been converted to produce civil goods now. In contrast to the freedom of European universities where students are free in choosing their lectures, Russian universities are organized like schools. Once you have choosen your subject, you don't have to worry about anything else. You are given a timetable which tells you exactly which lectures you have to attend, which exams you have to take and at what time. In former times you were even given a job after finishing university. The nice thing about it was that you were at least sure to get a job. Since about two or three years, not all students are offered a job after finishing university. Many get a so-called free diploma and have often problems in finding an appropriate work for themselves. At the end of each term, there are exams in all lectures you have attended. Usually these exams are not too complicated, but if you have not passed the exams, you will not be admitted to the next term. All Russian students get a scholarship of the state, independent of the income of his parents. The better are your results in the exams at the end of the term, the higher is your monthly scholarship. It has never been enough to live on it, because of the inflation is now only a small part of the money a student needs each month to live on. The quality of

university is very different in the various faculties. I can only judge about the physical faculty and can say that there is no big difference between

One year of voluntary exile in Siberia

From August 1991 until August 1992 I studied at the university of Tomsk in Siberia. Tomsk is - according to Russian standards - a small town of 500,000 inhabitants. It is an old town and was already founded in 1604, quite in contrast to many other Siberian towns. The town was very rich as it was a big trade centre on the way from China to Europe. Its importance was decreased dramatically when the main railway crossing Siberia was built at the end of last century, as it passed only close to Tomsk, but not through the town. Since that time, Novosibirsk gained in importance. Why would a German student go to Siberia for a study stay? Is it not possible to study physics in Germany, even under better conditions than in Tomsk? Some of my Russian fellow students never understood why I had come; for many of them their only aim was to find a way out of Russia. Having learned Russian at school already, my goal was to get to know the Russian life from inside, to live among Russians, formerly believed to be our „enemies“. I never believed in such propaganda and felt that the only way to overcome such prejudices was the establishment of direct contacts between Russia and the rest of Eu-

rope. There are quite a number of foreign students in Moscow and Sanct Peterburg. They usually live together in a special student's dormitory and find it hard to get in contact with Russians. In Tomsk I was the only foreign student at the university, so I had no such problems. Before choosing Tomsk for my year stay, I had been there for a month in 1990. It is easy to get to know people, because they are open and interested in foreigners. Many people in Tomsk had never met a foreigner in their life before. The town has been one of the „forbidden cities“ which were not accessibly to foreigners at all. The reason is the existence of a closed city nearby, Tomsk-7. It has no own name, the Russians themselves call such cities „yachic“ (box) as these towns cannot be found on any map, and do only exist as post boxes. Tomsk-7 is completely surrounded by barbed wire, day and night secured by military forces. What the 100,000 inhabitants do, is known only to a few people in all detail. It is sure that there are many nuclear plants built to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. Other military industry is located there as well. Today the privileges of the people working in these towns do no longer exist. Big parts

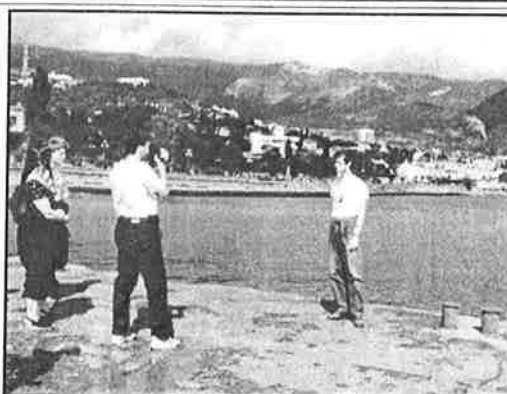
tween the level in Russia and in Germany. The equipment is much worse there, but performing experiments with old equipment can be much more instructive than just turning on an apparatus of a completely prepared experiment without understanding what is going on. The level in theoretical physics was by no means worse than what I know from Germany. So I was not astonished that two courses were recognized at my home university. If you plan to study in Russia, you will have no problems in finding a university that is willing to accept you. At the present moment, foreign students have to pay admission fees of approx. 2000 US\$ for one year (this number is correct for Tomsk and certainly higher in Moscow or Sanct Peterburg). Living has become much more expensive during the last two years, so the times of cheap stays in Russia are almost over. German students have the possibility to apply for a scholarship through the DAAD, which is highly recommendable, because the DAAD also takes care of the organization of the stay (and you don't have to pay the admission fee either). Unfortunately for Russia, there is a big tendency to leave the country. Young women try to find a western

husband, young men try to find a job abroad (at least for temporary work). Many people of German origin or Jewish belief emigrate to Germany, Israel and the United States. Among my friends and acquaintances, many have already emigrated during the past one and a half years. Still I have not given up my hope that Russia will become a flowering and well-functioning state.

Gero Heusler,
AEGEE-Heidelberg



Case study trip



Case study trip



Pros and cons of hitchhiking. A short but real story .

Wednesday, the 1st day

It was a nice sunny September evening. I sighed happily, waving from a window to a group of AEGEE members standing on a platform. Launching a new long journey - that's the feeling I'm really fond of. The longer the journey, the deeper this feeling of happiness. This one seemed particularly unreal. By train to Prague, and afterwards...long live the motorways, long live poor old Europe with all her dimensions and variety! Accompanied by David and Angele, we (i.e. me and Dominik) didn't even think of any kind of unpleasant adventure that could await us.

Thursday, the 2nd day

The funny feeling didn't cease to affect my heart even when we found ourselves on a motorway somewhere on the outskirts of Prague. The amount of jokes we heard from each other during these two hours spent on a drive-in was incredible. It may seem quite a long time, but the beginnings are always so difficult...And soon we were driven by a nice Czech businessman in the right direction. Germany, that is.

I'm always so uneasy about crossing borders: you never know what can be found in your backpack, your passport may be about to expire or, last but not least, the officer may not like your face. This time we managed to go unharassed, the nice landscapes were to be observed on both sides of our brandnew Skoda, so our happiness lasted flawless.

The first driver left us at a small motorway parking lot, close to Nuernberg. It took about twenty minutes to pick up another lift, this time a German friendly Christian grandpa who kept asking us about our beliefs. Then we changed him for an equally nice hippie chain-smoking enormous joints stuffed with God only knows what. I fell asleep under tons of clothes on a rear seat, unaware of a few traffic jams that we were stuck in for a while.

When I woke up it was dark outside. The hippie was waiting for me to leave with the door wide opened. Dominik was already writing the next city name on a piece of cartoon. I was pretty sure that this time it would take more time to get out from this time, even prepared for sleeping somewhere in the bushes. Surprisingly, very soon a cute limo stopped in front of us and a terribly made-up lady of about forty showed up in a window. 'Teresa Orlowski', was my first thought, 'She will take us to her studio and I will become a porno-star'(by the way, a job I always dreamt of). The lady turned out to be very friendly and she drove us straight to the youth hostel in Freiburg, full of German teenage beauties. That's how the first day finished.

Friday, the 3rd day.

The weather was brilliant. I stood up from the floor where I had spend the night. After breakfast we went for search of a motorway. Of the right motorway, which was not so easy. After checking a few of them, finally we found the one heading for Basel. There's no point in de-

scribing all the insults the drivers were granted by us while trying to catch a lift to France. Finally we were taken by a bald German guy going on vacation to Limoges. He left us at a parking lot near Lyon. It was there when I started to study other hitchhikers inscriptions for the first time. They were mostly pessimistic, like 'S.O.S. We can't get out of this f***** parking lot for two days!'. We were more lucky, however after the next ride I promised never again to accept a ride in a lorry. They are terribly slow. Afterwards we managed to get out from a parking lot that seemed not to be the nicest place to spend a night; our rescuer was a French nuclear engineer: I had a good opportunity to prove my French language skills after two months' study. Well, now I know what is the amount of nuclear power stations in France. However, when I asked him in correct French (as I thought) to leave us at a parking lot, he said 'Oui, oui', smiling at me and stopped his car at the motorway junction, with no hitchhiking facilities at all.

We decided to walk to the nearest parking lot, which was about...20 km from the junction, in a complete darkness. By car it takes maybe five minutes to cover this distance. On foot...actually, we didn't get there. On our way, we were attacked by a dog, which was followed by a luckily unsuccessful shooting spree launched by his proprietor(of course we were the target). As I'm afraid of crossing bridges on foot, no surprise we came across a bridge over the largest river in southern France (that is Rhone). Suddenly we found another parking lot, much closer and probably much smaller than the one we were heading for. We met there a smart Flemish dude looking for job who hadn't eaten anything for a few days. We decided to spend the rest of the night there, when a miracle happened. A van from Poland stopped in front of us. I asked the driver about his destination. 'Barcelona', was the answer. I sighed with relief.

Saturday, the 4th day

Part 1.

3:00 A.M. We are in Barcelona, in Avenida Diagonal, trying to find the place where AEGEE guys are sleeping. Not that easy task at this time. Getting more and more sleepy, we find a nice lawn surrounded by bushes, in front of the Architecture Faculty and we spread there our sleeping mats. Good night, Barcelona !

Part 2.

People getting back home from parties wake us up at eight o'clock. We find a phone-booth and call Victor from AEGEE-Barcelona. It takes him about ten minutes to answer the phone so we make out that he has just fallen asleep after a hard day. Sorry Victor, we were lost and equally tired. We get the necessary information and at 10:00 AM we arrive at the registration point...

Monday, the 6th day

I was not especially surprised that we finally hadn't found any opportunity to travel back with

someone from AEGEE. The most reasonable thing on such occasions is to be prepared for the worst. So was I.

Four hours of trying to catch a lift on a street leading to the motorway and recommended as the best place by *Let's go* made me make a vow that I would never again try to hitchhike in the Kingdom of Spain. The result was that we took out from the pockets our last savings and bought a coach ticket that we could afford. To Strasbourg, that is.

Tuesday, the 7th day

The night on board was really awful. Forced to talk in Spanish with a basically nice but completely drunken German guy made me forget about sleeping. As usual the French immigration officer didn't like my passport. No wonder that when we finally arrived in Strasbourg I was completely indifferent to our present and future situation and dreamed of a warm bed (not necessarily with someone else inside). Hitchhiking went on surprisingly good; all the rains we spent luckily sitting in a car and I even managed to have a doze from time to time. I cast silence over an unexpected adventure we had with a homosexual driver. The serious problem that stroke us at the end of the day (when we expected to reach Prague in the early morning) was that a motorway from Nuernberg to the Czech Republic is practically not existent. Left somewhere by a small road on the outskirts of a small city of Amberg, we had to spend a night in an open field. A short but heavy rain woke us up. Sitting under a bridge nearby, still in the darkness, trying not to be visible for passing by police cars, I was attacked by a series of sad thoughts. Never mind.

Wednesday, the 8th day

Unshaven and smelly, we walked along the main road through the whole town until a place that looked relatively convenient for our clear aims. Soon we were taken for a short but cool ride by two nice girls driving to school, and then by a Czech lorry (I was so unhappy, remembering the slow pace of our previous lorry ride, that I fell asleep the very moment I found myself inside). He left us on the border crossing point, preparing himself for long hours to be spent in a queue consisting of lorries. We crossed it on foot, and then we caught our last lift: a ruined small van with a driver smoking hundreds of cheapest cigarettes. Finally we arrived in Cheb: the first Czech city beyond the frontier. Having still some money left, we were able to afford a couple of beers and a decent meal. For the rest we bought train tickets to Prague. The rest of the day was nice, but completely uninteresting as far as hitchhikers' lot is concerned.

Thursday, the 9th day

Yes, we returned to Warszawa and the first thing that I did at home was easy to predict: my bed was awaiting me, warm and attractive more than usual. Our journey was over.

Conclusion.

Hitchhiking is cool and provides you with a plenty of fun and adventures, but rather avoid it when you are short of time because it's unpredictable. Our spectacular success shouldn't make you think in a different way.

M.R.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF AEGEE-EUROPE

October 15, 1995

DATE

TOPIC

ORGANISERS

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|
| 17-21 October | One planet, different worlds; crisis at the end of the century | Sevilla |
| 17-25 October | Ethno Music Relations | Skopje |
| 20-22 October | Waste: A recycling tour in Europe | Milano |
| 10-12 November | Agora | Budapest & Europe |
| 24-26 November* | Academy Education and Discrimination | EWG & Kobenhavn |
| 20-25 November | Winterschool The Digital Highway | Delft |
| 28 November- | European culture - myth or reality? | Grenoble |
| 01 December | | |
| 30 November- | Partnerships in Europe | Konstanz |
| 02 December | | |
| 07-10 December | 10th Anniversary Final Conference: EGEE XI: AEGEE and Europe - One Decade and Beyond | Groningen & Europe |
| | Europe is dancing | |
| 02-04 February | Drug policies in Europe | Passau |
| 08-10 February | IGC Opening conference: focusing on EU power structure - Transparency and Democracy | Amsterdam |
| 16-18 February | Mini-University | |
| | Spotlights on a dark age - Europe & the Middle Ages | Bonn |
| 18-25 February | Training course | Praha |
| 22-25 February | | Kln |
| 22 February- | | |
| 04 March | Presidents' Meeting | Szeged & Eindhoven |
| 01-03 March | IGC Academy: foreign and security policy | Eindhoven & Europe |
| 07-10 March | | Gorizia |
| | | |
| 14-16 March | L'Arc Atlantique des Etudiants | Vannes |
| 22-24 March | IGC Academy: Enlargement of the EU and the consequences | |
| | Management Training: positive thinking and group dynamics in a survival week | Warszawa |
| 25-29 March | IGC Academy: European citizenship | |
| | Reserved date Agora | Rotterdam |
| 29-31 March | Intercultural prejudices and stereotypes: What help can Youth Organisations give? | Mnchen |
| 19-21 April | Reserved date Agora | & Europe |
| 25-28 April | Transport: what are the limits? | Warszawa & Montpellier |
| | IGC Final Conference | & Europe |
| 26-28 April | Entering the maritime millennium | Delft |
| 01-03 May | European School | Maastricht |
| 09-11 May | Reserved date PM | Hamburg |
| 07-09 June | Nationalism | Gliwice/Zabrze & Europe |
| 14-21 July | Reserved date PM | & Europe |
| 13-15 September | Students' rights | Prešov & Baja |
| 19-22 September | Tourism: Past, Present & Future | & Europe |
| 20-22 September | Security in Europe | Timisoara & Wien |
| 26-29 September | Media and Information Society: Challenge for the young generation? | Rijeka |
| 03-06 October | Reserved date Agora | Moskva & Karlsruhe |
| 10-13 October | Reserved date Agora | |
| 17-20 October | Final Conference PTDP | Bratislava & Szeged |
| | | & Europe |
| 08-10 November | | & Europe |
| 15-17 November | | Budapest |
| December | | |

Applications for the „Calendar of Events” should be accompanied by a summary, a budget, PR information and a reason why it should be put on the Calendar of Events. Doublebookings can only be accepted by the Secretary. Yearplan events, Agoras, PM's and internal education-meetings can never be double-booked All applications and changes should be sent to:

AEGEE-Europe
PO Box 244
Fax: +31-15-78 64 25
NL-2600 AE Delft
E-Mail: aegEE@dds.nl

* This double-booking is an exception. The academy was planned on November 18th, but due to unforeseeable circumstances it had to be changed in this way.

AEGEE must be strengthened as an European students association by involving students from more towns in Europe. AEGEE is carried on the shoulders of its Locals. Next to that the strength of the Network also directly affects the role AEGEE can play in the European Society. It is more than obvious that the involvement and influence of AEGEE on decision making in Europe is increased in its importance by a bigger and stronger Network. Strengthening the Network can be done by both, expanding and developing it. Expansion in these days means finding students in those towns, where AEGEE is not represented yet to get actively involved with AEGEE and to found new Locals. AEGEE should in the first place try to gain Locals in those areas of Europe, where AEGEE seems to be extremely difficult to be installed, by active campaigning. These areas are for example the British Isles, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe (for example Byelorussia, Ukraine, Moldavia) and the Balkans. Active campaigning can be done through Case Study Trips which also serve other purposes and with other mobile events organised together with nearby Locals.

The Network can furthermore be strengthened by helping the Locals to develop towards steadily functioning associations. Stability is one of the major problems of AEGEE - on the local as well as on the European level. The reason for this is the lack of long term continuity which is caused by the simple fact that we are all students only for a limited time. AEGEE constantly needs to look for successors in order to ensure the continuity of its existence.

This stability can be ensured through mutual help within the Network. For this purpose Antenna partnerships should be increased. The idea of a net is that one knot holds the other. A tight net of multiple contacts won't break, even if individual contacts break apart. The Network is strong, when each Local understands that it is part of the Network not next to the others, but with the other Locals. The bigger, stronger and tighter the Network of AEGEE is, the better it will be able to achieve its aim.

(3) European Mobility Scheme and its Implementation One of the first European projects that AEGEE was really interested in was ERASMUS program. AEGEE has been working quite hard to promote and evaluate this program. Now, Socrates program substitutes it. It's for this reason that we should continue our support to Socrates program, the main students' mobility program that we have in our hands. But some changes can be done in the actual situation. Europe has still some problems for a truly universal system of higher education. Better mobility programs with the Central and East European countries should be implemented, a real ECTS project should be runned, and a definitive system of academic recognition needs to be creat-

ed. So some work and lobby should be done in Europe from a students' perspective, and AEGEE it's here to do it.

3. - The Improvement of the relations with other organisations and Institutions. Europe changes every day, and also our association. That is why AEGEE should start to be a bit more open minded to other organisations and Institutions. Platforms of associations or Youth Councils, as the three biggest platforms in Europe, ECB, Youth Forum and CENYC, are basic for our work, through the necessary cooperation. Through those contacts, we can do a better job, sharing experiences and explaining what we, AEGEE members, think about important topics as Education, Enlargement of the EU, etc. Only becoming more open minded we will reach more respect within the other Youth organisations or Institutions, as Council of Europe. We need to make heard our voice in Europe, and it should be done through the different channels that we have in our hands. Now is the moment to do that. Now is the time to change.

Conclusion

This is our personal vision of what should be fulfilled by AEGEE, diriged and encouraged by the Comité Directeur. A new time seems to come for our beloved association, and maybe it is a coincidence, but it is nice to think about that in this 10th anniversary of the foundation. We shouldn't be afraid of changes. It is a part of the unavoidable evolution process, that makes our association compatible with the changes of the society. We should recover the illusion for AEGEE, for his goals and for his evolution. So let's work hard for AEGEE, for another 10 years of history, a history that will be remembered in the future as a nice time, with important decisions and important advances.

AEGEE Discussions - The next chapter...

After 10 years of existence AEGEE has grown into a powerful and unique association in Europe, who's contributions and opinions on political issues like Higher Education and East-West integration etc. are increasingly requested by institutions and other bodies. However, much potential rests unused, partly due to insufficient organisational structures, partly due to an unclear perception of what AEGEE is and which its role on the continent should be.

Distributed workload

Unfortunately new members have to spent too much time to learn about the complex

internal mechanisms of the association before they can use their remaining time to act, and the amount of work posed upon the Comité Directeur as the so far ONLY co-ordinating institution of AEGEE has grown far to high. Therefore tasks and duties need to be returned to the base, be wider distributed to groups of antennae (!) and Working Groups, and they need to be co-ordinated by a stable and reliable office. Only a 'real', rented location in Brussels with a (part time) employed staff can fulfil those requirements - the financial means are not easily to be found, but there is a number of concrete possibilities available. The AEGEE-Forum of Aachen already asked the CD to present an evaluation before the PM in Barcelona.

A new image

Furthermore AEGEE has to work on its diffuse image. The image determines for which aims and projects students become active members of the association. A clearly defined twofold identity of internal (member oriented) and thematic (externally aimed) activities should be transmitted and find representation in the major PR material of AEGEE-Europe as well as the locals. Thematically, AEGEE must use the tools Yearplan and Long Term Programme to define its areas of interest and non-interest, fix topics where knowledge shall be acquired and positions be established and pressured for. Eventually this will result in an overall 'programme' which we are still lacking. Power to the WGs.

In order to approach those goals the European Working Groups have to be strengthened further and obtain a different status than they occupy now in reality. They must carry responsibility in their field and consequently be accountable for their deeds directly towards the network. Their report shall follow the moral report of the association during the Agora and leave room for questions. In addition, there is little reason why WGs shouldn't be granted a status similar to antennae with

voting rights and the duty to conduct at least one activity per year (see antennae criteria). Further financial means and an increased reputation/position of WG responsables

add to this concept.

Finally, it is high time that AEGEE leaves the position of a loner, not co-operating with other youth organisation and disregarding the chances of joined forces. The association now

has to justify the reception of subventions for youth work and enter - as the appropriate body - the European Coordination Bureau (ECB) as roof organisation for European Youth associations. There remains a lot to be done until we can pronounce AEGEE to be fully in shape!

Philipp von Klitzing, Aachen

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