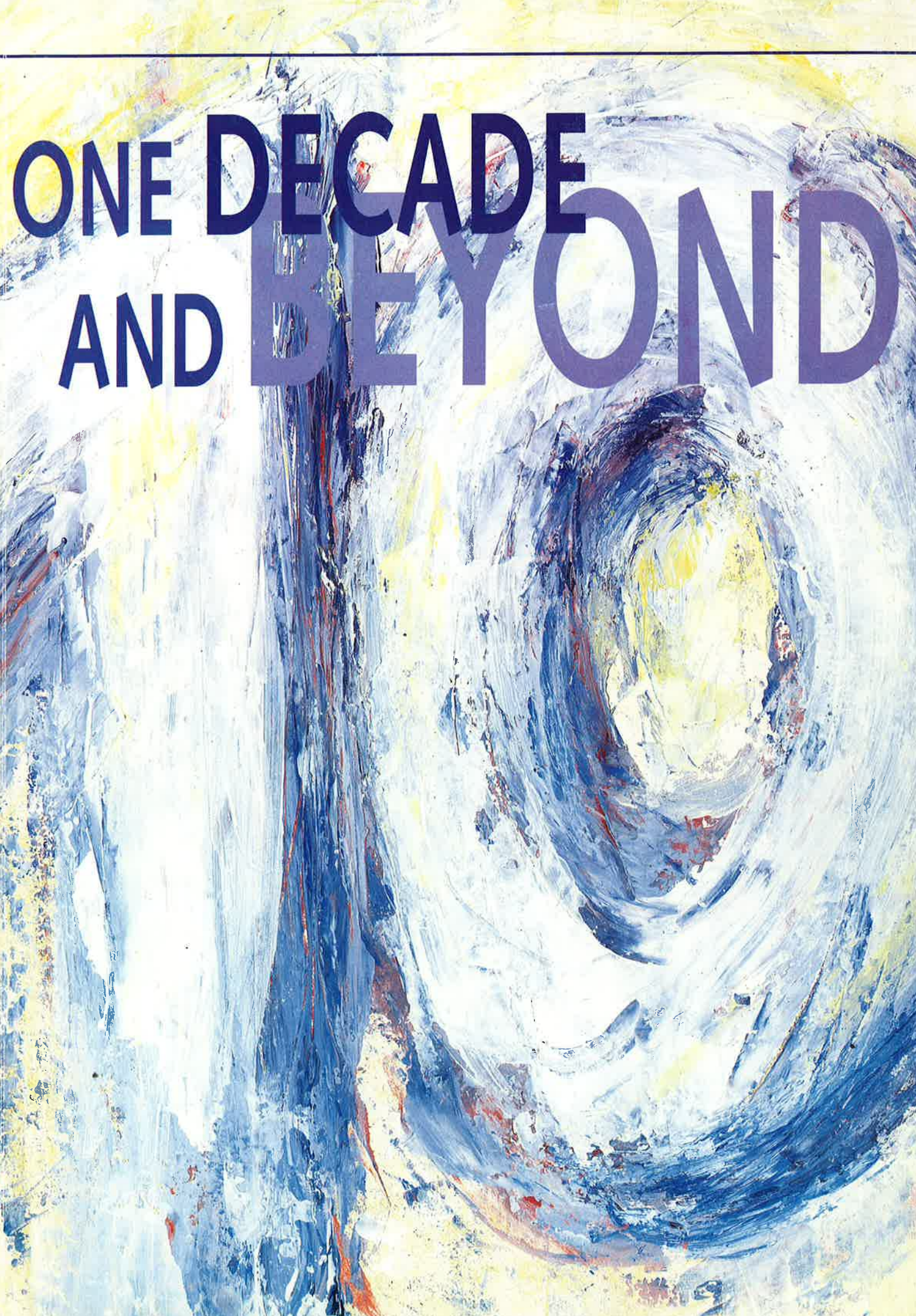


# ONE DECADE AND BEYOND





# EDITORIAL

**Dear readers,**

An anniversary should be a moment of reflection. A moment to rest and look back at the perils of the past and the current situation. To be aware of the present means to actively shape the environment we will be living in tomorrow.

The present book should document the development of AEGEE and a wide variety of activities for which it served as fertile platform. We chose 10 topics to highlight 10 facets of 10 years of AEGEE activities.

Our generation was born into an already existing European identity. European consciousness has been a part of our education. During the past decade many events occurred that few of us would have expected to happen. We chose 10 cities in which events took place that marked AEGEE and Europe.

The diversity of Europe is its greatest wealth. Today we want to look at this variety and how to build the bases for a common future. Each chapter is a puzzle of a variety of documents from a particular year.

We were given a very short period only – five months – to complete the present book. This would not have been possible without the help of many committed persons. A big thank you to all of them! The names of all people involved may be found at the end of the book. We would like to thank three persons especially: Eva Tenbörg and Sabine Salzmann for the layouting of the book and Christina Thorsson for her active support during her presidency. We wish them all the best.

Enjoy reading!

The Editorial Team,

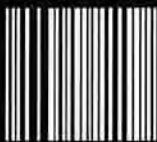
**Dimitris Georgopoulos, Athina**

**Michael Merker, Berlin**

**Dorian Selz, Genève**



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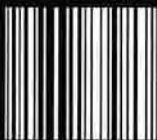
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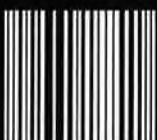
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## Words of Greetings

### Secretary General of the Council of Europe

It is a great honour for me to make some introductory remarks to your 10th Anniversary publication. I know that your organisation carries out important work in the field of European co-operation. Youth and student organisations play a major role in the process of European integration through their long-standing tradition of contacts between countries on the European continent.

The youth of today has a vision of Europe projected towards the future. They have a remarkable power of influence on public opinion. The best example of this is what has happened in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Their role and action are very important and they should do their utmost to turn their vision of Europe into reality.

Participating in the present means participating in the building of tomorrow's society. Participation for us in the Council of Europe means a process designed to encourage young people to remain within, integrate into and lead fuller lives in society. Participation provides training in democracy and helps young people to become accepted as a resource rather than a problem.

The Council of Europe has put this principle into practice. Through the system of co-management, youth organisations are directly involved in the decision-making process within the youth field. Thus, at the Council of Europe, participation also provides the link between young people and governmental institutions.

Since its creation, almost 50 years ago, the Council of Europe has encouraged the right of association and has developed the active co-operation with non-governmental organisations. I particularly appreciate your active participation within the NGO Liaison Committee.

European co-operation in the field of youth is more necessary than ever. It offers the possibility of comparing experience in combating the difficulties facing young people, acts as barrier to xenophobia and racism, and contributes to the building of the democratic ideal of Europe. Important aims of such co-operation are to encourage European awareness among young people, liberate their creativity and promote their autonomy.

I thank you for your commitment to this cause and wish you good luck for the future.

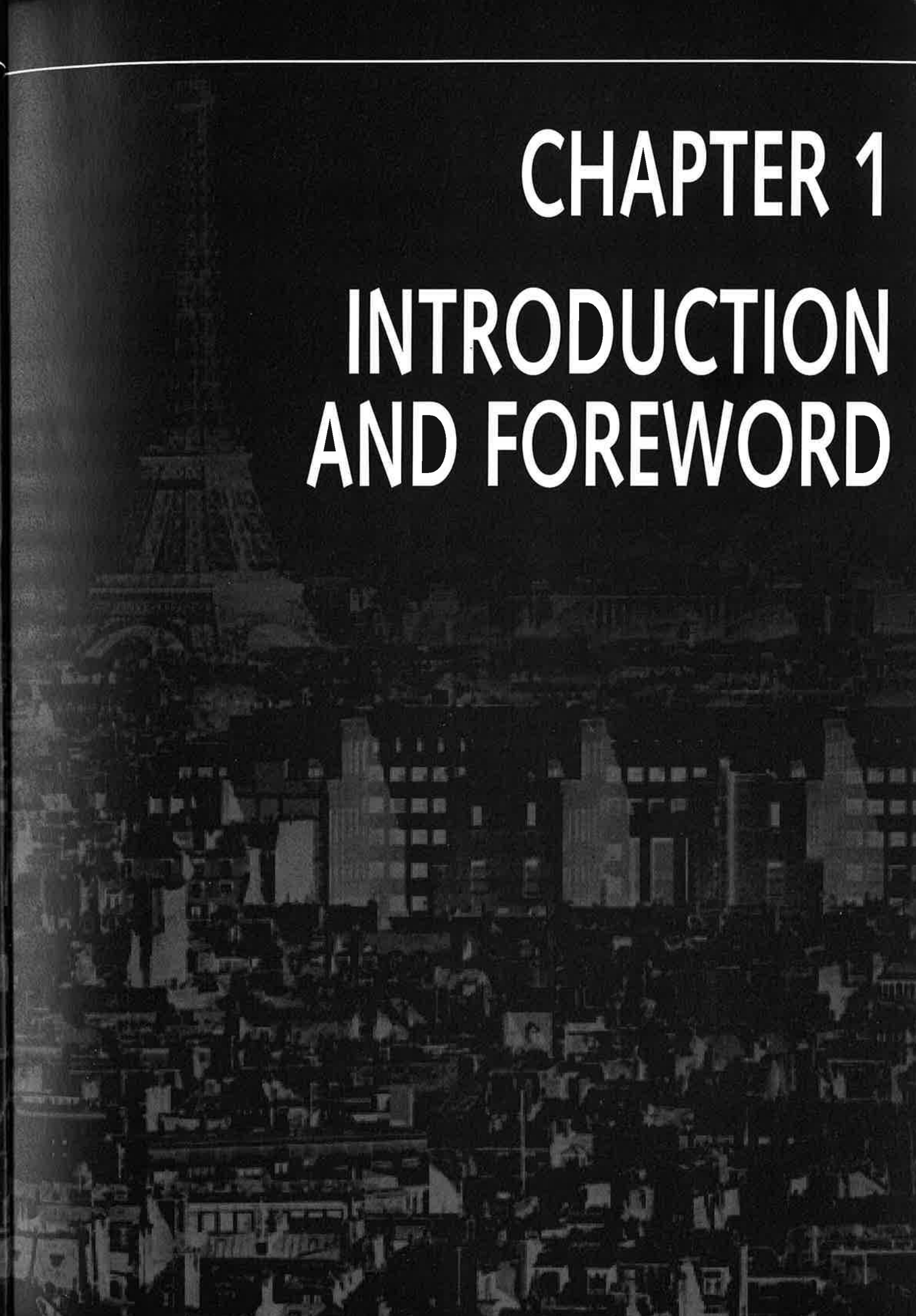
**Daniel Tarschys**

*AEGEE was established in Paris in 1985*

A high-angle, black and white photograph of Paris, France, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings and rooftops. The dome of St. Sulpice is visible in the upper center. The year '1985' is printed in large, white, sans-serif font in the bottom left corner.

# 1985





# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION AND FOREWORD

*History does not end with the present; it extends,  
into eternity. However, we only partially accompany it there.  
For as there is much of the past that is in the present,  
there is much of the present that will be in the future,  
including a little bit that is not yet evident.  
This will become evident only with the aid of time.*

# AEGEE – ONE DECADE AND BEYOND

## **The Present as the Future**

**T**he foundations of the actual integration process have roots that reach far back in European history. We can find several attempts since the fall of the Roman Empire to unite areas in Europe. In recent history it has been done by the great Empire of Charlemagne and even the Napoleon occupation could not succeed in uniting the continent politically. More hope appeared with the formulation of the pan-European idea early this century. Out of the ashes of the World War II this idea emerged again. The people in Europe realising the pain of that war demanded a common and secured peace. More people in charge understood the need of co-operation. Their calls entitled the foundations of the European Community that recently became the European Union. Other organisations such as EFTA or the Nordic Council were formed. But a large gap divided Europe into two parts for nearly fifty years. After the fall of the Iron Curtain and the democratic movements in Eastern Europe could some of those divisions disappear. The basic ideas of European integration remained, but their interpretation changed. Europe can be defined in many ways, e.g. as a naturally confined space, the spirit of the age of Enlightenment and its geographic position as the centre of the Old World. But whatever Europe is, can be a sign of growing international responsibility. We have to realise that problems such as nationalism, racism, pollution and economic development can only be solved by international co-operation. How does the future of our continent look like? Real European integration can only succeed with the support of European citizens with its people or organisations who dedicated themselves to assist this process.

AEGEE, a successful story? The past 10 years have been a learning experience, they were neither easy nor without mistakes. From a smallish and rather elitist association, AEGEE grew bigger, to become a large students' movement. About 100.000 individuals have been members for a certain period. AEGEE's main achievement over those years has been its platform function. Its greatest asset is the negation of any national level of organisation: A truly Europe-wide platform to meet, exchange and realise ideas and dreams. We have changed together with Europe. However, it is our chance to use AEGEE as a tool to create a Europe according to our wishes and not to be confronted with a pre-set of expectations and rules set by others. We promote co-operation and integration among European students. It is up to all of us to contribute to new inputs and to model the association according to our wishes and needs.

Three issues may be identified which are highly important in the process outlined above: Motivation is one of the key issues, next to adapt to a changing environment and finally having clear goals in mind.

Over ten years now, innovative young people made meetings possible across cultural borders, language barriers, prejudices, simply across Europe. For one decade we have been building bridges across Europe. Beyond, we will continue to motivate young people to simply become Europeans to guarantee a successful development and improvement of our society.

**Editorial Team**



# WORDS OF GREETINGS

## **President of German Parliament**

**A**s one of the patrons of AEGEE it is my special pleasure to send cordial greetings on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of this dynamic European student organisation. Founded in 1985, it has been AEGEE's central aim ever since to promote co-operation of young people throughout Europe and to contribute common perspectives for the political, economic and cultural future of Europe. Looking back at the work of a decade, I find the achievements of this young organisation very impressive. The great variety of projects developed such as summer universities, working groups, students exchanges or the important „Schola project“ show the high motivation of AEGEE to promote the European idea among young people. Looking forward to AEGEE's work in the oncoming decade, I would like to stress the special responsibility of the young generati-

on for an even closer European integration. This includes close co-operation with countries in central and eastern Europe such as Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. These countries need a clear European perspective and I am glad to learn that AEGEE has been very active to establish contacts and projects with the new universities. I find this very encouraging because the active contributions of the young generation is of special importance for the future of the European movement. In fact, a pan-European thinking cannot be developed without the critical participation of the young Europeans. I am certain that AEGEE will continue to play an important role in this process.

**Rita Süßmuth**

# WORDS OF GREETINGS

## **Member of European Parliament**

**J'**ai toujours été d'avis que la tâche la plus ambitieuse et la plus nécessaire est la construction d'une véritable Europe des citoyens qui devrait se développer au même pas que l'Europe économique et politique. Dans ce sens, la contribution des jeunes par le biais des organismes tels que l'AEGEE est tout à fait essentielle. Il s'agit d'ailleurs pour nous tous d'un grand défi et d'une expérience tout à fait nouvelle où il nous reste beaucoup à apprendre...

D'un côté les pouvoirs publics doivent créer le cadre juridique et se doter de moyens financiers pour que ces actions réussissent. A titre d'exemple je rappelle que l'Union Européenne a créé un large éventail de programmes pour les jeunes: Jeunesse pour l'Europe, Erasmus, Socrates, Lingua, etc. D'un autre côté rien ne peut réussir sans la mobilisation de la société civile. En particulier si l'on pense aux problèmes qui affectent les jeunes, c'est à ces derniers d'assumer le premier rôle. Votre associa-

tion a essayé, au cours de cette décennie, d'agir en ce sens. Et c'est bien.

Notre continent connaît une montée des nationalismes, une affirmation parfois excessive, donc dangereuse, des identités, une recrudescence de l'intolérance, de la xénophobie, du racisme ou de l'antisémitisme. Il existe de nombreuses causes à ces phénomènes. Mais, quelles que soient leurs causes, ils sont dangereux pour la paix. En outre ils détruisent ces valeurs humanistes qui sont le meilleur de la culture européenne. Cette lutte et le combat pour éviter les dérives et sauver la culture humaniste de l'Europe, concernent tout le monde. Mais ils concernent particulièrement les jeunes car il s'agit de leur avenir, de votre avenir. Je souhaite que votre dixième anniversaire soit pour vous l'occasion de vous mobiliser.

**Catherine Lalumière**

# WORDS OF GREETINGS

## Former President of European Parliament

I am delighted to send my very best wishes to AEGEE-Europe on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary.

I know just how much the young people of the European Union feel concerned by discussions on Europe's future, by the uncertainties of the economic climate, by the war and violence raging daily just beyond our borders. You are the ones who will have to live with the results of the decisions taken today and who will have to build on them in turn for the sake of your own children and grandchildren.

Today's young generation has a particularly clear vision of the Europe it wants to see. You have expectations. You want to be actively involved in the construction of a new Europe. You want guaranteed peace and prosperity. You want jobs in a healthy economy and a clean environment. We, the decision-makers of today, owe it to you to help make that vision become a reality.

Of course, being European in no way means that we must all give up our own nationalities. It is perfectly possible to be French, German, Danish, Spanish, Swedish etc., and still feel profoundly European. Indeed, it is just


that variety of cultures, languages and national and regional identities which shapes and enriches our common European identity. Provided that you young people of today embrace with conviction the fundamental European ideals of peace, unity and co-operation, of the celebration of diversity and of mutual respect, then I firmly believe that Europe's future will be safe and will flourish in your hands.

My special message to the members of AEGEE-Europe on this occasion is the following: Remain optimistic, committed, tolerant and open. Build on the unique experiences offered to you by your education, cherish your aspirations for the ideal future, and do all you can to ensure that they become a reality in the new Europe of tomorrow. That is what the founding fathers of the European Community did in the past. Let their tremendous vision, determination and enthusiasm be an inspiration to you throughout your lives as you work together to build that Europe of the future.

**Egon A. Klepsch**



Franck Biancheri, founder of AEGEE in 1985



Les  
états généraux  
des  
étudiants  
de  
l'Europe

EGEE1-PARIS  
16-22 avril 1985

The first AEGEE event took place in 1985, EGEE I



# WORDS OF GREETINGS

## *President of AEGEE-Europe*

**T**he year of the 10th Anniversary of AEGEE-Europe is a brilliant occasion to reflect and celebrate. A valuable opportunity to study the present situation in the context of a decade of activities and in the perspective of the reached results of our investments. Ten years are a short period of time but ten years with AEGEE seems long to me. Many are the events that took place and numerous the experiences of young people who spent their time with AEGEE. What AEGEE has reached is to give ten thousands of students a concrete comprehension of the abstract idea of Europe.

From my point of view has AEGEE shown mainly two special characters through the years : It gathers students from all faculties and an interdisciplinary encounter generates a general interest in the European society rather than a concern simply to improve personal abilities. The involvement should come out of a personal conviction after conscious reflection. Lacking a national organisation, AEGEE is in its unique structure underlining the importance of participation on the truly European level, equally accessible to everybody.

Obviously it is the role of European students' organisations to take part in the building of a desired society. For a long-term construction of Europe, the distance between institutions and citizens must be reduced. To be successful, developments have to be firmly established among Europeans: Concurrently with its enlargement in geographical and in political fields of action more power will be located within the European Union. The guarantee for smooth progress is communication with Europeans and transparency in actions undertaken. The progress of Europe is turning into, as it should be, everybody's concern.

Involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations in general is essential during the near future of Europe. Only a real co-operation between institutions and NGOs can guarantee the communication that will ensure the utility and legitimacy of the activities and decisions taken from both sides. That is e.g. international students' associations have a role to play. They are training the leaders of tomorrow and will constitute a valuable partner.

The very open atmosphere and pragmatic approach of European youth associations constitutes an interesting

platform for European co-operation. They have members from most European states. The co-operation they realise is an experimenting project, e.g. in regard to relations to Central and Eastern Europe. Their conclusions are well-founded experiences which show many differences yet to bridge and many yet to solve. In this field a fruitful concrete plan of action could quite easily be set up with European institutions to solve the problems on a small scale. We do consider the high importance of the European mobility programmes and the other possibilities of crossing the existing borders and we always will promote them.

The next challenge we face is to bring Europe to those ones who are not mobile, which will require new ideas and solutions. It is not a free choice to do it or not, Europe needs and is for everybody. A concrete implementation of the European dimension in education and in spreading of knowledge of human rights is certainly fundamental in building an equal and just civil society.

One role of the European students' associations is to see to general involvement of students in European matters: The individual thinking should involve the taking of a standpoint on our role in society. Students' associations provide an excellent complement to traditional studies and enable members to learn more about international matters. Involvement in international organisations has a two-folded value: The thematic activities will raise interest and ability to take some personal responsibility for the development of Europe. Participation in the organisation as a structure will increase the interest of young people in the European society.

A students' association should always be run with same naive enthusiasm to reach high ideals. We know by now who we are and which our interests are and the real challenge is to promote that on a long term high quality basis. In the quest to find the last parts of our identity that will illustrate the role we can play in Europe, we will find the solution in the perspective of gained experiences and in the existing European society. From these points of view, I hope you will enjoy the reading of this 10th Anniversary publication, „One Decade and Beyond“.

**Christina Thorsson**

London, Nuit Européenne, 1986

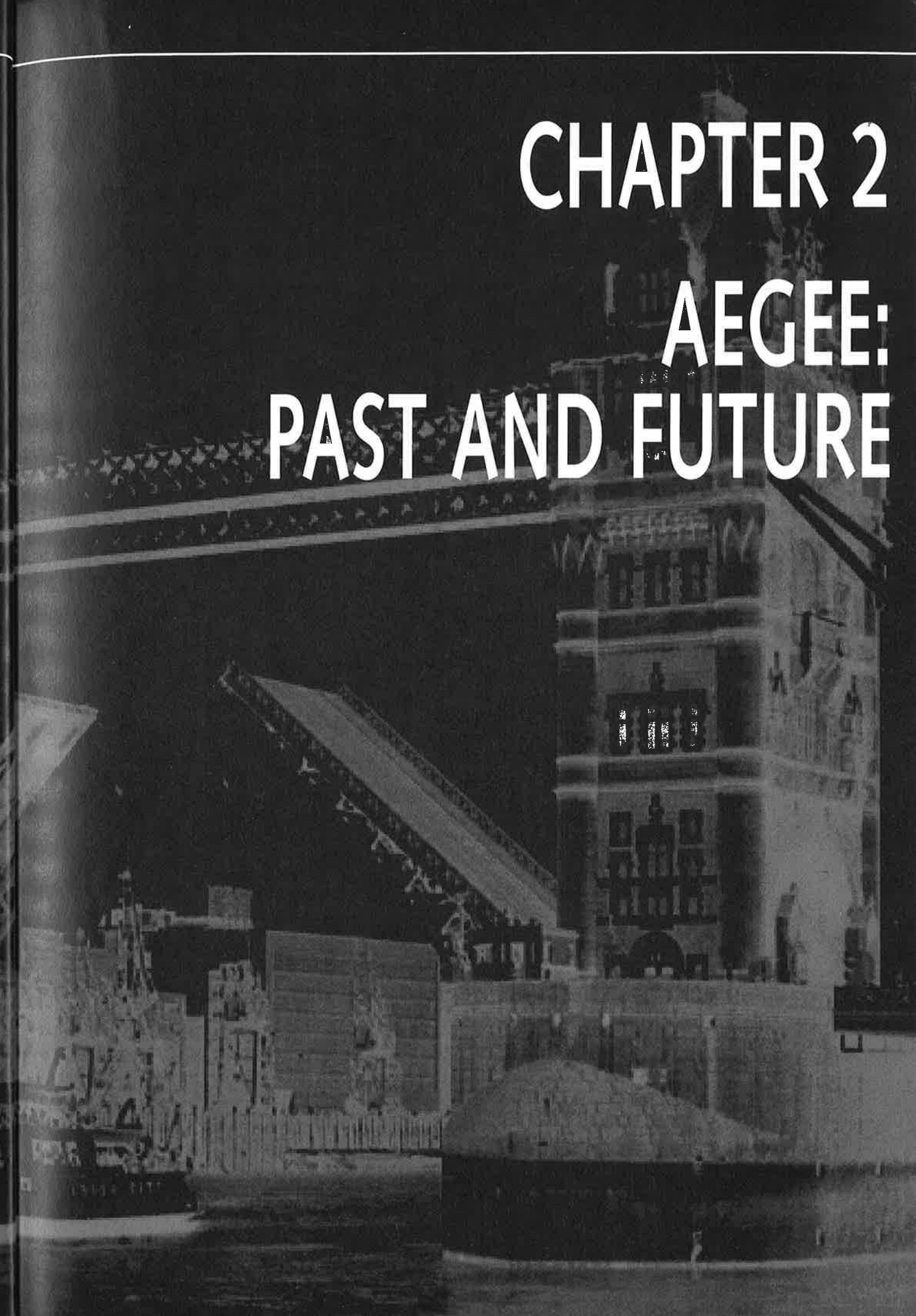


1986



# CHAPTER 2

## AEGEE: PAST AND FUTURE



*This chapter is a summary of the history of AEGEE;  
the following article will provide an overview  
of the history of AEGEE. The author was  
actively involved in AEGEE from 1990 until 1995.*

# INTRODUCTION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF AEGEE

## **from 1985 to 1995**

**A**EGEE was established under the name EGEE-Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe in April 1985. This foundation was based on the outcome of a huge congress EGEE I, which was organised by the „Bureaux des Elèves“ (a co-operation of the students boards of the 5 Grandes Ecoles) in Paris. Their aim was to be a platform for young Europeans to discuss frequently European matters and pre-

de l'Europe), was growing intensively. In 1988 we could count 40 AEGEE locals. AEGEE as a voluntary student organisation, did not want to create a national level, which was a revolutionary idea but not so easy to handle.

Therefore AEGEE has only a European level and a local level, which is supported by special thematic Working Groups. This structure was built together with AEGEE's own parliament, the AGORA, which from 1985 onwards has elected the leading bodies as the Comité Directeur, its Commissions, its Chairman and its preparatory Presidents' Meeting. AEGEE had always to adapt its structure as the network has expanded.

In the beginning decisions were made by a small group (led by Franck Biancheri) of friends, who gathered themselves together because they shared the same ideas. And so they created their association and as later more and more people appeared this family atmosphere changed into a huge organisation. New generations have always a different approach.

AEGEE had to face a major discussion in 1990, in times of changes in Eastern and Central Europe. Should we limit ourselves merely to the EC countries as we had done since the beginning or should we widen our field of activity towards the whole of Europe? This was the ongoing question. The network decided with an absolute majority to enter Eastern Europe and the EFTA countries, which was prepared by the East West Working Group and the CD of that period, the „Quo Vadis AEGEE“ group. Our chosen motto „Students are building bridges across Europe“ (at the AGORA in Budapest November 1991, our first big event in the East) symbolised in a very precise way this common achievement. Nonetheless the association grew enormously up to 140 locals, which meant AEGEE harnessing all their efforts and putting a lot of energy in to

*F. Biancheri  
and A.-K. Lehr  
at the  
EGEE II event in  
München, 1986*



sent its ideas to European and national institutions. They wanted to make the public aware of students' concerns of European issues.

Due to the uniqueness of the idea, EGEE was able to stimulate many students to create EGEE locals in their cities. The beginners were London, München, Paris, Leiden, Madrid, Bruxelles, Strasbourg and Nice. During the years EGEE, which was from 1988 onwards named AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants



ensure the steady running of the organisation and our successful development in Eastern Europe. In order to cope with this development, AEGEE had to transform parts of its structure and to ensure better communication. This was needed to make things more transparent for the members, who do not know each other as well as in the foundation time. This greater quantity with more different backgrounds than in former times is our guarantee for future quality. The internal information flow was improved via magazines like the News Bulletin, CD

Tolerance". AEGEE attempts to raise its voice concerning European student issues, which is one part of our political role besides the training of our members.

Nowadays AEGEE can look back to a history of ten years full of experiences and successes, if we look at our various congresses, academies and other activities and to our network with 170 local groups from Turkey to the UK, and from Portugal to the CIS. More than 100.000 people have caught the AEGEE virus and are thus able to co-operate with different nationalities in a team focusing on various subjects. Last but not least I believe that we have attempted to reduce



*Faces 1986:*

*left:  
Johannes Heister,  
Astrid Schomaker,  
Bart Kruitwagen;*

*Impressions of  
the first AGORA  
in München*

*right:  
Board of  
AEGEE-Paris;*

*Paris-Bercy,  
„Liaison Vidéo-  
Satellite sur  
six Villes“*



Newsletters or even Internet links. The internal organisation was, is and will be always in transition due to AEGEE's growth. Besides AEGEE's general activities such as congresses, academies about various subjects were set up, big projects such as Euromanagers, Europolis, Moot Court, Summer Universities, the EGEE congresses, the Nuit Européenne, Eurodefense and many others. Even if nowadays not many of these foundation events are a part of AEGEE, we can be proud to have initiated such successful ones. Moreover, the new generation of AEGEE has made their own projects like the OneEurope Magazine, the TEAM project, CHAMP, various Working Groups and an enlarged Summer University our language courses.

AEGEE's external relations were dedicated mostly to the European Union, where AEGEE engaged itself for the instalment of the ERASMUS programme and supported later the TEMPUS programme as well. We improved our co-operation with the those mentioned institutions and with the Task Force of Education. AEGEE enlarged its field of interest by becoming a NGO at the Council of Europe and its work with the OSCE. This new direction was underlined with the active participation of the Strasbourg „Antidiscrimination Seminar“ in 1994 and our preparatory conferences with the motto „Striving for

the existing prejudices in order to assist the construction of today's Europe.

We can say that we are at the crossroads of our development after creation and enlargement of AEGEE throughout Europe. Therefore it is up to ourselves to decide upon the right path. Certainly the CD under Christina Thorsson, her successors and the whole network should set out on the quest for our future. Hope is always on our side and everybody is more than welcome to create her or his own niche in AEGEE.

I daresay and believe that AEGEE with its ability to improve itself, which was shown during the last decade, will always be able to master its fate.

I wish the coming AEGEE members good luck for their AEGEE time.

**Michael Merker**

# INTERVIEW WITH FRANCK BIANCHERI

## *reflecting on the first years*

**1** *Where did your idea to form AEGEE originate from and what were your intentions in doing so? Why was AEGEE established and where did you get the name from?*

Since I was a teenager, I have been interested in politics. And for years, I had this conviction that, in the future, either Europe will be united and then there will be means

and possibilities to influence our destinies; or, it will not be united and then it will be more interesting to do anything else other than politics.

In the beginning of the 80s I realized that our European Community was everything we had and as well something which enabled the Europeans

to grasp their destiny. It was when I saw the practical occasion to do something for Europe, which was rooted in citizens and not in dull administrative structures, I jumped on it.

The practical occasion of doing something was therefore offered to me when a rare cooperation between the „Bureaux des Elèves“ (Students' Boards) of five Parisian „Grandes Ecoles“, gave to me the opportunity to drag these five „Grandes Ecoles“ into the project of making a congress (EGEE I) of 500 European students in April 1985 in Paris. As President of the Sciences-Po's „Bureau des Elèves“, I could seize this occasion and use the huge potential of contacts and credibility that these „Grandes Ecoles“ have in France.

For most of those who worked to prepare the EGEE I congress, it was just a matter of organising a congress; they were not thinking about a future association.

Only a few weeks before the congress the idea of making a follow-up was openly discussed. As more and more people were getting interested in our project, some members of the team, feeling that it would be a very important congress holding huge promises for the future, began to ask „what's next?“. Then, there was time to discuss and plan the future with those European students who came to EGEE I and in the end it led to AEGEE-Europe.

Concerning the name AEGEE there is a lot to say about our own spirit, which refers clearly to the assembly which ignited the French Revolution in 1789. So, softly and without throwing stones at anybody, we were trying consciously to start a new innovative movement.

**2. Why was AEGEE founded at that particular time? What was the situation in Europe like in those days?**

The question of date has to be linked with the question of place. So, I think that if it happened in Paris in this period of time (84-85), three main reasons can be identified:

The fact that in France we were living the first years of disillusionment of national politics. Part of the population and especially the youth, understood or felt that if there were any hopes for the future they would not come anymore from national politics. So, the door was open to try something else, why not Europe? And ones should not forget that since the first day of its preparation EGEE (as it was named till 1987) played with politics; at least, to get patronage from both sides, right and left. And this was a „premiere“ in France. We were clearly thinking that „national politics“ as a whole had to be a tool serving our European project.

The fact that we were in Paris, the capital city of the most centralized state in Europe, means for me that AEGEE

Johannes  
Heister  
at an  
EGEE  
event,  
1986



could have never started elsewhere due to its unique environment filled with the „Grandes Ecoles“, the ministries and the city itself.

Among the initial group of people who prepared and organised EGEE I, a handful of them accepted to take in charge the huge deficit we faced at the end of the congress (80.000 ECU). Nobody was obliged to do so, but this group stayed and fought. Without them and their efforts to find money, AEGEE would have ended to exist immediately after its first congress.

The situation was dull and boring concerning the European construction. The EC was caught in what was called „Eurosclerosis“. In fact, among students, Europe was not a topic at all. It was just something nobody was interested in besides a few pro-European fanatics. And, we were not this kind! Europe was a means to the improvement of our fellow citizens, not a holy spirit that will one day come to us!

This is why we created something new and why we did not try to join any existing organisation.

*3. Where did you and do you see the role AEGEE had then and has now to play?*

The answer is clear and simple. I will say the role of AEGEE is the same now as it was 10 years ago. In fact the only very new parameter inside AEGEE environment is the fall of the Soviet Empire and thus the freedom of Eastern Europe.

Well, ask yourself the question: what can a generalist student movement bring to its environment (e.g., other students, other young people, more aged people, universities, institutions, companies, medias...)?

Anyway the main role of AEGEE was and is to create conscious European citizens by exposing them to other Europeans and to train active European citizens by making them work with other Europeans (these two situation correspond to a more passive or more active implication in AEGEE). Other roles will require another organisation.

Of course, locally or in certain occasion, AEGEE can develop secondary roles. But,

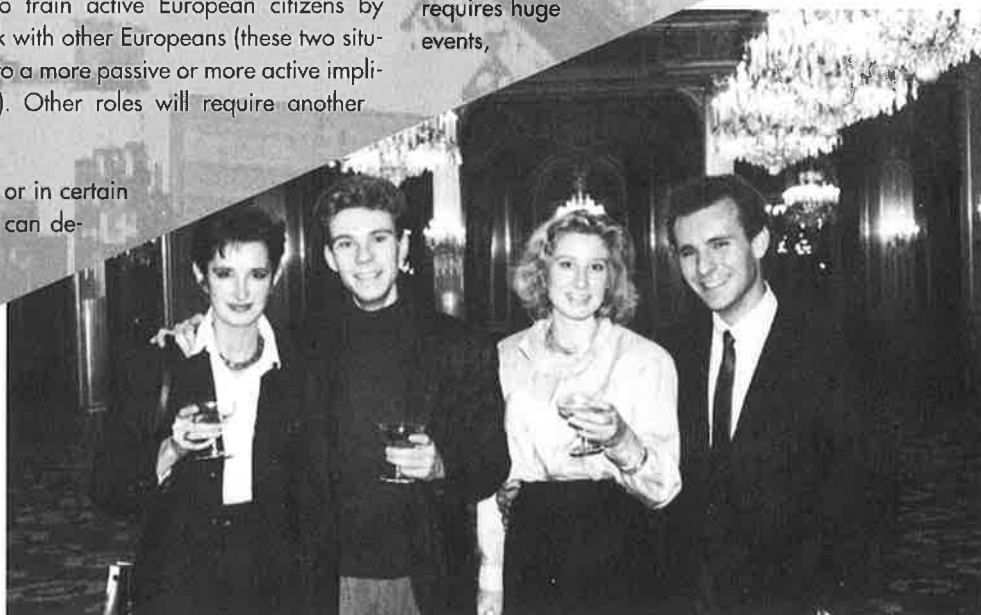
one should also keep in mind that the „benevolent“ status of AEGEE executives prevents any form of „large service provider organisation“. Its role is definitely not in the „market“ but in the Agora (in the old Greek meaning).

Practically, the list of exciting topics waiting for AEGEE to play its role is long:

- ◆ contributing to help the Eastern European countries to integrate with the EU in near future; building links with students from Mediterranean Muslim countries,
- ◆ controlling the way EU education programmes are implemented,
- ◆ supporting initiatives in favour of more influence for citizens in the European construction process,
- ◆ developing new links between Europe and the outside world in order to define possible contributions of Europe in the future reorganisation of world institutions,
- ◆ assessing the EU potential role in the struggle against global problems,
- ◆ thinking of potential EU answers to unemployment and exclusion from society,
- ◆ discussing the issues at stake in the new information society.

These topics go along very well with problems more centred on students lives or local preoccupations. They are the general frame in which the rest can find its coherence, and AEGEE its cohesion.

As means are always close to roles and objectives, I will just add that the first kind of topics requires huge events,



from left to right: C. Mayenobe; B. Establie; U.v. Lonski; V.Bracco



visible by all type of partners as they are general problems which interest all of them and affirm the generalist nature of AEGEE.

They also have to be big because the quality of student events is generally assessed in quantitative terms: how many students were there? The more you are in one event, the more credible you are to your environment.

*4. You created other bodies to continue your vision. Can you please describe this?*

In fact, I created two other bodies, with other former AEGEE-Europe responsables. One was IDE (Initiative for a European Democracy) which presented lists to the '89 European elections in Spain, Holland and France. Our message was concentrating on European citizenship, education, language teaching, Eastern Europe, communications, ... not surprisingly a message very similar to AEGEE's one at the time. We had no money and we knew we would get nobody elected.

But, as it was a goal I set to myself since the first day I thought of creating AEGEE, I was willing to make it. I was feeling it was a necessary path which was conducting directly to an autonomous capacity of action in the EU system. We wanted to show that we could do it when everybody was telling us it was impossible.

This move was coherent to what I always said: „The European construction is first of all a political process“. If citizens want to have a say on its development, they have to enter (which means to create in fact) the European political arena. So, in 1989, we gathered about 100.000 voters (which is a ridiculous percentage on three countries ... but a great success when you look our lack of money, means, time and experience).

Then we developed PROMETHEUS-Europe, a European think-tank as we realised during the '89 campaign that there was no European-wide organisation trying to identify long-term problems that the European construction will face. Based on a purely benevolent basis again (nobody is paid), but dealing now with young professionals starting families, starting careers and spread everywhere, it was very difficult to get started as they had very little time to dedicate to PROMETHEUS. We also had huge difficulties to find them but in the end we could succeed. At the present time we focus our work on the prospects and information (on the identified problems and solutions) in three fields:

- ◆ education
- ◆ external relations
- ◆ European administration.

We decided to deal with the EU external relations by following the same way we took to develop AEGEE-

Europe, that is going to other countries to work together with the people on common questions. This has been a tremendously successful strategy which means that we have now developed an Eastern European network and extra-European PROMETHEUS networks in CIS, non EU Mediterranean countries and Latin America. PROMETHEUS develops its worldwide activities whilst keeping the European Union identity of PROMETHEUS-Europe.

PROMETHEUS thus goes on with this idea of training active European citizens and inventing new tools and methods of common work.

*5. Did you enjoy your time within AEGEE?*

Well most of my memories I have published in a little book, which includes most of my experiences from the period 85-88 of AEGEE-Europe. Therefore one realizes that I have a lot of memories from AEGEE ... enough to fill a book. Anyhow most of my memories are very good, some are bitter. All of them were very instructive. A big number of my current friends come also from those times.

*6. Do you believe that it was worthwhile to put all your efforts in, establishing AEGEE? Can we be proud of what AEGEE has reached in the last 10 years?*

I think it was worthwhile because we achieved a lot, we achieved things nobody else did: like our crucial support to ERASMUS which opened a new era in terms of access of citizens to the European dimension, like the fact that in 10 years it is something like 100.000 students which have attended AEGEE events and are more aware of European affairs.

The fact that AEGEE, through you, is able to ask this question (not only to me but to many other anciens) is already a reason to be proud. First because it still exists; second because it is a movement questioning its past which means it is a movement having a future. If AEGEE can just go on while keeping merely this idea in mind, I will be proud all these years because I will know that AEGEE will play a big role on the European scene every year!

And, if I am proud today of AEGEE its because I know how difficult it has been for this movement to go through these ten years with this complex organisation that young students had to understand and to manage with only a few weeks or months of training. Being a few years ahead of you in life, I can assure you that accepting to follow this difficult path is a very good way to enter your future professional life. Europe needs people like you.

*This interview was held by Michael Merker.*

**Franck Biancheri**

*The second phase of the AEGEE history  
began in a quite significant manner:  
the organisation, founded in Paris as EGEE  
(Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe)  
needed to be renamed due to a legal problem in France.  
So AEGEE (Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe) was born.*

## from 1988 to 1990

**W**hat's in a name – one might ask. But, in this case, it meant a lot – above all, that the „federalist approach“, that is, in the continental meaning of the word, a decentralized, democratic and grass-root oriented vision of a student organisation won over the version of a centrally-controlled, strictly guided way of administration. It took AEGEE two years to fully realize its potential - it developed despite of itself, one is tempted to say. 1987 was a year in which a lot of antennae began to spring up – from mid 1987, the number rose from 15 to 75 in 1989! This meant above all a change in administration, a different way of communication and a different feeling among the members. In the first years of AEGEE existence, the people inside knew each other – and information would spread easily. But with the number of antennae increasing, personal contact became less easy to organise, and different internal meetings needed to be developed: Regional conferences, Presidents' Meetings, Working Groups..., it was the time to try out different formulas.

The European CD caught up with this development only with difficulty, sometimes even

ignoring the shift of power away from it to the AGORA and, behind it, the antennae which became better organised, demanding more participation in the decision making.

Very telling is the list of events from 1988 onward – a variety of themes (Women in Europe, Rhine and Wine, Literature, Road security, AIDS) had been added, different formulas invented (apart from the standard congress: semi-professional seminars like the Space congresses, tourist events like Ski weekends, competitions like the moot court in European community Law, discussion rounds with Eastern European dissidents...) and new institutions involved (i.e. the Youth programme of the Council of Europe).

It has been a phase of vivid search for the new opportunities that the opening of Eastern Europe would bring, and venturing into unknown territory, like the membership of Turkish antennae.

While the political ambition of the organisation as such faded, the thriving ambitions of its members, the unstoppable travelling from event to event led to a profound change of attitude of the members towards its leadership. With the Quo-Vadis-AEGEE movement, bidding for the CD posts in the end of 1990, a group of people who had grasped that the time for change had come which would finally bring the dynamics of these changes to the top of the organisation. Hence the enlargement towards Eastern Europe could start.

**Christoph H. Vaagt**



After the establishment, AEGEE had already 7 antennae in 1986

*EGEE had seen a dynamic growth period since 1985. A clear message promoted by a group of European students had transferred a good idea from phantasy to reality. In 1987 about 2000 students from all over Europe called themselves members of AEGEE: the Euro-political framework was marked by the East-West conflict and western European integration.*

# ESTABLISHED PERIOD

## Controversy about Structure and Enlargement

**T**he time of EGEE's birth, or „AEGEE“, as it was renamed in 1988, had favoured a close group of responsible AEGEEists who promoted their idea throughout Europe. However, once a network had successfully been established, local structures were strong and regional co-operation was functioning fairly well, AEGEE's strongly centralised administration demanded a different type of personality: highly integrative and understanding her/his work as the transfer of ideas from locals to the AEGEE-Europe level.

In this situation the list-election system for the Comité Directeur, de facto implying the centralised choice of future CD members by the old ones, did not respond enough to the new demands of the association's changed face. Worse, it had led to an occasional alienation of selected CD candidates from those who were supposed to be represented on the AEGEE stage. In general, an inflexibility of the internal procedures had evolved. Cliques had formed which talked more about than with each other. In the „North-West“ region. This perceived lack of communication, integration and thus of motivation was criticized as a representative, respectively democratic deficit. A „grassroots“ structure, incorporating the ideas and individuals of all members was demanded by a growing group of AEGEEists. Responding to these demands, the Agora changed the election system in two steps: first, the number of CD members was reduced from 30 to 16 in order to admit competitive elections; then, once competition had brought about a change of personalities and policies in the CD, the list-election system was abandoned in favour of an individual choice system, which preserved (and still does) a minimum requirement for the number of nationalities and a ceiling for a single nationality represented in the CD.

Also world-political changes created a need for action within AEGEE: Since Gorbachov's reform of the Soviet Union's foreign policy, AEGEE's pure EC orientation was found to be too restrictive. Whilst the EC's claim to

be a potentially all-European organisation could be understood as more realistic, AEGEE aimed at extending towards the EFTA countries and at maintaining links to students in eastern European countries. After a controversial discussion these guidelines were adopted by the Agora in Salerno on November 10th 1989, one day after the Berlin Wall fell. AEGEE had proven to be an active political actor.

In the wake of the succeeding revolutionary developments, the East-West Working Group proved a lucky hand in choosing contact persons in central and eastern European cities who were charged with setting up the first locals beyond the traditional AEGEE borders. All who participated in this Working Group share the memories of the famed East-West-meeting in Budapest and the intense experiences of understanding how social mechanisms can change the psychology of people despite similar cultural backgrounds.

Of course, many of the cultural basic lines of conflict described still exist in our organisation today. The discussion on structures is now debated from the perspective of higher efficiency of the CD, which is sometimes said to demand a „listed“ professional group to steer AEGEE. In the same fashion, a restriction of AEGEE's network to a geographically determined area is demanded.

My feeling is that AEGEE should not want to be perfect. AEGEE should stick to its good old tradition of „just take it into your own hands“ and trust the enthusiasm and abilities of the local AEGEEists. The open character of AEGEE cannot be divided into internal and external aspects. As long as its message remains „European integration“, one should rather risk a mistake or two in enlarging the organisation. In AEGEE, you regret only those things which you have not done!

**R. Emschermann**



*AEGEE's enlargement started in 1990  
after the tremendous changes following  
the fall of the Wall in East Germany in 1989.*

# AEGEE'S EXPANSION TO EASTERN EUROPE

**A**ECEE's enlargement was based on the intellectual, juridical preparatory work of the East-West Working Group in 1988/89. Especially the initiatives of AEGEE-Bonn (in particular Rainer Seider and Rainer Emschermann) and of AEGEE-Freiburg (Jörg Schieber and Rainer Ohliger) enabled the East Europeans to participate in the AEGEE events. This influenced the creation of AEGEE-Leipzig in February 1990 – our first stand in Eastern Europe and inspired contacts in Dresden, Budapest, Bratislava. AEGEE-Leipzig, especially Krisztina Németh and Michael Merker, undertook the initiative to work more practically in the field of the establishment of antennae in Central and Eastern Europe. Therefore they had invited students from Budapest to the EWWG meeting in Leipzig on 15th July 1990;

The idea behind was to inform these students about AEGEE and enable them to create an AEGEE group over there. Their successful visit led to the project of an official visit of the EWWG and other antennae representatives to Budapest to install officially and juridically the first AEGEE group in Budapest. Therefore we prepared a general introduction about AEGEE for the Hungarian students, each representative from the different represented antennae, what underlined our diversity explained to the audience a various part of the AEGEE activities. We were very successful and could immediately gain around 50 members of AEGEE in Budapest.

Later we have been using this model for the creation of antennae in Eastern Europe all the time – first we invited students from a university town to one of our events. There we showed them, how AEGEE is working and what it is all about. Afterwards we paid them a visit, whilst they organised a meeting with other students from their city and at this place we introduced them to AEGEE and assisted, if possible the official foundation of the local AEGEE group. Likewise further locals in Central/Eastern Europe, were assisted by Western locals, for example Praha and Pécs by AEGEE-Freiburg, Debrecen by AEGEE-Utrecht, Cluj-Napoca by AEGEE-

Passau and contacts in Poland via other members of the EWWG. Generally the EWWG can be regarded as the essential force in the establishment of local AEGEE groups in Eastern Europe, thus even in the beginning of 1990 the CD of AEGEE-Europe wanted to keep AEGEE dedicated only to EC member states. The network began to ask for an enlargement of AEGEE to all the European places as a Europe-oriented student organisation should do. The network installed a new CD of AEGEE-Europe at the AGORA in Bonn in November 1990, which introduced a special responsible for the development of AEGEE in Eastern Europe.

Together with the EWWG the CD of AEGEE-Europe coordinated the actions in Eastern Europe. The enthusiasm caught most of the AEGEE members, who were all willing to commit to the creation of AEGEE groups in Central and Eastern Europe. That way we were able to gain many new groups as Ljubljana, Bucuresti, Wrocław, Poznań, Warszawa, Bratislava, Kraków, Veszprém, Katowice, Zagreb, Skopje, Presov and even places in the CIS like Moskva and Sankt-Peterburg as we have opened ourselves to the students from the states of the former Soviet Union. But after the waves of enthusiasm died down, it was up to the CD and its responsible to carry on with the practical help. We had to enable the students from the eligible countries to participate actively at our events, which was pretty difficult due to their lack of money to travel. Regular information especially for the Eastern Europeans was needed in the beginning, therefore the DISPATCH was installed – the monthly AEGEE-Europe newsletter to our Central and East European contacts.

The next step was to find some subventions for activities of our East European locals, therefore we approached the TEMPUS Office in Brussels. Later our relationship turned from a subvention-asking body into one providing information for the students involved. This we could prove with our TEMPUS Academy in Budapest 1992. The CD and the EWWG realized the necessity to establish projects at those locals in order to keep the contact between the East and the West. That's why the CD trans-

ferred the parliamentary session of AEGEE - the AGORA - to Budapest in November 1991, which could be seen as our first key event in Eastern Europe. That was followed by the Presidents Meeting Kraków 3/92, the congress Slovenija in Europe in Ljubljana 3/92, the congress Quo Vadis Czechoslovakia ? in Praha 11/92 and the TEMPUS Academy in Budapest 11/92. These activities were completed by the Summer Universities in Eastern Europe which have been ongoing since 1991, which covered most of our countries we are in.

All in all it is to conclude that we reached another well prepared stand of AEGEE in 1992. I strongly believe that AEGEE was one of the first student organisations, which has understood the absolute necessity to integrate East European students as equal members at that specific time of change in 1990.

At the present time, AEGEE-Budapest is the biggest antenna of the entire network, which symbolises the equality and our diversity in the East, West, North and

South of Europe. AEGEE demonstrated this case with its last AGORAS and PRESIDENTS' MEETINGS in Helsinki, Eger, Ljubljana, Budapest or Montpellier. Nowadays it seems normal to travel to all those events.

I feel that AEGEE has achieved a great deal in breaking down the barriers in the minds of many people. But there is still a lot to do in the field of Eastern Europe like problem areas as CIS or ex-Yugoslavia, which are not regarded as such spectacular matters as for example the break down of the Iron Curtain. However much remains to be done in the minds of people. Nevertheless with our strength and ability to bring together different people, we continue the challenge and are able to master our future.

**Michael Merker**



*AEGEE-Leipzig was the first so-called Eastern antennae  
within the AEGEE network,  
which was founded in February 1990  
in the former GDR. Famous AEGEE veterans, attended  
their first congress as members of AEGEE-Leipzig;  
some of them are still active supporters of AEGEE in Leipzig or elsewhere.*

# ESTABLISHMENT OF AEGEE-LEIPZIG

The story started in the autumn 1989, when the Bonn antenna went to Leipzig „on mission“ in order to establish contacts aimed at promoting the idea of feeling „European“ and to have fun with AEGEE. As a result of an announcement in the university's „Seminargebäude“, quite a number of students came together to find out, what was behind this unpronounceable name „AEGEE“... One outcome of this meeting, which was attended by about 30 students was, that a small group of them decided to develop an antenna themselves in the biggest university town of Saxony.

I am sure that those readers of this brochure who are members of AEGEE, can recall the great feeling of studying for the first time the Calender of Events and subsequently deciding to attend a conference in an interesting place. On the other hand, AEGEE events are great opportunities to meet people from various antennae to pose the eternal question: Which antenna are you from? So, some of these AEGEE-„tourists“ decided to travel around a bit. After this they came back with greater experiences and were also motivated to organise events in Leipzig.

One of our first activities was the Russian Summer University; a language, which was more than exotic at that time. Meetings of the Environmental, Cultural and

East-West Working Groups also took place in Leipzig. To the meeting of the East-West Working Group we also invited students from Budapest, as a result of an idea developed on a warm summer afternoon whilst sitting at the Campus of the University, for the organisation of an AEGEE presentation in the Hungarian capital. Result: in late 1990 AEGEE-Budapest was established. We are

very proud of this fact, as we all know, this antenna has been doing extremely well from the beginning (e.g. the Budapest AGORA). AEGEE-Leipzig also visited other universities in the Eastern part of Germany, like Dresden, Cottbus and Halle, as part of a big campaign for the promotion of AEGEE.

As all the other antennae know, it is very difficult during the first weeks in the life of an antenna to win the support of the university. However, after a lot of lobbying, we have been able to produce our brochures and leaflets and we could use the premises of the „Europäisches Dokumentationszentrum“ at the university. This was extremely important, because at this time none of our members had a telephone. We installed an info stand on the German University- and Student-day to promote AEGEE and organised our round table discussions. We started to organise regular European Days (and Nights), sometimes in co-operation with other European institutions in Leipzig with discussions on actual topics and of course a lot of entertainment in the biggest underground labyrinth youth club of Europe: the Moritzbastei. Our biggest event was the conference: „Danger from another world? - The cultural clash of religions in Europe“ in May 1992.

I very much enjoyed my active time with AEGEE and especially contributing to it within „my“ team in Leipzig. I still have contacts with AEGEE-Leipzig and with friends all around Europe. Sometimes I even meet „old AEGEE faces“ at official meetings.

**Krisztina Németh**



*The history of AEGEE in Nordic countries started  
in January 1990 when a visiting student from Milano,  
Vittorio dell'Àquila introduced AEGEE to students in Turku.*

# ENLARGEMENT TO SCANDINAVIA

**T**urku with its three universities and over 20,000 students was a perfect place to found an antenna and for the first meeting in the student village about 15 students gathered both from the Åbo Akademi and Turku University. The official founding meeting took place in February 1990 and AEGEE-Turku/Åbo was born. Thus Finland became the first Scandinavian country to host an AEGEE antenna. The name Turku/Åbo caused some confusion in the beginning and there were many members in central Europe who in vain tried to locate Åbo on their maps. The explanation is, however, very simple, Åbo is the Swedish name of Turku.

The first event AEGEE-Turku/Åbo took part in was the AGORA in Paris in spring 1990. This was a modest start and during the autumn and winter 90/91 AEGEE-Turku/Åbo tried to establish itself within the student life in Turku. The long distances to events taking place in Central Europe made it difficult to participate in AEGEE events. The nearest antenna was in Germany, so to get help and advice for the daily work of a local was not an easy task. Ida Lau who had visited TEAM in Milano started AEGEE activities in Trondheim, Norway.

On the initiative of Vittorio, Paula Kinnunen was asked to join the CD and take care of the development of AEGEE in the Nordic countries. At the Agora in Amsterdam Paula was elected to the CD. The first summer university in Scandinavia took place in August 1991 in Turku with a theme Finnish culture and language. In the autumn 1991 Michiel Ybema and Paula Kinnunen made a promotion tour to Lund, Copenhagen, Oslo and Trondheim. In autumn '91 an antenna was established in Aalborg by Ulla Bisgaard who got in touch with AEGEE during her time as exchange student in Brussels. At the PM in Bordeaux in '91 Lund became a contact antenna and later at the Agora in Budapest more Scandinavians joined the AEGEE-family when Trondheim, Oslo and Copenhagen became contact-antennae.

The year 1992 meant a breakthrough for AEGEE in Scandinavia and for the first time one of the major events of AEGEE - the PM - was hosted at the Northern

edge of Europe in Turku. Helsinki, as coorganiser of the PM joined AEGEE together with a local in Växjö. Ulla Bisgaard continued the „tradition“ to have a Scandinavian woman in the Board when she was elected to the CD at the Agora in Delft.

In 1993 a variety of events took place in the north. The Erasmus Academy in Aalborg followed immediately by an Erasmus Congress in Trondheim. Trondheim hosted as well one of the CHAMP regional finals. In Praha, Tampere became a contact antenna and in the summer '93 Summer Universities took place in Turku and Helsinki. During the AEGEE Meeting in Lund it was decided that a „Travelling Summer University“ would be a perfect opportunity to promote the northern locals of the network and the course turned out to be one of the most popular ones in the summer '94. The participants learned and experienced the differences and similarities in Scandinavian culture by visiting Aalborg, Copenhagen, Lund and Turku during three weeks. In early autumn Helsinki organised the PM, the second major AEGEE event in the northern part of Europe. Christina Thorsson from Lund continued what Ulla Bisgaard begun in the CD and took over the presidency of AEGEE-Europe in autumn '94 in Montpellier.

AEGEE has existed in the Nordic countries for five years now. In the beginning the promotion of AEGEE was a difficult challenge. The AEGEE logo was immediately connected to the European Community and at the time there where hardly any Nordic people who openly talked about membership of their countries in the EC and there was a lot of suspicion towards European integration all over Scandinavia. However, during the last five years the political climate changed completely. Finland and Sweden joined the EU. Norway decided for a second time to stay outside. These political decisions have directly influenced the possibilities of AEGEE in the North. In conclusion one can say that AEGEE gradually found its place in the Scandinavian student life.

**Paula Kinnunen**

# MY PRESIDENCY FROM APRIL '92 TO APRIL '93

## or from Kós to Prague

**T**ogether with my Secretary, Marnix Schöyer, I visited Athens just after our election at the AGORA on the island of Kós. Of course we paid a visit to the ancient AGORA near the Parthenon, the birthplace of democracy, a keyword in modern society. The people had a voice to speak up and express ideas and opinions in order to improve society.

The policy of a Comité Directeur of AEGEE had to go into the same direction as the AGORA in the old days. Listen to the members, support members, work together in order to improve the association in a wide range of aspects.

Promise number one was to improve communication with the members. To reach better communication the CD Newsletter was introduced and proved successful. AEGEE Meetings were created to get active members together and improve practical functioning of the antennae and working groups. A first Yearplan was introduced for 1993 to get more continuity in our association. Special topics of attention were chosen, of which I still regard anti-discrimination as the most important.

A practical approach and a more philosophical approach had to be integrated in AEGEE-Europe. A good functioning secretariate on the one hand and a direction for the future were main items for the Comité Directeur. The consultative status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg was achieved in March 1993. Good relations with the European Commission were of vital importance. The NGO status was obtained for the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe) in Helsinki. All these activities still require the attention of AEGEE-Europe.

An association can never exist without active members, they form the backbone of AEGEE. The Comité Directeur and its President cannot do more than their utmost to support active members, take care for external contacts, try to solve problems, take up practical work, discuss,

philosophize, talk and listen in order to create the best circumstances for the active members to build the association to what it is now.



Spanish  
members  
of AEGEE,  
1986

And I am a believer, I believe in AEGEE as a representative organisation for a large group of young people from all over Europe. We have at least one thing in common: we aspire to live together in a peaceful continent, free of conflicts and agitation. Still a long way to go, if we only look to former Yugoslavia.

I keep good memories of my year as President of AEGEE-Europe, of the contact to members, of the visits to AEGEE antennae, of the large meetings, of the co-operation within the Comité Directeur and all active members.

I wish AEGEE-Europe all the best in its anniversary year and for the future, hoping young people keep up the spirit to live for their ideals. And maybe, if we listen carefully, we can hear the footsteps of history.

**Jeroen Hoogerwerf**

# AEGEE, NOVEMBER 1993 UNTIL MARCH 1994

## *from a Personal Point of View*

I was the President of AEGEE-Europe for a relatively short time. I believed in the idea and I wanted to help the Association get out of a crisis. I will try to give a short summary how things happened and how I saw them. My presidency started in Utrecht. I was elected by the Agora in November 1993. I had some experiences working in the Comité Directeur. I had faced a general lack of trust and non-motivation. This situation was due to several different factors. For more than two and a half years AEGEE had strong Presidents and they were followed by a President with different style. People felt the change in the style and also the CD were very disappointed feeling that people were not interested anymore in the idea of AEGEE or they just did not want to devote time for it. Some pessimists assumed that AEGEE has to go down again as it happened some times before in the short history of the Association.

I believed in the basic idea of our Association: how important to meet people, to understand each other, to discuss different common questions. I wished that other people would have the possibility to enjoy the benefit provided by AEGEE. I hoped that my enthusiasm and knowledge could contribute that together with my colleagues we could bring back the trust of the people in the idea and in our Association. I think a President has one of the most important roles in order to inform, discuss and sometimes convince people about different issues concerning an association.

I enjoyed the support of the Agora of Utrecht and also my colleagues. During my presidency I had several goals and aims I wanted to achieve including: 1. Bring back the trust and belief of the members, by providing the lost continuity and motivation; 2. Create a team in the CD, and 3. Fulfil the most important tasks co-ordination, external representation and the bureaucratic tasks).

AEGEE entered 1994 with a new Yearplan (this was the second one in the history of the Association) characterised by the motto: „One Europe – Many Faces, Diversity at the Heart of Integration”. Several locals applied to be

among the Yearplan activities with different programs connected to the major topics. Several brilliant events took place in the network. The European Projects continued (except TEAM), however some doubts have already appeared concerning their future. The network and the CD had to face some difficulties in the case of CHAMP – with the continuity and division of responsibility.

During this short time period AEGEE has continued its tradition to be basically a conference organiser and discussing association. Although action plans were introduced escorted by bigger or smaller success (e.g. Etudiants pour Sarajevo, Human Rights Actions). The association did not continue its fast expansion towards new territories: on one hand some new contacts entered to our network, but on the other hand also some old locals came back to the AEGEE family. To our greatest regret some of the oldest locals had to face with the problem of lack of interest among younger students. We had to recognise, even if we wish to turn AEGEE to be more professional, it always depends on individuals, the strength of the network and the different outside circumstances.

Concerning the external relation we had a very successful period. Our good contacts at the Commission continued their support to AEGEE. During this period AEGEE has been elected as member of the Liaison Committee of the Council of Europe for six years. That is the longest term obligation in the life of our Association. We believed that we should concentrate on the institutions of integration from diverse side. These results could have been achieved because we could built on the work of our predecessors.

Summarising the period I hope that we, the members of the Association during this relatively short time period, made possible the future existence and successful operation of AEGEE, the association we worked for and the idea we believed in.

**Zsuzsa Kigyós**



# INTERVIEW WITH C. THORSSON & D. SELZ

## *Some Thoughts about Past and Future*

### 1. The Present Situation

*AEGEE is ten years old. How does it feel to be a part of it?*

**Christina:** For me, it is a very valuable association. I have been able to experience many things that I would never have come across in my usual university environment.

**Dorian:** Well, I had a great time and a lot of vivid memories!

*What did AEGEE reach in those years?*

**Christina:** AEGEE has enabled thousands of students to actively take part in the European society and concretely experience cross-cultural cooperation and communication. It is a unique possibility for every student to find out, what is outside of their own world. To some extent it is a mirror of society and active members certainly benefited from this pan-European education.

**Dorian:** Ten years is a relatively short period for the world but a very long one for our association. In only ten years, from scratch to the present situation, establishing a Europe-wide network in more than 170 university towns with approximately 15,000 members is a huge achievement and in my opinion very successful one.

*What has changed in the last years?*

**Dorian:** A lot. From childhood AEGEE grew into its teenage years and is now on its way into the twenties. Obviously on that path people, activities, opinions and visions change. What remained the same is this unique meeting place for young people from all corners of Europe. However, it is striking that we still experience the same sort of problems as eight or ten years ago. AEGEE is not enough a learning organism in regard to continuity, communication and participation.

**Christina:** The network has grown bigger and this proves to be a major

challenge for the Comité Directeur who has to co-ordinate what is going on and to support everybody. Ten years ago one would have seen a much closer involvement of the Comité Directeur in activities of the antennae. However the big network is our greatest asset: We are represented all over Europe and not necessarily strongest in the Western countries.

Regarding to the outside world, time makes us more and more well-known. I regret a little bit that we are not in such an important relation to the European Commission as we used to be but on the other hand enabled us the NGO status at the Council of Europe and our co-operation with the OSCE to find new means of communication and let us practice more in taking a firm position towards the institutions. It has to made clear that AEGEE needs to strengthen its „political“ role.

### 2. Coming Activities for AEGEE

*What is nowadays field of activity of our association?*

**Dorian:** Members are extremely active. They organise a wide variety of local events. It is good to know that such a lot of motivated people are active for the



*D. Heister, M. Dietrich, R. Kohlmann, AEGEE 1986*

same cause. However, I regret that only a few truly European-wide events are organised at the moment and they seem to have some difficulties to take off and to achieve.

*What do you see as coming challenges for AEGEE?*

**Christina:** I see the biggest challenge in going from the phases of creation and establishment to the long term presence in terms of credibility. It was a challenge to set up AEGEE and on that success we lived for a while. Then came the fall of the Wall and AEGEE expanded. The number of contacts to Central and Eastern Europe grew at an incredible pace. Everybody was excited and interested to go there. Today, we need to redefine our role. There is still a lot to do regarding East-West contacts and to ensure a real integration.

Another field for AEGEE, and it is already in its nature, is the strengthening of citizens participation in their society. Citizens should learn to take part actively in the building process of the European house. European institutions need to recognise the importance of their participation in this course. Otherwise we risk an unfinished European construction.

**Dorian:** As said earlier, I see as the main achievement of AEGEE this unique platform for students across Europe. The main challenge is to keep and develop this platform as to make it accessible for others.

*Do you think the structure of the European level is up to the job to co-ordinate an ever-growing network?*

**Dorian:** AEGEE was able at all stages to adopt the necessary structure to fulfil its organisational needs. Well, it took sometimes a while. My guess is that the European level will be reformed quite radically in the near future to be able to cope with an ever bigger network. The step is necessary because the Comité Directeur and the other European bodies (AGORA, PM) are currently more administrating than leading with new ideas.

**Christina:** Definitely, some steps have to be undertaken to render the administrative duties of the European level more efficient. Maybe a clearer division of responsibilities will allow to better use the acquired experiences and to transform them into success strategies for the future.

*How will this structure look like tomorrow?*

**Christina:** It is obvious to me that we need a more stable headoffice with a continuous presence to ensure key tasks to be carried out regardless of the availability of CD members. This will allow to devote more energy to support by all means (representation, communication, education) the activities of the network.

**Dorian:** AEGEE will face a crucial decision. Either we go for a loose federation of locals organising their individual activities, or we choose a confederation of closely collaborating antennae. The adopted structure will reflect this choice.

### 3. AEGEE's Next Generation

*How can we attract people working for AEGEE?*

**Christina:** Recruitment problems are due to the fact that many students do not regard voluntary work as rewarding enough. However, today it is not enough anymore to just concentrate on your studies. You should seek to acquire more practical skills, too. AEGEE is the place to carry out such an apprenticeship. But in addition we have to provide those people with the tools to realise their ideas. This being one of the two main tasks of the local boards and the Comité Directeur.

*You think the recruitment problem is the most urgent and most difficult task to solve?*

**Dorian:** I consider recruitment to be the second of the main duties of each local board. It is crucially important to know not only many but motivated and daring people among your members. New impulses have to be initiated especially to increase continuity of leading positions. It is important to provide an environment where people like to work in and to develop their ideas.

### 4. The Future Role of AEGEE

*Is there still a place for an initiative like AEGEE in modern world?*

**Christina:** Yes! Or do you think it is possible to go on without AEGEE?

**Dorian:** It's aim to contribute to European integration process remains as valid as ever. To bring young people together, to learn about each other's culture, to share experiences and ideas was and continues to be AEGEE's contribution to that process. Simply to create a base of truly European minded people.

*What kind of role should AEGEE play in the future?*

**Dorian:** I hope AEGEE will play an even more active role in the European integration process. AEGEE shall continue to build bridges across Europe and make them a passage for many. We need a clear vision of that future - the way we want to see it happen.

**Christina:** With the latest developments in Europe in mind, AEGEE should continue to make a strong point about the enlargement of the EU. Furthermore we shall further ensure a close collaboration with other European institutions and get young people more involved in areas like education and environment

*Is there a global perspective for AEGEE?*

**Dorian:** Some composed the word AEGEM. An increasing globalisation of our societies goes in hand with an increased need to understand your counterparts from all areas of the world, not just Europe. Whether we integrate this idea by opening up AEGEE to the world or by associating similar students' initiatives from around the globe is a decision mainly for the next generations of AEGEE activists.

**Christina:** The idea of Europe, cross border co-operation and communication actually implies openness to the world outside our continent. Hence European thinking students are global thinkers, too. The current structure of AEGEE will carry us outside Europe but European matters have definitely to be seen in a global framework.

## 5. Conclusion

*Do you think we can be proud of what AEGEE reached so far?*

**Dorian:** An unconditional 'yes' is my answer. Certainly a lot of things went wrong and in similar circumstances we would act differently today. But the fact that for ten years and more than ever, our association continues to be a laboratory for young people to experience the wide variety of Europe, is a great achievement.

*Why did you become member of AEGEE?*

**Dorian:** By coincidence. AEGEE-Genève organised a few years ago a conference on Erasmus. I took part and was very much attracted by the open environment I found.

**Christina:** Me as well, I met once an AEGEE member in Lund and he convinced me to join. And things begun to happen.

*Did you enjoy your time in AEGEE and where do you see the advantages of being a member?*

**Dorian:** I enjoyed my active time tremendously. I learned a lot about Europe, its people their different cultures and mentalities. Words like tolerance, multicultural society, „ouverture d'esprit" have by now a concrete meaning to me. I see that as the main advantage of an active membership.

**Christina:** Indeed, I am absolutely agreeing with Dorian.

The years within AEGEE will certainly leave a very big mark my life and as well in my personality.

It has taught me a genuine interest for the world around me, which I see many of my fellow students are lacking.

The close friendship with people from other corners of Europe has brought another horizon of living to me and therefore I am more open-minded to unknown territories nowadays. This is for me a richer life keeping curiosity alive and looking at my studies from another perspective.

Mainly the personal experiences are the greatest advantage but also my studies have been complemented in a very substantial way. Through the people I have met and the events I have participated in, I have learnt a lot which would not been possible to achieve in the closed university environment.

**Dorian Selz**

**Christina Thorsson**



The Comité Directeur, 1986 in Bruxelles

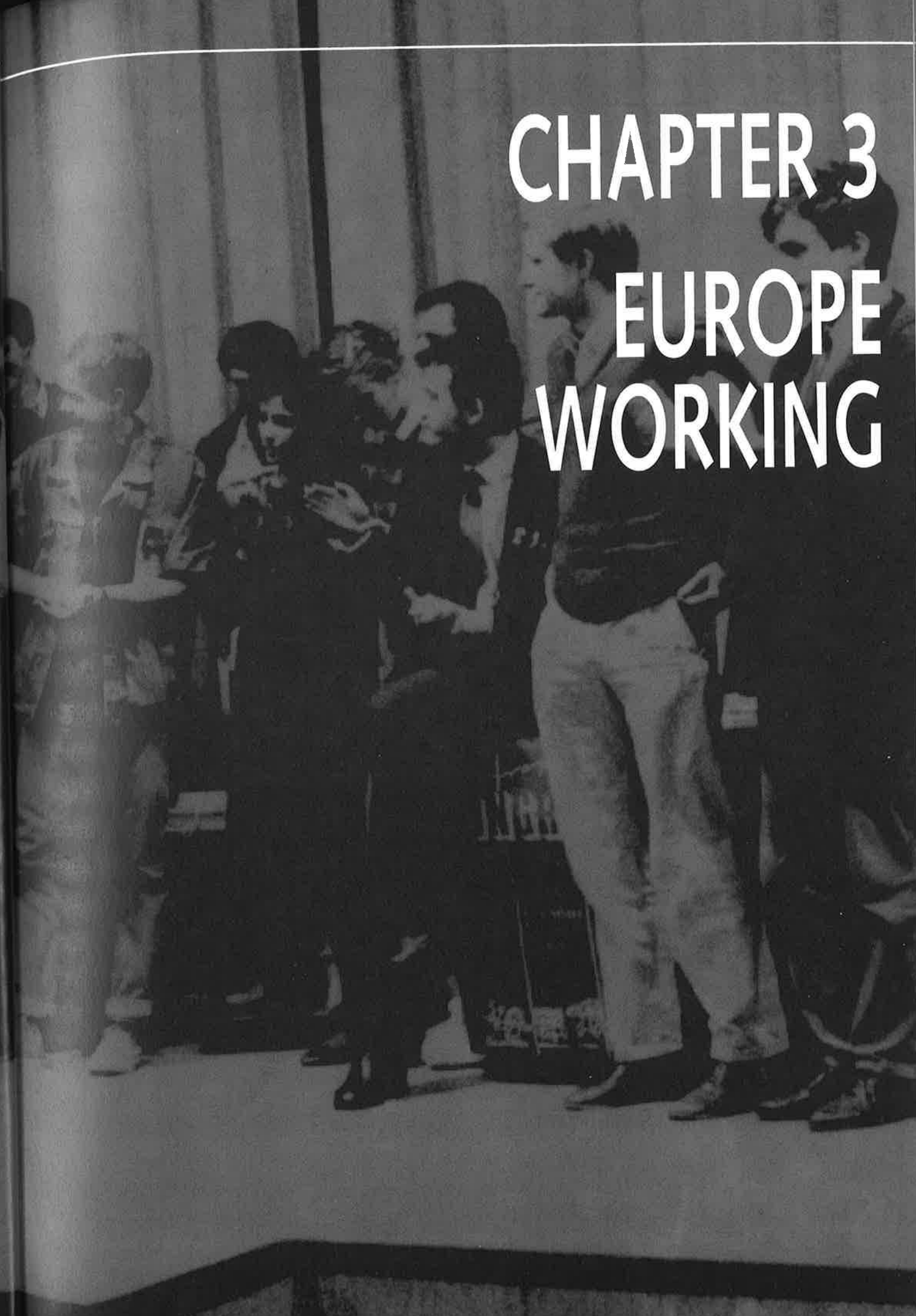


SEVILLA

1987

# CHAPTER 3

## EUROPE WORKING



*The chronicle of the Working Groups of AEGEE has a lot of parallels to the record of the past six years of AEGEE in itself.*

*The period around 1988 to 1990 has been in any sense unique:*

*Within two years Europe changed its face which had been well known for over 40 years like nobody would have imagined. AEGEE changed rapidly, too.*

*The time was mature to invent and add something new to AEGEE – Working Groups on the European level.*

# THE WORKING GROUPS OF AEGEE

In some antennae local Working Groups or Commissions have been active on various topics from the very beginning. But there was a lack of co-ordination between the locals. However, that changed in the late eighties. The Eastern part of Europe entered a fundamental transition period. Growing interest to get in contact with students from formerly hardly accessible countries, was the response of AEGEE. In 1988 the starting shot was

Their active commitment to the idea of AEGEE attracted many members and played a forerunner for the establishment of other Working Groups.

From now a series of other WGs were created in that fertile environment AEGEE provided: Erasmus Team (later Erasmus WG) 1990, Europe of Regions WG 1991, North-South WG 1991, Tempus Team (later Tempus WG) in 1991.

Franck Biancheri  
at the  
AGORA  
in Leiden,  
April 1987



given with  
the foundation of the  
East-West Working Group.

At the same time, growing environmental concern of the effects of the Single Market project to be realised by 1992 and of the increasing common public interest gave birth to the second Working Group: The Environmental Working Group (founded in 1990).

The EWWG and the EnvWG organised congresses regarding their concern (e.g. the EWWG in Berlin 1989 and in München 1990 regarding East West Relations; the EnvWG their Environmental Week from 1990 onwards and their Environmental congress in Münster 1991).

Apart from these WGs some other groups were active for some time, like the Health Care WG, the Cultural WG. At the base of each WG were always a group of highly enthusiastic people who shared the same ideas at the same moment. AEGEE provided the ideal platform for them to meet and to carry out their projects. Most of the WGs could count on a core of people from roughly the same geographical area supported by a wide number of activists around Europe. These two characteristics helped to get at least some form of continuity mixed with a blend of ideas from around Europe. A successful concept, since out of the WG scene came some of the best events in the past years, like the Environmental Weeks, several pan-European conference projects (e.g. Health Care conference Maastricht/Cluj, Business Central Europe Enschede/Warszawa). Active participation in one of the WGs is a highly valuable experience for each person: You work in a truly European way across nationalities, cultures and mentalities. Today the WG come out of a period of consolidation; but a new dawn is at hand.

*Editorial Team*





left:  
One  
edition of  
„Europolis”,  
1987

right:  
The „Semana  
de Europa”  
was in  
Madrid,  
1987

# ERASMUS TEAM

Although series of valuable actions to support the Erasmus programme of the European Community had been undertaken since 1987, it was in the autumn of 1990 that the Erasmus Team was born. A hard-working „Berliner” was the responsible for this Nikolaus Eberl. I first met him at TEAM '90 in Milano: He was the ever-smiling face of a new CD led by Georg von der Gablentz. Whereas Nikolaus was more into the realisation of an AEGEE Guide of European Universities, I was more interested into promoting the work for Erasmus at a local level. The next months were full of mailings, of getting to know the rest of the network and of full-time dedication to our Erasmus Team. At the European Student Fair in Brussels we made some progress with the Guide and could on the same occasion establish close links with the Erasmus Bureau of the Commission.

the Erasmus Team for a continued effort to spread the Erasmus work on local and European level. We kept attending the European Student Fair in Brussels and we paid visit on a number of occasions to the Erasmus Bureau. Unfortunately, Nikolaus had to leave us at that time. AEGEE held the first Blue Platform to gather all students' associations. This event and the second Blue Platform established our good relations with ESN (Erasmus Student Network), EMSA



The  
first  
edition of  
„Europolis”,  
from  
April 1987

(European Medical Students' Association). We were also invited to attend meetings of the EAIE (European Association of International Education) and on two meetings in Holland and France hundreds of university international relations responsables learned about AEGEE and its Erasmus Team projects. A new person entered the scene at that time: Jean-Luc Payot. He organised the congress in Genève and joined the CD later at the Agora in Budapest (Autumn '91). The Guide project had to be abolished, too big were financial and contents problems. But new projects were ahead: the second Academy/Congress this time to be held in Scandinavia. Due other obligations I had to quit the Erasmus Team. Another change occurred at that time: The Erasmus Team was renamed Erasmus Working Group.

Soon the Erasmus Team grew in membership and we took every single opportunity to meet in a continuous effort to complete our main projects at that time: Erasmus Academy in Oviedo, September 1991 and the first Erasmus Congress in Genève in November 1991. The Academy was a practical meeting aiming at the extension of the work on Erasmus at the local level all throughout the network. The Congress consisted of a series of lectures and debates on the development of Erasmus in the EFTA countries, who just joined the programme at that time. Both events were of high quality and attracted the interest of a lot of AEGEE members. Both activities were supported by the Erasmus Bureau and Commissioners. The events greatly improved concern of the network on the matter of Erasmus and made the Commission realise that we were concerned about Erasmus. 1992 – a year full of expectations – equivalent for

**E. Riesgo Lázaro**

*1992 was the starting point of the activities of the ERASMUS WG, the AEGEE Working Group dealing with education matters and, especially, with the student mobility concept that was gaining such a lot of space in the European university environment. The number of students involved in the mobility programmes launched by the European Commission was growing fast, showing the youth's interest in experiencing the European dimension in their studies.*

# THE ERASMUS WG

## **A Passage from Practice to Concepts**

**A**s indicated by the name, the main field of activity of the WG was student mobility as it was developing within the framework of the ERASMUS program of the EC. Specific aims were:

- a contribution to the diffusion of the concept of mobility into the student world by means of meetings and conferences;
- a practical support to the implementation of the EC's mobility programmes, through the network's local groups.

Concerning the first issue main events organised were the ERASMUS Congress (November 1991 in Geneva), the 2nd ERASMUS Academy (March 1993 in Aalborg) and the 2nd ERASMUS Congress (March 1993 in Trondheim). The congresses' aims were to disseminate the concept of student mobility and to promote among students the possibility to spend some time studying abroad. The second congress was especially organised in Norway to promote the European dimension of studying in the Scandinavian countries, since from 1991 onwards they were allowed to participate in the students' exchange framework created by the EC.

Besides the information purpose, the congresses discussed the suitability of the schemes created to realise student mobility and the efficiency of the communitarian action. The Academy goal was more an inner one: following the positive experience of the Oviedo Academy, it was meant to provide the necessary knowledge and to train local responsables to be able to deal with the ERASMUS programme implementation at the local level. A series of activities had been developed with the aim of

supporting practically universities and the Community in the realisation of student mobility: mentor programme, language courses, lodging assistance, weekend excursions, free legal advice, leisure programme, collaboration with the international relations office of the local university.

The realisation of PR material contributed to the diffusion of the supporting role of AEGEE towards mobility programmes: an Erasmus Operator Manual, containing all the necessary information on how to work at local level on Erasmus, was printed and an Erasmus Newsletter became the inside communication instrument to exchange ideas and experiences on mobility.

During this period the CD responsible for Erasmus was Jean-Luc Payot, founder of the Working Group in 1992, who was followed at the end of 1993 by Bart Hendriks. At the end of 1993 the task was taken over by Gisella Gori, who set a new path of development for the WG's activities: not anymore the sole practical support to the implementation of the mobility programmes, but a reflection on the meaning of the same and the expression of a constructive opinion aiming to improve them.

The WG activities focused mainly on two points:

- the organisation of a conference aimed to create a student awareness of the concept of intellectual mobility and to promote an objective evaluation of the physical mobility as realised until now;
- the acquirement of an opinion-making role for the WG in education matters towards European institutions, universities and national authorities.

The conference „Physical and Intellectual Mobility: towards a European dimension in education“ (November 1994, Riccione, Italy) was successful in realizing an interactive environment where students of several nationalities could learn, ask and discuss educational topics with representatives of the European institutional world, professors of different universities and administrative staff working on mobility.

The challenge of having students with knowledge on the new mobility schemes, expressing their opinion on the subject, has been achieved, as well as the goal of evaluating, from a student point of view, the results reached until now on physical mobility. The final goal is to present this output to the responsible institutions to contribute to the future development of mobility schemes. The WG, composed by students of several locals, can play an active opinion-making role. An active role means:

- expressing our opinions on questions as first users of the educational systems on those systems and the enforcement of a European dimension in education;
- influencing the decision-making process in the educational field, both at national and European institutional level.

To play this role we have to:

- keep ourselves informed;
- organise events on local and European level focusing on educational topics in order to produce, as outputs, our opinions on the matters;
- produce feedback to present to European and national institutions;
- work practically on the field (implementation of mobility programmes, spreading of information among students, lobbying on next authorities such as university professors and administrative staff...).

With these aims in our heads we transformed the Erasmus WG in October 1994 into the Education WG with a new structure and new goals.

**Gisella Gori**

EGEE

2nd European Space Congress  
Toulouse - Munich

EGEE

PROGRAM

The European Potential for the Creation  
of Independent Space Transportation Systems

19th-20th Nov. 1987 Munich, West Germany

A project of EGEE Stuttgart, and EGEE  
EGEE-MUNICH EGEE-TOULOUSE

Congress „Space II“ organised  
by AEGEE-München, 1987

Europe is yours

# EUROPOLIS

Premier magazine européen

## L'Université à la dérive

TERRORISM:  
A shared issue  
Page 26

Another edition of the  
magazine „Europolis“ from 1987



*AEGEE was interested in Tempus since this programme was adopted by the European Commission in May 1990. Our growing network in the East demanded more engagement from our side in Tempus.*

*We considered this as highly important to promote stronger student mobility in Eastern Europe and in that direction we wanted to support and to help establish the Tempus programme.*

*Nonetheless many of our important actions in Eastern Europe received a grant from the EC Tempus Office in Brussels. In 1991 we decided to set up a Tempus Team in order to coordinate our information flow about the programme and our application concerning grants in a proper manner.*

**D**uring the organisation of the Tempus Academy in Budapest in 1992, the organisers decided to create a Working Group out of the Team in order to achieve a higher commitment of the AEGEE antennae concerning Tempus and to adopt a common strategy together with the Erasmus Working Group. This Academy

was our first survey about the Tempus programme from the students' point of view in close co-operation with the universities, the National Tempus Offices and the EC TEMPUS Office.

Hence the Tempus Working Group was established at the Tempus Academy in Budapest on 19th November 1992 with the following goals:

- spreading information in order to promote students' and professors' mobility,
- co-operation with the EC Tempus office and with national Tempus Offices in order to improve the Tempus programme,
- support for social integration of foreign students and realising the mentor-programme (by giving some advice about lodging, assistance, tutorship, etc),
- increase of the information flow between the Tempus offices and the AEGEE locals,

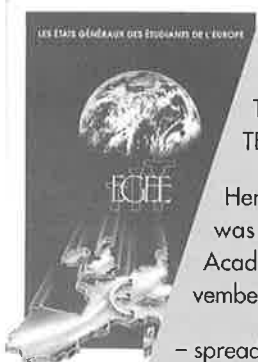
- motivation of people to work for Tempus on local and European level.

After the Tempus Academy in Budapest the Tempus WG met in Gliwice-Zabrze in February 1993, where the Working Format of the Working Group was accepted. At the next Working Group meeting during the Agora in Praha the board of the WG was elected.

In November 1994 the Tempus WG was integrated into the Education Working Group as Tempus Unit. Why? Due to the fact that here was an artificial division between the Eastern and Western European member of AEGEE: The Western Europeans were members of the Erasmus WG, whereas Eastern Europeans belonged to the Tempus WG.

In 1994 the need for a joint Education WG has arisen within AEGEE. The Erasmus WG started to work on projects not directly related to the Erasmus Programme, e.g. recognition of titles, in which also Eastern students were interested. They were supposed to take part in the work of the Tempus WG and not in the Erasmus WG. Thus in Nijmegen in November 1994 the Education WG was born consisting of four units: Erasmus, Tempus, Schola and Studies. The Education WG is perfectly capable to meet the future challenges in the wide educational field.

*AEGEE  
Brochure,  
Louvain-la-Neuve  
1987*



**Szilvia Szabó**

*In 1994, the following aims were laid down, as part of AEGEE's future work in the field of education; to continue to play an active role in the educational field; to express our opinions as participants of the educational system; to enforce a European dimension on education and to influence the decision-making process in the educational field.*

*To play such a role we clearly needed to keep ourselves informed, to organise events on local and European level focusing on educational topics, to produce sensible feedback to be presented to European and national institutions and to work practically in the field.*

## EDUCATION WG

**W**ith these aims we transformed the Erasmus WG in October 1994 into the Education WG with a new structure and new goals: not only to follow the EU mobility schemes but also to act jointly with the EU at creating and shaping of mobility itself. The WG structure consists of four units, called respectively Erasmus, Tempus, Schola and Studies.

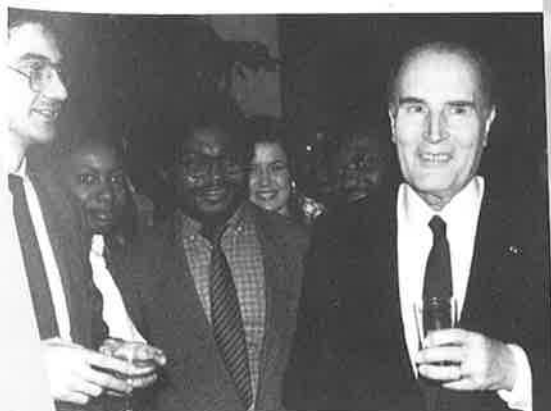
Erasmus and Tempus are mainly concerned with the organisation of general events to disperse knowledge on these EU programmes and to establish a continuous debate to form our own opinion on the subject. Furthermore both units will continue to support the locals with the implementation of the schemes at

their universities. The Schola Unit deals with a project to carry „Europe“ into primary and secondary school education and to bring the prospects of an integrated Europe closer to young Europeans. The Studies Unit, the forth pillar of the WG, carries out studies on topics relevant to education, for interested students and to gather their opinions. The resulting paper will coherently represent our point of view.

This structure will allow us to keep up with a changing environment (new EU mobility schemes like SOCRATES and LEONARDO), to broaden the co-operation with institutions such as the European Union, Council of Europe, European Parliament and UNESCO in a new international context and adjust to internal changes within the structure of AEGEE.

The challenge the Education WG faces, is exciting and the only way, if we want our student association to play a role towards institutions: until now our experiences in the field have been really interesting and they have shown the capacity and willingness of students to transform themselves from passive consumers to active partners in the innovative work carried out by institutions dealing with education.

**G. Gori/A. Siniscalco**



Reception „Europe/Afrique“ at the Palais de Elysée 1987 with François Mitterrand

# 10 YEARS AEGEE

## 5 Years Active East-West Working Group

**T**he story of the EWWG is a story of change, response, reconciliation and finally, consolidation. As such, this story represents a speeded-up version of the European integration process, because AEGEE has already achieved expansion to include the „other“ Europeans in its membership. Rainer Emschermann, Rainer Seider, Harald Hau, Michael Merker, Georg von der Gablentz, David Stulik (to name only six) and the past and present Presidents of AEGEE antennae in the new democracies have been the agents of this expansion through their personal vision and leadership. These people were the core of the EWWG after my time, but I was the first convenor/speaker of the EWWG.

When I joined AEGEE I had a keen interest in East European politics and the progress of „citizens diplomacy“. To me, the idea of ordinary people undermining political dogmata by relating directly with one another was very appealing. This was what appealed to me about AEGEE – AEGEE was and is about students building bridges across Europe. I therefore agreed instantly when, as a new member of the CD after the April 1988 AGORA in Milano, Johannes Heister asked me to convene an East-West Working Group. There was an EWWG meeting on 4 June 1988 in Berlin on the occasion of the AEGEE-Berlin culture congress, the first after the expressions of interest at the Milano AGORA. Less than a year later the EWWG was to return to Berlin for the great congress on East-West relations organised by Georg von der Gablentz in the Reichstag in May of 1989.

Some themes which drew our attention in the early EWWG are relevant to successor working groups, so it is worth saying something about them. In particular, there is the theme of German-German relations and the particular interest which German students have always shown in 'Ostpolitik'. This manifests itself in local EWWGs in several German antennae, notably in Bonn and Berlin, and in the 75-85% German membership of the AEGEE-Europe EWWG. The activists in Leipzig created the first East European contact group as soon as the AEGEE rules would allow it, and thereafter the role of the Eastern German antennae has been to draw other East Europeans into the network. This has been accomplished very successfully in Poland and Hungary, but less so elsewhere. The disproportionate participation of Germans in the EWWG was in fact less of a problem than

a necessity because at the European level the Working Group is a very difficult organisation to sustain. Thus, the EWWG benefited then from the continuity of activities at a local level as it does today, thanks mainly to the enthusiasm and organisational abilities of the German antennae.

The second theme of current interest is the theme of European integration, of widening versus deepening and the question of European identity. I am glad that the pragmatic approach – to give as many young people as possible the chance to participate in the AEGEE movement – is the approach which prevailed. In a real sense, AEGEE is not a forum in which the limits of European integration have any relevance. What is important is that we retain the values which have driven the movement forward. We believe in the idea of Europe and reject nationalism because we have proved over and over again that our common European culture gives us the „connectivity“ to live and work together. Since the historic decision at the Salerno AGORA in November 1989 to offer the network to EFTA and East European countries, AEGEE adapted to another definition of Europe beyond the EC. Subsequent decisions in 1990 and 1991 have consolidated the position of East Europeans so that they are now full members.

Today the EWWG concentrates on the development of democracies in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and thinks of ways to integrate Europe even closer. To this end the EWWG will organise this year a case-study trip to the Ukraine and focuses on the improvement of East-West relations especially regarding the possible enlargement of the EU towards the East.

### David Randall



Vieri Bracco,  
1987



*The solution of regional problems, the different level of economic development and the ethnic and minority problems, are of crucial importance for the European integration. The results of a miscalculated policy in this area is visible to us in the Balkans and Caucasus. If we want, as European students, to take responsibility for the future of our continent, we have to learn the policies which govern Europe, especially the European Union and European integration, without giving up our ideas and our own utopias. To take part in this development, the AGORA in Amsterdam (April 1991) decided to create a Europe of the Regions Working Group (EuRegWG).*

## EUROPE OF THE REGIONS WG

**T**he conception of a regional Europe came up in the European Community at the end of the eighties. The idea was to let the regions of the member states take part in the decision-making process of the Community. Until the Maastricht Meeting the Working Group took part actively in the development of the regions' role in the Community. A main part of its work was to find out different possibilities ways of institutionalising that role.

The WG members took part at different conferences regarded this subject, as e.g. the meeting about BENE-LUX II in Maastricht 1991. The WG contacted the DG XVI and regional governments. It also organised academies and congresses on that topic, as in Leuven and München in 1992. With these activities, the Working Group and by this the whole AEGEE Network were kept informed about the actual political development within the European Community.

Another kind of „Europe of the Regions“ is the cross-border co-operation of regional entities, the development of „Euro-Regions“. Conferences in Freiburg, Rennes and Poznan dealt with that topic. Another field of activity was to find information about minorities and their protection in Europe and to stay intensively in touch with these responsible. Excellent relations were developed with e.g. Bavaria, Catalonia, Flanders and the German-Speaking Community of Belgium.

In 1993/1994 the Working Group had its generation tangent. New members with new ideas and perspectives gave the Working Group a new dynamism.



*The Comité Directeur at the AGORA in Leiden 1987 with Bernard Rossmann*

mic approach, that is so important for our association. The political scenario with which the Working Group is confronted is worse than it could have been imagined. Especially armed ethnic conflicts ask for new ideas and solutions. But also within the European Union, the role of the regions is yet undefined. A new sphere of more interesting actions is open to the Working Group and invites a curious look towards the future of the „Europe of the Regions“ within AEGEE.

**Marco Kalbusch**

*„We all live in Europe, and we would like to live here for the next decades as well. Therefore we need a well-balanced, natural environment and not an environment which is constantly in danger.“ This is the introduction to the first official description of the Environmental Working Group (EnvWG) published in the report of the 1st AEGEE-Environmental Week (January 21-28, 1990). From the beginning the EnvWG was closely connected to the Environmental Week of AEGEE.*

# ENVIRONMENTAL WG

In February 1989, I started becoming active in two different University groups in Karlsruhe. One was an environmental group the other was AEGEE. As a member of the first I took part in a meeting of German ecological university groups which took place in Berlin in spring 1989. Among different workshops which were held, there was one entitled „Environment and Europe“.

The keystone for the development of the EnvWG. The results of the workshop were that European unification would threaten the environment if relevant protection policies were not introduced rapidly on the European level.

Furthermore, trans-national companies were much better organised than the Non-Governmental organisations working in

the environmental protection.

By chance we had at that time a CD member in our AEGEE group: Michael Stuber. He asked me „Why don't you create an Environmental Working Group in AEGEE?“. In June 1989 I distributed a questionnaire to find other interested people. Although the feedback was disappointing, another lucky chance helped us to continue. At that time the European Commission decided to support a proposal which had been made nearly one year before: to organise a European-wide Environmental week. Together with Georg Hessler, president of AEGEE-München, we initiated and co-ordinated the first week. We managed to motivate 17 antennae to participate in the 1st Environmental Week which was a great success.

Finishing my studies in Paris in Spring 1990 it was the

need to arrange the first official EnvWG meeting at the EGEE V event. Andreas Mohn, who joined the group in November 1989, prepared most of the subjects. He managed to unite those people newly interested after the 1st EnvWeek. He organised the first Environmental congress in Münster in spring 1991. Stefan Gerwens succeeded him as speaker and later Stefan Decher's team from Mannheim organised the 2nd EnvWeek (May 13-17, 1991) in which 37 antennae made a contribution. Maarten van Beuningen was the next speaker and he organised the 3rd EnvWeek in May 1992 and the Environmental Academy in Maastricht in June 1992.

## Armin Marko

### The EnvWG today

The 10th birthday of AEGEE in 1995 coincides with the European Nature Conservation Year (ENCY '95). In fact after less activities between 1992 and the Utrecht AGORA in Autumn 1993, Philipp von Klitzing started to talk about „Environment“ again. At the AGORA in Munich (spring 1994) he started to co-ordinate the activities together with Luca Spano and Analisa Vetere Arellano from AEGEE-Milano. In October 1994 during the Environmental Meeting in the „Natural Park of Ticino“, Italy, Paolo Svegli became the new speaker. In relation to the Task Force Nature of the Council of Europe we initiated the Academy „Environmental Problems in Eastern Europe“ in March 1995. Meanwhile several locals got seriously involved in the ENCY '95. New projects will be discussed at the PM in Ljubljana and the 1995 spring AGORA in Amsterdam.

## Editorial Team

Rikstus Oosterhuis with the Mayor of Leiden at the reception at the AGORA, April 1987



# NORTH-SOUTH WG

## *A Balanced World*

**F**ounded in the belief that Europe should pay more attention to its relation with developing countries, the NSWG has helped to organise many activities to promote North-South understanding in past years. The „Africa Today – The Legacy of Co-operation“ Congress in Gorizia, Italy in April 1993 is an example of the WG's activities. Focusing on the situation of Africa at the end of an era marked by the Cold War, it helped to achieve a greater understanding of the enormous difficulties this huge continent faces today. Years of mismanagement rather broadened the gap between the First and Third world.

Today the NSWG is mainly working for the position of Indigenous People in this world. Together with the Inter-group on Indigenous People of the European Parliament and the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation the NSWG is disseminating lots of information to increase students' awareness of the sort of those peoples.

## *Editorial Team*

# HUMAN RIGHTS WG

## *Striving for Tolerance*

**O**ut of the „Striving for Tolerance“ series of conferences in 1993 and 1994, with conferences in Köln (Europe and the Islamic Culture), Heidelberg (Anti-Semitism in Europe Today), Freiburg (Xenophobia! Are you racist?) and Budapest (Ethnic Minorities) came the intention to create more space within AEGEE for action against all kind of discrimination.

We cannot tolerate violation of human rights on our continent. Democracy and freedom must be preserved. Out of these believes the Anti-Discrimination WG was born in 1993. The WG aimed at fighting all kinds of racism, intolerance, anti-semitism and xenophobia. In 1994 a new group of people around Pleun Rijkers took over and pushed ahead with the work giving the WG a broader aim - Protection of Human Rights - and calling the WG respectively: Human Rights WG.

The first main event of the new group was a very active participation in the international seminar „Europe against Discrimination“ held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, on October 20 and 21, 1994. The

representatives of European businesses, churches, the 1939-1945 resistance, sports, trade unions, universities, women and AEGEE representing European youth groups decided to strengthen their efforts to create a more tolerant society, both jointly and within their own sphere. Important speeches were given by Mrs Lalumière, former secretary general of the Council of Europe, by Mr van den Broek, member of the European Commission, and Mr van der Stoep, High Commissioner for National Minorities of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The conference was finalised in the „Declaration of Strasbourg“

The WG is the main co-ordinator of AEGEE's involvement in the European Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance. In close collaboration with the Council of Europe many activities have been organised to promote a more tolerant society.

## *Editorial Team*

*Brussels, a Projekt was born: Euromanagers*



# 1988



# CHAPTER 4

## EUROPEAN PROJECTS



*AEGEE can be proud of a number of projects it facilitated, either directly, or through the European experience and contacts it provided their founders with. This includes both organisations with a commercial objective, non-profit associations, and projects remaining within AEGEE.*

*Following this introduction, by one of the former project launchers, several articles explain the specifications of these projects and the nature of their link with AEGEE.*

# ABOUT LARGE EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Numerous projects and companies with a lasting European impact of the one can mention: Euro-Managers, Moot Court, CHAMP, EGEE congresses I to XI, Summer Universities, AEGEE European School, TEAM, Europolis, AEGEE Scope, News Bulletin, Les Anciens, Prometheus-Europe, ECIP and some other AEGEE groups such as the Working Groups also have an element of continuity.

The difficult but necessary question of autonomy was raised. The maturation process of the independent associations and companies, and their relation to AEGEE-Europe has not been without difficulty in the past. There are often tensions with other AEGEE members, especially at the Agora, while the CD tends better to understand the „managerial“ necessity of autonomy. Some members typically think that a project belongs to the network, not to its founders: jealousies are raised, and rumors circulate about AEGEE being exploited, or former project leaders getting very rich out of these projects (which never happened to my knowledge). In fact, in several instances, the only support AEGEE provided was for future project leaders to get to know each other. The independent projects do not always work out: a number of them hesitate too long between student events – with their continuity problems – and professional organisations – with their need to pay wages every month. Also, AEGEE leaders tend to be ambitious, and sometimes get better career opportunities in larger organisations.

So, should one prevent other associations from emerging from AEGEE? Should one try to avoid companies

being created by former AEGEE members? I believe, on the contrary, that AEGEE should promote students' entrepreneurship more decisively. The best way to do that is to give some associative projects full independence and responsibility, including setting up their own structure. As to potential companies, one should not confuse voluntary work with business, and therefore these companies should aim at complete independence. In several cases, a co-operation agreement with AEGEE would be useful; it should stress exchange of services rather than trying to control each other. It might be useful to state and publish a general policy, so as to re-assure and encourage potential founders of such projects. On this basis, AEGEE will contribute more to European integration than it could on its own. In many cases, it is an illusion to think that students following the founders will have the same motivation and energy, or that topics will remain relevant for students only. For example, present AEGEE members are more Internet-literate than alumni, they could launch badly needed European services on the Net, and create several companies or associations in that field. Except for some series of events which should continue within AEGEE, each generation should found and develop its own projects. That way, the following leaders can concentrate on strengthening what should be continued, and launching new projects.

**Christophe Leclercq**

*AEGEE is a creative network where individuals  
can meet across borders and test entrepreneurial ideas.*

*In order to promote constant self-renewal,  
and put Europe's interests before organisational control,*

*AEGEE should facilitate the maturation  
and externalisation of these activities.*

*Euromanagers started on a small scale within  
AEGEE, enhanced its impact greatly through independence.*

## **From a Small Pilot-Project to a Large Potential Job Market**

In the autumn 1986, a group of Cologne students set-up one of the first AEGEE antennae in Germany. As the founding President, I proposed to launch a colloquium on cross-border recruitment of European graduates. At the same time, AEGEE-Europe was lobbying hard to get EC member states to approve the ERASMUS and COMETT programmes, and the 1992 internal market programme was just gathering momentum. Clearly, as companies would need more European managers, and students would look for careers according to their Euro-education: a European market-place was needed where „demand“ and „supply“ could meet. The response to the colloquium project from universities and sponsors was great: many large organisations like Commerzbank, Siemens, Henkel, and business schools like INSEAD, HEC, ESSEC, ESCP agreed to come. Therefore, the colloquium became EUROMANAGERS '87, the pilot project for a larger event the following year. Students were also enthusiastic: in March 1987, AEGEE organised 8 colloquia around Europe, with record participation in Cologne.

I contacted two potential partners in Belgium: Spiros Nomicos, of AEGEE-Bruxelles and Christian Hunt, of AEGEE-Louvain-La Neuve. It was decided to aim for a large fair in Brussels, and to structure it like an independent organisation. We had some professional experience, we knew what marketing and finance implied, and wanted professional standards. At the following Comité Directeur meeting, quite a few doubted the chances of such a large project. Nevertheless, the green light was

given for an independent association which was set up in August 1987. The following Agora, in Sevilla, questioned the independent organisation, but gave in under the condition that an agreement would be made between both associations. This concerned mainly sponsoring, free participation for AEGEE members, and various PR measures. One year of hard

work in the Euromanagers association followed, in co-operation with a professional exhibition company, AEGEE-Europe, AEGEE-Bruxelles and 20 „Euromanagers contacts“ around Europe. In February 1988, EUROMANAGERS '88 included both a well-attended Congress, with a wide press coverage, and a



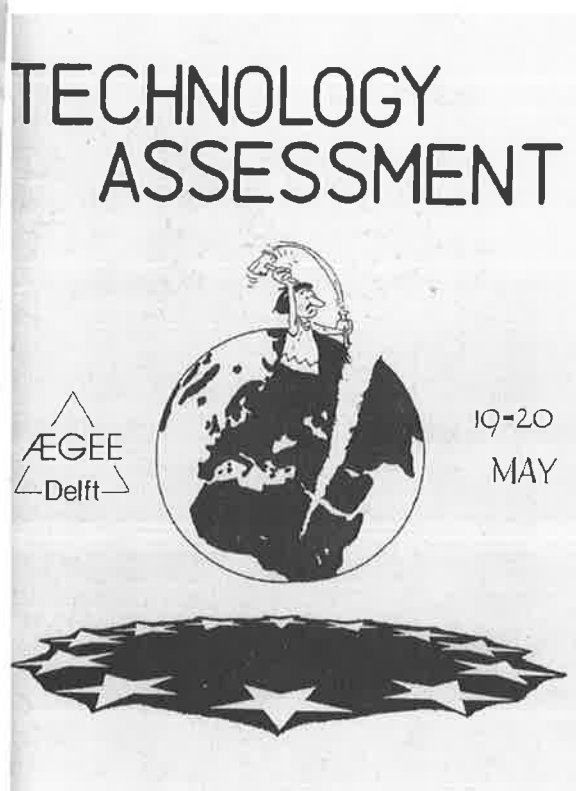
*The first  
edition of  
Euromanagers  
was established  
in 1988 and  
took place  
in Brussels*

Forum, bringing together 6 companies and 30 universities with visitors from Brussels and abroad. Companies however did not achieve many recruits: they were still learning how to address these cross-border „Euro-students“.

Seven years later, one can still read about Euromanagers in the press, when it selects around 700 candidates out of 20.000 inquiries, and invites them to Brussels for pre-arranged interviews with 240 recruiters from international companies. Many companies now have good European recruitment programmes, thanks to these events among others. Euromanagers has moved up-market, selecting the best and most international graduates, often with several years of professional experience abroad. Distinct from head-hunting – for highly experienced people –, and from campus recruitment programmes – for all students, often with a national focus –, Euromanagers contributes in a unique way to the development of a European job-market. This would have been possible neither within AEGEE, nor in fact within Euromanagers association itself. The change after Euromanagers '88 was not simple, it involved several stages, including times of uncertainty and tension. The Euromanagers event was eventually taken over by the

company EMDS, created by Christian Hunt and Stéphane Wajskop. New ideas, and a full-time commitment, greatly improved the concept and its implementation. For example, marketing became much stronger, pre-selection was introduced, and interviews became pre-arranged. Euromanagers today serves the same purpose, but completely different from the student event it once was. Every year, the event initiated as an AEGEE colloquium in Cologne, acts as a medium for among hundreds of international jobs, and builds European awareness among many more people. What became a profitable company continues to contribute to European integration. In 1987, AEGEE-Europe was perhaps at its highest level of creativity, developing many large projects, which stretched human and financial resources. Should the Comité Directeur have refused Euromanagers' independence and therefore de-motivated its founders? Certainly not. Although necessary, the discussions we had then and at the Agora probably discouraged a number of other creators. Hopefully, AEGEE has learned from this experience, and would gain more from such a project emerging today.

**Christophe Leclercq**



The conference „Technology Assessment“ took place in Delft, May 1988



The conference „European Culture Week“ took place in Berlin, May 1988



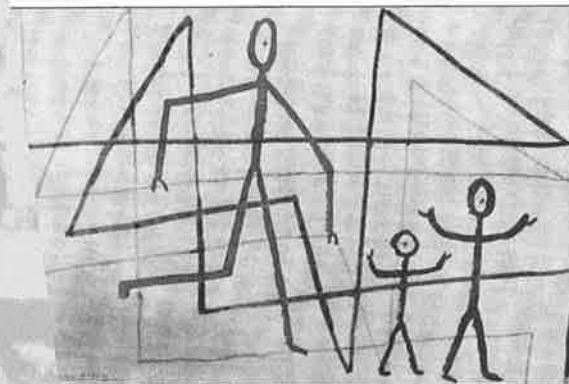
# EUROMANAGERS

## From Euromanagers '88 to the EMDS Group

**A**ugust 1987: Christophe Leclercq, Christian Hunt and Spiros Nomicos start up the Euromanagers Association, under the auspices of AEGEE-Europe (refer to previous article). February 1988: Participation in the first „Euromanagers Forum & Congress“ brings remarkable and unparalleled success in the history of AEGEE-Europe's sphere of influence. However, the immediate future is full with difficulties. Certain targets have not been met, tension rises among the management. Christophe Leclercq joins McKinsey; Christian Hunt distances himself from events... In order to guarantee the event's future, it is clear that fundamental changes must be made. Above all a new team is needed. One that is permanent, and even more professional. Nobody seems to want to take up the challenge. Several months go by, it looks as if the project will be dropped... In July 1988, Christian Hunt and Stéphane Wajskop meet, almost by chance. Stéphane, a 26 years old Belgian lawyer decides against pursuing a promising career in law. Christian chooses to abandon his studies. Together they take over the Euromanagers Association and devise a totally new concept for the „Euromanagers Forum“, later adopted by others and known today by the name of „suite-based selection event“: selected candidates are invited to come and meet employers in the suites of a prestigious hotel. Negotiations are entered into with Frédéric Pelard, President of AEGEE-Europe, in view of working together again but unfortunately it is not possible to reach a mutually acceptable agreement. AEGEE Europe launches TEAM '90.

In December 1989, the second „Euromanagers Forum“ meets with resounding success. Nonetheless, its subsequent development necessitates a further qualitative boost and, in particular, increased financial means. Once again, Christian Hunt and Stéphane Wajskop decide to rise to the challenge, and at the beginning of 1990 they set up the company EMDS International SPRL. Year follows year and the fame of the event, now called „Euromanagers&Eurengineers Forum“, grows continually. Thus in December 1994, the 7th „EM&EE Forum“, sponsored by 12 large European and international daily newspapers, enables 675 top graduates and young professionals to meet 240 recruiters from 34 multinational groups. Right from its start-up in 1990, EMDS also develops into an innovative consultancy specialising in the international search and selection of highly-talented

graduates and young professionals. During the course of the year a subsidiary is set up in Düsseldorf. And at the beginning of 1993, EMDS Group SA (umbrella holding company) acquires a majority interest in the London young-executive search consultancy „William Archer Associates“, which later becomes EMDS Consulting Ltd. In 1994 the EMDS Group generates a consolidated turnover of Ecu 1.26 million, up 88% on the previous year's turnover. Its clients include 100 of the top 500 groups worldwide and it recruits young executives in all four



*The European Colloquium about AIDS took place in Freiburg, November 1988*

corners of the world. For 1995, EMDS anticipate a 47% growth rate. New subsidiaries are being set up in Milan and Stockholm, and the establishment of offices in Paris and Hong Kong is under review. As of late 1994 discussions with AEGEE-Europe are once again in progress with the aim of finding new avenues for co-operation. EMDS aims to become one of the world leaders in the recruitment of young executives. With its AEGEE background, EMDS is in the process of successfully realising a wild dream – transforming a student project into a strong business which continues to meet the initial objective: putting people and employers in contact across borders...

**Christian Hunt**

*Asked to chat about TEAM, I would like to review it as a source of experience and avoid just remembering the good old times. There was a genuine enthusiasm inside TEAM, and people were deeply convinced they were doing something that would have an impact on the European labour market, however small our contribution could have been. All AEGEE events are based on big enthusiasm and you are probably familiar with this.*

# THE EUROPEAN ACADEMIC MANAGER

From the very beginning of its conception, TEAM was meant to be a big event: it would require the efforts of 7 antennae, it had to involve companies throughout Europe (the western side of it, in those years) and it had to gather 500 students or young graduates, the very best of the Continent who were hosted for free for four days. Furthermore, companies wanted to have an impact on a selected but wide target. The event was planned to have 4000 visitors, mainly from the universities of Milan and Northern Italy. It had to be an exhibition, one that could stand comparison with a professional congress. I personally joined the TEAM team after the definition phase. But on the other hand I have to admit I would not have been brave enough to start that monster, and probably I would have quit soon. This is a very good example to show that people are different, and those who are good at implementing are not necessarily good founders. We inherited a good „vision“ from the very beginners of TEAM, and that was the fuel that helped people to continue the work on the right track, even when personal reasons led some of the project's fathers and mothers to part, an event that should always be expected and treated not as treason on the part of the team member, but as a difficult decision: no one quits after devoting long hours to a project just because he is bored. Together with the vision, we also received a detailed description of what we were going to produce in the end, and how much it should have cost. This is non-trivial, it is a big help, and I guess that much of this precision was due to the experience gathered in a similar AEGEE event, Euromanagers. It is important, for those who lead a project to understand the importance of other people's contribution and let them know that one appreciates what they are doing and how they are doing it. It is very easy for a project coor-

dinator to think that he is the only one who is working for three main reasons: because he is the only one who knows certain global aspects of the project and it is therefore the only one who can do certain tasks, thus he works more; because everybody identifies the project with the coordinator and gives good reasons to think that he is the only one working; and finally because we always think there is just one on earth who is working, and that is us.

So, there was a „vision“, and there were people ready to spend time to make it real. One missing ingredient was organisation, and the second one was sizes. We reached organisation in different ways. First, we left people more free to accomplish their tasks, reducing the number of checks on minimal expenses and improving the quality of our „what if ...“ analysis putting our budget model on a computer spreadsheet; this minor choice has a tremendous importance for events like exhibitions that have high fixed costs and slowly increasing costs depending on the number of exhibitors: one always needs to know when you are break-even or going bankrupt. Secondly, we tightened „contributions“ to performance in the second edition of TEAM, for example antennae received a forfait reimbursement plus contribution for each participating company they could provide; the cons of this approach are in the risk of losing contact and reducing your event to a money-market fair. Thirdly, we hired a professional congress organiser to support us in preparing TEAM. This was an extremely debated issue, because students tend to consider themselves clever enough not to need help, and they underestimate the value of the experience they miss; however we agreed that task legislation compliance, choice and management of supplies, support to customers for all minor issues were to be supervised by an

external expert, who would also give us the extremely necessary input to stop if things are going too badly in his opinion. It became very clear that such a choice had enabled us to save a lot of money (even including the high fee due) and had contributed to preparing a smooth and excellent event without stealing AEGEE's role: we were on the other hand able to concentrate on the real issues without losing too much concentration on details.

In 1990 and in Italy, AEGEE was a moderately known association with little credit among large companies. Let alone did it have the power to influence media and promote TEAM on a national or international basis. We were lucky enough to find an exceptional partner in „Il Sole 24 Ore“, the leading financial newspaper in Italy that intended to promote an particularly refined recruitment fair was still in the early days of conception. They completely shared our aims and, most of all, shared the view that quality, rather than profit should be the leading factor when making choices. They both contributed in finding more participating companies and of course, a large scale of promotion of TEAM both in Italy and in Europe. For those who accepted a higher level of involvement, the joint venture between AEGEE and „Il Sole 24 Ore“ provided an extremely useful exposure to real conditions, marketing and project management. It is a big issue in an organisation that features a very high turnover, and until a better solution is found, one should at least follow one recommendation: keep track of all you are doing, keep records, photocopies, memos, budget, faxes: tons of paper with a summary to write on top, once the project is over and you are more relaxed. One needs to enjoy organising an event, whatever its size. You would not probably do it otherwise. You sometimes receive signals (often from your parents) that one wastes your time at the expenses of your studies (and career). Indeed, AEGEE is a demanding environment for those who feel responsible of their studies as well, and you should be prepared to slowing down your exams for a while. While you always have to watch out not to exaggerate, you need to receive one more signal: by the time you start working, you will see it was all worth doing it.

**Giuliano Giovanetti**

And now I would like to tell you something about what happened during the two past editions of the event. The project did not travel from one city to another, as the original project should have and it had been organised in Milano from 1990 to 1993; also the characteristics of the project changed a little, adapting themselves to the circumstances and to the development of the labour market. More space has been given to the institutional part, with the participation of not only the European Community and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but also other international and national institutions. It became also more Italian-oriented; in this sense it became a very interesting event for people who wanted to take contact with the Italian market, for students who wanted to get internship programmes or to be employed in Italian companies. Of course the economical situation, not only European, and the negative contingencies the recruiting stopped the incentives to employ new people, but anyway it remained a good opportunity to come in contact with numerous companies and important institutions, and a table of discussion upon labour market issues.

In the 1994 TEAM did not take place and for the 1995 edition some other changes are planned; it will be bigger and it will also change name to TASK which includes TEAM, a part reserved to students and young graduates, EXPOLINGUE, a section dedicated to languages schools, and a new part called JOB, dedicated to people who already have a job, as young employers, but who would like to change or to know more about new opportunities. It will remain quite Italian oriented. For these reasons, AEGEE is taking steps in other direction, keeping in consideration the European perspective. A Working Group on European projects has been set up in order to develop projects at the European level and in its agenda you can already find the reconsideration of the original project of TEAM as a travelling student fair. It is a huge and very ambitious project but we are here to prove and to enjoy ourselves in organising it!

**Lisa Baldi**



Congress „Space III“  
Toulouse, November 1988



*On a balmy London afternoon in October 1991, six former AEGEE members gathered at London Business School to discuss the possibility of launching the largest and most ambitious management skills competition of its kind, ever.*

*More than three years later, and with two annual competitions successfully completed,*

*all members of AEGEE can feel justifiably proud of their contribution*

*to pan-European integration through CHAMP.*

# A CHALLENGE IN MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVES

Involving students from over 35 European countries, CHAMP was an extremely ambitious project. The format of the competition gave bright young people, who will be the managers of the „new“ Europe of tomorrow, an ideal opportunity to meet and exchange ideas, learning from each other in an informal atmosphere. AEGEE was uniquely placed to facilitate the competition, based as it was on cross-functional analysis of a broad range of business issues, and relying as it did on a truly pan-European support infrastructure that AEGEE has developed in its ten years' existence.

The competition was so successful, in fact, that Unilever, Tempus and London Business School all agreed to co-sponsor CHAMP in the following year, to the tune of some Ecu 110000. Following a similar theme to its predecessor, CHAMP 94 benefited from the luxury of hindsight and was an enormous success. Due to funding difficulties, CHAMP was not pursued during 1995, however plans for CHAMP 96 are in the pipeline.

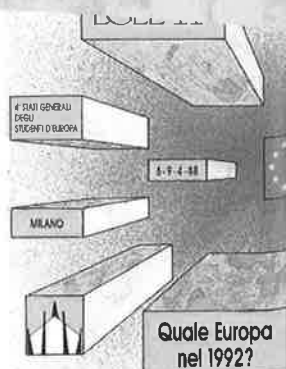
CHAMP's objectives were to allow groups of future managers the opportunity to collectively address topical management issues. As such, the competition began with a written round to introduce potential teams to the style of the competition. Hundreds of submissions were assessed and teams were then selected to compete in qualifying heats held in all corners of Europe, including Budapest, Leipzig, Milan, Paris, Oviedo, Rotterdam, Trondheim and Warsaw.

The success and hard work of CHAMP concluded in London as the teams winning the European regional heats were brought together in an educational setting to test their management skills. A series of case-studies, debates and computerised management games combined to determine the ultimate winners. Prizes for the final round winners included individual placements with a Unilever company in Europe for each team member, plus a team cash prize.

If nothing else, CHAMP provided students from Eastern and Western Europe with the opportunity to interact with colleagues from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, promoting an objective that surely runs to the very core of AEGEE.

**Guy Barnes**

*„What Europe  
in 1992?“  
is the question  
that the European  
students have  
asked themselves.  
The EGEE IV  
„new reality“  
in 1988  
in Milan.*





*„Something to do during the first two weeks of July?“ It was a very simple and innocent question that a friend of mine asked me during the spring some years ago. In this way my adventure in AEGEE started and it was with a Summer University. I didn't have anything special to do that July – it was 1988 – but for the next four years some weeks of June and July were to be entirely dedicated to the Summer University.*

# SUMMER UNIVERSITY

A summer course for European fellow students? No problem! Let's find lodging places, teachers, classrooms, university facilities, let's organise the leisure programme, the excursions, the parties: a titanic job for a students' association that only had 57 local branches through Europe and in Milano didn't have any office. And more or less all the other antennae were in the same situation: no faxes, few computers. There was, anyway, a central SU coordination with the task of publishing a brochure including a presentation of the first 10 courses offered by AEGEE. For the registration it was enough to fill in the application form and send it directly to the organising antennae; it was possible at that time: there were only 290 available places. For the first three years a single person was in charge of SU project; but in 1991 more than 40 courses were expected and the number of participants was quickly increasing

wards everybody back home with some knowledge more. With brand new SU spirit it does not happen, because AEGEE is a formidable machine in which is easy to get in and maybe impossible to get out. Because you live with other people, because one lives people, because friends remain, because if you are in Amsterdam, Praha is just around the corner, because in your pocket you always keep addresses of people you will meet again, one day. Because beyond the Euro-bureaucracy it exists a Euro-spontaneity. Political frontiers and linguistic borders don't exist anymore: we, the Summer University enthusiasts, just destroyed them some years ago.

**Francesca Guerrini**  
**Silvia Negrotti**

For that reason AEGEE-Europe decided to encharge an entire antenna and to create the „Summer University Coordination Team“. One of the first meetings of the SUCT was held in Maastricht. It was February, streets were covered by ice and it wasn't easy at all. But all the interested people were present anyway; we had hours of colourful discussions about which was the best payment procedure and which punishment should be inflicted on those who didn't show up to the courses. We felt like pioneers, and we all knew that we were building up something. Yes: but what? It was Europe. Big word indeed. Centuries and centuries of history, kings and diplomats, writers and philosophers, professional politicians didn't manage to create one Europe; how should a band of broke young students change the world travelling from town to town learning some phrases in a new language? Too easy. So easy that nobody else had tried it before. Summer language schools, university courses, postgraduates studies: old stuff; after-

## SUMMER UNIVERSITY

LANGUAGE COURSES  
COURS DE LANGUE



1988

The first edition of the Summer University book was published in 1988 where 11 courses were taught in 10 different towns with 290 participants

*„Last month AEGEE was exactly*

*three-years-old.“ These words*

*started the first edition of*

*the Summer University brochure,*

*published in 1988*

*by Daisy Kopmels in Amsterdam.*

# SOME DATA ABOUT THE SUMMER UNIVERSITIES

**F**or the first year AEGEE presented 11 courses in 10 different towns, for 290 participants; 6 languages were taught: Catalan, Spanish, German, Italian, Dutch and French. One year later there were already 16 courses and it was possible for the first time to study Greek and Computer Sciences. 23 courses in 1990 and 9 subjects: German, Dutch, Greek, Spanish, Catalan, French, English, Italian and Russian. 1638 people applied in 1991 for the 887 available places; they came from 91 cities all over Europe, most of them were Dutch speaking (330), Spanish speaking (279), German speaking (273) and Italian speaking (270). 37 courses were offered for more different subjects. The preferred course was Spanish in Madrid, for which 225 people applied. In 1992 AEGEE offered 57 courses in 52 different places: German, Danish, English, Dutch, Greek, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, French, Romanian, Hungarian, Russian, Czech, Bulgarian, Theatre, Economics, Geology, Architecture, Photography, Folklore, Journalism, Statistics, Law, Sports, Arts. In Summer 1993 AEGEE organised 68 courses in 72 different European cities, taught 16 languages (Bulgarian, Catalan, English, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian) and 10 other subjects (communication, computers, environment, European law, folklore, history, navigation, politics, sports, water sciences). The preferred courses were French in Genève (with 164 applications), Spanish and Flamenco in Sevilla (151) and French in Bordeaux (131). 3324 persons (1910 women and 1414 men) applied for our courses. They came from 124 university towns in 30 European countries. They spoke 33 different languages (22% of them had Italian as mother tongue, 20% Spanish, 11% German, 9% Dutch, 7% Hungarian, 5% Polish, 4% Greek, 3% Finnish, 2% Turkish, Romanian,

French, Slovenian or Slovak). The average Summer University participant was born in 1969 or 1970, the oldest was 35 years old, the youngest was 18. 25% of them were studying economics at university, 12% law, 10% engineering or languages, 5% political sciences, 4% humanities or medicine. In the year 1994 we have organised 81 courses in 92 different European cities, taught 16 languages (Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, Czech, English, Dutch, French, Galician, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish) and 13 other subjects (associations' organisation, communication, computers, culture, European law, gastronomy, folklore, history, navigation, philosophy, photography, politics, sports). The preferred courses for Summer 1994 were the Travelling Summer University through the Nordic Countries organised by AEGEE-Aalborg, København, Lund and Turku/Åbo (with 167 applications), the course of Spanish in Madrid (162) and French in Montpellier (151). 4028 persons (2322 women and 1706 men) applied for our courses and more than a half of them participated in a Summer University. They came from 135 university towns in 31 European countries. They spoke 38 different languages (20% of them had Italian as mother tongue, 14% Spanish, 10% German and Hungarian, 8% Dutch, 6% Greek, 5% Polish, 3% Finnish, Slovenian, 2% Slovak, Croatian, Romanian, Swedish, French or Macedonian). The average Summer University participant was born in 1972, the oldest was 34 years old, the youngest was 16. 27% of them were studying economics at university, 12% law, 11% engineering, 10% languages, 6% political sciences, 3% medicine.

**Vittòrio Dell'Àquila**

*AEGEE has given birth to a number of projects: TV shows, student congresses, ski weeks, semi-professional Space congresses, etc...*

*But only two projects have matured, becoming self-organised, self-financed and self-controlled:*

*Euromanagers (as a basically professional organisation) and the European Law Moot Court Competition, remaining a student-led initiative.*

# EUROPEAN LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

While Euromanagers cut all ties with AEGEE, the ELMC Society, the body behind the organisation of the Moot Court, remained in contact with AEGEE. For quite some time, it has been the rejected child of AEGEE – fathered by the former CD member Christoph H. Vaagt under the umbrella of AEGEE-Europe in 1988, it has been since ignored. After 6 years of existence, the Moot is recognized as a genuine AEGEE project, working under special arrangements. The European Law Moot Court Society has been set up in 1988 in order to organise the Moot Court Competition as an independent organisation – independent from AEGEE, but only in organisational and financial matters. It has been created by a former CD member in perfect harmony with the aims of AEGEE that is furthering the knowledge of European matters, and the knowledge among European students. It offers a different formula for getting involved – not just passively participating as part of the auditorium, but actively preparing oneself for contributing. The rewards are high – stages at the Court and the Commission, several book prizes – and, as past experience of participants show, an easy entry into labour markets!

Participants are expected to argue the case from the point of view of both, claimants and defendants, parts. They are judged by an independent panel of acknowledged professors and lawyers, including judges from the Court of the European Communities. While the students are elaborating their oral arguments at their home universities,



left:  
Frédéric Pelard,  
right:  
Vieri Bracco  
presidents  
AEGEE-Europe,  
1988

they are then invited to plead. Venues have included Florence (1989), Thessaloniki and The Hague (1991), Dublin and Lisbon (1992), Florence and Exeter (1993), Nijmegen, Florence and Bruges (1994), and Stockholm, Toulouse and Maastricht (1995). The four most successful teams plead at the All European Final in Luxembourg at the Court.

The Moot is the first project of this kind being recognized by the Court, and counts some of the most eminent European lawyers and judges among its honorary members. Participation from over 40 universities, and even entries from overseas prove how attractive this project is. The ELMC Society, with support of AEGEE, will ensure that this is also true for the future.



„The Europe-Latin America congress“, Strasbourg, 1988

The Moot Court is an annual, bilingual competition in European Law for small student teams. It consists of two parts: first, the elaboration of a written statement on a given case, and, second, the oral defence of the positions expressed in the state-

# ECOLE EUROPEENNE EUROPEAN SCHOOL

Our association, as years pass, grew and became more and more complex. Whenever we have detected a new necessity, new measures have been taken in order to meet this new demands. Thus at the beginning, structures such as

*Christoph Vaagt  
at the Presidents'  
Conference  
in Saarbrücken,  
1988*



the Presidents' Meeting or the Regional Meetings, etc. did not exist. Some years ago we became aware of a new necessity and we proposed a way to fill the gap.

*Domenico  
Lenarduzzi at  
„Euromanagers“  
in Bruxelles, 1988*



We be-  
lieved  
that  
there was  
a lack of  
proper ways  
to ensure the  
training of those  
willing to assume  
responsibilities in  
our association. This  
situation was different  
from that of other big

international associations, in which the motivation and training meetings were very frequent, and were considered to be essential for the continuity of any association. In order to prepare and motivate the students, and

to enable them properly to assume any future responsibility within our association we then created the European School.

To achieve this training we counted on the experience of some former leading members of AEGEE, both European and local levels, as well as that of professionals and specialists coming from related areas, such as human resources or external consulting. The participation of AEGEE members was meant to ensure that the experience they had acquired was not lost for future generations; whereas the co-operation of people with professional and institutional backgrounds was intended to enrich our patrimony with points of view coming from other sectors of the civil society.

My personal wish after those first ten years in AEGEE's life is that the European School will help maintain the bonds between those who are now working for the idea of an ever closer understanding between the peoples of Europe, and those who helped setting the foundations of this admirable adventure.

## **R. López-Aranda**



*J. Heister, M. Dietrich. R. Kohlmann at*



*The average active time of an AEGEE member is probably less than one year, and somewhat more for those few who commit their work at the European level.*

*During this short time AEGEE members undergo a formidable transformation.*

*They become European citizens, and part of the foundation*

*of a truly European society without which*

*the future political Union of Europe will not exist.*

*This is, in fact, the major lasting aspect of AEGEE.*

# AEGEE AND BEYOND

## Les Anciens d'AEGEE-Europe and AEGEE-Agé

Five years after its foundation, AEGEE saw the creation of Les Anciens d'AEGEE-Europe, an alumni club of former leading members of AEGEE. Five years later, we witness the creation of AEGEE-Agé, an alumni network for AEGEE antennae. This is proof enough that AEGEE continues to play a role in our lives.

Les Anciens and Agé serve as the memory of AEGEE. They support AEGEE and give advice when desired. The founders of AEGEE and their successors are an ever-growing source of contacts at all levels and throughout Europe, in science, business, administration and politics. Increasing numbers are joining the European Commission. Les Anciens and Agé are designed to keep up the links between AEGEE alumni and with the currently active AEGEE generation. We organise meetings, inform about current developments in AEGEE, and discuss European and sometimes professional matters. But we are not a continuation of AEGEE. The student world cannot be continued.

However the assessment and the idea which led to the rise of AEGEE is still valid. European unity is the most important political revolution in this and probably the next century, it has no historic precedent. Soon, our generations will have to face the responsibility of carrying European unity beyond its purely political and economic beginnings.

The downfall of Soviet rule in Eastern Europe endorses this assessment. The European Union is the only new element in the cen-



*Impressions of  
an AGORA  
1988*

...turies old concert of nations in Europe. And AEGEE, extended into Eastern Europe, continues to be a laboratory and a school for the future European society. Les Anciens and Agé are not designed for public action. This cannot be the task of an alumni association. Consequently, there are other structures in which former members of AEGEE continue to promote Europe. And there will be more in the future.

Ten years is generally a long time for a student association which changes its leadership almost every year. But AEGEE is there to continue, and so will those who went through it.

**Johannes Heister**



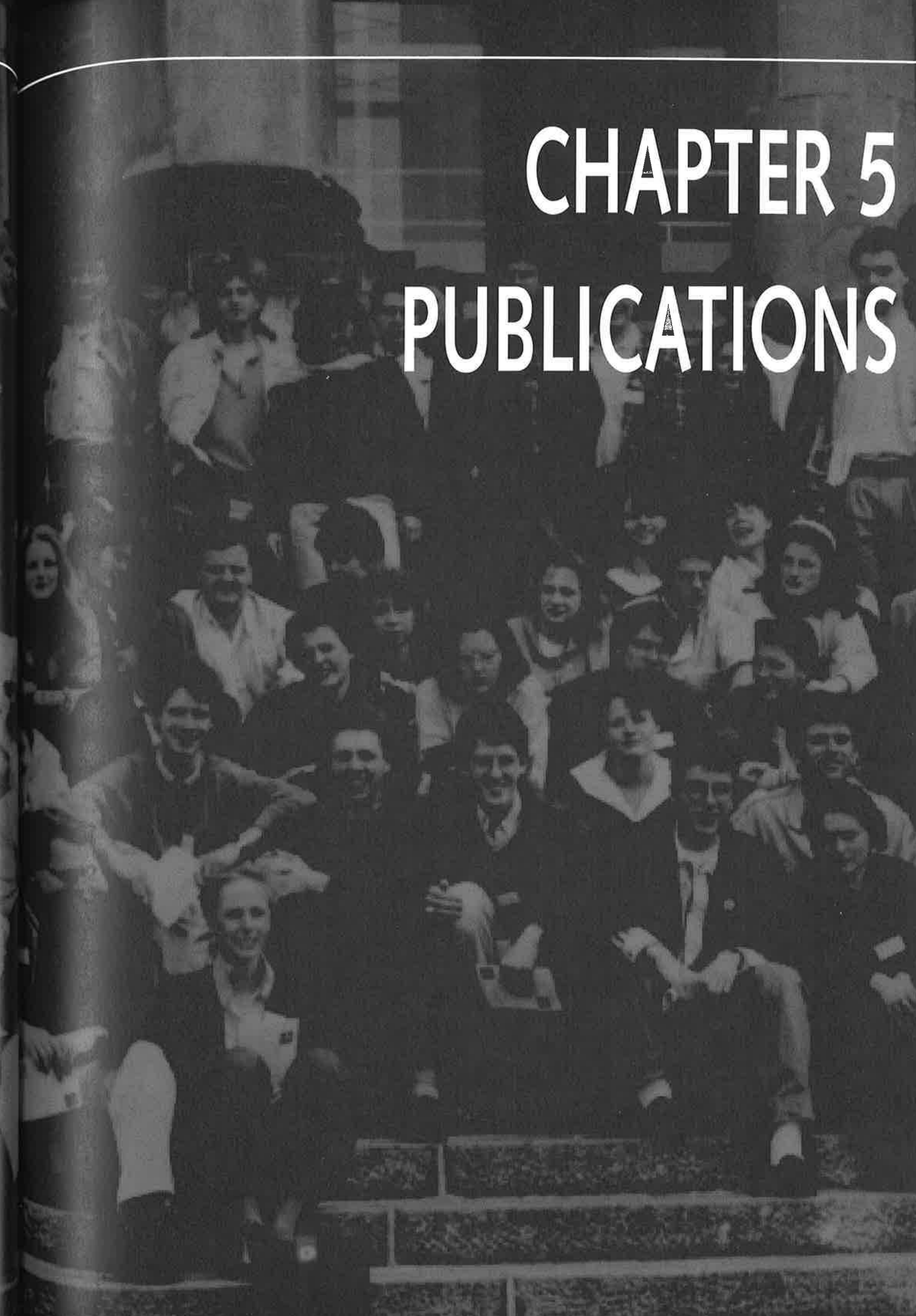
*...in congress in 1988*



# 1989

# CHAPTER 5

# PUBLICATIONS



# PUBLICATIONS

## A Convincing Story

**P**ublications have always played a substantial role for AEGEE. An association, as young and ambitious as ours, needs to make an extra effort in order to be known and recognised as a competent partner; a reputation needs time to be earned and spread, especially since, due to its teenage youth, the organisation is still lacking the influential support of former members who have reached powerful positions.

Since 1985 AEGEE saw three major external publications, starting with *Europolis* ('86-'88), *Scope* ('89-'91) and the *„OneEurope Magazine“* ('93-now). While *Europolis* was designed to be a commercially selling magazine from the very outset, *Scope* was held in a freely distributed newspaper format. The *OneEurope Magazine*, finally, emerged out of the continuous development and growth with each new issue.

All three publications have in common the fact that they addressed Europeans, especially students, thus going far beyond AEGEE's limited membership. Nevertheless, although the network of antennae was at their disposal, for *Europolis*, *Scope* and the *OneEurope Magazine* a widespread distribution always remained a crucial point.

Publishing and communication are closely related terms, and the latter is not a trivial problem for students who are scattered all across Europe and have a rather limited budget. Intra-European communication is either expensive or slow, and is only recently improving due to the public introduction of the „new communication technologies“. Furthermore, the required organisational and editorial skills for European magazines and newspapers quickly reach a dimension where publishing can turn into a full-time job.

On the local level, a great number of local bulletins and magazines contribute to the diffusion of the European idea. Mostly held in the antenna's language, some impressive publications are maintained, bringing Europe closer to the students on a personal and less abstract level. Thus, AEGEE continued to spread information, reports and discourses, aiming at the creation of the, so difficult to define, „European consciousness“. The *News Bulletin*, AEGEE's internal information medium, can look back on to a history of changes similar to that of external publications. Having been the main communication organisation from 1989-92, it nowadays has a hard time fighting the incomparable, faster and multi-direc-

tional information flow of electronic mailing lists.

For external representation, the Comité Directeur decided in 1991 to introduce a yearbook on AEGEE's activities, for which „Key to Europe“ was chosen as title. Meanwhile three issues of the Key to Europe, plus a fore-runner in 1990 have been published to document the activities of the network during the past years. Each issue presented on a few pages the concept of AEGEE, followed by a extensive section with conference reports of mainly Yearplan events of the past year. After a first trial by a group around Peter Simon, Stephan Decher published in late 1992/early 1993 the first Key to Europe. A year later a group around Johannes Stoffels and Dorian Selz were responsible for the next edition, that recently was succeeded by an issue signed Eva Tenbörg.

In 1994 it was complemented by the newsletter „AEGEE-Gazette“ as the perfect print medium for keeping external contacts and formerly active members regularly up to date on recent activities and news on AEGEE-Europe.

The possibilities for a completely new type of publication and PR tools was rapidly taken up by AEGEE, in effect turning it into the leading students' association in that field: The Internet offered first the somewhat limited Gopher service, which quickly developed into the World Wide Web (WWW). The great advantages of these electronic media can be particularly found in their zero costs, as facilities are proved by the universities, a literally unlimited and instantaneous access to AEGEE's main target group on the international computer networks: Students.

Over the years AEGEE gained experience through a number of publications, carefully developing a complementary set of tools tailored to the different addressee's individual interests (students, institutions, companies). The past 10 years have proved AEGEE to be dynamic and flexible, quickly adopting to new possibilities and needs. In the future there is little doubt that the electronic world of publishing will continue to increase in importance and dimension, and AEGEE must keep up with the breathtaking developments in order not to miss the new chances. The time of the printed word is far from being over.

**Philipp von Klitzing**



# EUROPOLIS & SCOPE

## Looking Back in Perspective

A truly European association needs a truly European magazine. This simple logic was at the base of the foundation of the first magazine of AEGEE: Europolis. From spring 1987 onwards the magazine was regularly published. In its first issue it featured articles on Euro-American Economic relations, European Television and a large cultural section with city presentation of Cologne, Madrid, Paris and Seville. Edited bi-lingually by an international editorship it was AEGEE's first successful attempt to „publish“ Europe.

## Editorial Team

I have just returned to the pages of AEGEE Scope after some years of oblivion. Now, looking at them in perspective, to me, they appear full of mistakes, but filled to bursting with the passion and enthusiasm of an invaluable team of people from all over Europe who lived with this magazine one of the most exciting periods of his life.

What was AEGEE-Scope? Briefly, „The independent European magazine for action and reflection“ (in the words of Frédéric Pelard, my first President at that time). But it is also many other things: a platform of discussions and exchange of ideas, a link between nationalities and political conceptions and, why not, „the best school of life“ (in the words of Adolfo Domínguez, my second President during that period).

Why does AEGEE-Europe need a magazine? Because AEGEE-Europe is not only a travel club, a friendly party all over the continent. It is also a political organisation that now, when Europe is not fashionable, must fight more than ever for the idea of a united, prosperous and solitary Europe. A magazine allows such an association, geographically scattered, to gather people at the same table thinking and acting together. Besides this, a magazine is the best visiting card to introduce our association and our ideas to any person from the outside.

Why do AEGEE members need a magazine? Because a magazine provides them, like other formative activities, with a precious experience which will be of great help for their future: improving foreign language skills, using computers, travelling, talking to important people from

different places, dealing with daily problems they never knew before, this is real life.

What do you need to launch a magazine like AEGEE Scope? A good team, plenty of enthusiastic and ready-to-learn people, a lot of time to invest and, ideally, the support of an institution which can help you with some financial and logical matters. In the case of AEGEE Scope, we were lucky, as we counted on the valuable help of the University of Salamanca, always ready to collaborate with us on the many projects we promoted during the years 1989 and 1990.

Looking back in perspective, AEGEE Scope was a good investment. Most of the people who worked on the magazine are now publishers, journalists, managers or lawyers all over Europe and America. And we all keep in mind that we are working on an international level. We do so, because Europe needs not only good professionals, but European-minded ones.

Do not be afraid of investing time, money and efforts on the activities AEGEE offers you; do not be afraid if from time to time you are in trouble with your studies (although studies are the essential counterpart of the practical activities). The result of this investment will not only be a profit for your career, but for your life.



The EGEE V event took place in Madrid 1989 „Women in Europe“



Salamanca held the AGORA spring 1989

**R. García Herrero**

AEGEE-Oviedo was founded in 1989. At the end of that very year we took the challenge of the News Bulletin edition, after some months of being edited by AEGEE-Amsterdam. That issue December '89, was the first of the 27 published in Oviedo during the three years that followed, completely sponsored by the University of Oviedo.

# NEWS BULLETIN

## The AEGEE Monthly Magazine

Only 300 copies were made of that 1st issue in Oviedo. That amount increased rapidly to the final 1.500 copies of each number printed and distributed to some 200 to 250 addresses all over Europe.

Their contents was always different. Mostly everything was printable. Nevertheless there were always some familiar sections: What's new?, AEGEE Calendar of Events or the Letter by the editors. The rest was usually a mix of letters arriving from AEGEE members, antennae or institutions, advertisements of coming AEGEE events, reports on past events, presentations of Boards, funny photos or any weird thing that somebody could find interesting for AEGEE members to read (or to watch). All those things filled more than 600 pages of information about AEGEE arriving from every corner of Europe. Though there were, there are (and hopefully will be) some other AEGEE antennae printing the NB, those three years in Oviedo were indeed very exciting. One year of preparation; a second and third year of performance of the Quo Vadis times of AEGEE.

During those years the News Bulletin witnessed the fastest period of changes in AEGEE. The times when AEGEE opened itself to the East, to the North and in some way, also to the South; when the idea of European Community was replaced by the 'Idea of Europe'. The times of expansion in other fields of interest, of the Co-operation with other Associations, of the active Working Groups, of the dissemination of the Comité Directeur and the growing of the Address Book and the Calendar of Events. It was quite a lot what we, members at that time, inherited; but it was treated well and it was more what was left to those coming after.

All those changes, improvements or not, were mirrored in the AEGEE NB, the AEGEE Internal Communication Publication, in which we also tried to mirror the underlying principles of our Association. Whether we succeeded or not in being a fluent and dynamic information

channel, whether or not we achieved the goals we had got when we took the torch from Amsterdam, is not just our fault or achievement. The NB was not merely the contributions of the AEGEE members and Institutions, and therefore it was not more than the reflection of what AEGEE was.

There are so many people and institutions to be thanked here, to fill up the whole book, but let me thank especially the University of Oviedo for supporting us so long, for sponsoring AEGEE-Europe and its ideals in such a modest way; also AEGEE-Oviedo for sacrificing to their own benefits for the sake of AEGEE-Europe; the CD of AEGEE-Europe for their help, supporting and bearing our problems and hurries and all 200 antennae and 15.000 members for all their help and contributions as well as their blindness to our mistakes.

To conclude, I shall say that working for AEGEE, and for the News Bulletin in particular, was amusing and worth as well as the most fruitful personal experience in my student life. I want to encourage all of you who work or will work for AEGEE, for that is not only a good way to build Europe, but also a good way to build yourself.

**María Álvarez**

# SCOPE

**AEGEE-SCOPE IS BORN**

With this new issue of SCOPE we are...  
a first step towards...  
to build a new...  
to build a new...  
to build a new...

AEGEE-SCOPE is...  
a first step towards...  
to build a new...  
to build a new...  
to build a new...



DANS CE NUMERO:

AEGEE-WORTH A YEAR OF ACTIVITY

ENDREK EYDANDS

EASTERN WIND WESTERN WIND

The first issue of „Scope“, published in 1989

*The OneEurope Magazine is a journal, published three times a year, which contains articles reports and interviews, written by authors from all over Europe. Their contributions cover all kinds of topics which are crucial for young Europeans both today and in the future. They are translated into English or French, both being languages of international communication.*

# TWO YEARS & BEYOND

## The History of the OneEurope Magazine

In some way, the East-West Quarterly, the former internal publication of the East-West Working Group, is the predecessor of the OneEurope Magazine. At the end of 1992, however, the EWWG suffered from a lack of tasks and ideas: the building-up of antennae in the East was more or less completed, the consolidation period had begun, consequently the EWWG was losing its attraction for new motivated people and endured a high fluctuation of its members.

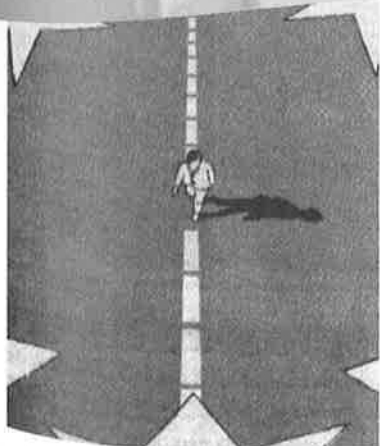
The problems mentioned and the existing communication problems induced Sebastian Hübner, the publisher of the East-West Quarterly, to look for reliable co-editors. He asked Lorenz Spillner and Michael Waibel both from AEGEE-Aachen, to build up together a new, more professional magazine whose thematic horizon was to go far beyond single AEGEE matters. The first editorial meeting was held at the PM in Aachen. At the European School in Berlin, which took place in February/March 1993 the idea was presented to the public and first requests for articles were launched.

The idea was to create a real European student's magazine, an international forum for discussions

about the variety of different opinions on political, historical and cultural themes within Europe. With this project we intended to establish a platform for ideas, visions, different models of European integration and about general topics which are important to us, today and in the future. Last but not least the Magazine was meant to intensify the communication and thematic discussions all across the continent.

In our opinion the division between East and West was too strongly linked in our heads. At that time, three years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, this division seemed to us to be out of fashion. „Integration“ was one of the magic words at our first meetings, and had to happen firstly in our heads – and consequently also economically and politically. Briefly: it came to Michael one lonely night during the European School in Berlin: „OneEurope“ – and the name was born. The name „OneEurope“, „One“ and „Europe“ intentionally linked together, seemed to summarize our „idealistic“ wish for a common house of OneEurope: a new, united and peacefully integrated Europe with mutual respect and understanding.

After more than two years of publishing the OneEurope Magazine: Have we reached our initial goal of editing a real European magazine, a platform for discussion and inter-cultural communication all across the continent? Did we help to remove the division of East and West within the heads of the European youth? For sure we contributed our part. However to really reach the whole European public one would need 700.000 instead of 7 000 copies! We are still very ambitious and given our highly dynamic and motivated team we will do our best to publish the most readable and most interesting European student magazine.



The second issue of „Scope“ was published in 1989

**OneEurope WG**

*In 1990 AEGEE established antennae in Eastern Europe*

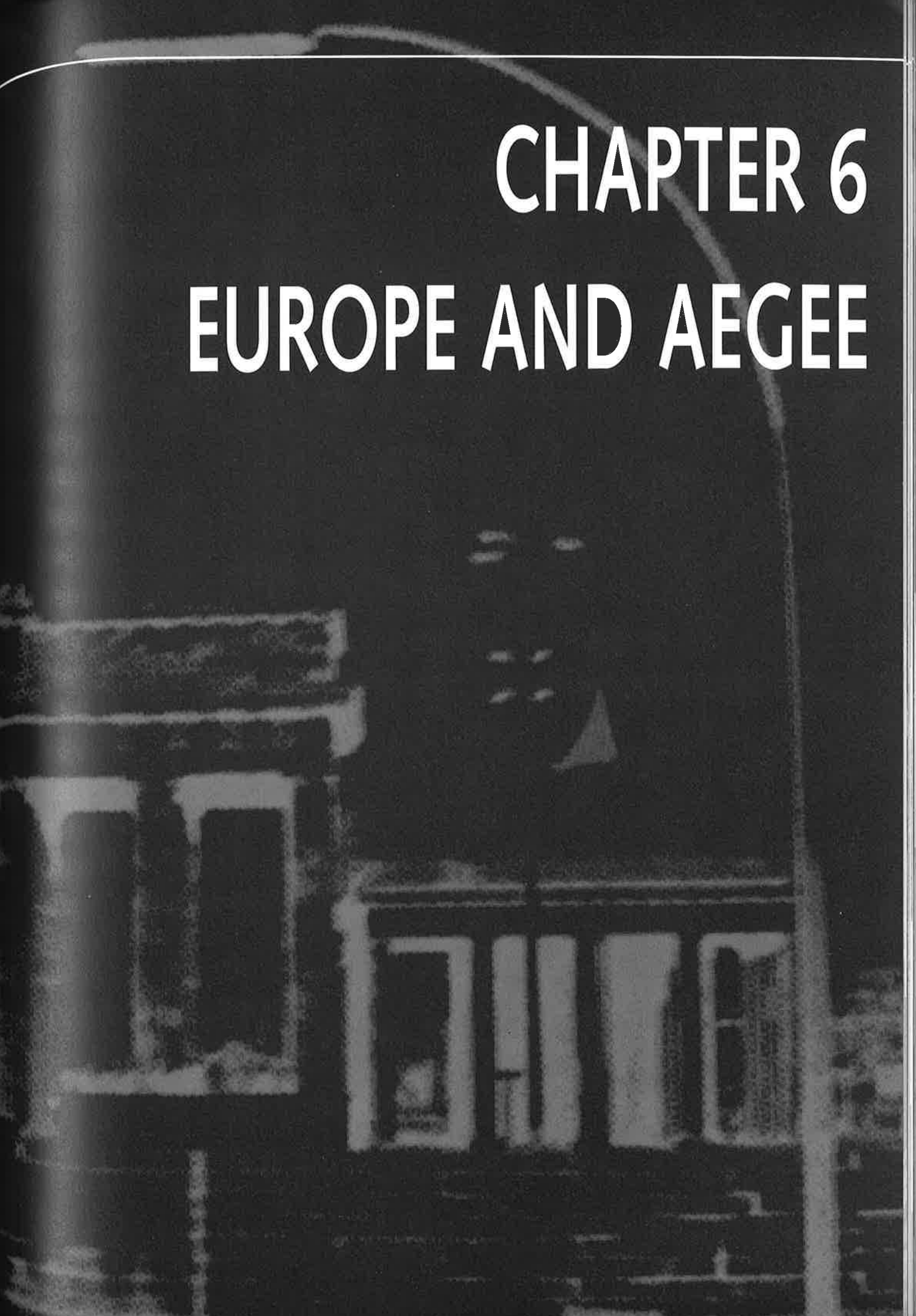


# 1990



# CHAPTER 6

## EUROPE AND AEGEE



Mr Mitterand agreed to take over  
the patronage of AEGEE-Europe from  
the very beginning in 1985.

Numerous other public  
personalities support our activities.

# PATRONAGE

## Prime Minister of France

**E**n avril 1985, j'avais accordé mon haut patronage à une association qui venait de naître et qui tenait son premier congrès: Les Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe. L'ambition de cette association n'était pas mince: faire des étudiants, des jeunes, les artisans de la construction communautaire.

En un an, votre association a parcouru de chemin et a montré sa vitalité. J'en veux pour témoignage la dernière manifestation que vous avez organisée, la nuit de l'Europe, qui a permis de réunir 4'500 étudiants dans 7 villes européennes, communiquant entre eux grâce à des liaisons vidéo par satellite.

Aujourd'hui, vous réunissez votre deuxième congrès. Je souhaite qu'il vous permette d'approfondir plus encore

le dialogue entre les étudiants d'Europe. Grâce à vous, ce ne sont plus seulement les Etats qui s'allient, mais ce sont les peuples qui apprennent à se connaître, à vivre ensemble dans un nouvel espace, qui constitue pour nous tous l'avenir.

A l'ouverture de votre congrès, je tiens à vous assurer de mon soutien pour l'oeuvre que vous accomplissez.

Je vous souhaite bonne chance.

**François Mitterrand**

## AEGEE- QVADIS? invites

also the participants of the AGEE,  
to come to the presentation of the conference  
AGEE - QVADIS ?

AT THIS MEETING WE WILL PRESENT THE QVADIS AND EXCHANGE OF  
"AGEE - QVADIS ?"  
AND WE HOPE TO HAVE (INFORMAL) DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM AS  
WELL AS ABOUT "THE FUTURE OF AGEE".

THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO EVERY AGEE-MEMBER, SO WE WOULD LIKE ALL  
OF YOU TO COME.

THE MEETING WILL BE  
SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1990,  
AT 11.00 AM

WHERE

"LA BANCHE"  
AUBERGASSE 1-3 / REM (KINGSTON)  
(BETWEEN HARST- AND MÜSTERPLATZ)

WEARING FORWARD TO SEE YOU.

Kris Kogut



The Quo Vadis Invitation from 1990

Christoph Vaagt, 1990

# OUTSIDE VIEW

## *President of the European Parliament*

**D**er Maastricht-Vertrag ist jetzt ein gutes Jahr in Kraft. In einer Reihe von Punkten hat sich erwiesen, daß es besser ist als sein Ruf. Das Europäische Parlament hat durch ihn neue Mitwirkungsrechte erhalten. Es muß sie nun nutzen und ausfüllen, wenn es sie 1996 erweitert haben will. Das Parlament hat deshalb unmittelbar nach seiner Wahl mit der Reform seiner eigenen Arbeit begonnen mit dem Ziel, sie effektiver und transparenter zu machen. Prioritär ist die Nutzung der Mitentscheidung nach Artikel 189b EGV bei der Rechtsetzung. Im ersten Jahr nach Inkrafttreten des Maastricht-Vertrages sind 118 Vorschläge für Rechtsakte der Europäischen Union nach diesem Verfahren in der Beratung gewesen, wovon 20 abgeschlossen werden konnten. 56 dieser Vorschläge warten auf ihre erste Beschlußfassung im Rat. Das neue Vermittlungsverfahren zwischen Rat und Parlament hat sich bewährt und gewinnt an Bedeutung.

Seit dem 1. Januar 1995 umfaßt die Europäische Union 15 Mitgliedstaaten und 59 neue Abgeordnete aus Österreich, Finnland und Schweden werden in das Europäische Parlament einziehen. Zum ersten Mal in der Geschichte der Europäischen Union braucht die Europäische Kommission das Vertrauen des Parlaments, um ins Amt zu kommen. Der Vorschlag der Staats- und Regierungschefs für das Amt des Kommissionspräsidenten war bereits im Juli 1994 einem Votum des Parlaments unterworfen. Die Mitglieder der Kommission mußten sich vor der Vertrauensabstimmung in den Ausschüssen des Parlaments öffentlichen Anhörungen stellen.

Die große Debatte über die Reform 1996 hat begonnen. Im Juni 1995 wird die vom Europäischen Rat in Korfu eingesetzte „Reflektionsgruppe“ aus Beauftragten der Regierungen ihre Arbeit aufnehmen, um Vorschläge für die Reformkonferenz 1996 zu machen. Das Europäische Parlament wird daran mit zwei seiner Mitglieder

beteiligt sein. Unsere Bemühungen müssen sich darauf konzentrieren, daß die Reformen die Union besser als bisher in die Lage versetzen, zur Lösung der großen Aufgaben der europäischen Zukunft beizutragen und eine Erweiterung nach Osten und in den Mittelmeerraum möglich und verkraftbar zu machen.

Es ist wichtig, daß wir aus den Debatten über den Vertrag von Maastricht Lehren ziehen. Die Öffentlichkeit muß diesmal früh und umfassend beteiligt werden. Ich wünsche mir, daß die akademische Jugend, daß AEGEE und seine Mitgliedsorganisationen sich engagieren und profiliert zu Wort melden und mit uns um die besten Lösungen ringen. Europa muß von unten wachsen. Gerade die großen Zukunftsfragen und grundlegenden Orientierungen brauchen ihr Mitdenken, um breite demokratische Zustimmung zu gewinnen.

Wenn es uns gelingt, die Union mit einer Reihe großer Projekte für die Gesellschaft des 21. Jahrhunderts zu verbinden, die unsere und die Zukunft der nächsten Generation sichern, werden wir die Menschen auch wieder für das Projekt der Europäischen Einigung gewinnen. Ich denke z.B. an die Reinigung der Meere und den Umweltschutz, an die Energieversorgung und die Telekommunikation, die Verbrechensbekämpfung und die Sicherung von Frieden und Stabilität auf unserem Kontinent. Wenn es uns gelingt, die Union mit einer Reihe großer Projekte zu verbinden, die unsere Zukunft sichert, werden wir die Menschen für die Europäische Einigung gewinnen.

Die Union muß den Jüngeren bis dahin Perspektiven und den Älteren neue Gewißheiten geben. Nur wenn es uns gelingt, europäische Politik mit den Träumen und Hoffnungen der Menschen zu verbinden, werden wir ihre Köpfe und Herzen für die Einigung Europas neu gewinnen.

**Klaus Hänsch**

*C'est avec grand plaisir que j'ai accepté d'écrire ces quelques lignes à l'occasion du dixième anniversaire de la fondation d'AEGEE: en effet, ce n'est pas un rapport de circonstance, mais une relation de coopération et de sympathie qui m'a lié pendant ces dix années aux étudiants d'AEGEE.*

# SYMPATHIE DE DIX ANS

## Direction de la Jeunesse

**A**EGEE est née en 1985, c'est-à-dire au moment où se commençait à se définir l'idée de lancer ERASMUS et de donner ainsi une nouvelle impulsion à la politique communautaire en matière d'éducation, qui jusque là avait du se limiter à des projets-pilote à l'envergure très limitée. L'année 1985 apparaît donc cruciale à la lumière de développements qui allaient se manifester, notamment dans le domaine qui me tient plus au cœur: l'éducation.

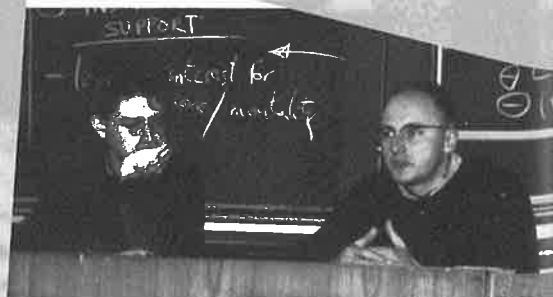
La naissance d'AEGEE répondait au souhait, exprimé par ses fondateurs, de recueillir des forces et les capacités de tous les étudiants européens qui s'intéressaient aux problèmes du continent et voulaient donner leur contribution, à l'intérieur d'une structure qui devait rester aussi souple et démocratique que possible. Je dois dire que AEGEE a grandi très vite, et qu'elle a fourni une contribution remarquable au processus de réflexion sur l'éducation en Europe, en répondant de manière assez efficace à la demande de la base et en devançant parfois les propositions et les requêtes du monde académique.

Je ne continuerai pas avec la liste des activités développées par AEGEE pendant des dernières années, qui est allée s'allongeant et qui figure ailleurs dans cette brochure. Je voudrais simplement signaler que la Commission a constamment suivi le développement de la conscience européenne des étudiants et a concrètement contribué à leurs activités à chaque fois qu'il lui a été possible. En effet, les étudiants sont les premiers bénéficiaires des programmes d'action communautaire dans le domaine de l'éducation, et leur prise de conscience du fait qu'ils sont citoyens de l'Europe et que la construction européenne sera un jour dans leur mains est un résultat inestimable. Les étudiants, individuellement et à travers leurs organisations, ont d'ailleurs participé activement à la réflexion engagée en Europe à la suite de la publication de Mémoire de la

Commission sur l'éducation et la formation, et ont ainsi contribué à ce que l'éducation figure parmi les nouvelles compétences de la Communauté. Le traité sur l'Union Européenne attribue à la Communauté la tâche de promouvoir la coopération entre les Etats membres pour contribuer à une éducation de qualité (art. 126), et à cette fin la Communauté a adopté le programme „SOCRATES“ qui, tout en tenant compte du succès d'ERASMUS, innove en mettant l'accent sur la dimension européenne pour tous, à tous les niveaux de l'enseignement: primaire, secondaire et supérieur. Cette nouvelle étape constitue évidemment une base d'où repartir vers de résultats encore meilleurs, afin que l'Europe des citoyens devienne une réalité et que la construction européenne puisse se développer en accord avec la nouvelle donnée historique, qui a élargi considérablement les frontières de l'Europe de demain.

Mon souhait est que AEGEE, dans sa qualité de grande organisation qui a toujours été à la pointe de la réflexion et de l'action étudiante en Europe, sache relever le nouveau défi qui se pose aujourd'hui dans la construction européenne, en multipliant ses efforts et son engagement en faveur de l'idéal européen, qui, ne l'oublions pas, est un idéal de paix, de respect réciproque et de démocratie.

**D. Lenarduzzi**



Impression of AEGEE, 1990



*Penser le rôle des organisations d'étudiants en Europe et notamment vis-à-vis de l'Union Européenne oblige au moins dans un premier temps de s'arrêter au rôle de l'Université et de l'enseignement supérieur dans la construction européenne pour ensuite réfléchir la place spécifique des organisations d'étudiants avant de présenter de manière plus détaillée les programmes qui s'adressent aux étudiants.*

# CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Direction de la Jeunesse

**L**a coopération entre AEGEE et le Fonds Européen pour la Jeunesse remonte à 1988, année durant laquelle le Fonds lui a accordé son soutien financier pour la première fois.

A la lumière de l'expérience des ces 6 dernières années, deux observations nous viennent à l'esprit:

1. A la différence de nombreuses organisations européennes d'étudiants, constituées de branches nationales et soucieuses, naturellement de défendre la vision qu'elles ont du monde étudiant de l'enseignement supérieur en Europe, AEGEE se situe en marge de ce modèle de par le fait qu'elle se considère comme organisation „transnationale” plutôt que „internationale” et qu'elle a pour vocation première de promouvoir l'idée européenne parmi les jeunes étudiants.

Cette spécificité a ceci d'intéressant que le travail international de jeunesse mené par l'organisation prend appui sur l'expérience des jeunes, en tant que jeunes, plutôt qu'en tant qu'étudiants représentant un modèle national.

Sans nier la valeur d'un modèle plus traditionnel de coopération européenne, cette approche mérite, selon nous d'être encouragée, car elle est de nature à éclaircir d'un nouveau jour la réflexion sur le rôle des étudiants par rapport à une vision humaniste de l'Europe, telle qu'elle est défendue par le Conseil de l'Europe.

2. Depuis 1989, c'est à dire, suite aux bouleversement intervenus en Europe centrale et orientale, AEGEE s'est engagée sur la voie de la coopération avec les nouvelles démocraties. Grâce aux nombreuses activités que propose l'organisation et en raison de la souplesse de sa structure, de très nombreux étudiants on aujourd'hui la possibilité de rencontrer d'autres étudiants de pays d'Europe occidentale pour partager leurs expériences et leurs idées sur tous les sujet concernant les jeunes.

Du point de vue du Fonds Européen pour la Jeunesse, cette évolution dans l'histoire de l'AEGEE est significative. Elle s'inscrit pleinement dans la politique du Conseil de l'Europe et de son secteur jeunesse dont les objectifs sont de contribuer à une union plus étroite entre les peuples d'Europe, et de renforcer plus particulièrement la vie associative, démocratique et pluraliste en Europe centrale et orientale.

Au même titre que l'ensemble des organisations de jeunesse, coopérant avec le Centre et Fonds Européen pour la Jeunesse, AEGEE contribue activement aux actions prioritaires que sont la lutte contre le racisme et la xénophobie et la promotion des droits de l'homme.

**J. P. Restoueix**  
**A. J. Dodin**



Vittorio  
Dell'Aquila,  
Coordinator  
of the  
Summer  
University,  
1990

*Over the last four years of operation of the TEMPUS (Phare) Programme AEGEE has been a particularly successful applicant, competing for funding not only with other student bodies and organisations, of which relatively few participated in TEMPUS, but also in open competition with experienced representatives of Europe's major universities.*

# PROFESSIONALISM

## **Initiative and Originality**

**T**he secret of AEGEE's success in TEMPUS (Phare) has been its choice of officers with a mature approach to the competition. They sought to understand its rules and to „play“ within them. Understanding that not all cases can be covered in the short TEMPUS „Guide for Applicants“ (originally call the TEMPUS Vademecum) AEGEE sought to establish what activities would be eligible for funding and under which circumstances. They visited the EC TEMPUS Office in Brussels with concrete proposals and detailed questions. Many visitors tended to outstay the welcome offered by the EC TEMPUS Office to anyone asking for an appointment by making pleas for special treatment or similar attempts to „lobby“. Visits from AEGEE, however, were always pleasant, even enjoyable, and not only because embarrassing (and fruitless) „name dropping“ was scrupulously avoided.

In addition the AEGEE representatives seemed to be refreshingly free of the kind of prejudice against „Brussels“ displayed by the applicant who could have visited the EC TEMPUS Office by bus for the price of a cup of coffee, but who preferred to submit thirty or so (ineligible) applications for just two projects, presumably working on the assumption that each would be read by a different member of a bureaucracy whose selection of projects for funding would ultimately be made arbitrarily. Making successful TEMPUS applications, however, requires a different strategy from that employed by a plant scattering its seeds in the wind. AEGEE's proposals had to be very carefully prepared to be able to survive a rigorous selection procedure during which their cost-effectiveness and likely impact (to name two of many criteria) were carefully assessed in the EC TEMPUS Office and in the target countries before a joint recommendation was made that the projects be funded.

Of course some of the projects carried out by AEGEE could not be funded in their entirety by TEMPUS, because, for example, not all of the countries involved were

eligible for TEMPUS support. That AEGEE was able to receive funding for a series of projects arose as well from the originality of its proposals. AEGEE belongs to the small minority of individuals and organisations who made the effort to understand and make good use of the TEMPUS (Phare) Programme's „Action III Grants for Complementary Measures“ which was intended to provide start-up funding for new initiatives rather than to provide funds to keep projects running over a period of years.

TEMPUS (Phare) has evolved since the first call of applications was announced in 1990. As a result of this evolution the scope within the Programme for funding of initiatives originating from students in higher education has decreased significantly. Grants for mobility of individual students ceased to be available in 1992, after which date only university academic staff and administrators were eligible for Individual Mobility Grants (Action II). However, while students themselves have been able to submit applications for such large scale projects, the funding available for them is always limited and competition for grants for Joint European Projects has always been fierce. AEGEE of course successfully targeted their efforts on TEMPUS (Phare) Action III, but even this possibility ceased to exist at the end of 1994 with the overhaul of guidelines for Complementary Measures. Otherwise it would perhaps have been unwise to publish here AEGEE's recipe for success in TEMPUS.

I am confident nevertheless that great scope remains for AEGEE activity in Eastern and Central Europe. A variety of activities will often be wholly new to their colleagues elsewhere. What AEGEE is particularly well placed to offer is an example of professionalism, initiative and originality in giving student affairs their widest possible scope.

**John Fells**

*Jedem Deutschen sind aus Goethes Schriften die wesentlichen Eigenschaften der Studenten bekannt. Fleiß gehört nicht unbedingt dazu.*

*Auch Initiative und Unternehmungsgeist dürften sich erst in den letzten Jahren und Jahrzehnten entwickelt haben.*

*AEGEE ist offensichtlich ein gutes Beispiel dafür, daß auch Goethe irrt.*

# STUDENTEN, DIE TUN WAS

## AEGEE zum Jubiläum

Leicht sind diese Thesen als Zweckpessimismus, als große Phalanx gegen Änderungen, einfach als Faulheitswurzel zu erkennen. Immerhin hat früher bei Kriegen kaum jemand nach den Kosten gefragt. Wie schmerzlich es ist, den Müttern den Tod gefallener Söhne zu übermitteln – auch das haben wir aus unserem Alltagsleben verdrängt.

Weshalb ist also Europa? Weshalb ist Frieden und seine Ausprägung in Kontakten auf diplomatischer und organisatorischer Ebene so wenig beliebt? Warum steht nicht auf jeder Fernsehsendung zu oberst der Satz: „Frieden in Europa – find ich gut!“

In den täglichen Losungen der AEGEE ist das hingegen üblich. Hier haben junge Menschen – natürlich Mädchen und Jungen – ihre Jugenderlebnisse in Taten umgesetzt. Sie hatten es leicht, könnte man sagen. Sie stammen aus Elternhäusern in denen Vater und Mutter verschiedene Staatsangehörigkeiten haben, möglicherweise verschiedene Sprachen sprechen, in den Europäischen Organen mit den täglichen Schwierigkeiten der Friedensarbeit zusammen gekommen sind, sie haben eine Europaschule besuchen dürfen, oder sind sonst in der ganzen Welt zu Hause.

Die Bezeichnung AEGEE läßt vermuten, daß besonders viel von den Jugendlichen in Frankreich – das Land von Robert Schuman und Jean Monnet – wenn es um den Europäischen Geist geht also, eine außerordentlich gute Adresse. Ein A-Rating, das Beste was man in Bankenkreise für Solidarität und Vertrauenswürdigkeit erhalten kann.

Einen Europamaßstab, was Tun und Praxis angeht, gibt es leider nicht. Hier sind vielmehr die Hiobsbotschaften an der Tagesordnung Europa – die Idee find ich gut. Diese Aussage ist nicht schwer zu erhalten, nicht einmal von Journalisten. Dieser Beruf ist ja als Ausprägung des

Kritischen im Zeitgeist besonders gefragt. Gutes vom Schlechten zu unterscheiden.

Aber auch hier in den Artikeln immer wieder der Hinweis auf Ungereimheiten und Schwierigkeiten. Was es an Ungereimheiten und Schwierigkeiten in blutigen Kriegen in der Vergangenheit gab, haben wir längst verdrängt. Wir sind nicht mehr betroffen. Wenn von hoher politischer Seite, z. B. zum 50. Jahrestag der Kapitulation in Deutschland eingewendet wurde, bei



David  
Randall,  
1990

diesen Feierlichkeiten sprächen nur Leute, die gar nicht dabei waren, die also den Krieg nicht als Soldaten oder als Geschlagene erlebt haben, so ist das ein ernst zu nehmender Einwand. Aber wir müssen uns daran gewöhnen: Europa muß weiterwachsen, ohne das die Urväter immer dabei sein können.

Es geht also darum, die Idee und die Ausprägung des Europäischen Miteinander über die Generationen hinweg zu sichern.

Ideen sind ja leichter zu transportieren als Taten. An-



dererseits: Ideen messen sich an Taten. Wenn sie ohne begleitendes tun bleiben, sind sie wie Käfer ohne Beine. Sie kommen nicht vorwärts. Vorwärts kommen heißt aber einen Rückfall umso schwieriger machen, den sogenannten „point of no return“ zu erreichen und zu festigen. Wer würde beschwören, daß er innerhalb der EU schon erreicht sei? Beschwören vielleicht schon, aber wenn man die Hand oder den Kopf dafür ins Feuer legen sollte? Jedenfalls gäbe es bei der AEGEE vermutlich die ersten Freiwilligen. Ich habe sie kennengelernt in ihren konkreten Beiträgen zu ganz einfachen Kontaktreisen, sogenannte Euro Touren des Europaabgeordneten Dieter Rogalla („Eurogalla“). Da saßen

Michael  
Merker,  
1990



sie auf dem Sattel scheuerten ihren Popo wund und dadurch kamen Gespräche zustande, die die Idee verfestigen halfen.

Natürlich wird immer wieder eingewandt, Fahrradtouren seien weder Europapolitik noch könnten sie Kriege verhindern. Sie seien einfach nur sportliche Veranstaltungen. Aber sie haben ein wesentliches Element, die Gemeinsamkeit. Wenn Finnen, Schweden, Ost-Deutsche, West-Deutsche, Franzosen, Spanier, Griechen miteinander radeln, werden sie vermutlich auch nach dieser Tour Verbindungen halten. Nur durch gemeinsame Erlebnisse können Grundlagen dafür geschaffen werden, daß sich die Jugend bei späteren beruflichen Kontakten wiedererkennt und aufeinander beziehen kann. Das ist die Voraussetzung für vertrauensbildende Maßnahmen, wie wir sie brauchen. Nur solche Erlebnisse werden Skepsis überwinden, die ja meist sich da entwickelt, wo Erlebnisse fehlen.

Wer skeptisch ist, vermutet nur. Er vermutet leider Negatives und oft Furchtbares vielleicht auch Katastrophen. Wer seine Skepsis überwunden hat, und sei es nur durch Fahrradtouren, der hat sich freigeschwommen und kann auf dieser Grundlagen aufbauen.

Die jungen Studenten in AEGEE – sie tun was Natürlich ist ihr Tun nicht auf Fahrradfahrten beschränkt, vieles was sie sich erarbeiten, findet in Kongressen und in geistigem Austausch statt. Dabei werden Sprachen praktiziert, auch dabei werden – in den unvermeidlichen Redaktionssitzungen bei Entschlüssen und Pamphleten

Bindungen deutlich auf denen später aufgebaut werden kann.

Bleibt so wie Ihr seid – mein Geburtstagswunsch. Wenn man zu ihnen spricht, über europäische Währung, über den Ausbau des Binnenmarktes zu einem „Home-Market“, dann werde sie das mehr oder weniger als Selbstverständlichkeiten empfinden, ohne die Schwierigkeiten zu unterschätzen. Die Schwierigkeiten besteht darin, Veränderungen auch denen klar zu machen, denen sie nicht ohne weiteres einleuchten. Wer denkt schon daran, die wirtschaftliche Blüte, Grundlage von Veränderungen, die Kaufkraft findet. Es wird viel zu wenig betont und ist doch ein sehr praktischer Unterbau für die Logik des Friedens.

Zum Schluß: Die Logik des Friedens macht in Kürze auch überflüssig, staatliches Zeremoniell mit bewaffneten Soldaten. Dies ist ein neuer Ansatz für Taten für Veränderungen und er soll beileibe nicht übers Knie gebrochen werden. Fest steht allerdings: Wer den Frieden will, daß Miteinander praktiziert wird, kan sich in seiner staatlichen Repräsentanz nicht ausschließlich auf sogenannte militärische Ehren auf angetretene kampfbereite Bataillone stützen. Er sollte überlegen, ob zur Repräsentanz nicht aus Krankenschwestern, Rechtsanwälte, Kraftfahrer, Gärtner, Jugendpfleger, Konzerndirektoren und natürlich Arbeitnehmer im weitesten Sinne gehören. Sicherlich: Dies ist viel schwieriger zu realisieren, als ein ohnehin in Bereitschaft stehendes Ehrenbataillon mit geschulterten Gewehr antreten zu lassen. Aber: Wenn die Bilder Bewaffneter Einheiten als Repräsentanz, wenn die Ausdrücke Sieg, Schlacht, Niederlage aus unserem täglichen Sprachgebrauch nicht relativiert werden oder gar ganz verschwinden – wie soll sich auf Dauer festsetzen, daß auch Konflikte, wie etwa im Fischereibereich, durch Kompromisse gelöst werden müssen. So lange diese Erkenntnis nicht tägliches Brot ist wird sie nicht die Grundlage für friedliches Miteinander sein können. Dafür steht AEGEE und nicht nur 10, sondern 100 Jahre werden vermutlich noch vergehen, bis sie mit ihrem Gedankengut Alltagsgrundlage in unserem europäischen Miteinander geworden sind.

## Dieter Rogalla



An example of a Summer University, 1990



# EGEE-EUROPE AT THE ELYSEE

On Wednesday 18th March 1987, the members of the Board of Directors of EGEE-Europe were received by Francois Mitterand, President of the French Republic, for lunch at the Elysee Palace. Besides the President and twenty members of the Board of Directors from ten different EEC countries, there were also four presidential advisors. In the impressive setting of the Cabinet Room, Francois Mitterand led an informal and constructive discussion on many subjects of common interest.

Various members of the Board of Directors highlighted the importance to our generation of higher education in Europe. The Board of EGEE-Europe argued for the necessity of increased emphasis by the Community Governments on European educational programmes. A particular point of discussion was the rejection of the Erasmus project by France, Germany and the United Kingdom. This project, forwarded by the European Commission, intends to modify the University Credit System in Europe so that by 1992, 10% of the students from the EEC will have the opportunity of studying up to one year abroad. If implemented, Erasmus will provide the first step in creating a proper European university system that will give a skilled work-force for the Internal Market of the EEC. The Board of EGEE-Europe was disappointed at the lack of finan-

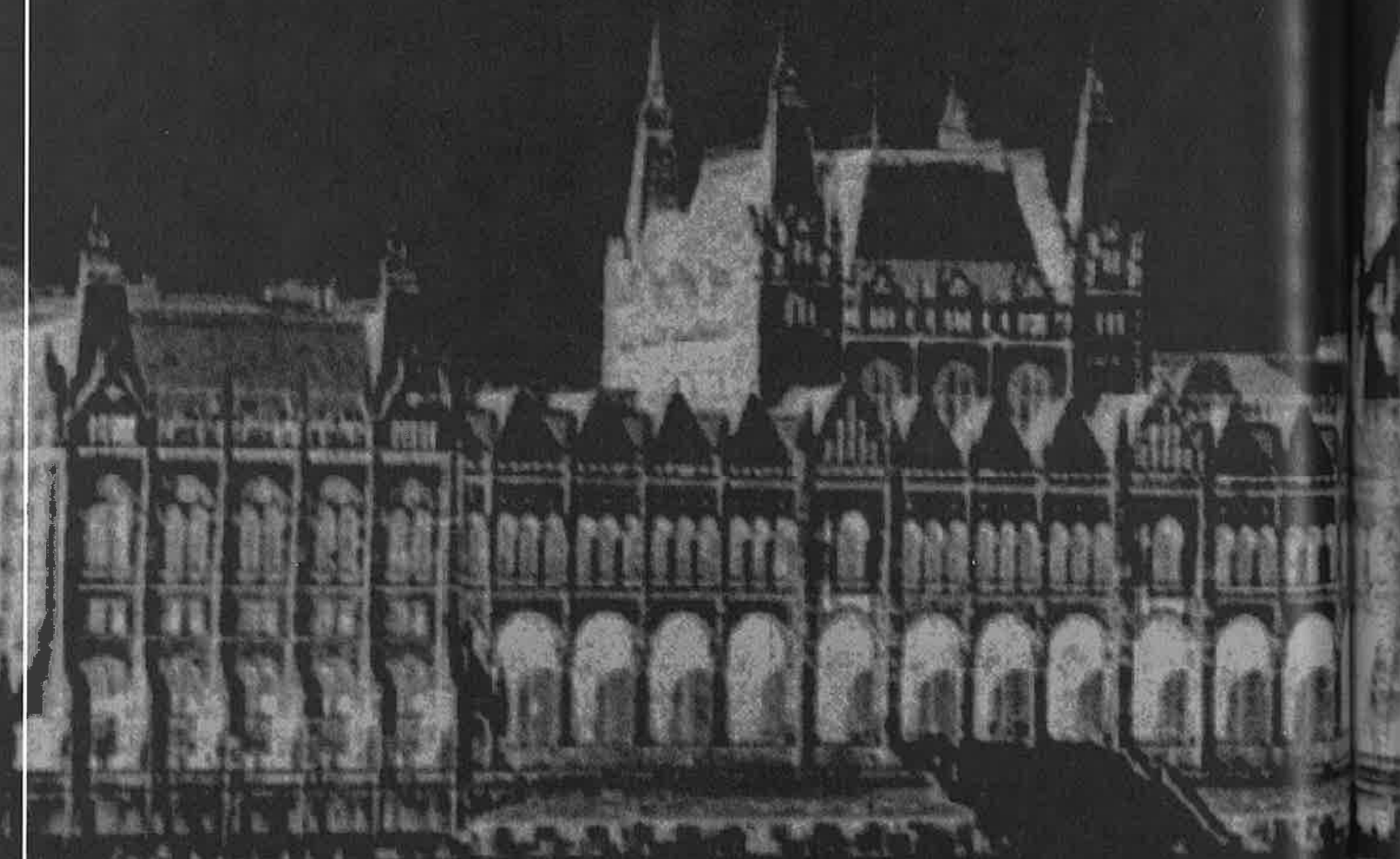
cial commitment by France, Germany and the United Kingdom - only 175 million ECU is asked for Erasmus compared to the 7,000 million ECU spent annually on the Common Agricultural Policy.

The President agreed in principle that this programme has to be implemented. Furthermore, he concentrated on the need to establish a European transport system. The Board of EGEE-Europe left with the impression that the President had listened to and understood its views. The Board is honoured and very grateful that the President found time to meet EGEE-Europe and thus demonstrated his interest in the youth of Europe.

## *Europolis No 1*



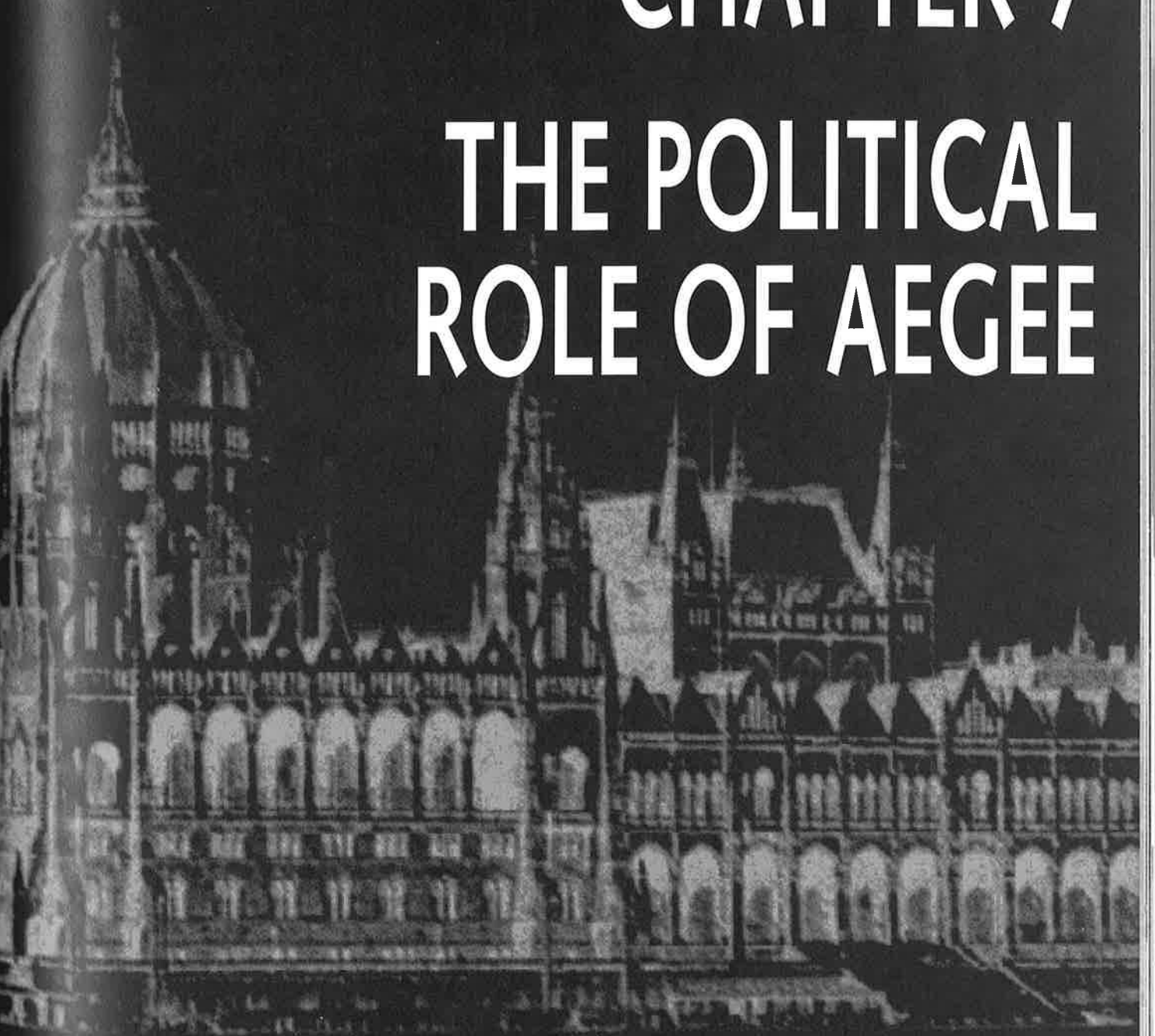
Some members of the Quo Vadis list, 1990



# 1991

# CHAPTER 7

## THE POLITICAL ROLE OF AEGEE



*Christophe Leclercq was involved in AEGEE between 1986 and 1988.*

*Since then, he observed from a distance three important debates within AEGEE:*

*- between militants of „European political“ objectives*

*and promoters of services to the members*

*- between central leadership of the Comité Directeur*

*and decentralised management by the antennae.*

*- Community/Union versus wider Europe*

# A UNIQUE STUDENT LOBBY

*which was ahead of European Institutions*

Looking back at the way AEGEE feels about these questions, one can observe a Europe in miniature, slightly ahead of discussions in European institutions. AEGEE is very diverse, like Europe. I shall here try to summarize some impressions country by country, illustrating the three questions mentioned above. There is obviously a risk to oversimplify, especially since AEGEE's identity also differs antenna to antenna, member to member. Political vision created AEGEE's uniqueness, while a „services“ approach brings it in competition with other organisations. AEGEE was launched in France (with immediate involvement of several other nationalities), and French nationals, first of all Franck Biancheri, played a major role in the following three years. This obviously had an influence on the objectives and projects developed in the organisation. Contrary to specialised student associations providing traditional services, like Euravia, AIESEC, AIESTEC etc., AEGEE always animated students around themes linked to broad European integration. I believe the times when AEGEE had the most political ambitions were also the times of its fastest development and greatest lobbying influence. While this is an „oldie's remark“, I am sure some present members would disagree, as some did in the past. Today, reduced vision after the founders' time, and the decreased usage of French has reduced AEGEE's network in France, but it could be re-constructed.

By contrast, in the Netherlands, a local „club“ approach was always followed. And quite professionally. It drew hundreds of members with only moderate European

political interest, and other antennae around Europe still fear the „invasion of the Dutch hordes“. Not surprisingly, AEGEE-Europe is headquartered in Delft, AEGEE's brochures and finances look much better today than they did in the past, but one does not see as many new initiatives...

The „militant versus client“ (or „tourist“) issue still exists. Providing good services (colloquia with free lodging and parties, languages courses, ERASMUS/TEMPUS information, etc.) has always been a good ground for more ambitious projects. Seeing that Europe works and is fun constitutes the best starting motivation. But this is not enough: no student wants to work for free to provide services to others, unless there is a vision behind it. A strong Europe is needed to lead the association. In Germany, political debate is certainly important, albeit on slightly different topics than in Latin Europe: environment, Eastern Europe, principles of democracy. German AEGEE members were inhibited by French dominance in the early days, they now became an active core, but, in my view, have not taken as many initiatives as one could expect. This may be due to the German members' reluctance to take leadership, for understandable historical reasons. Rather, they focused on managing well their antennae... and ensuring plenty of discussion on AEGEE's statutes! In Belgium, European associations and events abound, so that European-minded students have many organisations to choose from. Depending on the year, AEGEE's presence is „on“ or „off“. This might lead Brussels-based institutions to underestimate



AEGEE's strength, but, on the other hand, it prevented the organisation from becoming an „agent“ of the European Commission. In the UK, AEGEE always had a tough time, sometimes some exceptional individuals (often continentals) managed to create some following, but this never lasted afterward. AEGEE does not seem strong enough to fight against „euro-bashers“ and „euro-pragmatics“ at the same time. In Italy, organisational difficulties and rivalries for „power“ often reduced AEGEE's impact. But there were exceptions, like TEAM, and Italian students often (tried to) launch new initiatives. As Italy goes through a deep self-questioning, and remains European-minded, AEGEE could thrive.

Eastern European's motivation for Europe and exchanges today remind me of the great European dynamism from Spain during the late 1980's. AEGEE's strength in the East shows that again it is in tune with the future focus of European integration, it can help shape the Europe of the next decade. Given this diversity, and the lack of central leadership during certain periods, what then allowed AEGEE to continue? What avoided the crystallization on national positions that one observes in European institutions? I believe it is a combination of student's typical open mindedness, together with AEGEE's absence of national structures. The EU versus wider Europe: the wrong issue a year ago, I was surprised to hear a leader of AEGEE say in essence „the EU is not the most important thing, I want to work more with the Council of Europe, which represents the wider Europe“. What then is the most important objective of Central and Eastern Europe, if not joining the EU? Who knows about the Council of Europe outside some European circles? I respect the Council's record on human rights and democracy. However these universal values cannot be sufficient for Europe, or for AEGEE. In the last issues of OneEurope Magazine, I read articles about „Europe with no limits“ and on a possible „Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants du Monde“ (AEGEM, „et j'aime“ one could pronounce it!). I agree that European-mindedness is more important than a geographical definition. When I was studying in New York, I felt more European than ever, and would have enjoyed an organisation promoting EU awareness, or Pan-American integration inspired by Europe. But the risk of diluting the organisation, of overstretch, is high, especially if the coverage of the „internal market“ is quite patchy. Do the readers know that AIESEC used to be a European organisation (hence the French acronym)? With a strong economics/business focus, and a good organisation, it now helps developing future international managers around the world. But what could AEGEE achieve with a similar evolution? Doesn't it have broader goals?

Another European association that I know, created by ex-AEGEE members, has decided to promote regional integration on other continents by creating other regional networks (already: Mediterranean, CIS, Latin-

America). AEGEE has to find its own model, for which I respectfully suggest three criteria: – the priority in allocating organisational and financial resources should be Europe – European integration and internationalism are compatible but not identical – Promoting other regional student organisations is better than „colonizing“ with your own.



*Impressions  
of the  
AGORA  
in  
Budapest,  
November  
1991*

AEGEE needs some stronger positive vision in the Comité Directeur if it is not to become the antenna's smallest common denominator. This vision will have a lot to do with reforming, enlarging and deepening the EU, not rejecting or leaving it. This can encompass radical thoughts, like only students can develop them, but hopefully no marginalisation. I wish that future AEGEE leaders will understand their responsibility towards the European Union, being always ahead of its institutions and not side-tracked. My only hope with this article is to trigger some reactions, to have some AEGEE leaders speak up and disagree. On this 10th anniversary the aim on looking back cannot be self-congratulation. The teams of the founding era certainly did not achieve most of their ambitious objectives (and I am not sure that the subsequent ones did either). Nevertheless they did launch a number of initiatives with a lasting impact outside AEGEE, may be more than today's organisation. Prove that the „oldies“ are wrong! Tell us of your vision for Europe! Show that you have better programmes than we did!

**Christophe Leclercq**

*AEGEE was intended by its founders to be an organisation with political impact at the highest levels.*

*The idea that AEGEE was a student travel club or vehicle for the promotion of student „arrivistes“ could not be further from the truth. AEGEE's success in 1986-88 was due principally to: first, the political profile AEGEE achieved at the Commission and with the member states; second, a high risk-taking dynamic CD and, third, through the structure a focused direction for the whole organisation.*

# AEGEE'S POLITICAL ROLE

## 1986-1988

**A**ECEE's most easily identifiable political success was the de-blocking of the ERASMUS programme. The lunch at the Elysee Palace with President Mitterrand in March 1986 was truly fascinating – following it was AEGEE's greatest period of political influence. At the beginning the President seemed a little unsure of why he was having lunch with us at all, it was only half way through when cross-examined that the President appreciated there was a serious point to the meeting. It is to his enduring credit that he had the open-mindedness

Commission or various political advisers to achieve the de-blocking of ERASMUS via the French President. That is simplistic. AEGEE truly had an energy and political direction of its own. So what was that direction you ask?

The broad objective was to achieve closer European Community, a truly United Europe. It was the way that AEGEE sought that objective that was innovative and unique. AEGEE sought to show how pan-European organisations if structured correctly could be truly European. AEGEE's own structure was the example. That is why departures by AEGEE in recent years from that basic structure in my opinion will see the demise of AEGEE unless rectified.

The structure enabled a pan-European outlook throughout AEGEE, not just within the CD but also within the local branches. The CD crucially was elected as a team and not as national or indeed local representatives attending that body with their own national or local interests in mind. The local branches were to work not for themselves but for AEGEE-Europe as a whole. For example, it would be AEGEE-Europe's conference in Leiden organised by local members, not AEGEE-Leiden's conference. Any profits made on the conference would immediately leave the local account and go to AEGEE-Europe for re-investment in other projects. I am not saying that the running of such a structure was easy, it was not. Indeed „localism“ was one of the greatest problems we faced in 1986-88. Of course it was difficult – it was totally unlike anything people had had to work with before. But it did work and it did things that no nationally based structure could have dreamed of given the lack of resources and time that we had. Tell me what is new, radical and distinctive about AEGEE without that structure?

The congress „Modern Literature in Europe“ took place in Köln, November 1991



to listen to what we were saying about the potential benefits of the ERASMUS programme. He did not of course just listen. Within a week he announced on national television that following a meeting with some young Europeans the French would approve ERASMUS. Shortly after the UK and the Federal Republic followed suit. Some would say that AEGEE was used as a tool by the

AEGEE's was live up to its political role in 1986-88, our structure allowed the organisation to be incredibly dynamic. Every week there was another event some where in Europe and every two to three months really big events with leading political figures. AEGEE developed so rapidly that the European Commission had to set up its own internal task force to deal with us, because as the range of topics discussed by AEGEE broadened so did the demand by us on an increasing number of DGs at the Commission. In 1987 AEGEE was receiving support from no less than seven separate DGs.

Besides the structure, AEGEE had radical political views. The most significant was to incorporate the Eastern European countries within the European Union. In 1985 the idea (except of course in the FRG) of the European Community extending to the otherside of the Iron Curtain was seen as lunacy. In 1987 Gorbachev's spokesman Gerasimov came to AEGEE events. In 1989, of course, the Wall came down. AEGEE did truly achieve political pre-eminence as representing young people in Europe. Evidence of this is the number of other organisations (political, religious and economic) that tried to infiltrate AEGEE. AEGEE's political objective was to show a new way of doing things on a European level and by doing that to further the ideal of European Union.

For those who believe in Europe, showing how things should be done is just the first step, actually doing them is the real challenge. For that reason, in my view AEGEE does need a parent organisation for its members to join when they stop being students and crucially to ensure continuity through supervision of the objective that AEGEE was founded to achieve.

Let's hope the light that burned so brightly flares again.

**Andrew Oldland**

AEGEE has been the forerunner in the organisation of a forum to discuss questions of European importance, including the young generation. It has thereby contradicted conventional political wisdom that young Europeans are disillusioned about and disinterested in the future of European integration. Thousands of young students are travelling from one AEGEE-congress to another the whole year through, proving that the opposite is true.

AEGEE's very existence is eminently political, but AEGEE is not a political platform, and its members have always relinquished any kind of party political affiliation. However AEGEE helps find answers for the European unification process, by doing what AEGEE has been doing since the very beginning – organising congresses.

What we have seen is that the AEGEE-approach is completely new: thinking Europe from top-down, instead of bottom-up, as I would qualify the traditional nationalist approach. Still there is a quite a big gap between what AEGEE-members think how Europe should be, and how it is actually looking like. And the Maastricht-treaty, which fortify the position of the Member States within the EC instead of deluting them, show that standard political wisdom points in the wrong direction.

I would define AEGEE as a laboratory for European identity, a school of political thought and an apprenticeship for organisational skills, that has transformed student-members into politically interested citizens of a Europe still-to-be and, to a certain extent, has produced what might be called in some years time a European elite.

My conviction is that it is this new generation of Europeans rather than any memorandum, charter or a similar paper which will have an inescapable impact on the future Europe.

**Christoph H. Vaagt**



*Impressions  
of the AGORA  
in Amsterdam, April 1991*

*Look into the mirror. Ask yourself about the status quo of Europe.*

*The Single Market, Bosnia, Agricultural fraud, Maastricht.*

*Disinterest of voters in the European Parliament.,*

*Banana trade absurdities, Economic growth, Chechnya.*

*Weakening cohesion between member states in 1995.*

*Monetary union in 1999... What can you do? What do you do?*

# TO MAKE STUDENTS AN OFFER ...

## ... They Can't Refuse

**T**here is a lot of work to be done. Students cannot do it. But in an association like AEGEE, you can learn the game. And you can start to develop ideas. There is something to be done for everyone. In 1988/89 the priorities were still clear: AEGEE was an association giving members incredible possibilities to experiment on the European level. We thought it was our duty to support this great adventure into the European integration process. Our aim was to contribute. Somehow. Every-

about the people of Europe, their mentalities and habits as well as European history and the Community institutions. Here, you can learn how to organise, to communicate and to be creative. AEGEE is a place to meet people, build long-lasting friendships, exercise foreign traditions. And still, some distinguished members wanted more. They wanted a strong, creative and influential AEGEE. They wanted to talk to politicians and decision-makers about their new ideas. They wanted to forget new cooperative structures. They were aiming at the big prize: to change Europe for the better of its citizens by making the Community more democratic, more efficient and by involving all interested citizens!

However, AEGEE's abilities as a whole are limited by the constant flux of its members, by its unprofessional students' image and by its recurring internal divisions. It must, therefore, be AEGEE's strength to let those distinguished members with their visions and ideas prosper. Those are the members to encourage and to promote. Today, AEGEE is still offering that unique opportunity. And it still is an offer students cannot refuse. I urge today's members to be innovative and creative. Don't be complacent with what you already achieved. Constantly look out for new challenges.

one their own style.

At one point, however, it seemed that one category of members was slowly disappearing: Those who wanted to „build a European Community“ and not just travel around, organise conferences and have fun. We felt 'the lunatics were taking over the asylum'. No, AEGEE is not a playgarden, it is a host for ideals and visions, it is a catalyst for people with ideas. Also, AEGEE was - and still is - a school. A school enabling members to learn

Don't look back to worn-out concepts. Look ahead. You've got to live another 50 years! In what kind of Europe would you like to live in 2045? What should Europe be able to achieve by then? Look into that mirror regularly and ask yourself: What can you do?

**Ralf Teschner**

In 1991  
the European  
Project,  
TEAM,  
took place  
for the  
first time  
in Milan  
which was  
supported by  
„Il Sole 24 Ore“





# AMBITION OF AEGEE

*from 1990 to 1992*

Coming into business in the beginning of 1990, we saw the position of AEGEE concerning a political role as follows: AEGEE was not a political organization because students' organisations deal with students and their specific interests in the first place. So, our interest was mainly students' education, mobility, exchange programs, sometimes curriculae in different universities. Our political statements restricted themselves mainly to two points: Being discussion partner of several EC-DG's in questions of the above mentioned fields. And promoting an open relation to the Eastern European countries, including the question about the borders of Europe. The political environment was characterised by the German unification, EC-expansion, and the peaceful and hopefully wealthy future.

Becoming active on the European level and in the end in the CD, we realised significant changes as well in the political environment (East-opening, especially the Yugoslavia-war) as in our thoughts – should it be possible to remain solely a students travel and exchange-club while our European neighbours faced the incredibly dark picture of war, expulsion and death? Several discussions inside the CD, during AGORAS and between the members focused on open letters and publicistic actions. In the end we figured out that only a European consciousness is able to tackle problems, which occur on a European level. And our tools could be involvement, activities and real interest – even if there's no guarantee to prevent such kind of human disaster like Yugoslavia. A precondition to form a European consciousness would be the European citizen – with a well informed background and the ability to use his informational network.

After we decided to concentrate on this point, the first step was to plan the expansion of the European School idea. With the goal to train our members in European and global dimensions as well as in skills (such as interfering, communicating and organising) we drew up a plan to increase the number of European Schools. Doing that, we used the creativity of many more of our members to reach our goals – by simply multiplying ideas and directing them towards joint activities. The second step was a much stronger focus on the Working Groups. They could do thematic work on a local and on a European level – as sign of the active European citizen. But we had to deal with a problem. For example, the Environmental WG grew very strong in the beginning because of the obvious destruction of large natural areas. Chernobyl was another driving force. But being founded by enthusiastic members, the WG lacked a certain continuity. To keep pace, we realised that a stronger input – not interference – by the mother organisation would insure quality. Setting up yearplans for AEGEE and its working groups with the main outline of our activities, we tried to focus every year on certain highlights. The European School and the Working Groups were our two main keys to increase political activity. Furthermore, we as AEGEE tried not to stick to internal discussions. Several talks with politicians, organisations, people in the street – and our families – have been carried out by the whole organisation. Publications like AEGEE-Scope and its successors were used to deliver our message. And this message still remains valid: unite Europe, because it's the main requirement for a peaceful, prosperising and further developing society – our future.

**Peter Simon**

*I keep thinking about this often repeated and most of the time misinterpreted sentence you could hear at practically every meeting or gathering of AEGEEists: „We are a non political organization“. This statement refers to the fact that AEGEE is not linked to any official existing political party or grouping.*

*As a statement the sentence is of course totally wrong.*

**A**EGEE is highly political in its structure and in its actions and is therefore a forum, a real „AGORA“ with an immense and unique networking function for all those who believe in one way or another that supranationalism or internationalism is the best way to face the challenges which are facing Europe today. AEGEE is indeed political in its structure and in this structure lies as well its strength's. Since there are no national levels and since the Working Groups are supranational, the association erases physical as well as mental borders by bringing together students from all over Europe who have to work together on concrete projects and actions. And thus Europeanism is reduced from the red carpet atmosphere to a street-level environment, giving the participating student an enormous potential number of „friends“ in places which he would possibly only see as a tourist armed with a camera.

AEGEE is the world behind the pictures and gives the individual the opportunity to see the world from other perspectives than a own national one. One should not underestimate the „we feeling“ which has already grown between a tremendous amount of people who met through AEGEE and are now still in some way linked through i.e. personal relations – do not forget the many AEGEE-marriages. As I pictured already above, the actions of AEGEE are political because the groups of actors are multinational and therefore AEGEE is practicing in its everyday activities a „citizens Europe“ on a bottom up basis, while most EU European citizens programmes have a top down, theoretic and intellectual, approach. The things mentioned so far might probably be completely obvious for anyone who knows about AEGEE, but I still believe they are key elements of the objectives and of the organisation.

Concluding my contribution I will mention something about the period in which I was an active member. I joined AEGEE (1989-90) in a kind of third stage of its

development. The first stage was the era of the Founding Fathers which were people with high aims, dark suits and business-class-frequent-flyer-programme aspirations. The elite did not last for a long time and the second stage of the development of AEGEE was marked by an enormous enlargement of the organisation. In my perspective this enlargement was very essential to give AEGEE the role it is playing today. The third stage was marked by the opening to the east and the AEGEE slogan „students building bridges across Europe“ became a keyword in our actions. Due to its flexible structure by having the, very independent antennae, AEGEE was able to expand quite easily to the East and to absorb it in its network. Thus AEGEE was one of the very first organisations in Europe to adapt itself to the post-Cold War Era. In doing this AEGEE was very much ahead of many others and so it became a place where questions were raised, in the practical AEGEE-approach, which were much later raised at other places.

Incidentally, it is striking how similar the discussions in official institutions are to the discussions we had in our AGORA. There seem to be voices who would like to see AEGEE offering complete answers to European problems by i.e. striving for a certain structure of Europe. I believe these voices get it wrong. There are now obvious answers to today's problems and you cannot force all members of a pluralistic organisation to have one view. There are enough other organisations who proclaim to have models and solutions for the actual European difficulties. AEGEE is AEGEE due to its diversity and pluralism. It is an umbrella for students of all national, professional, social and political backgrounds. AEGEE is a unique bit of European reality, it is a citizens' Europe in a nutshell.

**Oliver Drewes**

# DEFINITION OF AEGEE'S POLITICAL ROLE

from 1992 to 1993

A generation shift was coming up, lots of „old“ people were leaving the European level, and the CD where in I was vice president and responsible for European Institutions for one year,, elected at the Agora in Delft Nov. 1992 would face a really big loss of experience. Up till then many members used to be active for 3-5 years. Lots of experience lost, but of course also a chance for new approaches and ideas! Building up confidence between the European level and the locals were one of the main tasks. The organisation had to accept the fact that lots of experienced people had left the European level and younger members had to take over. This period was a one of transition in many ways. It would be a time where we would have to reflect about how to continue AEGEE practically and ideologically...

The first couple of months in 1993 AEGEE-Europe continued to put lots of effort into strengthening the relation to the European-Commission, especially in the field of education. 4 people were active in the CD on relations connected to the EU, and several applications were made for subventions to congresses. Efforts were as well

put into Public Relations and Fund-raising. An important thing happened for AEGEE-Europe in March 1993 when we were recognised as Non Governmental Organisation in the Council of Europe, we were eager to begin

a new co-operation. In April 1993 made the CD was decided that functions in the CD should no longer deal with „development of the network“, as we agreed that it was more than well developed already. We wanted quality instead of quantity within the network. We wanted to put our efforts into other priorities, such as PR, fundraising and administration. At the AGORA in Prague the CD took a firm standpoint in setting priorities in

## AGORA — Budapest 1991

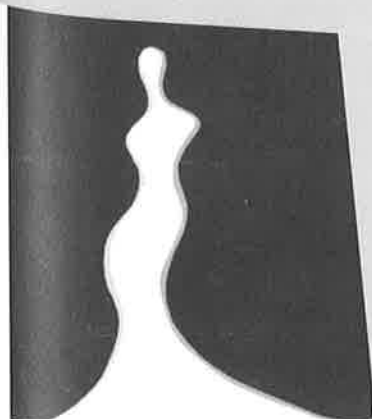
November 29th — December 1st

„Students building bridges Across Europe“



The cover of the AGORA-booklet, November 1991

co-operating with European institutions: first of all we wanted to co-operate more with the Council of Europe and the CSCE (NGO since summer 1992 at the Helsinki Summit), instead of putting all our efforts more or less into the European Commission. The CD thought that it was valuable for AEGEE to get deeper involved with the 2 before-mentioned institutions, especially via our different Working Groups and for support for congresses (speakers and money). Mainly because those are Europe wide organised just like AEGEE, and we felt that the CoE and the CSCE were close in political approach: „Action speak louder than words“, and they



The congress „Men & Woman“ was organised by Saarbrücken, 1991

focus on the so-called „soft“ areas such as human rights, environment, equality and education just like AEGEE!

To achieve these goals the CD started lobbying in the CoE: European Youth Centre, the NGO secretariat and in committees for Human Rights, Environment and Education to get a closer co-operation. Support was achieved for the congress in Budapest on „Ethnic Minorities in Europe“ via European Youth centre, and the CD participated in the NGO-meeting in Sofia. The CD worked to create better contact between the two levels in the organisation, the

making it clear that our organisations recruit members from all over Europe. We therefore wrote an official statement to the the organisers from the Task Force in the European-Commission, and all participating organisations signed it. We got the official appology from the Task Force and we had a long discussion with the representatives of the Task Force concerning the structure of most European student organisations, namely being pan-European,

First picture of the elected CD in Budapest, November 1991



European and the local, one developed future strategies and improved contacts to other student organisations, towards companies and different European institutions. At the „EU Task Force Erasmus Evaluation – Meeting“, May 1993 in Maastricht we were denied participation of Zsuzsa Kigyós/Hungarian CD-member as representative of AEGEE-Europe, and the CD therefore decided to take action. We could not accept this approach from the EU, and we encouraged the other participating student organisations to join us in an official complaint. It turned out that organisations like ELSA and IASI also had had participants from Central and Eastern Europe refused as representatives, and they were equally interested in

and often with equal participation of members from Eastern and Western-Europe. This whole case signalled to the other European student organisation that AEGEE is perhaps non-political, but we are still taking action; in this case against discrimination. Politics in the case of AEGEE became clear. We will never take a party political standpoint, but we will react against, politically spoken, what we consider discrimination! This incidence just strenghtend the conviction of the CD that it was time to take a more critical approach to the EU and try to associate ourselves more with institutions like the CoE and the CSCE. In this period it became even more clear that AEGEE wouldn't like to be to close with the EU, politically speaking.

**Ulla Bisgaard**



*There was and is still a big confusion in AEGEE about its „political“ role.*

*Mainly the word „political“ seems rather difficult to determine.*

*If you dare to ask our members about their view concerning AEGEE's political role, you have to endure mostly the same answer : AEGEE is a non political organisation.*

*Well, if you are one of the few, who are reading our statutes you are enabled to discover : "AEGEE is a secular organisation not linked to any political party".*

*So, if you compare both answers, you feel the importance to make this lack of definition of AEGEE's political role clearer to the in- as well as to the outside.*

## IMPLEMENTATION OF A VISION

Nonetheless you have to deal with one of our bigger society problems: many people fear to be involved in politics. There is a common opinion that it is better not to have any links with politics – so they say we are clear, pure, innocent, and by all means non-political. This phenomenon of our times you'll find to a large amount represented in AEGEE as well. But all those people are to be mistaken: everything is political, your whole world is determined through politics. Nobody lives in the ivory tower and remains innocent. Especially, if AEGEE does set itself the goals in promoting the European intergration or simply said: in „bringing“ together or merging people. I strongly believe that AEGEE was, is and will be with such aims extremely political. But of course it is right that there is a big awareness in AEGEE about its political involvement. I think to underline our freedom and independence towards any other political movement or party is one of our essential basics. AEGEE had its own problems with its political involvement in 1988, when the idea of the establishment of IDE was introduced, due it did not seem clear to everybody how the relation of IDE and AEGEE-EUROPE should look like. Those misunderstandings did not enable the AEGEE members to share a clear vision of the AEGEE's political role as the whole, even if the issue of IDE should have been more discussed among our members. Nonetheless AEGEE was made much more sensitive about all possibilities of AEGEE's political links and activities. But I daresay : the awareness of political involutions makes us more vigilant. Besides that we do live in times were it is quite fashionable to feel a kind of

reluctance for politics, I see for an European student association the necessity to share for the coming generation a perspective and that's why we are in favour of the European integration, which is a highly political matter. In a way we are creating new Europeans: most of our members are openminded, capable of speaking at least two languages, and they are interested in culture and in visiting other country frequently. How we can carry on this development? I would like to distinguish the political role of AEGEE in two parts: one belongs to the inside, the other one to the outside.

### **a) AEGEE's political role to the outside**

Here we can estimate AEGEE's activities such as congresses, academies and Summer Universities. These ones do present a demonstration of AEGEE's daily work and are a good expression of AEGEE's attitude towards important European issues. Therefore more result brochures are needed to represent our activities much better to the outside. That goes together with a much wider PR strategies on the part of AEGEE to inform the outside. In the last time all the activities have been better coordinated in the Yearplan concept, which collected and introduced the outside about AEGEE's yearly actions. So AEGEE is enabled to express its view towards the main temporary problems as – for instance in this year (93) – striving for tolerance with 3 congresses. The Yearplan was a remarkable step in the right direction, yet a vision covering a longer perspective of the Yearplan activities, is more than welcome. That's why the discussion and controversy about AEGEE's goal was achieved in

the „Mobility on Purpose“ concept. In this context should be seen also the actions of our European Working Groups, which deal with such important topics as East/West relations, Environment, Europe of the Regions etc.

Mostly AEGEE's outside political role could be defined in its relationship towards the European institutions. In its history AEGEE esta-

Two different examples for AEGEE publications in 1991:  
left: AEGEE-SCOPE, the magazine for action and reflection  
right: A monthly published Newsbulletin from an AEGEE-antenna

The european magazine for action and reflexion



blished its links to the EC, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the CSCE as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). Due to its unique structure AEGEE depends on the financial aid of the European Institutions. Besides those necessary talks, AEGEE develops itself more and more as an information partner

of the European Institutions in sharing and exchanging their made experiences. In this way you can see our engagement for the installment of the ERASMUS programme in 1988 through a meeting of the CD with the President of the French Republic Francois Mitterrand, our further participation in

ERASMUS, our assistance in the evaluation process of the new constructed TEMPUS Scheme with our academy in Budapest and all its results in the brochures of the ERASMUS and TEMPUS WG's and last but not least our engagement as a NGO in the CSCE and the Council of Europe which will guide us towards a new level of our existence – to express much stronger our opinion to the outside. Nevertheless, there will be always the problems of speaking with one voice. Due to AEGEE's structure we can only clarify basic opinions as about education problems like ERASMUS or matters of the European integration process, which we strongly support. But it takes time for us to agree on cur-

rent daily problems and there will be many of those we can't give off general statements. We don't want to and can't be superficial. We have to specify our doings and so we are as a student organisation much more specialized in education and mobility matters.

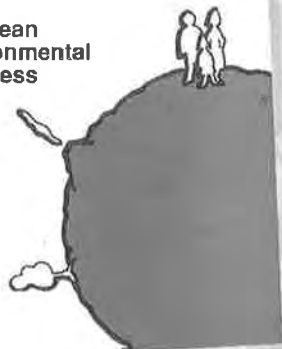
## b) The inside political role of AEGEE

AEGEE as a student association with its own structure, institutions enable young European students to work with each other in different functions, projects. If you have to deal with European events, WG's or CD, you get to know much more about European interaction, co-operation than during your normal studies. All the AEGEE members have the possibilities to realise their own European ideas and the space to carry these through. We also teach our members to act in a democratic way due to our unique structure without any kind of national level. Everybody can be a member of our association, who wants to join. AEGEE was the first European student association, which attempted to integrate real and in a democratic perspective students from all over Europe and especially East Europeans. Our success nowadays shows that we were right. I daresay AEGEE is creating real European citizens : open-minded, democratic experienced, willing and able to pay their own contribution in a further European integration process. Maybe we can see the European citizenship as our general goal or vision which combines all our Yearplan activities. Here comes the close link between our in- and outside political role: we are simply making young students – a part of the future generation – to feel European and enable them to play an active role in the world of tomorrow. So generally said AEGEE's political role will be always determined as the promoter of young Europeans and their integration. Nonetheless we stand with all our activities to overcome all kinds of prejudice, which seem for me much more than just political.

**Michael Merker**

The European Environmental congress took place in Münster, 1991

European Environmental Congress



Jean Luc at the Agora in Budapest 1991. He was responsible for the Erasmus in AEGEE.

# THE IDENTITY OF DIVERSITY

## And the Statement of Principles

In its ten year history, AEGEE has on different occasions attempted to define its identity. Typical of a grassroots association, people within AEGEE always felt what AEGEE was all about without being able to determine it. They were more attracted by the drive to do things for Europe in whichever way this was individually understood by the membership, rather than the desire to clearly sort out what AEGEE stood for. The urge to assume an identity came about by the ever expanding popularity of the association, by questions of general orientation in this enlarged association and by questions of efficiency, the question if we reached some results in our strive for the realisation an ever more integrated Europe.

The need for a text that would avoid the pitfalls of the past and set a general direction for the association, finally found its embodiment in the Statement of Principles. The drafting of the current Statement of Principles came to be under the pressure of all aforementioned constraints most notably, however, of a deep-felt disorientation which had become apparent with the political developments in Europe and the war-ravaged Bosnia in particular. One might have imagined that the trigger could have been the end of the cold war. AEGEE, however, had remarkably pre-empted the end of the cold war. Long before the demise of communism, AEGEE had taken the decision to enlarge outside of the then European Community of 12, first by accepting antennae from other Western non-EC countries and then from all European countries. If Europe is defined by its set of values and its cultural space, then it was thought that artificial divisions of our continent could not hold sway. So AEGEE went through the end of the cold war not just merely unscathed, but literally triumphant. The grassroots had anticipated the political explosion and AEGEE could usher into the new Europe as the bearer of values sought after inside the iron curtain. Being young and a student and coming from Eastern Europe, you could hardly side-step the hand of solidarity being extended over the borders. And for this reason AEGEE developed a solid and rejuvenating pool of people from

the East, able to help steer AEGEE through new, unexplored territory of baseline European values. In this long-term strategic decision, AEGEE was successful.



Georg von der Gablentz, president of AEGEE-Europe, 1991

This success, however, was unfortunately not consistent. At the time the Statement of Principles was being drafted – September 1992 –, three main events were having an impact on the Continent. The discussion on the treaty of Maastricht, the racist killings in Rostock, and the war in



The AEGEE-Logo

Bosnia. In all three of them AEGEE had failed to be present. There was a growing

sense of frustration from the same membership that had given flesh and blood to AEGEE concerning this absence from the European scene. If AEGEE cannot address questions such as the future or non-future of a federal Europe, xenophobia, and ethnic strife, then what is its purpose of existence? If AEGEE, as the prime European students organisation, had no opinion on what the „European Idea“ represented and had no clear suggestions on how Europe's future – our future – should be shaped, then AEGEE's discourse was marginal and useless.

AEGEE-Athina put forward the idea of a Statement of Principles aiming at promoting the European Idea, serving as a declaration of AEGEE's innermost beliefs, and bringing orientation to the association.

But then to define the identity of an association, with its ideas that constantly change and evolve, its cornerstones diversity, is a rather difficult task. The initial text was entitled „A Vision About Europe – A Statement of Principles“. The idea was that our principles would constitute the context of our vision. The final text which was adopted by the AGORA in Prague on April 25, 1993 was basically a shortened version of the initial text. The Statement of Principles was divided into two parts. The first one addressed the motivation for the principles whereas the second defined these principles.

AEGEE does not make sterile political discourse as its primary target for winning the battle for Europe; rather, she defines the evolutionary path toward the definition of a European space in the cultural realm and stipulates that the easiest and most efficient way to pave the road to peace is face-to-face knowledge of each other. AEGEE intends to foster our diversity together with our commonality as the cornerstones of our conscience. We wanted the text to be a crystallisation of this ever-growing concept of the union of difference called European Culture. Let us hope that the process we have initiated will be useful and long-lasting to the benefit of our Continent.

**K. Sabatakakis**





*Proposed by AEGEE-Athina and accepted by AEGEE-Europe at the AGORA in*

*Prague on the 25th of April, 1993 we, the members of AEGEE*

*...realising 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 expressions of European culture  
and civilisation and by encouraging student mobility and intra-European understand-  
ing, enables us to materialise our vision of Europe.*

# A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

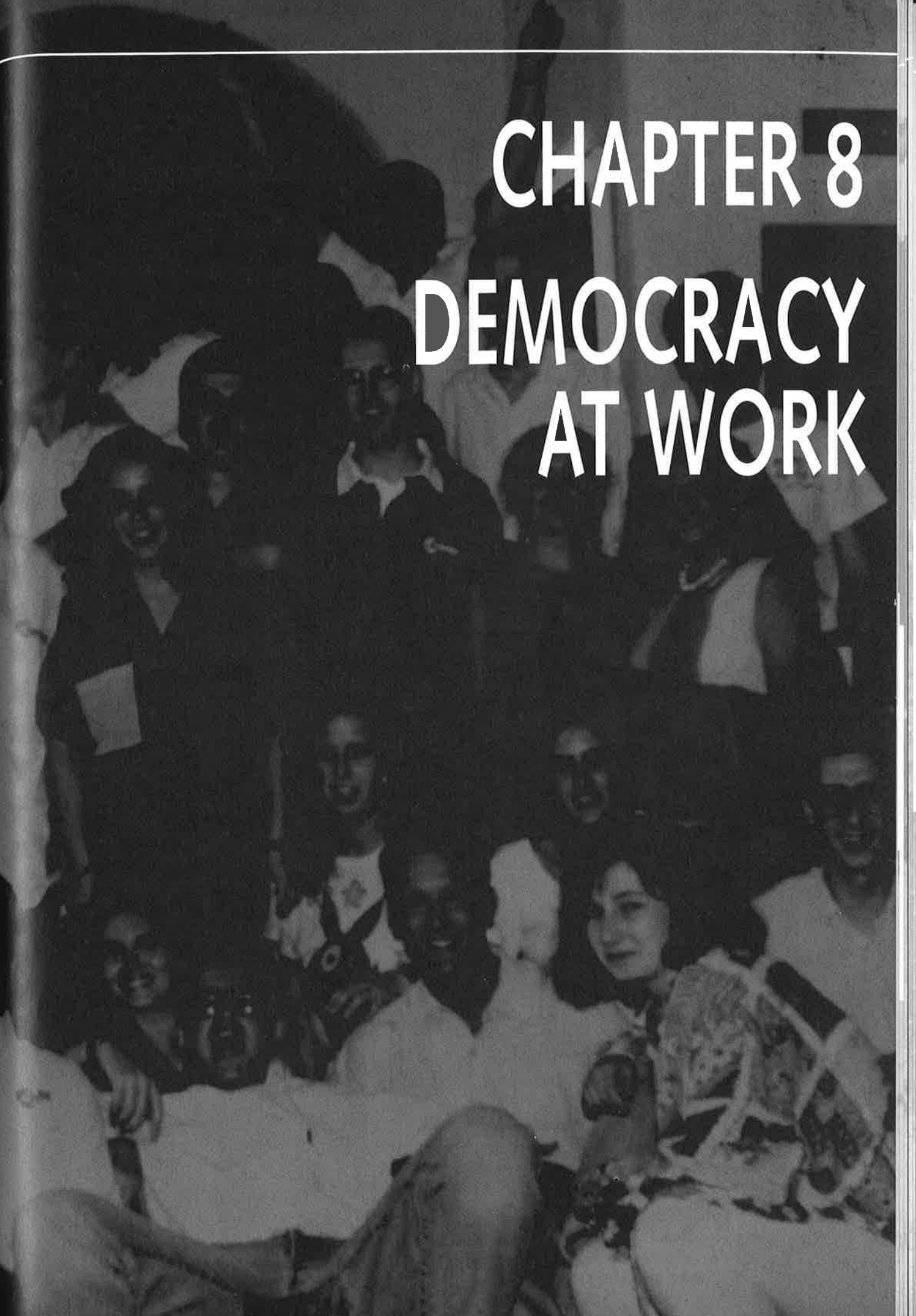
## **Hereby declare**

- 1...**our belief that, while cherishing our diversity and respecting the character of our regions, we can find on the basis of our common cultural and historical heritage the principles that unite us and guide us in our effort to strengthen the European conscience.
- 2...**our faith in a Europe that stands as a symbol of freedom, democracy, human rights, mutual respect, and of a community of law, and our will for collaboration with any European institution fostering this concept and promoting European co-operation.
- 3...**our conviction that education as a fundamental right is a means to mutual understanding providing a fair chance in life.
- 4...**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.
- 5...**our desire to create a European continent where prosperity, unhindered creativity and progress coexist with respect for the environment and care and compassion for the deprived nations of the world.

*Impression of AEGEE members, 1992*



# 1992



# CHAPTER 8

## DEMOCRACY AT WORK

# DEMOCRACY AT WORK

## *Agora and Presidents' Meeting*

**A**GORA is the Greek word for market place. For the ancient Greeks the Agora was much more than a mere place for commercial exchange. It was the town's central spot where people gathered to exchange news, opinions and ideas as well as the latest gossip. Likewise the AGORA of AEGEE is far more than a general assembly of our association where delegates of all antennae meet to decide on the main directions of this organisation. Indeed, it has become the central event of the association's life. Apart from the plenary session a large number of workshops and working group meetings on various subjects take place. All in all, it is the most important meeting where a common identification with AEGEE and the idea of a multicultural European society is realised.

After the foundation event EGEE I in Paris in 1985, about 50 members, representing 18 antennae, took part in the first AGORA one year later in München (April 1986). From then on the AGORA meets regularly every six months and is characterised by a constantly growing number of participants, reflecting an ever-growing network. Nowadays the AGORA comes up to more than 600 members from 130 antennae. Since the beginning the AGORA has claimed to be the main decisive organ of the association according to the democratic principles of AEGEE.

The lasting tradition of good debates at the AGORA strengthened its authority and it became today's institution: a place for open discussion to settling the policy of the association and exercising control of the Comité Directeur, the executive organ of AEGEE. Hence the AGORA is for AEGEE the symbol of our faith in democratic values and a European Parliamentarism free of national borders.

The first Presidents' Meeting took place in November 1986 in Brussels. It quickly became evident that the AGORA was the appropriate organ for discussing basic problems and for setting up the main direction of the association's policy. However, there was a forum lacking where a smaller group of experienced members could intensively discuss new activities, new ideas and solve practical problems concerning local level. Therefore, an assembly of presidents of the local boards or their representatives was set up. The Presidents' Meeting has become an important event for all the board representatives across Europe to exchange ideas and experiences. Furthermore, it has proven to be extremely effective for preparing the agenda of the following AGORA. Since 1987 a Presidents' Meeting has been taking place about two months before each AGORA. Besides to the AGORA this meeting focuses on the work done in small groups, where new ideas and projects are developed. Since 1986 18 AGORAS and 16 Presidents' Meetings have taken place in all the corners of the Continent. The first AGORA in Eastern Europe which took place in Budapest, in December 1991 and the following by the Presidents' Meeting in Krakow in February 1992 were remarkable moments for AEGEE.

See chapter 10 for a list of all Agoras and Presidents' Meetings

## *Kai-Michael König*



Presidents of AEGEE: Georg von der Gablentz (90-92), Jeroen Hoogerwerf (92-93), Pavel Miladinovic (93)



Georg von der Gablentz with Eric Magielse at the AGORA Kos



# THE FIRST PARLIAMENT

In the summer of 1985 several hundred students from across Europe met in Paris for the unforgettable event EGEE I. Highly motivated, full of vivid memories of the week in Paris and the binding promise given in Paris to organise the next EGEE meeting in Munich a group of about 80 students started in the summer of 1985 to organise EGEE II.

At the beginning many discussions about the purpose, the contents and the political aims of the newly created movement arose. Some just opted for a loose association, others had a well-structured organisation in mind. When some thought primarily about local activities others set their view on Eastern Europe. On top of it all was the pretension coming from Paris to structure EGEE as centrally administrated organisation with its main office in Paris (pas de question!).

To accommodate those different tendencies several working groups were created. Some were concerned

with PR, others about meeting possibilities. Soon it became clear that such a major event would need a sound financial backing. And it became clear that those sums had to be covered by a mixture of private and public sponsors and supporters. We therefore constituted a properly registered association and Ann-Kathrin Lehr was elected as first president of EGEE-München. Thanks to a lot of support EGEE II turned out to be a great success in the summer of 1986.

At the EGEE II event the first legitimate Comité Directeur was elected and the projects for the next months were set up. For the event we received the support from personalities, such as President Richard von Weizsäcker, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Mr Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission.

**Klaus Stürmer**

# SPANISH FLAMENCO

***the Agora in Sevilla, 1987***

The AGORA in Seville was without any doubt one of the most eventful episodes in the first years of AEGEE. Pepe and Pepin, two members of AEGEE-Sevilla organised the AGORA brilliantly according to the exigency of the Comité Directeur. The event was the first major activity of AEGEE at the south-western end of Europe.

Three weeks before a complete information set of had been sent out to all the locals concerning proposals of projects to be carried out by AEGEE in the next period. This was the result of a call for proposals two months before. Proposals were included only if the local assembly of the proposing local voted in favour. A Europe-wide grassroots democracy was born.

The main topics of the AGORA were the list election system, the secession of Euromanagers to ensure its continuity and quality level, the creation of an internal audit commission and a juridical commission, and last but not least to affirm the political role of AEGEE in the sense of not being linked to a political party but representing a highly political objective, namely European integration. The tension was high on Saturday when the current Comité Directeur presented its activity report. However, tension diminished by the end of the day and the next day all the propositions were accepted by considerable margins.

**Franck Biancheri**

*Although Jeanne d'Arc did not participate, the very fact that this clash was fought in 1988, made the situation after the smoke and dust had disappeared, a historical one.*

*A lot of people spoke of Agoraphobia afterwards.*

*This description requires some explanation.*

# AGORA ORLEANS

## The Clash of Orléans

In November 1988 the AGORA was hosted in Orleans, a nice and quiet city in the heart of France. Friction, distrust and frustration can describe the feelings between the members of AEGEE and the board during this AGORA. The behaviour of the board in the six months before the battle of Orleans was destructive. AEGEE-Europe looked like a zombie,

The meeting was adjourned, a truce of one night. A lot of talking and talking went on during this night, at a party of course, as a good AEGEE- tradition prescribes. Next day compromises were concluded - coercive bargaining? - and the new board was elected. The atmosphere calmed down and the Agora went back to work.

Important are the conclusions of the clash of Orleans. First of all, it proves that AEGEE is not different from other associations or organisations, nor from society: people search for power, which is difficult; people are too serious about it. Secondly, AEGEE did actually overcome its first crisis and came out stronger: the balance between being serious and being great fun was found.

The famous AEGEE cake of Kos, 1992



the board did not undertake any action, the president was in Brazil, rumours about a political party taking over AEGEE were persistent: It was a mess.

During the AGORA the members of the board acted as if everything ran smooth and they proposed some vague projects and ideas. The members of the locals did not appreciate it, and they rejected most of the proposals. The situation became very tense. The AGORA exploded when someone mentioned the relations between AEGEE and a European political party, which was going to participate in the European elections of 1989. Everybody went crazy. The board put in a motion of distrust aiming at a motion of trust for the new board, proposed by the old board. This sounds complicated, and it was. The motion was rejected. The board walked out of the room: AEGEE in crisis.

## Jeroen Hoogerwerf



Impressions of the Agora in Kos, 1992

*Bonn, still the official residence of the government  
of Germany, was already prepared for  
the Christmas celebration on this last week-end  
of November 1990 chosen by AEGEE  
to organise the second Agora of the year.*

# QUO VADIS AEGEE?

## Agora of Bonn, November 1990

The programme was really exciting, especially after the depressing precedent AGORA of Paris. We had had to elect in May in the French capital a CD of only 15 members (of whom 2 not present at the moment of the election), the financial situation of the association at the European level was far from healthy due to internal problems, the gap between the antennae and the CD was becoming wider and wider. AEGEE was actually living a period of crisis. Were the aims of the association still the same 5 years after its creation? Were we on the wrong or the right way to achieve them? The development of AEGEE was at a very controversial point: East or only West? How to judge the democratic situation of an ex-communist country? Discussions were going on about the structure of the Association: some had the feeling that the AGORA was not the legislative body as it was supposed to be, controlling the work of a representative CD, its executive body, democratically elected to put into action the policy defined by the AGORA.

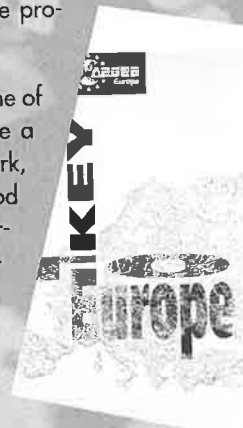
The result of this deep crisis, which started after the AGORA in Orleans (November 1988) was the division of the active members of AEGEE in 2 groups, the first leading the Association and the second being a kind of internal opposition asking and looking for changes. Two years after a relative silence, the „opposition“ was going to raise its voice, and for the first time in AEGEE's life, the AGORA would have had the possibility to choose the CD-members. Even if it would not be an individual choice on every single candidate, the future of the Association was going to depend on the decision of the AGORA. Despite some pressures on the leaders of the „Quo Vadis“ list (name chosen by the list of opposition to express its will of changes) to present an unique list of „compromise“ with candidates of both lists, we gathered in Bonn for two long days (and two short nights).

With a background of electoral campaign, American

lists. Someone interpreted this situation as another proof of the crisis of the association. Having one goal (our contribution to a united Europe), we should have had only one list with a unique programme.

The main point of the programme of the Quo Vadis list was to have a CD really working for the network, close to it, guaranteeing a good flow of information and supporting the local work of the antennae. After two days of excitement, and after the official acknowledgement of the first eastern antenna, AEGEE-Leipzig, the Quo Vadis list won the election with absolute majority, in the symbolic place of Bonn, an antenna which had paid the consequences of its positions against the former CDs.

Besides the fact that two lists were presented, this AGORA will remain exceptional also by the total number of candidates to the CD. In fact, even if the new system of individual election has represented a fundamental progress for the functioning of the Association, it is still handicapped by the too low amount of candidates that do not allow the AGORA to have a real power on the election of the CD. This is one of the most crucial and eternal problems of AEGEE: the deficit of members willing to work at the European level. The CD has to dedicate a part of its work to the management of the human resources, by explaining in what is consists of task in AEGEE-Europe, but also by creating the desire to join the European level, pointing out the personal advantages that can be gained.



*The first edition of the Key to Europe presented AEGEE and its yearplan activities of 1992*

**Cécile Bombail**



# AGORA IN THE EAST

**Budapest, November 1991**

**T**his is the event that has changed the life of AEGEE-Budapest forever. We began preparations for the AGORA in early September. The task of accommodating over 400 participants and organising different events for them, at first seemed to be an impossible mission. We hardly knew what AEGEE was all about and we had no experience in organising an

event exactly an overbudgeted or oversponsored event. Market economy at that time was only an idea in Hungary and not a working formula. AEGEE was completely unknown to businesses, so we had to start from scratch and convince several

*Students from different countries are building bridges through friendship and understanding, Ágós 1992*



event of this magnitude. Luckily, the overwhelming enthusiasm of the members has helped tremendously in overcoming the problems we faced. In fact, this, the enthusiasm of the members, was the only factor that made the AGORA possible, because financially this was not

exactly an overbudgeted or oversponsored event. Market economy at that time was only an idea in Hungary and not a working formula. AEGEE was completely unknown to businesses, so we had to start from scratch and convince several firms that it was worthwhile to support this cause and the event itself. Naturally, we have received financial and organisational support from AEGEE-Europe and the „know-how“ was provided by Michael Merker and Krisztina Németh. AEGEE-Budapest is very proud to be that we were the first Eastern European antenna of AEGEE and it was an honour for us to organise this event.

*From left to right:  
Maria Alvarez,  
Michael Merker,  
Erik Magilse,  
Marco Smits*



We have come a long way since, but undoubtedly the AGORA was and maybe still is one of our major events. We have organised several successful Summer Universities and conferences, our members are well known all over Europe and some of them have even taken part in the highest decision making body of AEGEE-Europe. Therefore, it really warms our heart that Budapest was chosen for the 10th Anniversary AGORA this year. I sincerely hope that we will live up to your expectations once again and that at the end of the 10th Anniversary AGORA we can say what we said in 1991: WE DID IT!

**Vazul Tóth**



# JOURNEY TO THE EDGE OF EUROPE

## Spring 92, Agora on Kós

### How did it all start?

It was not exactly in our Antenna's plans or first priorities to organize an AGORA. AEGEE-Athina present in the network already since 1986, was walking on a parallel path together with the other antennae, however, geographically a couple of thousand km far from the other locals (at least during the first years of EGEE). Sure we made two congresses, a couple of SU's, but an AGORA, it really seemed too much for us.

It was actually Michael Merker who posed the idea on the very first day of his arrival to Athina somewhere in the middle of March '91, perhaps one of the first things, he said when I went to pick him up from the bus stop. „Wouldn't it be great to have an AGORA here in Athina where the Word and its content were born 2500 years ago? It would also have a strong impact on the development of the network here in the South-East of Europe“ he said.

To me (at that time president of AEGEE-Athina), the whole idea in the first place seemed rather like a nightmare. Three or four hundred people, lodging, catering for all of them... How would we deal with all this? So the whole thing remained an idea.

As I started getting more and more involved in AEGEE on the European level and also our antenna was at the same time growing, the idea kept spinning in my head. On July the 4th 1991, a fax came from Georg von der Gablentz (at that time president of AEGEE-Europe), in which he wrote us that he was interested in the idea of having the Spring 92 AGORA organized by AEGEE-Athina. This rang the bell. So we started thinking not only whether we could do it, but also where and how.

### Why on Kos?

It's reasonable to ask something like, „why since people had to travel to the edge of Europe you made them travel to the very edge of it?“ Well... there couldn't have been a better place than an island. As it would be spring, the trip of all together on the boat from Athina

to the island, the hotel infrastructure that would be available for us since the tourist season would just be starting, and the feeling of an island being ours, were the best conditions to bring young Europeans together.

Since the Prefect of Kos Mr. Stratos Gomos had shown interest in hosting a European Event of our association on his island, after having heard about our SU activities of 91 on another island (Lesvos), we approached him



Out of this publication came the yearly magazine of AEGEE, the Key to Europe in 1992

with a proposal on the AGORA. Luckily, negotiations went on well, so we returned from Kos with a letter assuring us that the local authorities would support us in organising the event. On September 16th we proudly submitted our candidacy to the CD, with the necessary information and a draft programme. On September 26th a letter was sent to us by the General Secretary of AEGEE-Europe (Eric Magielse) announcing that we were chosen as the Spring '92 AGORA organisers. But that was only the start...

**Catholic Easter**

When you organise a huge event like an AGORA, you have to plan certain things at least six months in advance. And especially when a 14 hour boat trip in a low season time is involved, than you really have to plan everything very carefully. So we looked up the dates and ended up in choosing the weekend of 17th-19th of April, because in Western Europe on that weekend it would be Easter, that meant no lessons at universities. This in our opinion this would make travelling a lot easier for a lot of our fellow AEGEEists. Also in Eastern Europe, Orthodox Easter would be one week later, something that would make travelling easier

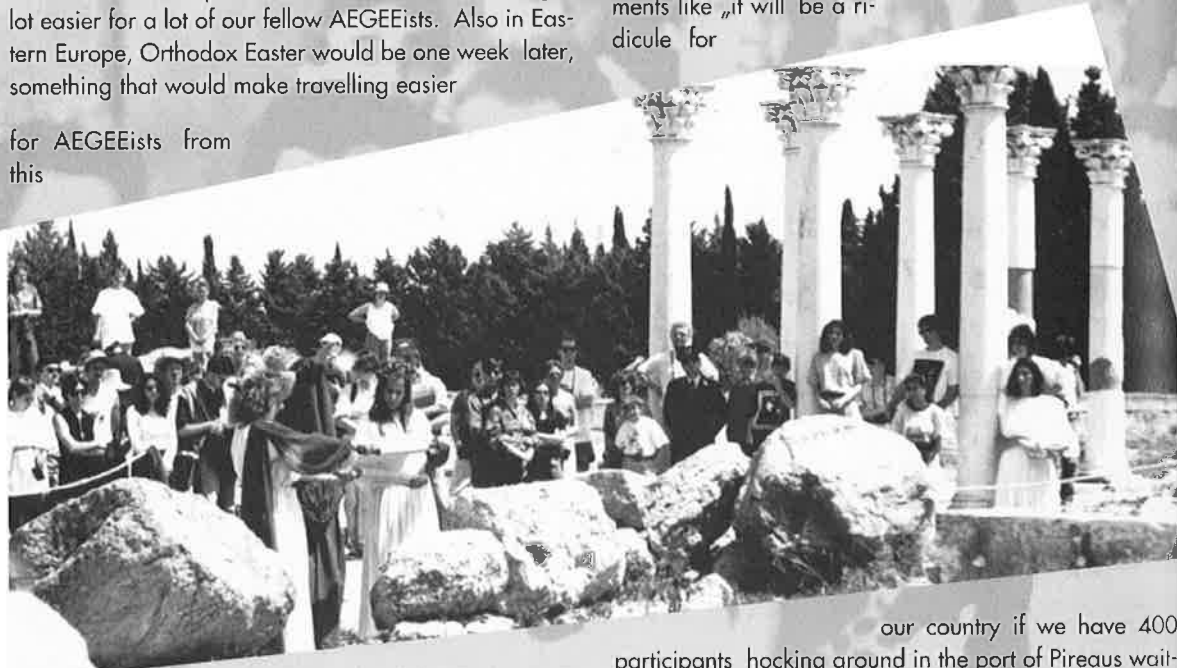
for AEGEEists from this

coincidence one of our members heard on the news that a strike of the sailor's union had started against a new taxation law. Worst of all the strike was of unlimited duration...

### The worker's right above all!

Well, sometimes you have to use your diplomacy skills. And then you try to convince the president of the sailors syndicate to let the vessel go, with arguments like „it will be a ridicule for

*Impressions of the Agora in Kos, 1992*



side of the Continent. It all seemed as if it fitted perfectly until... Some people from AEGEE-Bonn protested that we were not taking in account their religious needs, that we would enjoy our Easter while they would not be able to. So the whole matter was taken to the PM that was taking place in Krakow, with AEGEE-Bonn presenting a proposal to postpone the AGORA for later. That would have been a total disaster as the dates were already fixed and everything already booked. What did we do? We offered to bring a Catholic priest from a nearby island who would open a church especially for us and hold a special mass. So a special bus would pick up interested people from the hotel on Friday and Saturday evening, take them to church and directly afterwards drive them to the party... And that is what happened.

### Murphy's law

Well, they say that the most impossible things can happen exactly when you don't need them. What do you say about a strike of the sailor's union announced just 4 days before the expected arrival of about 300 AEGEEists who were supposed to travel by ship to Kos? Yes, that was exactly what happened! Already months before we had planned every detail concerning meeting points, youth hostels in Athina, hotels on Kos and, of course, the massive boat trip to Kos. On Saturday evening, the very last Saturday before the AGORA, just by

our country if we have 400 participants hocking around in the port of Pireaus waiting for the vessel to sail, and you wouldn't like to be responsible for this, would you?" But if the standard answer to each of your arguments is: „the workers right goes above all“, then you start thinking, „who else can we think of who can solve our problem“?

### The minister resigns...

OK, let's say that you didn't succeed with Mr. Union-leader, and you still have that gigantic last minute problem, just about to blow up your whole event. But you are lucky or at least you think you are, because through incredible connections you managed to get an appointment with the minister for Foreign Affairs, who has a lot of influence within the government and you hope he can in some way solve your problem. How? Let's say for example by getting a military vessel from the ministry of defence, to transport the people. No, don't laugh, that seemed at that moment to be our last chance. And let's say that you have an appointment at 11:00 and you wait for the minister to return from a meeting he had with the President of the Republic, the Prime-minister and the heads of the opposition parties. And you wait outside his office and suddenly at 11:05 you see everybody packing their things, you start wondering why and you ask: „Is he coming now?“ „No he's not coming at all, he resigned just 5 minutes ago because of disagreements on foreign policy“!!! „And when can we talk with the new foreign minister?“ was our question knowing it

would make no sense at all since our departure was scheduled in two days anyway. „We didn't know, you should ask for an appointment in two days when he'll take over but we will not be here anyway" said one of the minister's councillors who just a few minutes ago together with Stathis Mihos we had after a long discussion finally convinced about how important our issue was.

### The good God of AEGEE

So who was left to go now to the prime minister, or let's better say God? And you know how much time it takes to get such an appointment. Well in case you wonder how people finally travelled to Kos, the good god of AEGEE made the Minister of Finance accept the requests of the sailors (of course by pure coincidence and not following a request of ours), so they would finally pay fewer taxes. So the strike stopped exactly one day before our departure. A huge sigh of relief came from our chests when the boat departed from the port of Piraeus, with hundreds of AEGEEists who had not felt anything of our anxiety.

### The event itself.

Well, after all the AGORA from the organisational point of view just rolled on perfectly something that made Lorenzo Peroni write in his „The Search for Europe's End" article, in the AEGEE-Aachen magazine Telegraph: „The Master of Ceremonies, AEGEE-Athina... really managed to deliver the best-organised Agora I have ever been at". A superb hotel, good meals, specially arranged bus transportation and a lot of other facilities that were kindly offered to us by the local authorities helped us make this AGORA a special event. Also the atmosphere on the island was great. In its capital everything was AEGEE. AEGEE-flags at the entrance of the port next to the Greek and the European Union ones, also flags and AEGEE-posters everywhere in the town, even a big banner over the old castle-bridge with „AEGEE - building bridges across Europe" on it. More than 400 participants came, and especially a lot from the new territories of AEGEE (East and South-East) with a lot of them enjoying the island's spring beauties for a couple of days, before or after the event. The AGORA in a rare occasion started and finished as scheduled. The hottest items were the discussion of the expansion of AEGEE into Turkey which was at the end milded to granting the contact status to AEGEE-Istanbul only. Another hot item were the exclusion

of AEGEE-Moskva and of course the elections that led to the presidency of Jeroen Hoogerwerf after the withdrawal of Georg von der Gablentz following a long successful term as president. Of course, other proposals with subjects such as non confidence votes towards CD members, the duration of the term of the Members Commission etc. were there too but most of them have already been long forgotten and perhaps have already changed more than once. At the end of the AGORA around noon, an unexpected thunderstorm with heavy rain shower made the weather look a little scary concerning the afternoon departure of the ship, but after a few hours it gave place to a beautiful afternoon light coming in through the clouds.

### The impact of the event on AEGEE-ATHINA

The main thing that should be left to an antenna after having organized a large event (besides the joy of offering something to your fellow AEGEEists), is the positive follow up towards your own antenna. Around 60 of our members more or less got actively involved in the organization of the event. For a lot of them this was the first time they had ever overtaken a responsibility that allowed them to discover in themselves executive or organizational skills, sometimes even leadership potential. This event rewarded AEGEE-Athina with the status of a large and capable of doing things antenna. This in the eyes of our guests, but first of all in the eyes of our own members. Organizing a large event should in no way become a one or five or even ten people show, because after that your reserves for further AEGEE-commitment and contribution are totally used up. Organising a large event can be a crossroads with enlargement and improvement but it can also be a crossroads with disaster for an antenna. Fortunately for us it was the first, and this mainly because of good partners in work (thank you Stathis, Theofano, Errikos, Tassos... and all others that would take a page to mention) and good planning. And of course thanks to all of you who were there. Long live AEGEE!!!

**Michális Tzórtzís**



Some AEGEE faces at a congress in Berlin



A black and white photograph of the equestrian statue of Saint John the Baptist in Prague. The statue is the central focus, showing a figure on horseback holding a long staff or scepter. The background features several historic buildings with multiple windows and architectural details. The overall tone is historical and artistic.

# 1993



# CHAPTER 9

## EVENTS

### SYMBOLIZING AEGEE

ZIECHA  
DOCH  
V. NOCHE

BOAG

*In January 1984 the opportunity arose to set up a six months cooperation between five French Grandes Ecoles in Paris. At first it had very few to do with Europe as the aim of the collaboration was the organisation of a huge student gathering in Paris. After the cancellation of the project in summer 1984 a group of students met again and in January 1985 about 15 people started the organisation of EGEE I. A problem was how to find European students since at that time student exchanges simply did not exist.*

**E**GEE I started on April 16, 1985 under the patronage of Mr Mitterrand, President of the French republic, Mr Giscard d'Estaing, former President, Mr Chirac and Mr Barre, former Prime Ministers, gathered about 350 students for one week in Paris and included simultaneous lectures by more than 60 lecturer. Receptions at the Assemblée Nationale and the Town Hall were part of the programme as well as a nightly boat-trip, a European film evening and a final Gala at the Opera.

After a plenary session on April 16, a series of seminars on topics such as European Cultures, The New Challenges of a Social Europe, Unification of Europe, European Defense, Images of Europe, Europe and the Third World, The Future of Industrial Europe, Common Foreign Policy,

Europe and Environment, Research and Development and a European University System were scheduled throughout the week. The week was closed by a final plenary session on April 22 and a closing Gala in the Chateau de Maison Laffitte.

Despite great difficulties to get the congress started turned out to be a tremendous success. An extraordinary atmosphere established itself among the participants and already during the week a group of students from Munich agreed to give it a continuation and to organise EGEE II one year later in Munich.

***Franck Biancheri®***



*Impressions of the AGORA of Utrecht, November 1993.*



*Jeroen Hoogerwerf, Honorary Member, spring 1993  
right: Zsuzsa Kigyós, Summer 1993*

*Lorsqu'il fut décidé de créer un événement à l'image des ambitions d'AEGEE-Europe, il nous parut naturel de nous orienter vers une manifestation à l'échelle européenne mais qui n'avait jamais été réalisée auparavant.*

*Le concept d'une liaison vidéo*

*par satellite entre plusieurs villes d'Europe était né.*

# „LA NUIT DE L'EUROPE“

## Liaison vidéo par satellite

**N**otre objectif étant fixé, il fallait le réaliser. A force de persuasion et de ténacité nous sommes arrivés à convaincre les différents partenaires (ministères des télécommunications européens, Eutelsat, etc.) de nous suivre techniquement et financièrement. Cette „Nuit Européenne“ a été pour nous l'illustration parfaite du fondement de notre démarche: définir les objectifs, et se donner les moyens de les réaliser tout en faisant abstraction des obstacles. Concevoir l'obstacle comme paramètre dynamisant. Cette soirée symbolise non seulement un exploit technique mais aussi un réel travail d'équipe au niveau européen. Sans une coordination et un échange à tout instant d'informations à l'échelle européenne, il aurait été impossible de réaliser ce projet. Grâce à cette cohésion l'aspect technique passait au second plan au profit de la démonstration qu'il était possible de réaliser un projet européen.

Quant au scénario de la soirée, nous l'avons voulu à la fois culturel, idéologique et ludique. Culturel par la prestation de nombreux chanteurs et même d'acteurs. En effet l'Europe ne doit pas s'arrêter à cette image de fonctionnaires en costumes gris. L'Europe est une entité pleine de vie, créatrice et s'illustre parfaitement dans le domaine du cinéma, de la musique et de la littérature.

Idéologique par l'invitation de nombreux hommes politiques réputés pour leur combat en faveur de l'Europe. C'est justement ce mélange de génération qui nous a fortement motivé. Il est facilement observable qu'il existe en quelque sorte un fossé de génération entre les partisans de l'Europe et ceux dont la seule préoccupation est d'oublier leurs désillusions d'en-

fants gâtés des trente glorieuses. Cette passerelle nous l'avons créée par notre discours qui a toujours été une projection dans l'avenir et par l'utilisation des techniques nouvelles. Ludique, car nous avons pu nous procurer les vidéos d'images de synthèse les plus évoluées de l'époque. Symbole du modernisme et de la conceptualisation européenne, ces films évoquaient une adaptation de l'Europe aux défis actuels par une technologie adéquate associée à une réflexion fondamentale. Le succès de la soirée a participé grandement au développement d'AEGEE-Europe.

En regardant vers le passé il ne faut pas oublier les difficultés et les lassitudes qui sont autant de poisons à la volonté de défendre la vision neuve que nous avons, et que nous avons toujours, de l'Europe que nous voulons. Les combats que nous avons menés contre les réticences nationales contre les tracasseries administratives (autorisation des faisceaux montants et descendants), contre le scepticisme ambiant (technologiquement impossible), nous avons pu les gagner grâce à un impératif: examiner toutes les solutions possibles pour atteindre notre objectif dans les délais impartis. S'imposer une échéance nous a très souvent permis la réalisation de nos projets.

Notre avenir ne sera que ce que nous voulons en faire. Prendre aujourd'hui la responsabilité d'un projet européen accepter de s'intégrer au sein d'une équipe européenne sans prédominance nationale (hors compétence spécifique) est un véritable défi en soi. Les moyens actuels et l'évolution des mentalités vers une recherche de l'information, dont le multimédia peut être un exemple, devraient permettre l'éclosion de nombreux projets novateurs au sein d'AEGEE-Europe pendant les dix prochaines années.

**Philippe Micaelli**



# EGEE III

## *Europe — the Unfinished Symphony*

**W**hen we founded EGEE-Leiden in 1985, the interest for European integration was at an all-time low. The „die-hard Europeans“ who we approached to join our board of trustees were surprised by our enthusiasm to establish a European student network. Despite the „Euro-pessimism“ we managed to find speakers and sponsors for the first EGEE event in Leiden: A conference of industrialisation in Europe, organised simultaneously with similar student conferences in Paris, Brussels, Nice, Munich, London and Milan. About 100 people showed up, mostly our own friends and students from other Dutch universities, but also some other Europeans. I am not sure anyone really grasped the rather technical material, but the atmosphere was superb, friendships blossomed and enthusiasm for EGEE and increasing student exchanges surged.

We were very proud to organise the third annual EGEE conference in February 1987 which we named „EGEE III, Europe — the Unfinished Symphony“. It became a huge

event. The opening address by the Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers was attended by over 600 persons, including all EC Ambassadors and students who had travelled from as far away as Madrid and Athens. We debated at length about the political and economic future of Europe and ended with a session on student exchange and in particular the ERASMUS programme. EGEE had become a voice in Brussels; a voice which called for student mobility. A voice which I am sure was the driving force behind the now so popular ERASMUS programme. Looking back, I realise EGEE was the most valuable experience of my years in Leiden. The European Symphony is a work in progress. We must continue to work with all available instruments to find the harmony Europe needs. I know AEGEE is one of those instruments; you must continue to compose!

**H. van Notten**

# THE SPACE CONGRESSES

## *European Industrial Co-operation in Space*

**T**he European space industry with its flagship, the successful ARIANE rocket is a rare success story of integrated industrial cooperation among European companies and, as far as research is concerned, the members states. Maybe due to this fact, but certainly also the New Frontier philosophy Space travelling entails it has a lot of appeal to young people, Space has been selected as a topic for AEGEE congresses.

It began with a „Space Weekend“ in Toulouse in November 1986, gathering students of aeronautics for a weekend in Toulouse. Since the theme was so interesting, and industry eager to show up with speakers, a second congress of this type had been planned since early 1987 in Munich. A congress dedicated exclusively to the different space transportation vehicles proposed by industry and research institutes was organised. Rather technical details were discussed, always in mind

the achievements of the European Space industry and the challenges ahead. A third Space congress, organised again in Toulouse in November 1988, with a lot more of themes included, made AEGEE look semi-professional. Legal questions enlarged the scope of the series. Delft was the antenna to carry on the torch, with its fourth Space congress organised in 1992. This AEGEE-Europe event was organised in a co-operation between 4 antennae Aachen, Delft, Eindhoven and Enschede. The major contents was dedicated to the coming industrial usage of our space. This topic gathered more than 350 participants and demonstrated that there is a huge continuing interest and awareness inside AEGEE about the future development of the use of space. Therefore we can be curious about the next Space congress.

**Christoph H. Vaagt**



# EURODEFENCE

## Mainz 1988

**A**EGEE-Mainz was founded on the day in December 1987 when Reagan and Gorbachev signed the INF treaty, a first step to the end of the Cold War and certainly an important development after years of protest and upheaval in Western Europe and especially (West) Germany against missile deployment. But at that time the Cold War was not yet over, nobody expected the Berlin Wall to come down. 1987 and 1988 were years of intense debate about the European pillar in the Atlantic Alliance. Views diverged especially between France (not a member of NATO's military integration), Germany (the divided front-line state which had to rely on American troops) and the USA. France wanted to strengthen the European pillar (an expression by the late J. F. Kennedy), the USA and NATO feared a breakup of the Atlantic Alliance, and Germany tried to please both camps (1987 first Franco-German manoeuvres). Today in 1995 that debate is not over, but the security situation has completely changed.

Thus in 1988 AEGEE-Mainz, after a conference with EC officials, MEPs, and representatives of high-tech firms about European technology policy in February, launched its first big event in May 1988 together with the CD of the time. The aim was to unite speakers who would present the widest possible political and „geographical“ range of opinions on the defence issue and to convene as many students as possible from all over Europe in order to engage in a wider debate on security. And indeed we managed to bring representatives of NATO, WEU and government officials from different states together with politicians and pacifists. Many researchers were also present. All in all speakers came from 8 countries including neutral Ireland.

One of the highlights of the three-day conference was a big controversy between a French general and a German Green and pacifist. The discussion arrived at the brink of being broken up by the General's assistant because France was being insulted. But the General did not retreat and the 120 participants from 12 countries had a most exciting time. The day closed with shared ravioli and a big European party. The next day the General and the pacifist attended the concluding roundtable of Ambassadors, researchers and WEU representatives sitting peacefully together. They had apparently made friends. This is symbolic of what we wanted to achieve: confront the divergent views on a sensitive subject, lead an open discussion which this kind of high-level repre-

sentatives can hardly have elsewhere than in a university packed with students from all over Europe. Finally, we wanted to come up with some new ideas and provide a variety of insights to the participants.

In January 1989 AEGEE-Mainz came out with the first AEGEE publication (The future of European defence). Almost all participants had written a paper for us which we published. The press echo was very satisfying too. We thus established a brandname of seriousness which led a delegation of AEGEE-Mainz to be invited by the President of the WEU Assembly to Paris, invitations by NATO to AEGEE (different antennae) to pursue discussion with HQ officials, by an MEP to visit Strasbourg and to conferences on Europe in Luxembourg. On the local



The congress  
„Xenophobia!“,  
Freiburg 1993

and regional level we were very successful, too. New teams addressed new subjects and later earned a special prize by the Ministry for European affairs (a participant in the Eurodefence congress) for their commitment to international issues and exchange.

But the event also showed the sensitiveness of the subject. The CD of AEGEE did not want to pursue Eurodefence on a high level and as a working group. The East-West Working Group was founded instead to take up some of those issues in a wider context. Rightly so, because fortunately we have entered an era of East-West co-operation instead of East-West confrontation.

I believe that this congress would not have been possible with a great team, namely Nathalie Drücke, Kora Kristin Damman, Ulf Kutzner and many others.

**Uwe Wissenbach**

# EAST-WEST RELATIONS

**T**he three East-West Relations congresses are a brilliant example how AEGEE could reflect on and contribute to existing political developments in Europe. This commitment has also changed AEGEE a lot during the last years.

In the end of the nineties the whole of Europe became more and more aware of its relations to its Eastern part and so did AEGEE. Hence AEGEE established in 1988 a Working Group called East-West, which should deal with the relations between Eastern and Western students. For the Working Group it seemed to be necessary to draw more

as a forerunner to discuss the changes in Eastern Europe and the possible reunification of Germany in the East-West relations context. The congress showed AEGEE's new dimension, because the last day of the event was held in Leipzig, our first antenna in the former Eastern Europe. This was a chance for many of our members to step behind the old Iron Curtain to meet their colleagues in the East and win more members in this place.

The third East West congress was carried with a new tool of AEGEE. In the beginning an academy in Salzburg should work as an introductory intensive course on East-West Relations. About 50 participants selected in written rounds in advance had to prepare special papers for the coming congress. The Salzburg

left:  
Ruud Lubbers at the  
President's Meeting  
in Aachen, 1993  
right:  
Speakers in Aachen



attention of our members towards this topic, therefore they organised in May 1989 their first East West Relations congress in the Berlin Reichstag. AEGEE-Berlin carried out their second congress in cooperation with the East-West Working Group, nonetheless Berlin seemed to be the right to do so due to its special location and position between East and West – it could be regarded as a transmitter. Maybe this special atmosphere infected about 250 participants and enabled the congress to show a very positive outcome. The students were well informed about the specific problems in the relations between Eastern and Western Europe, which was increased by special Working Group sessions.

It has to be said that this congress and the work of the EWWG ensured an intellectual preparation of our members to be able to establish antennae in Eastern Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain in November 1989. This congress has been followed by a second event in May 1990, which was titled „A European Future for the German Question“. Again AEGEE acted



Academy in November 1990 was the first of its kind, which was introduced successfully as a new AEGEE tool. The main congress was afterwards held in München and could gather more than 500 students from all over Europe. AEGEE-München undertook the successful initiative to invite besides important speakers among them Frans Andriesen, students from all the Eastern European countries. Many students realised their different and equal thoughts and problems about our continent, it acted as a real Etats Généraux of students in Europe. This event increased the existing willingness of AEGEE to enter very fast in Eastern Europe to create a real European network.

**Editorial Team**

# ENERGY

## Our Common Responsibility

### Energy I, Energy and Europe 24 — 26 April 1991

The AEGEE-locals Amsterdam, Leiden and Rotterdam took the initiative to organise a first conference on the energy problem because they felt the necessity to familiarise European students with one of the biggest challenges of the human race: Energy. How can we provide sufficient supply of energy without endangering our environment? Energy in fact controls our lives but can we control our energy? These questions played an important role in the international debates and consequently the relationship between expenditure on energy, environmental protection and economic prosperity has become the main issue of the discussions.

At the first day in Rotterdam after giving a historical overview of the energy problem and a short glimpse into the future, lectures dealing with the economic impact of changing energy consumption patterns and the transition of one energy form to another one followed. The second day in Leiden focused on the European energy policy, including the setting up of a European energy market as mentioned in the „Lubbers' Energy Plan“. The final day was held in Amsterdam and dealt with prospects of issues such as: available energy sources, their potential use, their impact on the environment and the renewed interest of politicians and scientists in nuclear energy.

### Energy II, The Potential of Renewable Energy 27 — 29 of April 1994.

Three years after the first energy conference, Energy II was the second to cover a part of this subject. The conference in Delft narrowed the subject down to „The Potential of Renewable Energy“, displaying the potential and technical possibilities of renewable energies.

Energy is one of the fundamentals of our modern society. In our daily lives we use a lot of energy in the form of electricity, heat, gas or other fuels. Could you imagine a day without using these forms of energy? Though not many people realise it, it takes a lot of energy to make and produce every item we have. With the increasing industrial production and atomisation, the energy demand keeps on rising and rising. However, we cannot sustain the current situation much longer.

We are slowly but steadily diminishing our fossil fuel reserves. We are also increasingly becoming aware of the environmental damage that the use of nuclear power

and fossil fuels can cause. The greenhouse effect, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, air pollution, acid rain, smog problems, and the storage of nuclear waste are environmental problems we are all aware of. A lot of discussions, research and media attention is given to these items, but very little is being done to solve the problems. The use of renewable energy sources is an answer.

The main objectives of the conference were threefold: to raise awareness of environmental problems; to inform the participants about the possibilities and problems of renewable energy; and to establish and improve contacts between the participants from all over Europe. To fulfil these objectives, we tried to present a varied program covering a wide range of topics. The first two days were filled with lectures about the environment and all the forms of renewable energy: their history, their current problems and their potential for the future. There were people to speak about the world summit on environment in Rio de Janeiro, about the costs of environmental pollution, about future forecasts, about photovoltaics, thermal solar energy, small scale hydropower, wind energy, geothermal energy, biomass, and many other topics.

Simultaneously there was an exhibition where companies working in the field of renewable energy could introduce themselves and their products. The last day of the conference was filled with excursions to interesting and educational sites in the Netherlands.

The speakers kept everybody interested with their lively speeches we are sure they have enjoyed the packed conference hall, with so many interested participants of such diversity. We had a good time organising Energy II and we were amazed by enthusiasm and dedication of so many people for the conference. We hope somewhere in Europe somebody will quickly pick up the lead and will start organising Energy III.



Rita Süßmuth at the  
President's Meeting  
in Aachen, 1993

**Sjoerd Verhoef**  
**Joop Suurmeier**

# THE TEMPUS ACADEMY

**A**EGEE-Budapest and AEGEE-Europe undertook the initiative to organize an academy about the evaluation of the TEMPUS Scheme. The academy event took place in Budapest, November 20-22, 1992. There were about 80 participants mostly from the eligible countries.

The main goal through organising this academy was to prepare the first evaluation study from both the university and student points of view about the first phase of the TEMPUS programme. The Academy wanted to serve as an information market, offering an opportunity to show how TEMPUS practically works, what possibilities it offers in the field of student mobility in Eastern Europe and in what ways it has to be improved. By inviting students and university officials, the organizers wanted to provide a real overview and evaluation of the work that TEMPUS has carried out. Nonetheless representatives from the National TEMPUS Offices and from the EC TEMPUS Office gave their opinions about their co-operation with the students and the universities. Different discussion groups and roundtables enabled the participants to touch all the interesting matters. AEGEE-

Budapest wanted to organize a real European event. However we were very much aware of the difficulties to make an evaluation study in three days. We also felt that it is important that students could show their awareness of the importance of student mobility in Central/Eastern Europe. This academy gave the possibility for everybody to inform themselves about the different opinions and to discuss together about the future of the student mobility. Another aim of the academy was to promote the TEMPUS Programme and show how TEMPUS puts into practice the ideas of AEGEE: European integration and co-operation of students.

All the results have been published in a brochure, which was spread out at the universities, institutions and among our members, in order to give everybody the opportunity to examine our discussions and conclusions. Nevertheless at the academy was the AEGEE TEMPUS Working Group established, which had to take over the torch of our continuous relations to the TEMPUS scheme.

**Zsuzsa Kigyós**

*Deeply concerned by the growing tendency towards racism, xenophobia, and discrimination in society, AEGEE-Europe declares itself against all forms of discrimination and racism based on religion race, sex, culture or social background. AEGEE-Europe has integrated several activities into one theme „Striving for Tolerance?!“*

# WAYS TO TOLERANCE

## **„Anti-Semitism in Europe Today“, Heidelberg, June 1993**

Xenophobia and anti-Semitism have recently made the headlines in Germany and other countries, the reason for AEGEE-Heidelberg to organise a conference on the topic of anti-Semitism. We wanted to find out about the different manifestations of anti-Semitism in Europe today. The introduction was a lecture on the historical dimensions of the subject. The next day we had the pleasure to welcome the Chairman of the Central Board of Jews in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, who gave an account of

the current situation in Germany. He pointed out that Jews are still regarded as foreigners by many persons, not as German citizens. A remarkable atmosphere reigned at the conference, a ambience of exchange between speakers and students.

## **„Xenophobia! Are You a Racist?“, Freiburg, November 1993**

Xenophobia and racism have reached a critical and sometimes threatening level in Europe. Therefore special efforts to combat them are necessary. The present ten-



dency to deal with racism by using polemics and vapid rhetoric calls for a differentiated and comprehensive approach. In order to contribute hereto, 240 students from 16 countries met in Freiburg in November 1993 for a conference bearing the title „Xenophobia! Are You a Racist?“. The aim of the meeting was to investigate the causes and consequences of xenophobia in Europe and to discuss possible solutions. To that end we examined historical, economical, socio-cultural and political aspects. Priority was given to the individual confrontation with the question to what extent each of us is unconsciously afraid of strangers. The search for solutions must continue and find its permanent place within our association, so that concrete actions against all forms of discrimination become more and more frequent.

#### **„Ethnic Minorities“, Budapest, February 1994**

The problem of minorities has become one of the most important questions of the 20th century, especially on our continent. Europe has many nations and ethnic groups with different languages, cultures and historical backgrounds. These differences have always been a

high risk to stability and peace and many times led to wars and destruction. Each conflict between nationalities may lead sooner or later to a conflict between countries. We do not need to eliminate all differences, rather we should try to find common roots, historical motivation to accept and appreciate different cultures and customs. One of the main goals of education must therefore be a discussion of historical and political roots of such problems mixed with „real life“ experiences to understand the rich European heritage better.

We want to confront the individual with hidden prejudices and increase the awareness of the size and complexity of the problem of racism, xenophobia and discrimination in society. Awareness will allow to undertake concrete actions in daily life. As European students we believe that the action „Striving for Tolerance?!“ was contributing to the fighting of xenophobia, racism and discrimination. AEGEE will continue to co-ordinate similar actions.

### **Editorial Team**

# EGEE X CONFERENCE

## **Physical and Intellectual Mobility**

Students of today will be the European citizens of tomorrow and for that very reason they need to receive a European dimension in their education. European dimension means the possibility during the normal period of studies to get in touch with different ways of teaching and learning, get in touch with other cultures and languages. Mobility, both physical and intellectual, has represented and represents the best mean to reach this aim and this has been showed by the success of the mobility programmes launched by the European Community.

But, until today, mobility has been more a physical one, giving as such the chance to a certain amount of students to spend a study period abroad. The students who received this possibility represent today only the 5% of the total number of students. What about the 95% left home? Intellectual mobility has been the answer proposed by the European Community. Intellectual mobility means having the flexibility to take advantage of facilities of the various Members States, understanding the context of Europe, and being able to discern and apply appropriate solutions from all that Europe offers.

This theoretical background has been the starting point of the conference which the Education Working-Group has organised last November. The conference was mainly two aims fold: on one hand it was focusing on physical mobility to realize an evaluation of it from the students point of view; on the other hand was meant to provide knowledge to students regarding the new concept of intellectual mobility, since this has been introduced in the new SOCRATES program as a feature of the future action of the European Community in the field of education.

The conference was, in the end, a quite fruitful one and proved to be worth for students to have the possibility to exchange views, get information and ask questions about a topic as education, which concern them on first rank. It has been as well quite relevant because it has given to them the chance to express their point of view on the topics, in order to have their voice heard at institutional level, through the presentation of the results' booklet.

**Gisella Gori**

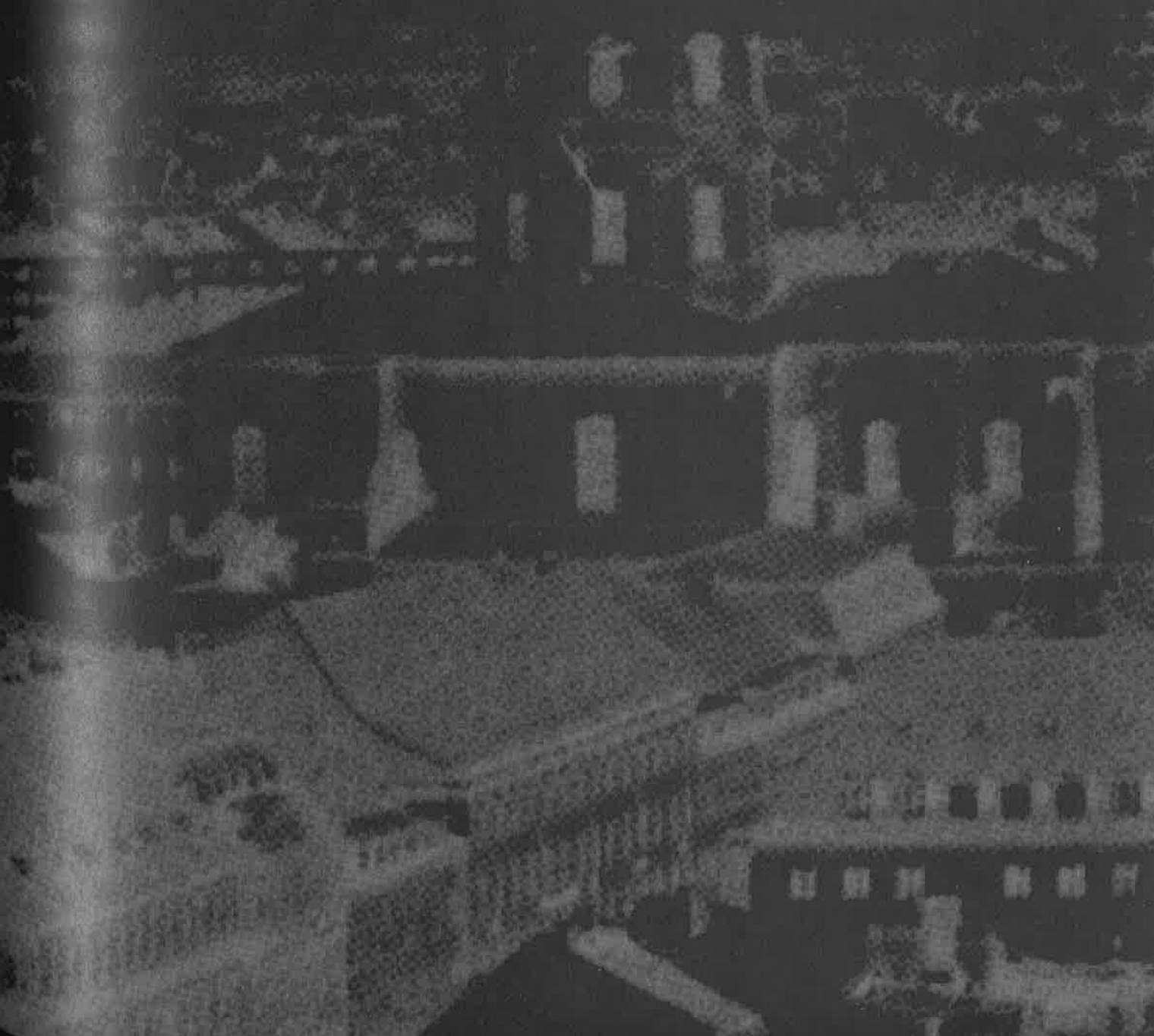
Munich, AGORA 1994



# 1994

# CHAPTER 10

## LISTS, FACTS AND FIGURES



# A CALEIDOSCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

## AEGEE Events since 1985

### 1985

**April** EGEE I: Foundation Paris

### 1986

**January** European Student Utopia or Reality? Bruxelles  
Industrial Europe Leiden  
European Space Technology London  
Towards a European Defence Policy Paris  
A European Financial System Milano  
Integration of Southern Europe München  
Towards a Data Processing Europe Nice  
Media in Europe Strasbourg  
The European Nights: 9 antennae  
**March** EGEE II: Convention Week München  
**April** Crossborderline Development Nijmegen  
**October** Europe and Middle East; Agora, Heidelberg  
**November** Presidents' Meeting Bruxelles  
The European Monetary System München  
1st European Space Congress Toulouse  
The Pharmaceutical Industry in Europe Paris

#### March

The Unfinished Symphony; Agora Leiden  
Which Defence for Europe? Amsterdam  
European Culture Barcelona  
Future for the European Communities Bruxelles  
Genetic Engineering in Europe Delft  
Air Transport in Europe London  
Europe's Position in Concert of Nations Luxembourg  
Euromanagers '87 Köln  
Europe Between East and West Kiel  
Mediterranean Environment Madrid  
A Technology Strategy for Europe Milano  
Sports in Europe Nice  
Political Marketing in Europe Paris  
Business: Which Approach for Europe? Strasbourg  
Media in the Membership Countries Lyon  
Between Europe and the Middle East Athina  
European Colloquium on Literature Heidelberg  
Apoikia Madrid  
**April** Presidents' Meeting Delft  
**July** Europe Beyond Reykjavik Nürnberg  
**August** Completing the Internal Market Hamburg  
**September** L'Europe des Technopoles Nice  
**October** The European Currency Unit Louvain-la-Neuve  
Agora Sevilla  
Youth Unemployment in Europe Köln/Bonn  
**November** 2nd European Space Congress München  
1er Congres Europe-Afrique Paris

#### December

### 1988

**January** Multilinguality-Problem for Europe? Kiel  
**February** Euromanagers '88 Bruxelles  
Presidents' Meeting Louvain-la-Neuve  
**March** Colloquium on Technology Mainz  
EEC and Eastern Europe Lyon  
External Economic Relations Kiel  
European Week '88: London  
Europe-Latin America Congress: Strasbourg  
EGEE IV: European Internal Market Milano  
Agora Milano  
**May** EuroDefence '88: Mainz  
L'Utilisation du Droit Communautaire Reims  
Who Builds Europe? Lille  
Berlin  
**June** 2nd European Cultural Week Hamb./Lüb.  
Agricultural Policy of the EEC Heidelberg  
Political and Economic Implications Europe  
**July** Summer Universities Athina  
**September** South-Europe-Countries Towards 1992 Bruxelles  
Conference on European Languages Saarbrücken  
**October** Presidents' Meeting Aachen  
Initiatives for International Education Orleans  
**November** Agora

The  
Comité Directeur  
in Heidelberg,  
1994



### 1987

**January** European Week Madrid  
European Ecology Politics Heidelberg  
**February** Importance for Europe Brest  
EGEE III: Europe,



	The Aims of Higher Education	Utrecht
	Art Europe	Köln
	3rd European Space Congress	Toulouse
	AIDS: Problems in Europe	Freiburg
<b>December</b>	European Food Market	Bonn

## 1989

<b>January</b>	Human Rights	London
<b>February</b>	Envi'rhine'ment	Amsterdam
<b>March</b>	Presidents' Meeting	Lyon
	European Week	Louvain-L-N.
	Terrorism in Europe	Leiden
<b>April</b>	East-West Relations in Europe	Berlin
	<b>EGEE V: Women in Europe</b>	Madrid
	Agora	Salamanca
	European Finance	Rotterdam
<b>May</b>	Road Security	Nimes
	Development of EEC after 1992	München
	Tele-Communicating for Europe	Saarbrücken
<b>June</b>	A La Recherche d' Identité Européenne	Heidelberg
<b>July</b>	EEC-EFTA: Partners in Europe	Hamburg
	New Sports in Europe	Karlsruhe
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer Universities</b>	Europe
<b>September</b>	Presidents' Meeting	Amsterdam
<b>October</b>	Transport in Europe	Delft
	Working in Europe	Aachen
	Is the Future Southward Bound?	Groningen
	Moot Court	Firenze
<b>November</b>	Agora	Salerno
<b>December</b>	Healthy Europe	Oviedo
	Europe of the Regions	Sevilla

## 1990

<b>January</b>	Information Technology Market	Enschede
	First Environmental Week	Europe
	Fortress Europe?	Bonn
<b>February</b>	Japan-A Magic World	Amsterdam
<b>March</b>	Presidents' Meeting	München
	Cultureclash?	Leiden
<b>April</b>	Is Europe Forgetting Latin America?	Madrid
<b>May</b>	<b>EGEE VI: Europe is our Time; Agora</b>	Paris
	European Future for German Question	Berlin
	Invention and Innovation for Europe	Saarbrücken
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer Universities</b>	Europe
<b>September</b>	Presidents' Meeting	Karlsruhe
<b>October</b>	Eurolawyers & Euroculture	Utrecht
	European Media Policy	Nijmegen
	The European Wine Market	Mainz
<b>November</b>	East West Relations	Mün./Salzb.
	Agora	Bonn
<b>December</b>	TEAM '90	Milano
	University in the 21st Century Europe	Salamanca

## 1991

<b>February</b>	Internal Corporate Communication;	
	Presidents' Meeting	Groningen
<b>March</b>	Moot Court Finals	Utrecht
	Non EC Immigration in EC-countries	Perugia
<b>April</b>	„Love Education“, Birth Control	Ferrara
	AIDS in Europe	Poznan
	1st Environmental Congress	Münster
	<b>EGEE VII: Energy and Europe</b>	Amst./Leiden
<b>May</b>	Agora	Amsterdam
	Environmental Week	EnvWG
	Week for Ecological Action & Reflection	Milano

<b>June</b>	How to do Culture in Three Days?	Bonn
	Scandinavian Congress	Heidelberg
	Europe it's Music	Passau
<b>July</b>	European School	Madrid
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer Universities</b>	Europe
<b>September</b>	Erasmus-Academy	Oviedo
	Environmental Congress	Budapest
<b>October</b>	Presidents' Meeting	Bordeaux
	Rhine & Dine	Koblenz
	East-West Relations Academy	Salzburg
	East-West Academy	Debrecen
<b>November</b>	AECEE expands in the Balkans	Greece
	Men and Women: Neverending Story?	Saarbrücken
	Visions of the East	Nijmegen
	New Forms of Co-operation in Europe	Konstanz
	Blue Platform	Annecy
	Erasmus Congress	Genève/Frib.
	Modern Literature in Europe	Köln
<b>December</b>	Agora	Budapest
	TEAM '91	Milano
	Poland and the EC	Hamburg
	French & Germans in Europe	M. Wiesb.



Impression of a  
Summer University,  
1994 in Aachen



Dorian Selz,  
President of  
AEGEE-Europe,  
1994

## 1992

<b>February</b>	Ecological Crisis	Tallinn
	Winterschool	Delft
	The United States of Europe?	Freiburg
<b>March</b>	Education and Quality I	Perugia/Leid.
	Presidents' Meeting	Kraków
	Europe of the Regions Academy	Leuven
	Slovenia in Europe	Ljubljana
	Moot Court, Final	Luxembourg
<b>April</b>	Europe of the Regions Congress	München
	Integration on the Balkans and the EC	Sofija
	Agora in Kós	Athina
	2nd Environmental Congress	Riga
	Communication and New Media	Erl.-Nürnb.
	Africa: Now or Never	Amsterdam
	3rd Environmental Week	Europe
<b>May</b>	Education and Quality II	Perugia/Leid.
	Tele-Visions	Utrecht
	Space IV Conference	Europe
	The Cultural Clash of Religions	Leipzig
<b>June</b>	Food'92: Politics, Economics & Nutrition	Maastricht
<b>July</b>	European School	Madrid
<b>August</b>	Environmental Academy	Oviedo
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer Universities</b>	Europe
<b>October</b>	Presidents' Meeting	Turku

	Africa in Europe a challenge	Milano	<b>February</b>	Ethnic and National Minorities	Budapest
	AIDS Conference	Amsterdam	<b>March</b>	Moot Court	Luxembourg
	Wine & Dine	Koblenz		Integration in the Province;	Eger
	Students of the Atlantic Border	Europe		<i>Presidents' Meeting</i>	Eger
<b>November</b>	Quo Vadis Czechoslovakia?	Praha		The Bridging of Cultural Differences	Maastricht
	TEMPUS Academy	Budapest		Mass Media in Europe	Hamburg
	<b>EGEE VIII:</b>	All Antennae	<b>April</b>	Democracy in Crisis	Bonn
	Social Dimension of Europe	Madrid		The New World (Dis)Order	Istanbul
	Agora	Delft		Agora	München
<b>December</b>	TEAM '92	Milano	<b>May</b>	Energy II, Potential of Renewable Energy	Delft
				Humanitarian Action: How?	Genève
				Foreign Investments in Eastern Europe	Cluj-Napoca
				Europe and Latin America	M. Wiesb.
				CHAMP Europe Finals	London

left:  
Christina Thorsson,  
President 1994/95



right:  
Presidents' Meeting  
Helsinki, 1994



## 1993

<b>February</b>	<i>Presidents' Meeting</i>	Aachen	<b>June</b>	More Leisure – More Pleasure	Saarbrücken
	„Die Hanse“ in Northern Europe	Hamburg		European School	Rennes
	Crime in Europe	Nijmegen	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer Universities</b>	Europe
	European School	Berlin	<b>September</b>	Summer Course, Aqua 1994	Utrecht
<b>March</b>	Erasmus Academy	Aalborg		<i>Presidents' Meeting</i>	Helsinki
	Erasmus Congress	Trondheim		From Grapes to Wine	Verona
	European Health Care	Cluj-Napoca	<b>October</b>	What's in a Name?	Rotterdam
<b>April</b>	Africa Today	Gorizia		Central Europe Ltd	Ensch. Wars.
	Traffic Congress	Konstanz		Addition and its Place in Society	Eindhoven
	Wine Congress	Ljubljana		Europe against Discrimination	Europe
	Financial Consequences of Merging	Rotterdam	<b>November</b>	Ex-Yugoslavia, Causes & Consequences	Tilburg
	Agora	Praha		Agora	Montpellier
<b>May</b>	CHAMP '93 Finals	London		Europe on the Brink	Edinburgh
	Journée de l'Europe	Fribourg		Terrorizing Advertising	Augsburg
	ECU Congress	München	<b>December</b>	<b>EGEE X: Dimension in Education</b>	Bologna
	Creative Congress	Münster		Asia, a Changing World	Enschede
	Europe and the Islamic Cultures	Köln			
	European Art United	Maastricht			
<b>June</b>	Anti-Semitism in Europe Today	Heidelberg			
<b>July</b>	European School	Valladolid			
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Summer Universities</b>	Europe			
<b>September</b>	European School	Salerno			
	<i>Presidents' Meeting</i>	Santander			
<b>October</b>	Winterschool Safelech	Delft			
	Japanese Companies in Europe	Groningen			
	Ecological Congress	Gliwice			
<b>November</b>	<b>EGEE IX:</b>	Europe			
	European Communication Agora	Utrecht			
	Academy on Renewable Energy	Sevilla			
	Communication in The Nineties	Genève			
	The Mediterranean Area	Barcelona			
	Realizing European Advertising	Nijmegen			
	Xenophobia! Are You a Racist?	Freiburg			
<b>December</b>	TEAM'93	Milano			
	Post-revolutionary Eastern Europe	Bratislava			

## 1994

<b>January</b>	New Europe – New Law	Kraków
	Simulation of the EC	München

## 1995

<b>January</b>	AEGEE-Forum	Sev. L.Palmas
	AEGEE-Forum	Bucuresti
	Disabled in Europe	Erl./Nümb.
	AEGEE-Forum	Aachen
<b>February</b>	AEGEE-Forum	Baja
	AEGEE-Forum	Stockholm
	AEGEE-Forum	Utrecht
	<i>Presidents' Meeting</i>	Ljubljana
<b>March</b>	Academy: Europe-Past and Future	Passau
	Spring University	Berlin
	Moot Court Finals	Maastricht
	Environment in Eastern & Central Europe	Wien
	Mathematic on Practical Problems	Cluj-Napoca
	Manipulation and Mass Media	Salamanca
	Academy: Drowned by Information	Bonn
<b>April</b>	Agora	Amsterdam
	Privatization in Central & Eastern Europe	Skopje
	<b>10th Anniversary Reception</b>	Bruxelles

# LES COMITÉS DIRECTEURS

## d'AEGEE-Europe de 1985 à 1995

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