

GEN-Europe Council meeting
29.9-2.10 2001, Torri Superiore, Italy

Present members:

Agnieszka Komoch, President
Lucilla Borio, Secretary
Jean Michel Pochat, member

Excused:

Mete Hacaloglu, Treasurer
Lepre Viola, member

Facilitator / External consultant: Robin Alfred, The Findhorn Foundation

Agenda of the meeting:

Budget for Planet ERE and publication
Present world situation and how it affects GEN-Europe today
Situation in the council
Next council meeting – dates related to
Restore the Earth Conference in Findhorn
Suggestion from the members
Suggestions from Albert / GEN-Americas
Next assembly
EU application
Fundraising in general
Internet
Input to the GEN-Board meeting in November
Bank authorisation
Job description for Council and staff
EU projects (CD Rom, Exhibition, newsletter)
French connection
Film production in Poland
Production of another film by Jean Michel

1. Situation in the Council of GEN-Europe

The first two days of the council meeting were dedicated to interpersonal work and group dynamic within the Council. The general feeling of the members present at the meeting is that the work of the council has been considerably weakened, mainly through “force majeure” like health reasons, changed visa regulations, etc. Adding the present world situation, as well as general problems around communication (mailing list), confusion around roles (staff and council members) the present members of the Council were forced to take a fresh look at the structure of GEN-Europe, its history and needs. It happened through games, sharing, drawing and other creative exercises lead by Robin.

2. Proposal

Following three days of in-depth work on roles, relationships and the situation in the GEN-Europe Council, we strongly recommend taking the following course of action in the belief that this decision is necessary in the best interest of the Association, and to insure the effective functioning of the Council.

From Today, October 2nd, until the next General Assembly, the decision making powers of the Council are vested in Jean Michel Pochat, Lucilla Borio, Agnieszka Komoch. The other two members of the Council, Mete Hacaloglu and Lepre Viola, will be kept informed of the decisions taken and involved in discussions before decisions are taken where they are directly and personally concerned (e.g. Mete will be involved in discussions about Middle East issues before decisions are taken). They will also be given the opportunity to review all decisions taken at the next Council meeting.

The focus of the next Council meeting will be on the evolution and development of GEN-Europe (particularly on the respective roles and relationships between the General Assembly, Council and staff). The meeting will be held in Findhorn with an outside consultant on March 25 - 29 including a day when we meet the Ecovillage Training Course group, and one free day.

This recommendation will be sent by e-mail to Mete and Lepre asking to indicate their support or otherwise within 10 days (by October 12th).

3. Agenda

The Council has decided to divide the tasks related to the topics on the agenda mentioned above and dedicate the time of the meeting to the interpersonal work, making the best use of the outside consultant.

The division of the tasks results out of competency and involvement of each Council member present and is as follows:

Next council meeting – dates related to JM, L, A
Suggestion from the members A, L
Suggestions from Albert / GEN-Americas, e-mail JM, L, A
Next assembly JM, A, L
EU application (see phoenix list) A
Fundraising in general L. Manuela
Internet A, L
Job description for Council and staff JM, A, L
EU projects (CD Rom, Exhibition, newsletter) L, A
French connection JM, Kasimir
Film production in Poland A

Several decisions were taken, where indispensable for the functioning of the office.

4. Bank authorisation

Bank authorization: It is decided to add Agnieszka Komoch's and Cristina Evangelisti's signatures to our bank account.

5. Input to the GEN-Board meeting in November

Input to the GEN Board: recommendation about the importance of contracting, specifically about internet and the magazine.

Clarification and revision of the policy about the Living and Learning Centres: inclusion of new centres, assessment of the program

Feed back about the structure: general support for the new decentralized structure of GEN: it is clearer, empowers the Board more and is a step towards better relationships with Gaia Trust.

Recommendation: that GEN participates in Rio +10 in Johannesburg and in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre.

The world situation should be an item on the Agenda concerning the impact on GEN's work, and how GEN can have an impact on the world.

6. Present world situation and how it affects GEN-Europe

GEN-Europe's Council will make a statement on present world situation (half page, Lucilla will write it) that will be followed by proposed actions for our members:

Work with refugees and people with trauma

Peace education

Deepen our cross-cultural work

Create meeting points for different cultures (like ZEGG's café)

Non Violent communication (like in Lebensgarten)

Meditations for peace, can be synchronized

7. Production of another film

Jean Michel proposes making of a documentary film on ecovillages in Europe. There is a general support for the idea and for filming his travel in Africa (GEN-Europe covers the costs of tapes), however there is no money available in this year's budget for another film production. JM will send a written proposal with budget and description for future fundraising proposals.

8. Budget for Planet'ERE and publication

Jean Michel asks for increase of the budget he has been given to produce a publication in French, title "Vivre et apprendre en Ecovillages" about education in ecovillages. The publication should be mainly used at the Planet'ERE.

The allocated budget is increased from 3000 to 3500 including translation of the exhibition and the new GEN-Europe flyer. It is also agreed that in the future we will request clear budget proposals and stay with the original contract.

9. Restore the Earth conference in Findhorn, April 2002

An agreement about a workshop or a presentation will be worked out with Roger Doudna and May East, also in connection with the next Council meeting.

Other items on the agenda will be dealt with by e-mail or phone among the members involved.

Minutes taken and edited by Lucilla Borio and Agnieszka Komoch, Torri Superiore, October -December 2001.