

**GEN-Europe Council meeting
March 15 - 17, 2003, Torri Superiore, Italy.**

Present are the following Council members:

Nicole Grosspierre, Jean Michel Pochat, Lucilla Borio, Jonathan Dawson; the President Insa Freese is excused. Kasimir Reichmuth and Cristina Evangelisti (present staff), Ina Meyer-Stoll and Gabriele Krauskopf (future staff) are also invited to attend. Facilitation of the meeting is rotated among all participants.

After an opening session with some personal exchange and a short tea break, the meeting opens with preparation of the agenda and schedule for the next days.

The first session is on Financial Report:

Lucilla explains in detail the budget sent to European Commission and presented to the Council in November. If GEN-E receives the grant, the EC will cover 70% of the total cost, the remaining 30% are matching funds from our reserve, or grants from any other non-EC source. According to the EC's eligibility standards, we could submit a funding request that amounts maximum to 70% of the average budget of the last 2 years. As we have not yet received an answer from the Commission, we are presently operating on a financially conservative mode and keeping with ordinary administration. A few comments: Accounting / data management costs are under headline H; telephone costs might be lower than budgeted, but we have two offices in the future and rent will be high, so it does not hurt to have a little room.

The financial projection of the current financial year is that on December 31st there should be still 21.000 Euro reserve funds available, provided the EC accepts our request. Jonathan says to head for at least 30.000 Euro as the 2004 reserve funds. At the moment we have 100.000 Euro reserve + active fund.

Looking at the February 2003 accounts, we have so far spent more or less half of the projected funds. ¶When - hopefully - the EC money comes, the new offices will already be up and (AND) running.

The GEN-IS money (around 25000 Euro) is not on the budget, as the final agreement with Gaia Villages was reached after submission of the grant request. This fund is earmarked for the GEN-IS team, but it increases the global turnover and is therefore very useful for fundraising in the next years.

Ross and Hildur have always been keen to see that in general we allocate about 25% of the funds for staff costs, and all the rest for activities. This is now possible only with EC contribution, as otherwise we don't have enough funds to run the office and cover the basic salaries.

Discussion on salary levels: there was a council decision in May 2001 to pay our free-lance consultants 5-6 Euro per hour after tax (as a minimum). But EC expects us to ask for professional salary levels, and is prepared to see a much higher figure. This discussion will be continued.

Jonathan explains on Fundraising:

We have two other fundraising proposals running. One for Living and Learning centres (could be several hundred thousands of Euro) and the other for the Ecovillage Ecological Footprint analysis (50.000 Euro). Both proposals could attract non EU money. He asks to be informed if anyone knows any other non EU organisation:

Jean Michel says that France administration could be the right place to ask for ecological

activities in Africa. He doesn't have so much time at the moment as he is teaching, but the French Government want to catch up internationally on the ecological questions. When Jean Michel was at CFEE a month ago, he found out that these organisations on education and environment can help you with applications.

Nicole says there is Soros foundation in Eastern European countries. There is not only EU money flowing but also US foundations.

Gabrielle mentions Robert Bosch Foundation and others.

Lucilla asks how is fundraising going to work in the future: will there be a team? It was agreed that Jonathan would hold the core focus for this, but where appropriate – i.e. where the proposal was in German or related to European networking activities – much of the work would be undertaken by Ina and/or Gabriella.

It will be discussed in the last session of strategies how to handle GEN-Europe's fund-raising for the L&L centre in Sri Lanka.

Second Session: GEN-board and GEN-IS issues

The next GEN (International) board meeting will happen in Peru in September 2003.

After the international office was closed, the bulk of the work was split among the three hubs: Communications (internal and external) is with GEN-Europe; fundraising is with the Americas; programmes is with Max in Australia.

Jean Michel asks what Philip Snyder is doing. Philip is reporting his work (Living and Learning Centres in Senegal and Sri Lanka) to Ross and to the L&L team, not directly to the Board.

A general question arises at this moment in time: what is the Board for? Peru should offer the opportunity to clarify this central matter, and in the end a lot depends on the funding, as the Gaia Trust finances are running out.

If the GEN regions won't meet so often in the future, the communication may become more and more virtual, by email and telephone.

Ina asks Lucilla if she is going to Peru, and Lucilla answers that she would not mind staying in Torri but it would be good to present the communication work; it depends also on the money available for travel costs. Ina says it would be good if both Lucilla and Jonathan go the meeting, and the Council agrees. Ina would like to go to the ICSA conference in 2004. Jonathan says he talked to Vinya, who is in general agreement with leaving his Board seat, but wants to discuss this possibility with Max first.

GEN-IS (Information Services): the GEN website, formerly www.gaia.org, is now at the new domain gen.ecovillage.org. From www.ecovillage.org you have the choice to go to gen.ecovillage.org (GEN Intl. Site), ena.ecovillage.org (Network of the Americas), genoa.ecovillage.org (GEN Oceania site), and europe.ecovillage.org, pointing to our own domain www.gen-europe.org.

Decision: The Council decides to give shortcut addresses, like evnuk.ecovillage.org, to all established national networks pointing to europe.ecovillage.org/country/network.

All regional databases will be unified into one on gen.ecovillage.org, which will be used by all regions and offices. All work needs to be completed by June 30. Lucilla asks the Council if in principle they would approve of GEN IS submitting a specific grant request to Gaia Villages to complete the transition and website set-up, including fund-earning tools like web sales and access for donations. The Council approves and recommends that GEN IS write a very clear proposal outlining the other sources of funding that are being pursued to support the programme after 2003/4.

Third session on Sunday morning, all present except Kasimir

Transition of the office - structure - legal registration and logistics
General assembly at CAT - programme / assembly 2004

Transition will be in May but the day needs to be decided. The material needs to be divided between ZEGG and Findhorn. A meeting in December at ZEGG already discussed this topic and came up with 5 points:

ZEGG has primary responsibility for networking in Europe, information dissemination, and the development of a GEN-Europe consultancy service

Findhorn will have primary responsibility for advocacy, support to Living and Learning Centres, education and networking in the south.

Primary person behind the main email address <info@gen-europe.org> is Gabriella.

Website work should be transferred to ZEGG but it is still in discussion with Kasimir

Appellation: both Ina and Jonathan will hold posts at the same level as Executive Secretaries but legal consideration need to be addressed. In general it is clear that there will be much ongoing co-operation and mutual support between the two offices.

Legal structure and office address:

GEN-E is now a non-profit organisation in Italy, if we move it we need to register again; we can probably adapt the present articles to the German law.

Jonathan proposes that the point of contact for the EU and all general public is ZEGG (address and phone numbers) but Jonathan would like to have Findhorn mentioned on all printed material too.

A precise split in the roles will be defined step by step, as the work plans develop.

Bookkeeping will be kept in Italy for 2003 also in relation to the EU possible grant.

In terms of networking, ZEGG will focus more on Europe, Eastern Europe and Middle East; Findhorn more on Africa. Support to L&L means giving help for funding proposals especially to GEN SEN but potentially also to other centres like Sri Lanka.

The Council discusses the general principle whether the office should move from an ecovillage to another, without setting any time frame but just addressing this standard procedure.

Decision:

The Council decides that in principle it is a good idea that the office moves every 4 years. However, it also acknowledges that there should be flexibility in this corresponding to existing circumstances.

On structure of the Council and staff, the discussion was left open by the last meeting whether Council members can be hired as staff or can have paid jobs.

Decision:

The Council decides that until the next election all Council members will keep their position, and in 2004 a new Council will be elected that is composed only of non-staff. The Council feels that stability is very important now for GEN-Europe.

Jonathan expressed the need to work with a supportive team also in Findhorn and everybody agrees that it is very important. Nicole suggests that perhaps he can have a volunteer working with him, if the finances do not allow a second paid position.

Website and newsletter: Ina and Jonathan propose that both tasks stay with Kasimir until the end of 2003, and everything moves to ZEGG in January 2004, with the possible

exception of the GEN Intl. website that may stay with Kasimir also after 2003. He was appointed directly by the Board to work with GEN IS. Everybody agrees on the proposal.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT CAT

Jean Michel offers a consideration on the European situation and the possible war, and refers to Lucilla's letter on "Ecovillages and Peace" that was sent to the Ecovillage Forum list. Jean Michel suggests that GEN-Europe should officially endorse it and express its position as a network of active peace makers, also using means of arts and press releases. The Council agrees on the proposal.

Jonathan presents CAT as an established Eco Centre in relation with the local authorities of Dyfi for many years in the Dyfi Ecovalley Partnership Programme. They also belong to an eco-centre network; GEN-Europe has much to learn from them. Peter Harper is the founder and core activist of CAT, and he kept the GEN flag waving within CAT for all these years.

Proposed WEEK schedule:

Sunday 6 □ ARRIVAL DAY and Council meeting

Monday 7 WORKSHOP

Tuesday 8 WORKSHOP

Wednesday 9 visit of CAT and D.E.P. - Opening of the Assembly

Thursday 10 ASSEMBLY - presentation of the programme map and group discussion

Friday 11 ASSEMBLY

Saturday 12 ASSEMBLY and evening □ CEILIDH

Sunday 13 DEPARTURE

The Ceilidh will be a self-organised evening and all members will be asked to bring their own instruments, songs, and cultural contributions of all sorts.

Roles and responsibilities will be decided between Ina and Jonathan during the work week with Cristina, and then communicated to the Council.

Travel refund policy:

50% travel costs for Western Europe

100% for Eastern Europe and Africa

100% Council members and staff

Nicole suggests that members also apply at foundations or the EU for travel refunds. She will send Jonathan the name and address of potential funders.

Assembly 2004: Max Jensen wrote a letter proposing ZEGG as a possible venue, and Ina is happy to offer her place for next year. Possible time is late June, early July.

Decision: The GA 2003 will decide on the meeting time and place in 2004. The council acknowledges ZEGG as one of the candidates. Host candidates shall let the Council know prior to the GA.

Guests: Nicole would like to invite Agnieszka, Ross and Hildur to the assembly; Jean Michel suggests that we invite people from outside the organisation to create new partnerships, like the ATTAC people who came last year in France.

Translation: what language shall we translate into? We shall check with CAT and ask if they have translation facilities. □ The staff will deal with this topic.

Pre-assembly workshop: Jonathan will ask CAT to provide a two day workshop on Teaching on energy, sustainability and the environment. The emphasis should be on teaching/education and on affordable technology.

GREEN WEEK

The application form was submitted by Jonathan. This year the EC offers no funding for special projects, but covers travel costs.

Date: 2.-6.6. 03

Neither Lucilla nor Jean Michel can go, so Jonathan will try to find at least one more person to man the GEN-E information stall.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM (ESF), St. Denis/Paris, November 03

Good opportunity to use the Forum as platform for information. Increase the strength and image of the French ecovillage network. Encourage other ecovillages to join or co-operate with the network.

Decision: We will apply for offering a workshop, and a presentation of the Eastern Network.

Recommendation: We need to place an Ecovillage representative on each relevant panel. Lucilla would like to see someone from Senegal on one of the main panels.

We need to get in contact with ESF organisers now (the programme is probably closed before the summer). Jean Michel will contact ESF organisers . Find out how the Forum is organised. (ATTAC is one the main organisers). Jean Michel will set up some personal contacts. Jonathan will go the official way. Ina will contact the German ESF preparation group.

EDUCATION

Report by Jonathan: Findhorn College held a meeting with the aim of developing higher education courses that combine ecovillage education with conventional college education. Jonathan represented GEN-Europe. The programme „Creating the future" was found. St. Martin´s College in Cumbria was interested to implement this programme in 2005/06 or 2006/7 in their curriculum. The programme will be accredited in part by the Findhorn college.

Report by Jean Michel: GEN-Europe shall apply to become a member of the CFEE (Collectiv Français Education Environment) The CFEE is working strongly with Africa and their main focus is on environmental education. 152,-Euro/year membership fee.

No consensus on joining. Jean Michel will circulate short and precise information CFEE to the council list.

Decision: we will postpone our decision to join.

Recommendation: if someone of the Council wants that GEN-Europe should join other associations, the Council needs information about the relevant organisation in advance or at least written material for the council meeting.

When the database layout is completed we will ask all ecovillages to input their programmes directly, mentioning teachers, courses, dates etc. on the GEN-Europe website database, under the staff supervision.

NETWORK WEST AFRICA

Report by Jonathan: the Senegal office has a website where they have recently published information on the Twin village programme. There are three different levels for the public to get in contact: via the Senegalese network, the GEN Senegal office or as individuals.

For the moment there is no West African network - the network is active only in Senegal.

Report by Jean Michel: People in Bamako/Mali are ready to host a national conference to start the national Mali network, but they do not know enough about ecovillages.

Question: What impulse do they need from GEN-Europe? How can GEN-Europe best help them to achieve their goals?

Proposal by Jonathan: not to hold a conference but to encourage people from Mali to visit Senegal and learn about how they set up the network. Jean Michel wants to be involved in that development in the future.

Jonathan asks for direct communication with the GEN-E secretariat and not only with Jean Michel. He would like to receive a concrete proposal from interested people in West Africa with objectives, funding, participants. We need to identify the interested key people in Franco-phone West Africa and Europe, and encourage them to participate in an e-mail list which Lucilla will set up. This will help us clarify how GEN-E can facilitate that process.

TWIN VILLAGES

The Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to Jean Michel for preparing the ground for the work that could start now. The Council needs to clarify the following question: What exactly are we fundraising for? We need to identify specific groups of African people to visit specific ecovillages in Europe - then we can start fundraising on that special programme, and even submit funding proposals to donors like the EU and others. Applicants should express what they could bring to Europe (as a benefit for the Europeans) and what is their benefit from what they will get from the Europeans.

Lucilla and Jonathan will discuss next week if it is possible to invite people from Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania and Ghana to the GA and how much benefit that would give. They will also evaluate if flying several people to Europe is the best possible way to invest the money, or if something different seems more appropriate.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Ecovillage film:

We still owe about 3000,- Euro to the editor of the ecovillage film. Jean Michel will bring the film to the GA in Wales, and all Council members will view it and decide on further developments like re-edition of the film. The English re-edition will cost another Euro 500.

Decision: no further fund allocation to the film until the Council watched it and decides further investment on it.

General agreement of the Council on fundraising: we help and support people to fundraise for their own programmes and not fundraise for them directly.

South development funds:

1. There is a GEF (Global Environment Facility) project for the Senegal Network to give all 12 ecovillages a good level of financing. GEN SEN is actively involved in preparation of the proposal, activating contacts within the network, and setting up the general paper work. Lucilla moves that GEN-E supports this effort which can be a real turning point for the Senegal network and potentially also for GEN-Europe.

Decision: 7.300,- Euro from the South Development allocation to GEN Senegal.

2. Andrzej Zwawa from Krakow/Poland wants to come to the localisation workshop in Findhorn. Jonathan proposes that GEN-E pays for his participation in the workshop. Nicole confirms that he will be a good investment for the Polish network. He is well known, very efficient and well connected.

Decision: Andrzej will be supported with 600,- Euro that will come out of the Education budget.

□

Change of name: We shall continue the discussion until the registration in Germany,

and starting a working group on this topic at the GA sounds like the best idea. We need to clearly define what is our relationship and our role with Africa.

MONDAY MORNING - DAY 3

Opening with a short meditation for peace in a day of international decision about the war. After the meditation, Jean Michel requests that we go back to the decision taken for Twin Villages, and shows a diagram he prepared in the early morning with a projection of 3 TV exchanges and a fundraising plan. He suggested that GEN-Europe should try to raise €20,000 and that each individual participating ecovillage should try to raise another €10,000 towards the costs of each exchange visit and each European village for Euro 10.000 - total cost for 3 exchanges.

Comments from Jonathan: this process needs to be transparent; we shall evaluate if it is the best way to invest time and funds to help West Africa develop a network; there is no clear plan about what villages will do in the exchange. Before we do fundraising, we need to have a contact made between a European and an African ecovillage and then a clear plan of action for this exchange. Jonathan said he wants to avoid a pattern of opposition between himself and Jean-Michel over strategy towards Africa.

Comments from Lucilla: the new people who come into GEN-E now need to understand the Twin Village programme. It's OK for them to ask questions and ask for more transparency. The financial situation now is different and without the money from Gaia Trust we have to work hard to find funds.

The only thing that needs to be changed is to decentralise the process started by Jean Michel and to open up the communication to all parties especially the African villages. He planted the seeds which will now grow with the open discussion. In the year of transition it's very hard for the staff to put energy into fundraise for this project anyway. Jean Michel said that we shall not mix up the Twin Village project and the help to develop a West African network. The goal and objectives of the Twin Villages project are very different, and are much more an exchanging activity than anything else. The help to ecovillages in Europe and Africa will be coming from both sides.

Lucilla is not in favour of putting additional money in another specific project at this stage. We cannot take more money from the reserves- the danger that we might have to close the office in 2004 is too high. Now the initiative has to come from the Africans.

Jonathan needs to go to Africa himself to understand the process and to make his own contacts.

The council does not question the value of Jean Michel's work.

Comments from Nicole: it is OK to ask for more transparency. Ina and Jonathan have to do the fundraising work so they really need to understand the process and the need for that money to be raised (50.000,- as from J.M proposal). The process is not stopped but slowed down a bit now, there is no need to hurry in the transition year. Many possibilities are to start the exchange with little steps (send music, recipes, stories). We may want to make a list of possible steps.

Comments from Ina: In the year of the transition we cannot work for the establishment of that programme. It is not fundraising only, one has to be very convinced about the programme to get the message across. We need one more year for a real start of the programme. I still do not really know what the African people want. I thank JM to share his vision. Maybe Jonathan could go to Africa in the 2nd half of 2003, but there might not be the time. This year we do not have the capacity to work on this. If three people could share the work it's fine, but we don't have the capacity within the Council.

Comments from Jean Michel: I understand the need to bring the new office up to date with our programmes, but the TV had already been decided by the previous Council. We don't

need to start everything from zero, and TV is already a priority for GEN-E.

□

Jonathan: I like Lucilla's metaphor about planting seeds, let us now allow the seeds to grow. The mailing list will bring discussion on this and allow the programme to develop, it's like a baby that needs to start walking. If the villages see this as a high priority and start the exchange with other means as Nicole suggests, I will be happy to help with specific fundraising. □□ It should not be GEN-E engineered, we should only facilitate the process and not manage it.

Decision: to establish a mailing list on the development of strategy for GEN-Europe support to West Africa. It was agreed that we should identify all of the key people likely to be interested in participating on this mailing list and then to invite them to engage in a discussion on how gen-europe might most usefully support the development of the ecovillage movement in West Africa.

MEMBERSHIP AND FEES - News, update and criteria

Cristina reports on the present situation: since the last Council meeting, she worked hard on asking for renewal of membership. Findhorn, Come Together Network, and French Network need to pay their fee. 22 full members have paid so far or will pay soon; 30 associated members. Association Epidaure has now become a full member, Stamm Füssen is also applying. □ 16 national network contacts - one per country, either established networks like LØS, EVNUK etc, or individuals who are helping us to create some links. We need some clarification also for travel refunds for the GA on cases like Austria, Romania, and others. Among associated members we have 2 members we cannot contact: Erida Luka in Albania, and Cultural Environmental Group in Greece. The fee is E. 25 for associated and E. 50 for full members. □ We are still using Ecorates for membership fee.

Update on the situation: The Middle East node is no longer active and so neither is the Turkish networks Ekilat. Mete has only done part of the planned work for the Middle East node, and has agreed to refund the remaining funds that amount to about E. 2100 and will be wired to Senegal.

Ina reports on the German community networks: there are two networks in Germany, the Come Together Network as an open container for all communities, and a small commune's network for communes only. The CT-Network is held by 3 people and at the moment all three are too busy to follow up, so the network is practically asleep but wants to keep on existing; it is mostly useful for smaller communities, while the larger ones make contacts directly. For instance Sieben Linden and ZEGG are very closely linked. Stamm Füssen is active and has many children, and Viola applied for membership. Ufa Fabrik in Berlin is also a very interesting urban ecovillage. The Niederkaufungen Community works well and has an interesting model of shared economy. In February there was a meeting on sustainability, and a second one will be held in August. A university in Kassel is doing a footprint analysis with three communities and three families. All communities mentioned above are interested in co-operating more with GEN-Europe.

Nicole on Eastern Europe: the mailing list is now active, and has similar functions to the African list. It will be used for discussing the ecovillage concept, and help us make contacts. We already discussed the ecological footprint, and it was difficult to decide who is the best candidate. We need to talk about the membership criteria also that we understand who should be on the list; Ekopolis was discussed as an example of the difficulties of deciding on membership criteria, even though it is not a GEN member.

Membership criteria:

Cristina reads the list created by the Council in year 2000:

- . common purpose and vision
- . community living together
- . decision making process
- . membership structure
- . creation of new culture balancing spiritual/cultural, ecological and social
- . strive towards a dynamic village structure featuring educational courses, commercial enterprises, gathering spaces, a local government, spiritual / cultural activities.

Nicole points out that according to this list there are no ecovillages in Poland, and would like the list to be more open.

Ina says that she will never call another community a sect until it is proven that there are evil things happening in the group, as she has her personal experience of how hard and hurtful it was when ZEGG was labelled a sect.

Jean Michel says in France it is very hard and all sects and even groups are prosecuted.

Ekopolis was discussed as a possible participant in the ecological footprint analysis, and as a member of the mailing list.

Lucilla says we need to decide if we need a list of criteria and what they are for, and in the present list we have points that need discussing and others that are milestones like the creation of a new culture. For Jonathan the function of criteria is inspirational rather than exclusive, and yet we need one for official purposes.

Jean Michel says we should value more the human side, i.e. how people feel in their group.

Lucilla proposes this as a topic for the GA, opening the debate with Eastern Union and Africa

The discussion is moved to the Council list to summarize the issue for the General Assembly in a working group.

Afternoon session Monday

Ecological Footprint Analysis

Report by Jonathan:

This is a very important project. Findhorn has had an economic impact analysis done that found out that Findhorn was pouring 5 Million GBP (PER ANUM AND GENERATING 400 JOBS) into the area.

For GEN it could be useful to know about the ecological aspect. The average land use world-wide per capita is 20 % more than there is land available on Earth (we have 1.9 ha available in total). In average we humans use 2.2 ha, a USA citizen uses 9.5, a Western European 5.2 and an African 1-1.5ha . As the study reveals that Ecovillages have a much lower footprint, this could be an impressive finding. Damanhur, Elfi, Munkesogaard, Findhorn, Tinkers Bubble and ZEGG are the Ecovillages at the moment to be looked at. Jonathan sends it out to an expert and wants to learn this analysis himself.

Logical Framework

Introduction by Jonathan: This is normally a long process of getting out all unspoken items to get into a well working long-term concept. Jonathan compiled it in just one morning to present in time for to the EC deadline, so today's framework actually tells us what we have to do according to the grant application. We have to consider a strategy how to get there, including some action to support Eastern Europe.

Proposal: Jonathan proposes for council meeting in autumn 2003 to have one full day on the framework for 2004.

Framework analysis:

Goal: Members should contribute in letting us know how far exchange of culture between Ecovillages and their neighbours has taken place.

Purpose: The increased influence with at least 4 professional bodies also means contacts of single Ecovillages to these, and therefore requires short reports by Ecovillages. E.g. Lucilla points out the visit of administration officials from the County of Cork in Ireland coming for experiencing the ecovillage model by coming to Torri Superiore in early 2003.

GEN-Europe gives out letters of support to its members saying that GEN-Europe is supported by EC and GEN is part of the UN Ecosoc.

Outputs/Activities: GEN-Europe is supporting members to present GEN-Europe on conferences and meetings in travel costs, cd material, power point presentations etc. Ina has applied for an ATTAC conference in Muenster, where she will present GEN supporting sustainable lifestyles.

Academic contacts of Ecovillages: Jonathan collects the contacts that come up in the round, i.e. students with coming to Torri with Philip Snyder, Nicole's contact and lots more. This also requires a good "harvesting" from ecovillages.

Consultancy: the German Network has developed a list of abilities in the network for exchanging skills. On research potential long term projects: e.g. what is the impact of Ecovillages in their area.

Fourth Session Monday:

Loose Ends and Closing Circle:

From the last council minutes:

Ina reports there are some details to catch up on from the minutes of the last council meeting.

The article about Terre d'Enneille in Silence was written and sent by Jean-Michel, but we don't have a reaction from Silence. JM proposes he writes a letter, sends it to the council email list for corrections.

Jonathan wanted to contact the Schumacher Society, providing them with GEN-Europe material. Jonathan is behind it and writes a new proposals.

Ina promised to contact a Dutch Ecovillage, which she did, but they have not decided to yet.

Jonathan promised to get Christiania as a GEN-Europe member. He failed till now. Still in discussion.

Whether council members can do paid work or not, was postponed to this meeting and is postponed again to the next.

What is the relation between GEN-Europe and GEN. JM and Lucilla are to prepare some documents for the next Board meeting. As we discussed this in the meeting we are satisfied for the moment.

On the question who will be the GEN board representatives in the future we decided that Jonathan stays and Lucilla, till her council mandate ends in 2004, and will be replaced by a new council member, while Jonathan stays.

What happens with the substitute council members? We decide that substitutes come in when council members resign and not as replacements for members who are sick or otherwise unable to attend one or more specific meetings.

New Loose ends:

Nicole: wants to have the final proposal to eco-footprint analysis. Jonathan is to send it out. Gabriela: Wants to know about her work situation in GEN-Europe (freelance or employee), and will come back to in the next week.

Jonathan: If anything goes out on behalf of GEN-Europe, it shall have at least one other Council member or Secretary to see it.

Jonathan: The L & L Centre in Sri Lanka could be funded for in Europe. Is the Council comfortable with such a possibility, if it is assured that we check with Australia and the Board. Lucilla points out that the Board already approved this; people in Africa are also

waiting. The Council does not disapprove and proposal is accepted.

Jean Michel says we need a conclusion on the Twin Village programme, as he worked on the programme for one year, it was not his programme but already developed by Lucilla and others. Lucilla says she agrees it should be discussed first (on a mailing list) and see how to set priority for work, exchange and fundraising. Ina proposes that we state that Twin Villages is an important programme for all, but it's not a top priority the moment. Jonathan says we need to discuss a strategy for Africa that works, and is not sure if Twin Villages is the best approach to this, and hopefully we shall clarify this in the discussion with the Africans. Lucilla asks if there is email contact to all villages. Internet access is problematic for Wassacode, but they could work through GEN Senegal. Mali can access the web and Mauretania also.

Jean Michel says it's a unique programme which other NGOs have seen already. It's not about going there and help African Villages, but about getting African culture here and Western culture there, with a great impact for all the area. Jonathan proposes Twin Villages as a high priority programme to GEN-Europe, but that we should change the pace and discuss with members and partners. Also, we shall limit the programme to Senegal at the beginning, and secondly give support to all Ecovillages who want to establish contacts. Gabriela says we should say the truth to all parties involved to explain the delay, which is we are in transition, and focussing in other topics.

Westafrica@lists.gen-europe.org is the name for the new list.

Closing Circle