

**THE EU CHAPTER - CoR-EU**

**Honorary President Herman Van Rompuy**

President European Council emeritus

# ACTIVITIES REPORT 1 JANUARY 2019 – 25 JUNE 2020

presented on 25 June at the 2020 Annual General Meeting

*Presidency up to 25/6/2019: Mark Dubrulle*

*Presidency as from 25/6/219: Roland Moreau*

## The Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting on working year 2018 took place on 25 June 2019 at the University Foundation in Brussels. On a total 91 Full members, 82 had paid the membership fee for 2019 and hence had voting rights. 26 Full members were present, 10 represented by proxy. The AGM could validly deliberate, as more than 1/5 of the Full members were participating. The registration list was checked and approved by the appointed tellers Ludwig Vandermaelen and Jacques de Lalaing.

The Activities report and Profit & Loss accounts for the year 2018, as well as the ordinary budget of the year 2019, submitted by the Board, were approved.

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Patrick Corsi, effective on 20 February 2019.

Five mandates ended at the AGM as they could not be renewed for a fourth 3-year term, including the president and two vice-presidents.

The mandates of five other directors were prolonged: Martina Bianchini, Sergi Corbalan, Anne Snick, Valerie Tanghe and Jorn Verbeeck. Roland Moreau, co-opted by the Board was confirmed for a first 3-year term. Pierre-Loïc Nihoul, Christian Vanden Bilcke and Cristina Vicini submitted their candidature for a second term. They were unanimously re-elected. Bernard Mazijn and Yonghyup Oh were elected new directors.

The new Board met immediately after the AGM and elected the executive officers:

* President : Roland Moreau
* Vice President: Cristina Vicini
* Treasurer a.i.: Valerie Tanghe (Yong Oh took over on 4 April 2020)
* Secretary: Chris Vanden Bilcke (Béatrice Richez-Baum took over on 11 June 2020)

During the first half of 2019 the Board of directors chaired by Mark Dubrulle, President, met on 20 February and 22 May 2019. As from 25 June the Board was chaired by Roland Moreau, (new) President, and met on 25 June, 12 July, 25 September, 28 November, 10 January (informally for a brainstorming and team-building), 28 January, and, via Zoom on 2 April, 7 May and 11 June. The higher frequency of the Board meetings is explained here-under (no more formal meetings of the ExCom and new way of working).

The Board accepted the resignation of Pierre-Loïc Nihoul, effective on 11 June 2020.

## Executive committee

The Executive Committee met on 30 January and 25 April 2019. Many consultations and internal coordination were done by e-mail and phone. In the first half of 2019 daily management and most of the administrative duties were taken care of by Mark Dubrulle in his capacity of Executive Director. Much of the organizational matters and member recruitment was done with constant support of Chris Vanden Bilcke.

With the new Board composition, the suppression of the function of Executive Director, the will and philosophy of increasing the participation and the distribution of management and operating tasks among the Board Members, the Executive Committee was no longer used formally, but only informally to prepare, when necessary, the financial aspects before the Board meetings.

## Financials

The fiscal year closed on 31 December **2019 with a net loss of 445,82 €.**

Fund raising remains a difficult exercise. The Board was unable to get core funding or to attract more institutional members.

The structure of the costs changed with the new way of working of the Board, reducing the need for external funding on top of the regular and sound financing by the annual membership fees. This, coupled with the quality of our institutional member EPPA, guarantees the independence of our association.

A new rule whereby the ‘events should be self-supporting’ allowed the CoR-EU to build up a necessary minimal reserve, and to avoid managing under stress.

The Board approved on 2 April a Budget for **2020 showing a positive result of 6.906,00€.**

## Membership in 2020

* *Full members:* A 2019 edition of the “Who is Who” for internal use of Full members had to be postponed because of a lack of resources. We lost two very faithful fellow members: Prof.em. Raoul Weiler, Founder President, and Prof. Bernard Lietaer. A commemoration ceremony was held on 20/11/2019 for Bernard Lietaer, while the tribute to Raoul Weiler will be held on 8/10/2020

Between 25/6/19 and 25/6/20, we lost 4 Members and gained 10 with a theoretical number of 94 (84 ‘in order’ as 10 members still have to regularize the fee for 2020!).

* *Associate members*: went up from 26 to 31 (1 payment still due).
* *Honorary members:* 11. We lost Count Michel Didisheim on 6/1/20.
* *Corresponding members*: 6. No change
* *Institutional members:* EPPA remained our loyal institutional member.
Talks with potential institutional members among corporations were unsuccessful, and have been stopped

## Conferences, seminars & lectures

### The Aurelio Peccei Lectures & Dialogues (APL)

. For budgetary reasons, the number of lectures at the Royal Academy of Belgium could not be held. The 101st APL took place on 25 June, over lunch at the University Foundation, with Ms Geneviève Pons, Director general of the Jacques Delors Institute in Brussels delivering the lecture “**What about sustainability in the EU coalition 2019-2024?”**

. The 102d APL, **the Gratitude event in the honour of Mark Dubrulle** took place on 25 October at the Palace of Academies.

After the well-deserved tributes paid by Guido Decouvreur and Herman Van Rompuy, Mark Dubrulle brilliantly retraced 50 years of environmental history before dialoguing with two students representing Junior Enterprises Europe in a symbolic passing of the torch.

Sandrine Dixson-Declève closed the session with an inspiring speech before all the participants gathered to congratulate Mark for his 9 years of presidency with a glass in hand.

. The 103d APL should have taken place on 25/6 but Covid19 decided differently.

It has been postponed to 8 October (Palace of the Academies) with the following programme: a tribute to Raoul Weiler will be organised in the morning, while the conference debate "From Farm to Fork” will take place in the afternoon.

Seminar on Consciousness

Upon initiative of Guido De Couvreur and Mark Dubrulle a seminar on the subject of “Consciousness” was held on the premises of EPPA on Tuesday 22 January. It was attended by a dozen members. The introductory presentation by Guido De Couvreur was recently distributed to the members.

 CoR-EU Tribute to Bernard Lietaer
'Towards a sustainable financial ecosystem' – 20 November 2019 (at Triodos Belgium Headquarters). A cocreative workshop involving 10 experts and 50 participants (of 8 nationalities). Experts were Carlos Alvarez Perreira and Sandrine Dixson-Declève (CoR), Michel Bauwens (P2P-foundation), Marek Hudon and Tristan Dissaux (Solvay Brussels School), Hugo Wanner and Sander Van Parijs (Muntuit), Nicolas Franka (Financité), Leen Gorissen (Studio Transitio), and Joost Mulder (Better Europe).

Very successful event with extremely positive comments: ‘*many thanks again to the CoR EU Chapter and especially to Anne Snick for organizing what was a provoking and inspiring set of conversations, also full of hope for the future in spite of the size of the challenge (and the sadness for not having Bernard Lietaer physically with us). Many thanks also to Triodos for the generous hosting in a wonderful place to create debate and engagement’*

### Joint events

. A special panel event was organised at the European Parliament on 19 February 2019 in cooperation with the EBCD. Subject: *“Environmental and social action must go hand in hand.“* Panellists were MEP Isabelle Thomas; Philippe Pochet, Director of ETUI; Isabel Kempf, UNEP; Celine Charveriat, Executive Director IEEP; Vic Van Vuuren Director Green Jobs at ILO; Astrid Schomacker Director at DGENV of the European Commission; and Chris Vanden Bilcke, speaker on behalf of the CoR-EU.

. A Common Webinar was organised with ‘the Shift’ on 22 April 2020, moderated by Sergi Corbalan (Board Member), around **“Societal perspectives on the COVID-19 crisis and potential scenarios for recovery”.**

Sandrine Dixson-Declève was the keynote speaker, accompanied by distinguished guests during a lively panel debate: Hans Bruyninckx (EEA), Sophie Souied-Soussan (Unilever) and Mathias Bienstman (BBL). As a matter of conclusion, Sandrine said: “we need to put in place the key short-term intervention points that are already going to build a foundation for the long term … our moon-shot is not going to the moon but actually protecting this planet.”
It was a huge success despite the unforeseen limitation of participants to 100.
We are looking of a follow-up as there is significant complementarity between the The Shift and the CoR-EU Chapter in terms of network structures (organisations resp. individuals), operational niches (facilitation & practice-oriented resp. knowledge & policy-oriented), and scopes (Belgian & organisational resp. European & institutional).

## The Conversation tables

The new concept of the Conversation tables, successfully implemented in the past activity year, was pursued in 2019:

25.04.19, Lars Mueller, DG Env of DG European Commission, on *Business and biodiversity*

None took place during the second half 2019, neither during the first half 2020; the latter was mainly due to Covid19. This activity will be resumed in the second half of 2020.

**The international Club of Rome.**

* Mark Dubrulle and Chris Vanden Bilcke, as well as honorary members baron Daniel Janssen and professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele participated at a presentation and debate on the proposed Climate Emergency Plan, co-chaired by Sandrine Dixson-Declève and Anders Wijkman, that took place on 21 January 2019.
* On 27 January, Mark Dubrulle and Chris Vanden Bilcke had a lunch meeting with international co-president Sandrine Dixson-Declève and ExCom member Carlos Alvarez Pereira, to discuss relations and cooperation between the CoR-EU and the International Centre in Winterthur.
* A one-day meeting of 11 European CoR national associations, represented by 20 participants took place in Brussels on 15 May 2019 at EPPA, co-chaired by Sandrine Dixson-Declève and Mark Dubrulle. A keynote was delivered by Honorary President Herman Van Rompuy.
* As a follow-up to this successful meeting, a teleconference with the European national CoR-associations was organised by Sergi Corbalan on 5 December 2019 in order to increase information exchange and cooperation between National Associations in the EU and the EU Chapter, namely in influencing EU policies in support of the objectives of the Club of Rome.
* On 20 February, the (‘international’) Club of Rome opened officially their new office in a room kindly offered by Triodos at their headquarters in Brussels.
Sandrine Dixson-Declève, co-president of the CoR, explained the presence of the CoR in Brussels. Peter Blom (CEO of Triodos) described the Finance Hub in more detail and explained how the wider group can help support the Hub’s initiatives. Roland Moreau stressed the importance of a perfect cooperation between the CoR-EU and the CoR and announced that the CoR would move its official address to Triodos headquarters.
* Anne Snick participated in the Club of Rome Finance Impact Hub Roundtable Discussion facilitated by Sandrine Dixson-Declève on 20 May. The theme of the discussion was ‘A green and inclusive COVID-19 recovery’. It was attended by 52 experts from various sectors (private, public, NGO, academia).

## Publications

- Mark Dubrulle wrote a foreword for the publication by the European Parliament: *“Driving Greenhouse Gases down. A roadmap for the Paris Agreement.”*

- Snick, A. (2020). Wiser than Vikings? Redefining sustainability in the Anthropocene*.* In:Diemer, A. et al. (Eds), *Paradigms, Models, Scenarios and Practices for Strong Sustainability*. Clermont-Ferrand: Editions Oeconomia, pp. 69-83.

- see ‘Publications by the members’ via <https://www.clubofrome.eu/publications-of-our-members>

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

* Upon invitation of Mr Gonzalo Vargas LLosa, EU representative for the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) President Dubrulle and the Secretary met with him and senior staff on 6 February. They also attended his speech, a reception, and a concert at Flagey, Brussels.

- Mark Dubrulle made a presentation of the Club of Rome and the CoR-EU during a luncheon with the Board members of The Economist Club in Luxemburg on 15 February 2019. On 2 October He and Honorary President Herman Van Rompuy were guest speakers in Luxemburg.

* Several full members participated in the World Resources Forum, co-organized by OVAM, in Antwerp, from 25 to 27 February 2019. Our Full member Lieze Cloots was a main coordinator. Co-president Sandrine Dixson-Declève was one of the keynote speakers.
* On 8 April 2019, the EPSC organized a large conference in the Charlemagne building on “Sustainable Europe 2020”. Six CoR-EU Full members participated actively.
* Mark Dubrulle was keynote speaker at the opening session of the 13th International Conference on Business Excellence on 21 March in Bucharest: *«Business Excellence calls for More Ethics and New Economics”.*
* On 3 April, Mark Dubrulle addressed the audience on a commemoration for the late Prof. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis, CoR-EU Full member, Club of Rome Full member and President of the CoR Hellenic Chapter. The event took place at the American-Hellenic Club in Athens. He delivered a keynote under the title **“***Beyond Climate Change: Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis as a facilitator in EU cooperation.”*
* Europe Ambition 2030*:* Mark Dubrulle and Chris Vanden Bilcke participated at a couple of preparatory meetings for this ambitious project, coordinated by Raymond Van Ermen, EPE. Club of Rome Full member Enrico Giovannini, former Italian minister, plays an active role in this initiative. A manifesto was produced, and a first conference held in Italy.
* In view of getting core funding from the Brussels Environment Agency LB/BE, Mark Dubrulle met Barbara Dewulf, Director general, to discuss possible ad hoc collaboration and joint events.
* Upon suggestion from Roland Moreau, Sandrine Dixson-Declève was the keynote speaker on 27 January 2020 at the New Year wishes from the CESEW (Conseil Economique, Social et Environnemental de Wallonie). She debated with the Walloon Ministers Morreale and Henry. The event gathered more than 140 participants, an all-time record attendance, and was a great opportunity to promote the work of the CoR and CoR-EU among potential partners.

It also resulted in a long interview of Sandrine as the main feature of the quarterly review of CESEW, published in May 2020.

* JEE (Junior Enterprises Europe) organised their Winter Conference 2020 on 27 February with the participation of Roland Moreau (member of the jury for the Excellence Awards), Erik Post as a one of the 3 keynote speakers and Chris Vanden Bilcke.

**A new way of working with our members? The ‘Agora’ process**

After a long preparation to find the adequate format and the right place, we have organised our first ‘Agora meeting’. The event, attended by 40 members took place on 4 February 2020 from 17h00 to 20h30 in the offices of ELIA, which kindly offered not only the premises but also the catering.

The event confirmed the willingness of our members to contribute actively and concretely to the working of the CoR-EU, for example by promoting the actual implementation of an ambitious European Green Deal. There was also a clear demand for co-creative activities.

Several members made it clear that they expected a different set-up for the next meeting, which will have to be more participatory and more focussed on concrete actions and solutions. The challenge for a Club gathering so much knowledge and motivation among its members is to ensure we are stronger as a group united in common cause than when we act as a sum of individuals.

The message has been heard and the necessary improvements have been discussed within the framework of a smaller group of committed members. They met on 24/2 and had a zoom meeting on 1/4. Béatrice Richez-Baum and Anne Snick took over the responsibility for the coordination of the ‘agora’ activities. They have a mandate from the Board in order to:

. promote decentralised co-construction with members taking the lead on well-defined and specific projects in line with the five hubs that structure CoR (international) activities

. call for volunteers to animate/coordinate a hub or offer other support to CoR-EU

. organise a zoom meeting between this group and Sandrine Dixson-Declève.

. initiate the contacts with some other organisations/groups which are interested in cooperating with us (two way street)

General remark: the ‘Agora process’ is one of the features of the new approach for the CoR-EU which encourages participation and volunteering at all levels. It would never work without the enthusiasm of the members (‘full’, ‘associate’, Board,…) of the CoR-EU who act as ‘volunteers’.
A special mention goes to Erik Post and Laura Empl, two young members who personify the change and have been extremely efficient in helping us with the communication and administration.

**On the agenda for the coming months**

. A Tribute to Raoul Weiler (morning session), combined with (afternoon session) a high level conference-debate ‘From Farm to Fork, Sustainable Food Systems and the EU Green Deal’ co-organised with IPES-Food and Agroecology Europe, will take place at the Palace of the Academies on 8 October 2020.

. A second ‘Agora meeting’, which should gather ALL members of the CoR-EU, will be held in October to look at the way Members consider the role and objectives of the CoR-EU and their own role in contributing to these objectives. A special attention will be given to the full development of the synergies between the CoR-EU and the Club of Rome (‘international’) as well as with the other European ‘national’ Chapters.

. Conversation tables will restart under the leadership of Chris Vanden Bilcke.

. Event on line with USA COR: offer to attend a ZOOM conference/workshop on “Wellbeing and growth”, with the participation of David Korten. Various time slots available in July and early August.