**ACTIVITIES REPORT 1 JULY 2020 – 17 MAY 2021**(**O** Requested voting from the Full Members)

## *Preliminary remark: useless to remind that the period covered by this report was ‘special’. It can explain but in no way can serve as an excuse for the low level of activity. Globally it took too much time to properly adjust to the circumstances.*

## The Annual General Meeting 2020

The Annual General Meeting on the financial year 2019 and activity report from 1/1/2019 to 24/6/2020 took place on 25 June 2020 in a digital format via the ZOOM Platform.

**O** Approval of the Minutes of last year’s AGM

## Board of Directors / Executive Committee

**Composition:**

**Reminder** of the Board composition at the end of previous AGM (25/6/2020):
**10 members:**

Roland Moreau, President; Cristina Vicini, Vice-President; Béatrice Richez-Baum, Secretary; Yonghyup Oh, Treasurer; Martina Bianchini; Sergi Corbalán; Bernard Mazijn; Anne Snick; Valerie Tanghe ; Jorn Verbeeck

Since then, **3 Members**, Yonghyup Oh (on 24/11/20, replaced as Treasurer by Valerie Tanghe), Bernard Mazijn, on 6/10/20) and Martina Bianchini 27/9/20) **have resigned** for personal reasons.

**6 ‘new’ Members have been co-opted** by the Board:
. Leida Rijnhout (co-opted on 24/9/20)

. Karl Falkenberg (co-opted on 8/12/20)

. Patricia Scherer (co-opted on 8/12/20)

. Fabienne Damsin (co-opted on 25/1/21)

. Olivier Boutellis-Taft (co-opted on 25/1/21)

. Kurt Marichal (co-opted on 25/1/21)

By bringing in 4 ‘non-Belgians’, 3M and 3F and a diversity of age, the Board has paid attention to the balance between nationality, gender and age.

On 15/4/21, Patricia Scherer decided to resign from personal reasons.

As a result, the Board operates momentarily with 12 Members, knowing that Anne Snick’s mandate will end after the AGM (she will have successfully served the maximum of 3 consecutive three-year mandates).
The Board should then operate with 11 Members (5F/6M, 6 non-BE).

and are waiting for your votes to confirm officially their nomination as Board Members

**O** Renewal of 3 mandates
O Election (individual and secret vote ‘on line’ – Yes, No, Abstain) of 5 new Members of the Board (to confirm their co-optations).

**The Board met 7 times since the last AGM:**

on 24 September, 23 November, 8 December, 25 January in 2020 and on 1 March, 14 April (informal) and 4 May in 2021.

We have kept a relatively high frequency of meetings as we wanted to facilitate the induction of many new members and continued to favour the teamwork and the tasks distribution among all Board Members.

For these reasons, it is the intention of the Board to meet on a monthly basis at least until the end of his year.

The Board has also decided to optimise its operations by launching several **‘Working Groups’** in order to prepare the discussions and the decision-making during the Board sessions. The following WG are active at the moment: ‘Governance’, ‘Fund Raising’, ‘Webinars’, ‘Preparing the Anniversaries of 2022’.

## Membership evolution 2020/2021 (as of 4/5/2021)

* *Full members:*
We had to deplore the passing of 2 faithful members: Prof. em. Walter HECQ and Dr. Jean-Philippe Cornélis.
The list on the website mentions 94 Full Members (compared with 93 on 25/6/20).
If we take into account the payments of the membership fee, the situation is as follows:
. paid for 2021: 85
. joined since 25/6/2020: 8. Arnaldo Bruzzini, Olivier Boutellis, Fabienne Damsin, Bruno Delepierre, Karl Falkenberg, Kurt Marichal, Steven Price, Leo Van Broeck.
. confirmed that they quit: 7. Günter Burghardt, Isabelle Cassiers, Peter Johnston, Johan Verbeke, Martina Bianchini, Jean-Marie Rousseau, Piet Vanthemsche.
. 9 Members have not reacted yet and will be taken out of the list of active Members if they do not regularise their situation before the end of the year.
* *Associate members*:

The list on the website mentions 37 Associate Members (compared with 32 on 25/6/20).

. paid for 2021: 31

. joined since 25/6/2020: 6. Stuart Best, Aurélie, Delphine, Mélanie and Valentine de Selliers, Julius Stoerrle

. confirmed that they quit: 1. Didier Dandrifosse

. 6 Members have not reacted yet and will be taken out of the list of active Members if they do not regularise their situation before the end of the year.

***The Board thanks all Full and Associate Members who have paid their membership fee on time.***

* *Honorary members:* 11. Unchanged.
* *Corresponding members*: 6. Unchanged
* *Institutional members:* EPPA remained our loyal institutional member in 2020 (and we thank them again for their loyal support during the recent years) but they decided to stop their sponsoring for 2021.

## Financials

At the last AGM, we presented the rather difficult situation for 2019 (a net loss of 445,82 €) and a budget for 2020 showing an estimated positive result of 6.000 €.

This planned improvement was the logical consequence of the shift from a situation where we were paying for ‘secretarial services’ (1.000 €/month up to August in 2019) to a purely voluntary functioning (distribution of roles among the Board Members) in 2020.

Because of the bad sanitary situation, our activities have been reduced and/or transferred to a screen/distance format which implied a much lower level of costs.

These factors explain why we closed the **2020 accounts with a positive result of 15.590,34 €** (Revenues of 20.387,53 € less Expenses of 4.788,19 €) leading to a cumulative ‘reserve’ of 14.389,91 €).

In the **budget** presented by the Board **for 2021, we expect a positive result of +/-1.500 €** (Revenues of +/-13.500 € coming only from our members and Expenses of +/-12.000 €)

The details are to be found in the excel sheets that you have received and will be explained during the meeting by our Treasurer.

**O** The AGM has to approve the accounts of 2020 as well as the Budget for 2021
**O** The AGM has to give discharge to the Board Members

## Conferences, seminars & lectures

### **Aurelio Peccei Lectures & Dialogues**

### As a consequence of the Covid-19 crisis, we had to postpone our event “FROM FARM TO FORK, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE EU GREEN DEAL” originally scheduled on June 25th to October 8th and to organise it as an on-line conference.

### The event, co-organised with Agroecology Europe and IPES-Food and moderated by Olivier De Schutter was attended by 180 participants and successfully met its goals as we could bring together 3 DGs from the EU Commission (Agri, Santé and Envi) and various stakeholders. We are delighted that the event served to highlight the role of agroecology in supporting the shift to sustainable food systems as intended by the F2F strategy, and that it allowed to link the changes at the level of production with the evolution of consumption patterns.

The official tribute to Raoul Weiler which was at the origin of the event but deserved more than an on-line meeting (forced by the Covid) will be associated with the 20th Anniversary event of February 2022.

## Other on-line events

. We have started a **Web-Conference series on ‘Innovation Ecosystems for Sustainability**, Concrete solutions to achieve the transition to sustainability right here, right now” organized in collaboration with EIRMA with the participation of JEE. The first session “Is European Industry ready for the Green Deal?” took place on 13 April 2021 and was attended by 120 participants (including 50 Members of our Club).

. see also here-under (webinars for Members, cooperation with other Chapters)

## The Conversation tables / Webinars for members only

We had hoped to resume this activity in the second half of 2020 but it will first require a return to ‘back to normal’ on the sanitary front.
In the meantime, we have proposed informal webinars animated by Members:
. 1/10/20: Webinar hosting Jacques de Gerlache on “How to make of the E.U Commission’s Green Deal an “Orchestral manoeuver in the light” in order to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, and making the transition just and inclusive for all.*. The ZOOM tool of the CoR-EU is available for the Members interested to present a specific subject to their colleagues.
Some Members are working on a series to promote the systemic approach, by combining some theory with practical examples : differentiated VAT rates in function of environmental and social footprint, "carbon tax at the borders", ‘required talents for the transition to 2030,…*

**The network of the Club of Rome.**

**Cooperation with the CoR ‘international’**

The relationship between CoR and CoR-EU remains excellent.

The (‘international’) Club of Rome opened their new office in Brussels (at the Triodos headquarters in Brussels) in February 2020. Stringent sanitary rules impeded our colleagues to fully use the facilities and as a result, the CoR-EU decided to maintain their official/postal address at IUCN (which we thank for hosting us).

**Cooperation with the other European Chapters**

We aim at increasing the information exchange and cooperation between National Associations in the EU and the EU Chapter and at influencing EU policies in support of the objectives of the Club of Rome. Sergi Corbalan who coordinates this activity organised a videoconference on July 7th 2020 which confirmed the interest of some of the European Chapters without leading to concrete action.

As the need as well as the motivation remain, we finally agreed with the CoR to organise a series of webinars (open to all Members of the European Chapters) which combine ‘top-down’ information on the priorities and latest activities of the Club of Rome with ‘bottom-up’ participative contributions from the members in order to facilitate the implementation of our values and objectives.

. Sandrine Dixson-Declève introduced the series on 29 April 2021 by giving the first lecture on the actual state of play of the Green Deal and of the ‘recovery plans from the member states’ and by presenting the 5 upcoming sessions, each one dedicated to one ’Hub’, a priority of the Club of Rome.
The successful meeting gathered 80 participants (40 from the CoR-EU)

. The second session on ‘Emerging New Civilisation Initiative’ will take place on 25 May from 5 to 7PM (you can still register via our website: <https://www.clubofrome.eu/webinars-members-only>

**Cooperation with other Chapters**

. On 10 December 2020, we have co-organised a Webinar with USA-CoR: "What if we find we cannot breathe, eat or drink money ? A Theory of Community: The Foundation of a 21st Century Economics for a 21st Century Civilization", a lecture (followed by Q&A) by David Korten. It was a relative success despite the inconvenient schedule for Europeans (9 to 11PM).

. We are regularly invited by CoR-Canada to attend their webinars.

*Members interested can ask to be put on their guest list.*

**Partnerships, networking, representation, and P.R.**

JEE (Junior Enterprises Europe) organised their annual Awards on 24 February 2020 and we were invited for the 3d time in a row to sit in their jury, an ideal opportunity to carry out our values and objectives to the Youth. JEE participates in our webinars on Innovation and we are discussing with them the possibility to associate more closely via a specific membership.

**Working with our members**

**The ‘Agora’ process**

The first ‘Agora meeting’ attended by 40 members took place on 4 February 2020 in the offices of ELIA. The event confirmed the willingness of our members to contribute actively and concretely to the working of the CoR-EU, a.o. by promoting the actual implementation of an ambitious European Green Deal.

Unfortunately, the sanitary crisis did not allow to hold the second ‘Agora’ meeting 'face-to-face' (what we consider as a necessity for such a process) that we had planned.
While waiting for the situation to improve, we have decided to gather direct information from you via a questionnaire (**if you have not responded yet, please** [**click here.**](http://xlzzi.mjt.lu/lnk/EAAAAZ_DWigAAAAAAAAAANLq57gAAAAAAB8AAAAAAA6eWABgbH8VnHVnP-bHQfKJWmN8G7_PdAAOGl4/5/X13KOv-ln1SnBk9pcYCY3Q/aHR0cHM6Ly9kb2NzLmdvb2dsZS5jb20vZm9ybXMvZC9lLzFGQUlwUUxTZFU3S21kSGlVdmtJVnUtM0cyWTJIX2ozQ0ZraXdCd0R4TUR5Ylh3cWdsNGpyTEJ3L3ZpZXdmb3Jt)**)**

We will discuss the situation during the second part of the AGM and we are looking forward to your suggestions.

## Publications

We have decided to offer a tribune to our members on our website (via ‘news’ and or ‘Publications’).
*Do not hesitate to propose documents for publications.
It could also lead to the ‘decentralised’ organisation of ‘light’ webinars among members.*

Roland M, May 5th (adjusted on 18th), 2021