Europe in the World

Report of Inaugural Meeting

Venice International University
7th March 2005

Introduction: Meeting Expectations

- o Clearer view of Europe's goals / What is the European model vis-à-vis the rest of the world? / How to achieve it
- o New opportunities to work for my present goals / New insights gained / New contacts / A chance to discuss ideas
- o The sustainability debate is in deep trouble. We desperately need to rethink how to approach the agenda of policy integration and raise awareness. E3G might be an opening!
- o The beginning of a vision, for Europe and world(?), and of a plan to bring it to life…and a sense of collective energy that we can bring to it
- o The core content of the environmental strategy of the EU regarding the rest of the world
- o Understand how E3G as an organisation will deliver / achieve its ambition
- o Better understanding of political landscape in which Europe finds itself / Avenues to explore for action
- o To start the exploration of the ways for an European path towards sustainability / looking at Europe from outside
- o To be able to create a structure that is able to promote a common vision on the future of the EU
- o Ideas for improving Europe so that it may (keep) improve(ing) the world (to make up for the past)
- o What does 'Europe' mean in the present world? How is European Parliament perceived? / How can 'sustainability' help in the process of building EU citizenship along with national citizenship?
- o Have a stimulating and thought-provoking debate / Get a handle on how a network like this can promote common virus drawing on our activities and interests / European Vision and Global Governance Vision
- o Better understanding of the interlinkage between sustainable development and sectoral policies in national policies in Europe
- o Better understanding and integration of SD at different levels (governmental, economic, social, political) / Environment is not an obstacle to development

Session 1: What is Europe?

Group 1:

What we stand for:
- o Identity
- o Values
- o Solidarity
- o Interdependence
- o Question: EU is a tool for what? Call a spade a spade / spell out positive 'hidden agenda'

Links to…
Sense of Purpose:
- o Role Model
- o Europe as Leader – by example
- o Walk the talk
- o Shaping force
- o To reconfigure competitiveness and solidarity
- o Real Policy integration
- o Redefine security and prosperity

Links to…
Institutional set up:
- o Conventional growth vs policy integration
- o A framework
- o Deregulation vs sustainable development
- o Capability to develop solutions (R & D)
- o Wrong process
- o Technocratic
- o Lack of interconnectivity and organisational capability
- o Lacking a systems view

Links to…
Back to Basics:
- o Security
- o Prosperity
- o Give up / share sovereignty
- o Balancing EU's role in global context
- o Challenges to redefine prosperity and security
- o Restate the purpose

Links back to… **What we stand for**

A transport metaphor for Europe?: A convoy of oil tankers / convoy of multiple different vehicles. Europe should seek to become like an octopus: awareness to respond to environment and agility to get things done

Group 2

What is Europe? How do you get clever people together to create an entity? What should Europe be?
≠ What should Europe do? Europe trying to be like the USA but not able to succeed.

Europe's brain:
- o How do you bring a brain for Europe?
- o Brains are based on the connections between brain cells
- o How to build a network or system to provide a fully working brain? (or a higher brain?)
- o One brain for Europe as a result of different brains – need to create a methodology to have a common vision
- o Is it possible for Europe to have more than one brain?
- o Europe's brain is like that of a small child trying to climb the stairs while drinking from a cup and looking at a picture book – unable to do all the things together
- o Europe has a skeleton and some economic muscles but needs to grow its brain
- o Change of metaphor: Europe is more like a system of balances

Need to base future on existing institutions but improve on them…

Federalism:
- o Is Federalism a form of brain or is it the skull within which the brain can sit?
- o Europe as a federal structure
- o Federalism of what? Countries? Regions?
- o Needs a shared identity to be a functioning federation
- o Federalism of institutions and economies – Multinationals / Smaller, more local companies
- o We need to integrate more into the debate business representatives from multinationals – link politics to the economy
- o What comes next? More enlargement?
- o Sharing of sovereignty – it no longer resides in one location, but is shared over spaces and levels
- o Can roll this out across the world as a goal
- o Integration at the supranational level does not equal federalism

Political and Economic aspects in tension:
- o Federalism – can be good for democracy, not so good for competitiveness?
- o A single model of competitiveness would be fragile – need to build diversity for reliance
- o Are politics and economics separate?
- o Need to recapture politics from economic control
- o Has China successfully separated the two?

What does Europe offer the world?
- o At present, Europe is not the USA – main reason for positive external view
- o Need to anticipate the extraterritorial effects of policies
- o Solana wants to take over-arching control of EU policy areas
- o Faces technocratic commission**s** in competition with each other
- o Europe should be the change it wants to be

A transport metaphor for Europe?: A rackety wooden cart without a horse

Group 3:

Why Europe?:
- Machine to pacify continent

Capacity to continue:
- Prosperity & Process – welfare system beyond nation
- Peaceful society as compared to others – based on communities
- Power has to be channelled – cautious towards power

Threats:
- Some people see Europe as a threat
- Is Europe trying to bring uniformity too fast?

New Challenges and Needs:
- Machine to reinforce democracy to those joining EU but not democratic at supranational level
- Democracy not simply through adding democracy but through rethinking democracy
- Citizens unable to impact decision making
- European identity versus national identity – Powerlessness in some countries – EU needed to save us from ourselves e.g. Portugal post-Salazar
- European Identity – something more than national identity – attractive
- What is European identity?

A transport metaphor for Europe?: A bus with 500m passengers, the driver's cabin is hidden from view – when passengers get close enough to see in, the find that 25 dwarves are fighting for control of the bus

Discussion - Where is Europe now?:
- Europe has accomplished the mission of the founders – peace and democracy at the national level across Europe
- Europe has however started to change through expansion
- This can be seen at the level of culture in the debates over secularism vs religion in European Parliament. Strong influence from accession of Poland etc. What would impact of Turkey be?
    - Note: Conservative religious groups from USA are trying to build power base in Europe – Catholic church seeking to capture space first.
    - Note: Religion is a very effective organiser of choice at the cultural level – fashion has similar reach but much narrower bandwidth. We need to use cultural forces better to promote EU goals.
- What is Europe's vision for the next 50 years?

Session 2: What are Europe's Goals?

Group 1

To master chaos:
- o What is the positive intention of Europe?
- o Why do we need cooperation?
- o Need to acknowledge different models / values whilst acting globally

Leads to…
Means:
- o Elite selection
- o Increased / Integrated competitiveness
- o Identify drivers at political / social /economic levels
- o How to select a good elite to promote an EU vision
- o Find a common fiscal policy
- o Find specific health policies for the EU
- o Look at the EU economy as an entity and not as separate National economies
- o Uniformisation of common models – universities

Leads to…
What we want to be:
- o Collective choice of citizens
- o Engage with citizens
- o Give a sense of purpose to individuals
- o We need to exist vis-a-vis the rest of the world
- o Diversity
- o Create peace within Europe
- o Accountable
- o Define a political identity
- o Flexible / adaptable
- o Global actor

Group 2

Goals:

Peace
Global Security

Justice and global governance
      Responsibility for our destiny
      Justice / Equity
      Common / Global Good – Society
      Global governance
      Multilateralism – within EU and globally

Freedoms and Responsibilties
      Freedoms (including for the future)
      Secularity

Global Integrity and Diversity – Strong Sustainability
      Beyond GDP
      Prosperity?
      Ecosystem Integrity
      'No footprint'?
      Diversity
      Strong sustainability
      Planetary responsibility – stewardship

Subsidiarity
      'Export of' democracy and self-determination
      Tolerance
      Solidarity

Alternative 'Headline' goals for Europe:

Cannot be done in 3 words…

1. Europe of the Free
2. We accept responsibility for the consequences of our actions and our destiny [and thus preserve future freedoms]
3. We will use our freedom to promote a just and sustainable global community
4. Lest we lose our freedoms

Group 3

Goals of Europe:

Security

Dynamic Stability
> Cope with change, not changed by change
> As a framework – not continuation of the status quo
> Links to identity and core values
> Acquiring broader identity whilst maintaining self
> Rights and Responsibilities

Links through **Inclusiveness** to…
Solidarity
> Both interpersonal solidarity and from all levels from local to international
> Creative tension between individual and society
> Neither USA individualism nor Communism
> Feedback mechanisms work in Europe
> USA divided, Europe has consensus

Leadership
> Need to walk the talk
> Leadership required to deliver goals
> Positive vision required
> Leadership as a catalytic process
> EU needs to be a strong international partner / voice
> Based on shared values
> Needs to be a reliable partner

What choices are available? (Some things will happen anyway…):

> **Going beyond the nation state**
> > EU will promote the duplication of regional groups
> > > Is a survival reflex
> > > Also gives increased chance of EU success
> > > European model can inspire but not be copied, only emulated
> **New EU Public consensus (emerged due to Iraq war)**
> > Supportive of role of UN
> > Against preventative war
> > In favour of international law
> **European Approach**
> > Moral Responsibility for past mistakes and for impact on world

These points all feed back into the ideas of **Solidarity** and **Leadership**

(Competitiveness is not a goal but a means)

Session 2 Summary: Overall Goals for Europe

Europe is for…

Fraternity / Equality / Liberty:

Responsibility to Others
Solidarity (Interdependence)
Accepting responsibility for the consequences of our actions and our destiny and thus preserve future freedoms
We will use our freedom to promote a just and sustainable global community

Cooperation
Cooperation
Dynamic Stability

Positive Freedoms and absence of threats
Europe of the Freedoms
Security (including economic)
Peace
Diversity
Prosperity (not GDP)

Disconnect wealth / growth

Other points
Define a political model
Flexibility and adaptability
Democracy
View for Europeans and for Europe in the World

Session 3: What helps the EU meet its goals?

Rule Making and Enforcement Internationally (Power to act)
   Legitimate supranational, multilanguage rules plus enforcement
   Inventing trans-european polity through EU political parties
   Europeans want to be a force for good in the world

Making diversity an asset
   Diversity of Europe
   Cooperation bridging diversity
   Coordination and diversity: flexibility in rule-making
   More cooperation between different policies in order to create a coordinated EU approach

From left to right: Franck Biancheri, Lorenzo Rilasciati, Michela Morese, Janos Zlinszky, Michel Colombier, Andreas Kraemer, John Ashton, Andreas Papandreou, Corrado Clini, Anders Wijkman, Irina Bokova, Chris Littlecott, Pekka Haavisto, Karim Lesina, Tom Burke, Adrian Taylor, Sophie von der Brelie

Session 3: What hinders the EU in meeting its goals?

Leadership and Articulating Identity
> Lack of Pan-European Political Leadership
> Lack of leadership and vision
> Decision makers do not have a strategic vision and lack of initiatives
> Lack of political question for Europe

Accountability
> Lack of political control over the technocracy
> Lack of a guillotine on Place Schumann
> Self perpetuating and isolated technocracies – no control by EP

Diversity
> Can also be a barrier to action

Education
> People insufficiently aware of external environment – experience
> Restoring links to nature

Inconsistency / Lack of or no wish for global vision
> Equality / Solidarity – Europe Gaining, but less than others – maximising either European or global wealth?
> Disconnect of internal policies from external posture

Destruction of the Polity
> Power and vested interests
> Media power – news as entertainment / independence?

Not by Money Alone
> Capture of politics by neo-classical / mainstream economic dominance
> 1950s and 1960s Mindset – market forces drive collective choice / neo-classical economics

Systems Perspectives
> Reductionism of science
> Lack of systems thinking
> Complexity
> Given up a broad cross-disciplinary education
> Narrow focus on material growth versus institutional political development
> EU focuses too much on economy in the working system. Too policy oriented?

Short termism and perverse outcomes
> Perverse effects of sectoral policies designed for distribution e.g. CAP
> Cultural rigidities
> Reward system in the economy
> Timeline in politics
> Behaviour driven by short-term ephemeral gratification. Lack of investment in enduring value.

Session 4: Possible Project Probe Ideas

1:Opening Closed Areas of EU Policy (and incorporating enhanced SIA)

Opening closed areas of policy

Project could seek to:
- o Open the 'closed' policies of trade and competition – trade should be legislative – get EP to make a fuss
- o Dissect the policies
- o Promote legislation by co-decision
- o Give Parliaments oversight of WTO

SIA

Background:
- o EU Commission is adapting SIA as pre-requisite for policy decisions
- o Several EU projects exist on SIA
- o Project could help in the preparation of guidelines for SIA that meet 'our' criteria
- o Project should define minimum standards and benchmarks that make a policy acceptable
- o Project should integrate policies through impact assessment

SIA Chapters:
1. External Impacts
2. Impacts on other policies
3. Social / Economic / Environmental / Institutional Impacts
4. Both quantitative and qualitative measures

In both projects

Interested individuals:
- o Carlo Carraro, FEEM
- o Barbara Buchner, FEEM
- o Michel Colombier, IDDRI
- o Andreas Papandreou, University of Athens
- o R Andreas Kraemer, ECOLOGIC
- o Janos Zlinzsky, REC – can share REC experience in SEA / Environment and Health fields

2: Shift Common Agricultural Policy budget to Climate Security

Project could seek to:
- o Expose CAP Wastage
- o Map winners and losers – Stimulate Winners to ask – Persuade France – Mobilise Trade Unions – Identify and Build Coalitions
- o Project to China and India
- o Walk the talk
- o Narrative on competitiveness and innovation – Engineer the total cost number
- o Use energy efficiency to reach homes
- o Beef up renewables
- o Clean Coal / Combined-cycle
- o Energy Sources

Interested individuals:
- o Tom Burke, E3G / Rio Tinto
- o R Andreas Kraemer, ECOLOGIC
- o John Ashton, E3G

Outline of Project Steps:
1. Project Plan / Design
2. Political Mapping – Actors and Interests
3. Design and Build Database
4. Map Decision Making Pathways and Timetables
5. Seek funding for project team
6. Identify lead actors for coalition building
7. Convene coalition core
8. Develop core case and positioning strategy
9. Design website – key tool
10. Initiate Political Strategy

3: Climate Security and Energy Security – EU engagement with key partner countries

Project should seek to:
- o Undertake smart engagement with key partner countries (China / India / Brazil / South Africa etc) to build mutually attractive outcomes
- o Incentivise technology leapfrogging
- o Promote sustainable solutions for urbanisation
- o Key into health issues
- o Harness to 'European Foreign Policy' goals – CFDP

Interested individuals:
- o R Andreas Kraemer, ECOLOGIC - ideas
- o John Ashton, E3G – build proposition for EU-China summit in September
- o Michel Colombier, IDDRI – ideas / works on urban development issues + stakeholders + interests
- o Andreas Papandreou, University of Athens – assist with locating NGOs to involve

4: Beyond Short-termism 'The Long Run'

Project should seek to:
- o Bring scientists and politicians into dialogue
- o Consider Europe 2050 Scenarios – paint a picture of the future then work back
- o This would need to consider issues of demographics / climate / water / possible irreversible changes to life support systems
- o Mobilise wider support for each approach

Interested individuals:
- o R Andreas Kraemer, ECOLOGIC – can talk to German MP and report to E3G
- o Pekka Haavisto, UNEP – advice on how existing mechanisms (like the Finnish Parliament) could be used in drafting the concept
- o Janos Zlinszky, REC – information on the proposed Ombudsman for Future Generations for the Hungarian Parliament

5: Promoting Sustainability in the Middle East and North Africa

Project should seek to:
- o Identify what Europe can best do to promote sustainability in Middle East and North Africa
- o Identify what is being done at present
- o Look for linkages between this work and other concerns e.g. immigration
- o Connect to 'EGP' (Smart European Foreign Policy)
- o Promote 'real security'
- o Link to dialogues with Islam
- o Develop 'Sustainable Development Partnerships' with two-way rights and responsibilities
- o Use summits to drive politically but should also engage civil society

Interested individuals:
- o Pekka Haavisto, UNEP – help finding out what is going on already

6: Promotion of Systems Thinking

Project should seek to:
- o Get systems thinking into decision making
- o Reward the use of systems approaches
- o Provide training for decision makers
- o Undertake high profile experiments

Interested individuals:
- o Pekka Haavisto, UNEP – help finding out what is going on already
- o Janos Zlinszky, REC – provide experience of REC training courses

7: Equipping Future EU Leaders

Background:
- o Window of Opportunity over next 4 years as generation of baby-boomers retire from EU Institutions
- o Younger staff will move up, with new intake lower down – need to provide better training and education, and take this forward into the future

Project should seek to:
- o Have an impact at Local, National and EU levels
- o Make individuals aware that they are the new generation of leaders
- o Target Government and Media sectors in particular
- o Promote Multilingualism
- o Promote Sustainability / Environmental awareness
- o Promote systems thinking
- o Promote similar restructuring of school system all over Europe
- o Be undertaken on basis of subsidiarity

Interested individuals:
- o Janos Zlinszky, REC – provide experience of REC training courses
- o Lorenzo Rilasciati, REC – sharing and promoting training experiences and projects
- o Franck Biancheri, Europe 2020
- o Sophie von der Brelie – provide contacts with EU network and business schools
- o John Ashton, E3G – help shape the vision and build engagement
- o Michel Colombier – provide content for training / awareness on energy and public service issues
- o R Andreas Kraemer – provide link to Hertie School
- o (Original idea from Karim Lesina, The Centre – departed early)

8: Trans-European Political Party for 2009

Project should seek to:
- o Promote Accountability
- o Promote the discussion of the future of the EU within national capitals
- o Try to create better links between national think tanks

Interested individuals:
- o Janos Zlinszky, REC – provide link with accountability project from Hungary
- o Franck Biancheri, Europe 2020 – starting similar project with Newropeans

9: Beyond the Constitution – an ongoing strategy for Europe

Background:
- o Europe is faced with the challenge of managing an EU of 500 million people and 30 languages
- o System needs to be democratised
- o Little thought given to future shape of EU post-constitution / further enlargement

Project should seek to:
- o Create pan-european network
- o Incorporate multi-stakeholder viewpoints including European think tanks
- o Look for what we want Europe to be and how to get there
- o Develop strategic means of implementation
- o Use internet to engage citizens in debate

Interested individuals:
- o Janos Zlinszky, REC – provide link with think tank from Hungary
- o R Andreas Kraemer, ECOLOGIC – Contribute SD analyses
- o Andreas Papandreou, University of Athens

10: Managing Large Populations

Background:
- o EU has a new challenge of large scale population management
- o China has long experience in this – one technique has been generational changes to leadership
- o India has similar experience plus multi-cultural / linguistic / religious differences

Project should seek to:
- o Undertake a comparative analysis with the Chinese and Indian systems
- o Undertake bilateral exchanges of good practice

Interested individuals:
- o Franck Biancheri, Europe 2020
- o Lorenzo Rialsciati, REC
- o Michela Morese, Italian Environment Ministry

Session 5: Meeting Feedback

Things to Change:
- o Brain Dump of Probe Ideas at start
- o Individual – Group
- o Too Compressed *3
- o Jump from thing to thing
- o What do we do now?
- o More preparation
- o What are the other participants doing / struggling with
- o Coffee after lunch
- o View of Venice!

Positive Points:
- o Level of participant engagement
- o Table Conversation at dinner
- o Whole Process
- o Interaction and different approaches of actors and disciplines
- o Moderation Tool
- o Overview
- o Setting and Process
- o Organisation
- o Group
- o Embroyonic Sense of Common Narrative

Project Team Contacts

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