

**Minutes of the eurolink meeting
Rome, October 18-21,2007**

Participants: Gertrud Zeller (CLC Austria), Ann Sieuw (CLC Belgium FL), Dunja Juras (CLC Croatia), Joe Egerton (CLC England & Wales), Inge Höpfl (CLC Germany), Zsofia Ercsey (CLC Hungary), Mary O'Flaherty (CLC Ireland), Cristina Allodi (CLC Italy), Tessy Geimer-Biver (CLC Luxembourg), Tony Vella (Representative of CLC Malta), Felipe Figuerido (CLC Portugal), Tomaž Šmid (CLC Slovenia), Manuel Enciso (Representative of CLC Spain), Dorothee Fischer (CLC Switzerland), Kristina Rinkelyte (CLC Lithuania).

ET and WExCo members: Agnes Rausch, Monika Sander, Leonardo Bechetti,(Saturday + Sunday) p. Andrej Benda SJ, Martina Županić and Vice Assistant of World CLC Alberto Brito SJ (**Saturday evening and Sunday**)

Excused: Eurolinks from CLC Poland, Belgium (FR),

Thursday, October 18th

We started our meeting with personal sharing. The highlights of my life with pictures from our personal albums gave us a nice insight of reality each of us deals with in everyday life with our families or friends.

After dinner we continued with success stories and our CLC realities in Europe from 2006-2007:

☺ **Austria** – elect a new president after some period of time where there was no stable structure. They also have a new EA, actually two of them, one especially for young CLC groups.

☺ **Belgium FL** mentioned Gent Meeting for EA's, in January 2007, as a strong point of light for their national community; actually CLC members get open to what happens beyond the borders.

☺ **England&Wales** can feel an impact of international leadership course that took place in Rome, in December 2006. One of their formation group members went and was very pleased with it.

☺ **Croatia** – On occasion of the Ignatian Yubilee Year in 2006 there was a meeting of all communities and movements from Ignatian family. Some steps of further collaboration was taken.

☺ **Hungary** – Presented the summer holidays with elements of SpEx organized by German and Hungarian CLC. These two communities are in close contact. Germany is a godparent community for Hungary who is going to apply for membership in World CLC on the next World Assembly in Fatima 2008. Their actual national EA dropped down from this responsibility, so the community waits for a new EA to be appointed by the Provincial.

☺ **Ireland** – They have noticed as CLC is handed over more to laity it is difficult to deal with spiritual matters in way as Jesuit did it in the past. It is a challenge for Irish CLC to be more worked out in the future.

☺ **Luxembourg** – CLC dropping in numbers put their energy and creativity in organizing quite successfully a spiritual course for young people with 10 topics related to young people of today. Tessy will send us these topics which we will put on our website

☺ **Malta** shared experience of the radio programme "Fast Lane" on which CLC has a weekly program.

☺ **Portugal** is occupied with the preparations for the next CLC World Assembly in Fatima. As a community they are in the new stage of reflecting "What is the common mission?"(DSSE dynamic) This was the main theme of a very successful national assembly .

☺ **Slovenia** has celebrated 30 years of CLC by different events and projects. One of them was publishing a booklet with prayers and texts about 30 years of CLC experiences in Slovenia.

☺ **Switzerland** has celebrated 25 years of CLC. As a community that pay a lot of attention to environmental and ecological issues important part of the celebration was planting an apple tree. They reflect upon their roots and branches, where they can grow as community, what give them strength. CLC Switzerland has started a partnership with CLC Congo.

☺ **Lithuania** has mentioned the good experiences they have in summer formation courses. The help of French CLC their godparent community is also appreciated very much. They will also ask for membership in World CLC at next World Assembly.

France reminds the overwhelming experience of Lourdes 2006 where the whole ignatian family gathered.

Friday, October 19th

Morning session: CLC+social justice

1. European markstones on our way: Celje , Malta, Schönbrunn, Alicante and Sibiu.

National markstones cf. last ET Bulletin

Agnes gave us an input how we as CLC started with the field of social justice on different meetings from Guadalajara to Sibiu ecumenical meeting.(see annexe CLC + social justice)

2. Time for personal reflection: What touched me the most in ET Bulletin?

What did I forgot to mention in my article for the Bulletin?

3. Working in sharing groups: Where do I see chalgene for my NC?

What kind of support we might need as NC?

We were divided into 3 working groups which had a very lively sharing time.

4. Working with poor people: the experience with migrants

Presentation of CLC Palermo member Alfonso Cinquemani on Centro Astalli

It is the experience of CLC Palermo mission. Work with refugees from North Africa in centres for refugees called Centro Astalli run by JRS, concretely by CLCers , as helpers and as professionals, since 26 years.

Alfonso remembered the beginning of JRS, when Father Arrupe said that serving refugees will bring great blessings to ourselves and that we had to consider it as a great chance to be able to assist refugees.

Alfonso points out also the importance of volunteers formation, good will is not enough. Volunteers need knowledge, acceptance and solidarity.

1. open your eyes, hear the call, search contact, be aware of your response
2. don't focalize on differences, look to the whole person, accept her as she is, enter into mutual relationship, undertake responsibility
3. work for justice, help persons to exercice their rights, promote better quality of life, keep fidelity to your commitment (today and tomorrow)

Afternoon:

1. In small groups we shared our own experience of poverty/ encountering deprived persons.

2. Social responsibility as instrument to promote dignity and social justice

Vittorio Leproux , a young and dynamic activist from the center of promotion for an alternative economy introduced to us the key words and points of fair trade, ethic in economy, ethical finances, alternative economy, responsible tourism, possible ways to fight poverty.

In Italy exists 3000 **world shops**, in contact with 1000 producer groups, which are connected through 90 import and development organization. Main force: the many young volunteers!

The **principles** of the world shops are: Priority to disadvantaged producers, Transparency in all relations, A fair price, Continuity, no short term partnerships, Capacity building of the

producer groups, Gender equity, Controlled child labour, Fair working conditions of the producers, Sensitive to environmental issues.

M. Leproux presented us also the **center for another economy** which we visited on Saturday afternoon, reuniting the following, in partnership with the municipality of Rome
Fair trade, Organic agriculture, Ethical finances, Responsible tourism, Free software, Documentation and library, Renewable energy sources, Recycling products

Evening session:

Sibiu presentation: Monika and Agnes shared with us the highlights of the third ecumenical, european assembly that took place in Sibiu, Romania, in September 2007 (cf www.clc-europe.org/ecumenism)

Martina share with us some thoughts and pictures from European CLC summer holidays for young professionals in Palermo. (photos are on the website)

Saturday, October 20th

Morning session

Leonardo Becchetti - The economics of social responsibility (micro finance, fair trade, ethical finance, corporate social responsibility): an actualisation of the preferential option for the poor and of the CSD principles

What poor/deprived persons need the most is dignity and social responsibility.

Leo insisted that our General Principles invite us to seek constantly for answers to the need of our times and that Ignatius told us to look to the most urgent and universal.

Another thought was to link the 1 and the many

Through our every day acts (consuming and saving) we bridge to the last

Social responsibility is not top-down, but bottom-up approach, and is one of 3 dimensions:

1. Creating economic value
2. Creating environmental sustainability
3. And social responsibility

Leo explained that in the past we had 3 actors: Government, corporations (enterprises), trade unions. But enterprises have an excess of power. In a global world, enterprises confronted to social rights movements in the North, delocate and move to the south. But a global world makes our neighbour closer, we can be socially responsible consumers, we can ask for social rating of enterprises. And in long term, the enterprise will become socially responsible by self interest. States have to oblige companies to give social information about their products. We have to fight against State tenders based on the law of minimum price but for tenders based on social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

Leo remind to us the social teaching of the Church, saying that we want to create economical value with moral values.

Even if Leo was quite enthusiastic and challenging, we did not understand or follow every point of his presentation. But many were consoled, knowing that a „fair economy“ based on christian doctrine is possible. So we entered with the following questions into our sharing groups.

2. Working in sharing groups:

- ☺ How do I feel after the presentation?
- ☺ In my opinion what are the limits and opportunities of social responsibility?
- ☺ How can we act concretely as individuals and NC to enact the preferential option for the poor?

Plenary- sharing of the work in groups

The opinions of the groups were different. Many were glad to hear the presentation. It was encouraging and challenging for them as most of us are not experts in economy field.

There were ideas that we as CLC might:

- ☺ Encourage similar presentations and workshops on social justice in our NC's to raise awareness of such issues. WE might even foster these values in the schools where we work and teach children how to implement them.
- ☺ Take care about the way we buy things - buy the products in fair trade shops where they exist (it is not the case in all around Europe yet).
- ☺ Make networks of people who are involved in social justice, alternative economy, fair trade, micro finances and similar fields.
- ☺ Invite the experts in these fields to speak at our assemblies and national events in order to promote these issues.
- ☺ Each NC could make the guidelines on how to live the more simple life style
- ☺ Support the banks that we know they are investing in and supporting small companies, to put our money and saving in such banks.
- ☺ Not need to be experts in economy but in humanity.

Presentation of projects on the field

In the afternoon we had an opportunity to visit the Altra Economia Centre in Rome where we have seen the project in progress. The rooms of Banca Ethica, responsible tourism, fair trade shop.

A most inspiring moment of the day, for many of us was, **Mass in the rooms of St. Ignatius** and visit to Chiesa Del Gesu.

After the mass we went out for typical Italian pizza evening where we had an opportunity to meet some more CLC members from Roman communities and some of us finished the day on the roof of the Jesuit Curia! Thanks to Alberto who is a real TREASURE

Sunday, October 21th

First session: Alberto Brito, S.J. – vice-ecclesiastical assistant of World CLC

Overview by World CLC and information about next CLC World Assembly in Fatima 2008 Alberto shared with us the main points of preparation for the World Assembly present in the Projects 136 by seven main points¹ and what has been meant by the questions WExCo put in all of the seven topics: What we have done? What we have learned? What we have thought? How necessary is that we put in act our decisions of Itaici and Nairobi. This is why it is also proposed to use the meditation of Three persons in the process of reflection.

Alberto explained the 7 focuses on which the WExCo worked in preparation of the world assembly: DSSE, formation, leadership, CLC-SJ, apostolic initiatives, sens of belonging and commitment, finances

We had an opportunity to hear some good practices of mission projects in some NC's. The mission somehow became the main topic of our concern in a way that:

¹ The dynamic of discerning – sending – supporting - evaluating (DSSE), Formation (focus on apostolic body) Leadership (connect to Rome course), SJ – CLC collaboration, Apostolic initiatives, Membership and commitment, Finances.

- ☺ For lay CLC member the three main missions are: family, work and social+political responsibility
 - ☺ We look to see the relationship of charism, authority and mission
 - ☺ We ask for difference between mission and activism
 - ☺ To be sent, for CLC'er means to be sent by community
 - ☺ We noticed how one corporate activity in NC bring members together. For example: NC who finds the concrete point of mission have strong sense of apostolic dynamism and usually
 - ☺ have no problems with new members or young people
 - ☺ We can have different activities in our NC but as WCLC we should have the same way of discernment.
- (a symbol: floating but not sailing boats!)**

Second session:

Erasmus

All present NC's shared their experiences of Erasmus/European experiences of CLC as it was necessary to find out how much is spread between the European communities. Out of what NC's mentioned we may say the following:

- ☺ events that contributed to Erasmus projects or the one participants named as European experiences of their NC were Lourdes celebration of Jubilee Year, Palermo holidays for young professional, German – Hungarian CLC summer holidays, leadership course in Rome, forced migrant meeting in Alicante, eurolink meeting in Limburg, participation at AAE 3 in Sibiu, Gent meeting of eccl. assistants.
- ☺ some NC's , are in a very good contact because of their geographical position, they invite each other on various kinds of events and happenings (national assemblies, days of prayer, Sp.Ex. or retreats, formation courses of different kind(Luxemburg and Germany, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Slovenia and Croatia) or they are in godparent relations (Germany – Hungary, France – Lithuania),
- ☺ Visits of WExCo and euroteam members when NC sends an invitation.
- ☺ there are networks between certain professions so on individual basis CLC'ers are invited to come but many time it is required to speak the language of the country that send the invitation.

ET Bulletin

It is important to distribute ET Bulletin among the members on national level. Subjects we want to have in the future:

- ☺ Membership and commitment
- ☺ CLC-SJ Cooperation
- ☺ Communal discernment

Eurolink profile

There was a short sharing about the eurolink service in NC. It is necessary for eurolink to be a full member of the national team.

Their mission: to empower the world community identity within their national community

Euronews

European Assembly will take place in Spain, Alicante from May 28 – 31, 2009. The delegation of each NC will be president, eurolink, eccl. assistant.

As two of our euroteam members withdraw from their service- Leonardo Becchetti was elected president of CLC Italy and Andrej Benda SJ, our spiritual guide has new obligations

in his Province we would have to consider our present situation. Either to find one new member, or find a help in a role of a process guide for the next European assembly.

EVALUATION

After a short reflection about our flowers, stones and blank sheets we would take back home with us participants would take a bunch of flowers with them because:

☺ Of their work in sharing groups, good and warm atmosphere of the meeting, easy communication, mass in rooms of St. Ignatius, they were touched by real examples of common mission, there was a lot of laughter, the good presentations gave us examples, ideas and challenge all of us to do more on social justice issues in our NC, work, school, CLC has a face now, it is more concrete, comparison with incarnation in economy was good, I feel deeper sense of “to be sent” now, my awareness of ecumenical issues raised, openness of the people...

The situation they marked as stones of the meeting were:

☺ The balance of presentations and what we have seen at Altra Economia place, there was too much examples of one kind of poverty; the place of accommodation was too noisy during the night, my own weaknesses, lack of patience,

Things we missed were:

☺ more time for personal reflection and to get in terms with things we heard in presentations, key of the house, some introduction about the place of our accommodation, visit of Centro Astalli, we miss NC that were not present, maybe we could change sharing groups during the meetings, we need more time to rest and talk with people, place to work and meet each other, we miss host community members during the meetings.

Annexe

CLC + Social Justice (Presented by Agnes)

Our life is essentially apostolic.

The field of CLC mission knows no limits to serve individual persons and society by opening hearts to conversion and **struggling to change oppressive structures**. (8)

General principles (40 years old)

We are particularly aware of the pressing need **to work for justice** through a preferential **option for the poor** and a **simple life style**, which expresses our freedom and solidarity with them. (4)

ITAICI world assembly 1998

searching for our common mission

Christ and social reality

« *side by side with the poor* »

for a more just world

- *Witnessing to our way of life*
- *Standing as prophets in our world*
- *Formation through experience and action*
- *Networking and*
- *Collaborating*

Celje, european assembly 1999

Within the common mission (cf Itaici) searching for **common priorities** and **common concrete projects** (one of 4 areas of concern was social justice)

Euroteam meeting, Paris 1999

Under the guidance of the world president **José-Maria** Riera + the world vice ecclesiastic assistant, **Fernando** Salas sj, we choose as common « project » the field of **forced migration** and proposed it to the National CLC for concretisation

Malta, July 2001

1st forced migration meeting

- Be **friends** to forced migrants
- Tell the **truth** around you
- **Network** with others
- Set up national **CLC contact** person or group

Belgium: group of CLCers and JRS

France, Luxemburg, Spain: existing CLC forced migration groups

Others: Publications, Seminars, Christmas activity, aso

Schönbrunn, January 2003

2. forced migration meeting

Workshops: 1. The stranger (+ the orphan and the widow) in the center of the **Bible**

2. **Prejudices** against foreigners and our answers

Nairobi, July 2003: discern, send, support, evaluate (DSSE)

Lille, May 2004: Evaluate and continue

Alicante, February 2006

3rd forced migration meeting (with spanish Jesuits)

Sharing, Discussing, Praying, Planing for a more intense communication (Googlegroup aso)