



THE EU CHAPTER - CoR-EU

Honorary President Herman Van Rompuy

President European Council emeritus

Former Honorary President HRH Prince Philippe of Belgium

(June 2004 – July 2013)

THE AURELIO PECCEI LECTURES & DIALOGUES

Enquiries on the Challenges of the 21st Century

Celebration of the 100th lecture

Royal Academy of Belgium

Brussels, Monday 10 September 2018



With an overview of the 100 Aurelio Peccei Lectures between 2001 and 2018

The Aurelio Peccei Lectures & Dialogues

The CoR-EU Chapter started its lectures in the year 2001, before the formal constitution of the Club of Rome EU-Chapter as an autonomous association under Belgian law in January 2002.

Upon initiative of Professor Dr. ir. Raoul Weiler (+ 2019), Founder President, the first lecture was given by the late Professor Sergey Kapitza, from Russia, Member of the Club of Rome. The topic dealt with the question of planetary demography on which he published a book.

It was a successful start and convinced the EU-Chapter leaders to go on with the named *Aurelio Peccei Lectures*, a name was chosen in honour of the founder and inspirer of the Club of Rome. Over almost two decades the number has reached today the 100 lectures.

The topics and the speakers were chosen in harmony with the objectives of the Club of Rome. The city of Brussels, being the *de facto* capital of the European Union, provided an excellent environment with eminent experts in the different fields in which the Club of Rome has been active over half a century. Looking back over this fascinating period, it is not exaggerated to state that the CoR-EU has succeeded to build a strong intellectual profile, which has been appreciated by a large international public.

A wide range of topics have been addressed: demography, poverty, globalisation & sustainability, knowledge societies & networks, ecology & alternative energies, climate change, cultural diversity, economy, micro-credit, planetary food availability, degrowth & social enterprise, ethics, and much more.

The lecturers came from the entire planet, Europe, US, Africa, Asia, Australia, particularly drawn from UN organisations such as UNFCC & IPCC, UNEP and UNESCO, as well as from the World Bank, the World Economic and Social Forum, the OECD and Wikipedia.

The Club of Rome EU-Chapter, through the broad spectrum of topics and eminent speakers, has gained international recognition and contributed to address the challenges the human society will face along the 21st century and beyond.

Mark DUBRULLE
President & Executive Director

10 September 2018



THE AURELIO PECCEI LECTURES & DIALOGUES-

Enquiries on the Challenges of the 21st Century
100th LECTURE

Under the High Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians, UN SDG Advocate
in the presence of CoR-EU Honorary President Herman Van Rompuy,
President European Council emeritus

ON MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 17:00

A Brighter Future for Humankind. The SDG's: Achievements and Perspectives.

with guest speaker
Connie HEDEGAARD

Chair KR Foundation, Former EU Commissioner for Climate Action.
Former Minister for The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen.

PROGRAMME

Auditorium Albert II, Royal Academy of Belgium

17:00 Registration participants

17:30 Welcome and introductory remarks.

Tribute to H.M. the Queen of the Belgians, UN SDG Advocate SDG's

Mark Dubrulle

President CoR-EU, Ex Officio Member of the Club of Rome

17:45 A report from the CoR-EU workshop on 4 September 2018 on the SDG's

Thinking beyond our usual silos.

The systemic convergence of technological, social and structural changes in the SDG's.

Julius Waller

Partner, EPPA, Connecting Government, Business & Society

on behalf of Stefan Schepers

High Level Group on Innovation Policy Management, Chairman EPPA

18:00 The 100TH Aurelio Peccei Lecture :

The Next Steps :

What does Europe need to continue leading Sustainability ?

Connie Hedegaard

Chair KR Foundation, Former EU Commissioner for Climate Action. Former Danish Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy.

18:30 Conferring CoR-EU Honorary membership on Connie Hedegaard

Herman Van Rompuy, CoR-EU Honorary President.

Laudatio by Mark Dubrulle.

18:45 Closing remarks

Herman Van Rompuy, Honorary President,

President European Council emeritus

19:00 - 20:00

Reception in the Marble room

Welcoming remarks 100th Aurelio Peccei Lecture

Mark DUBRULLE

President & Executive Director

The Club of Rome EU-Chapter

This is a festive event! 50 years Club of Rome! 100 Aurelio Peccei Lectures & Dialogues in Brussels! Warm welcome to all...

Dear Connie Hedegaard,
Dear Honorary President Van Rompuy,
Dear Ministers of State, Honorary members of our Club,
Dear Fellow Members and Guests,

Fifty years ago – on 7 and 8 April 1968 – two enlightened men, the successful Italian businessman Aurelio Peccei and the brilliant British scientist Alexander King, then Director general for scientific Affairs of the OECD organised a meeting with some 30 scholars and scientists at the Académia dei Lincei, in Rome. It was the start of a wonderful, though difficult, enterprise. An *“adventure of the spirit”*, quoting Peccei. *“The first to rebel against the suicidal ignorance of the human condition.”*

The small, rather informal Club of Rome was put on the world scene by publishing the famous *“Limits to Growth”* presented at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington on 12 March 1972. With over 10 million copies sold and translated into 35 languages it remains, after half a century, the major reference to the Club.

I shall not dwell on its history, with its ups and downs, its successes and failures. Let me just stress that despite strenuous battles against mainstream paradigms, despite of having been despised as doom thinkers acting against progress, the Club is still alive and kicking. Recently the two co-presidents of the Club, Ernst von Weizsäcker and Anders Wijkman, published another report under the much engaging title *“Come on!”* with pertinent views on capitalism, short-determinism, population and the destruction of the Planet.

This year, throughout the world, special commemorations are being held, with a culminating event in Rome itself, mid-October. It won't hit the headlines, unless a certain world leader at the other side of the Atlantic would tweet against us...

In 2001, professor Raoul Weiler, with Pol Descamps, Peter Johnston and Erika De Cuyper, set up a local association affiliated to the Club of Rome, called The Brussels Chapter CoR BCH. A first lecture took place at the ULB in April. It was delivered by Professor Sergey Kapitza from the Russian Academy of Sciences under the title *“The Information Society and the demographic revolution: where are the limits to growth?”*. The next lecture was held in this Royal Academy and baptized The Aurelio Peccei Lectures. Since then not less than 99 lectures were delivered by eminent speakers from all over the world, covering an impressive wide range of subjects. Indeed, the club's objective is to deal with the *“World Problématique”*, through analyses of all aspects of the planet's global problems, outlining possible actions for solutions.

We prepared a booklet with an overview of all the lectures, which I intended to offer today to all our guests. Unfortunately, we were not able to produce it in time. It will be a good reason to

organise another special event, to honour Raoul Weiler, whom I'd like to warmly thank for his remarkable contribution to many Aurelio Peccei Lectures.

In the context of the 50th anniversary of the club, my colleagues and I thought it appropriate to organise a special event for the 100th lecture. But on what subject? With whom as special keynote speaker?

In our view it should not be too academic, nor too remote from today's realities or from this part of the world we are living in. Even in the planetary global village, Europe is a place with a special responsibility in human affairs.

It seemed to us that the thematic of today's lecture should be focusing on the role Europe – and particularly the European Union – could and should play within the international action UN programme called Agenda 2030.

In 2015 not less than 198 heads of state or governments had signed their commitment to 17 sustainable development goals, now famous as SDG's. Seventeen world citizens, from pop icon Shakira to Noble prize for Peace Muhammad Yunus, were appointed *global SDG advocates*.

Former UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon invited Mathilde, the Queen of the Belgians, to be one of them. He had met her several times and knew her personal concern about children, women and girls, education and development aid. She agreed.

Having chosen the SDG's as the central theme for our 100th lecture, our Board of directors therefore wished to pay a tribute to Her Majesty. It is unfortunate that her agenda didn't allow her to be physically present today. By the way, she reminded us that, besides being actively involved in many missions around the world, she also has got a duty as a mother of four growing-up children. It pleads for her and the King – our former Honorary President- that they dedicate much time to the education of their offspring. Time is gone that royals were educated by nurses, private teachers or in boarding schools far from home. Their family lifestyle is a nice example of a sustainable goal in practice.

In an interview some months ago, the Queen declared: *"2030 is tomorrow. The change must happen today."* She is not afraid of being confronted with the harsh reality of poverty and inequality in many parts of Africa, in India, in Haiti. *"It is quite a different thing when you see it with your own eyes"*, she says. While she is particularly committed to three SDG's related to health care, education and empowerment for all women and girls, she acknowledges that all 17 goals are interrelated and equally important, as it is stressed by the United Nations and the Club of Rome.

We are grateful to Her Majesty the Queen for her commitment and wish her to pursue her mission successfully, during and beyond her SDG advocacy role.

Dear Friends,

Human beings have always craved for a better tomorrow. ***A Brighter Future for Humankind*** may therefore not sound a very original title for today's event. Yet we believe that there is –

worldwide- a growing awareness for the need to act now for changing course. We also believe that Agenda 2030 and the SDG's may significantly contribute to the needed change.

We at the CoR-EU reflected on the SDG's achievements and perspectives, first within a small Task Force; then, last week Tuesday during a half day seminar with representatives from business, NGO's, the EU Commission and the media. Thinking beyond our usual silos, they discussed the systemic convergence of technological, social and structural changes in the SDG's. We are indebted to EPPA, Solvay and Umicore for their support and active participation.

The next speaker, Julius Waller, will present a brief report on this workshop on behalf of Stefan Schepers, Chairman of EPPA, who could not be with us today. A summary report will be mailed to you all within the next couple of days.

A Brighter Future for Humankind.

Would that suggest that today is not bright, not prosperous, not happy, not in progress compared to past centuries, even to past decennia? Well, I assume it much depend on how you look at the world. You can have a worm-eye view or a bird-eye view.

In a worm-eye view you are obviously much down to earth. Most people I see, read about or know have worm-eye views. But these views are not the same for all of them. A majority in the world is struggling to survive in unemployment, inequality, stress, violence, pollution, hunger, bad health, poverty, wars.

Another part – often close to me- is enjoying good pay, material welfare, efficient healthcare, abundant consumption, low-cost travel to the most exotic places, entertainment. It is a wonderful world. It is so wonderful that they build fences against intruders, walls against the supposed enemies, the foreigners, the immigrants. My home is my castle, say the English. My country is my fortress, I hear say these days. Let's close our borders to protect our happiness.

A minority of humans is taking a bird-eye view. They fly high and see the misery, the depletion of the resources, the loss of biodiversity, the climate change, the overwhelming power of money, the abundance of waste, the unsustainable population growth, the waning of true democracy. They wonder how people with worm-eye views can be happy. They feel they should act. They change their lifestyle, they engage in civic action, they create new communities, they step out of obsolete systems. "L'homme, c'est celui qui est responsable" wrote Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. A human being is a responsible being. He or she is an actor, not a spectator.

"Come on!" – today's cry of the Club of Rome- has a double sense. It means: don't tell me fibs, don't fool me, this civilisation is collapsing. Mainstream discourses about the state of the world are lies. They say science, technology and money are going to solve the problems and create a better future. In fact, this business as usual attitude and obsolete philosophies are making it worse.

But it also means: come on, let's us act, let's join efforts to change course. We can do it. Against the collapse there is hope, because there is also faith and love in the species Homo sapiens sapiens. There is a spiritual dimension in this species, an ever-increasing consciousness.

The Club of Rome will pursue its mission, contributing to change in individual and societal behaviour and to pursue the road towards ever higher consciousness, a new Enlightenment.

We are grateful for your presence today. Thank you for your sympathy and support.

THE SDG WORKSHOP ON 4 SEPTEMBER

Chair's Summary presented by Julius WALLER, Partner EPPA, on behalf of Prof. Stefan Schepers

Thinking beyond our usual silos.

Systemic convergence of technological, social and structural changes needed in the SDG's

Society should overcome 'silo' thinking and leave our deeply rooted mental models reflected in policy sectors.

120 million people in the EU (one in four) live in, or are at risk, of poverty or social exclusion. This is unsustainable and people experiencing poverty must be part of the debate and solution. Social assistance schemes must aim at the empowerment of people and build on their capacities, rather than being seen as a source of control.

A prerequisite for future change in the right direction, is the clear political recognition that sustainability as such is a competitive advantage.

Maintaining the current regime of fossil fuel subsidies is an absolute major obstacle to achieving sustainability. All environmentally harmful subsidies should be eliminated.

In any forward-looking view, climate policies need to be seen as economic policies.

War needs to be declared on our resources overuse. The implementation of an effective circular economy is essential for our survival.

Many best practices are around, such as the governance model of the Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer, the programmes Switch Med, Switch Africa and Switch Asia for pursuing sustainable consumption and production in those countries based on EU funding, as well as sustainable reorientations in some of the chemical and mining industries.

Although the media should make public all situations where our sustainability is being undermined, they do not sufficiently reflect the successes achieved by many, both in civil society and in business in implementing sustainable practices.

In a fast-moving world, society cannot continue to develop mainly by slow moving regulations. We need to find new ways of defining common goals and collaborative governance encouraging public and private pioneers.

The models for coordination and coherence being put in place by the EU Commission for the circular economy and for the next EU research framework program of the European Union are steps in the right direction for 'getting out of the usual silos'.

Some SDG's can sometimes be in contradiction, hindering us to achieve them jointly. Research and development can help to find solutions for such conflicting relation so that these tradeoffs disappear.

At the highest political level in the European Commission, a Communication truly responding to Agenda 2030, other than highlighting what the EU is indeed already doing, is still missing since 2015.

The division between EU and Member states competences is a governance issue sometimes impeding systemic governance for a sustainable society. Fiscal policies are such an area.

Education is key. Commercialized media do no longer sufficiently fulfil their educative role on sustainable development nor do social media. This danger must be countered.

Quotes from Ms Connie Hedegaard

Chair KR Foundation, Former EU Commissioner on Climate Action,
Former Danish Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy.

The Next Steps:

What does Europe need to continue leading Sustainability?

- Sometimes one wonders how long it takes for knowledges to sink in and trickle-down mainstream thinking, to move from periphery to the centre of policy making. The Club of Rome, founded in 1968 when I was a first-grade student, brought a new message that was novel and provocative. The environmental movement was in its infancy. In 50 years, there was progress in natural sciences and economy. Yet, in social and behavioural attitudes this is not the case despite Aurelio Peccei pointed exactly to that issue, in 1983 in TV interviews. 35 years later we are still not there!
- In the meantime, the SDG's have been launched. Green frontrunner Denmark in the most sustainable region in the world – the European Union – counts the most progressive, clean tech companies. But silo thinking is still there, some SDG's are picked out although the 17 SDG's are indivisible and integrated.
SDG's are mentioned on letterheads, slides, annual reports. But then? What is happening next, action wise? Baseline, targets? Change? Which changes? How? Are strategies really changing in priorities and business models? We would like – in theory - to change, but it is so difficult. Silo structures and organisation are one of the reasons why short term still prevails on the long term. The media have a role to play, worldwide. It is impossible for one nation, one company, one sector to change as we live in a globalised world with competing investments and markets. Why me first? After you, Sir...
- Nonetheless, in 2015 we had the SDG's, then the Paris COP21. But after "Palm Sunday" came "Good Friday" in 2016 with Mr Trump. Despite him, change is continuing. However, our common challenge is that we must progress much faster and more profound. How? The SDG's must be built into business and politics. Some must lead, showing it is do-able and profitable. As the time factor is of essence, as is scale, one could hope for China to lead. But will it? The EU should take the lead. But acting fast is not exactly our core competence.
- "Don't tell. Show it!". IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency) created 10 million jobs, indisputably led by Europe. We are planning live-ability in our cities Rome, Sevilla, Paris, Hamburg, Stockholm, Copenhagen. We are an inspiration and a beacon for others. China found out the hard way: first grow, clean up later. A big price tag!
- Decoupling investments/technical sciences. Denmark created 60.000 jobs, increased export by 10%. It got us well started. Now we need to accelerate the trend. It is more costly not to act. Pick the winners. Where do we want to become champions? In batteries? Storage? Fuel? Aviation? Vehicles? We need new business models based on circular economy. R & D need bigger scale. Let's pool our resources in the EU. See at Horizon 2030.
- Societal challenges = common good via structural and regional funds. We need modern trade agreements; some are out of fashion. Incorporate common goals EU/China. Smart regulations and standards in the EU institutions. Governments and business should be loud and clear

standby: regulations are not per se bad. It is timely to change the financial regulations in the EU: more disclosure and transparency, more incentives to invest in line with the commitments the 28 Member States have taken internationally.

- We need a new way to measure true growth in the 21st century. Harder tools in place (principles, bottom line) should be replaced by softer tools. It is high time to build 'sustainability' into a new narrative, the "raison d'être" of EU cooperation. Whether right, left or centre, pro or EU sceptic, the sustainability and climate agenda extend far and wide. It is an area where the EU makes sense, where our cooperation has brought results and where it is acknowledged that EU as EU has soft power. Also, an area where most Europeans are proud of what we have achieved in Europe.
- The environment is an area where we distinguish ourselves clearly from the Chinese model or the Trump administration. It is about values, our priorities to be living in the world. It is about being, based on our approach to science and facts. There is individual responsibility and ability to act and to mobilise citizens. The answer is care for the next generation and for nature. It is not a coincidence that Europe has been a leader. Yes, we are material resources and energy poor. Thus, it makes sense to develop circular economy. But is also about our ethics.
- I am from the Nordic countries. They are now rich and prosperous, attractive places to invest in human welfare and human wellbeing. There is no contradiction between environment and resources. What is needed are small, transparent structures, a strong investment policy, public-private partnerships and dedicated, engaged citizens.
- Finally: the behaviour of the citizens is not the least important ingredient in continued EU leadership when it comes to sustainability. Politics and business are key, true. But also, your response, my response.
The frame in society must be in place, but it must be simple to act as citizens and consumers to achieve sustainability. Facts and knowledge are available. When they are visible people are inclined to change their behaviours and habits. See: food waste, car sharing... lots of tangible co-benefits. See urban spaces creating new communities, eating habits (less meat). Younger generation seems to change behaviour pretty fast. Polls show their influence, their views and expectations towards political institutions. However, part of that young generation is also getting rather impatient. Urgent! But radicalisation and polarisation are not the fastest way to the goal.
- We need the will to integrate sustainability as an equal parameter in all decisive policies and business choices. Will this proposal/compromise bring us closer to fulfilling the SDG's and zero emissions, low carbon by 2050? Will it on the contrary increase the burden and the challenges?
- It goes for all of us. To be considered an educated/civilised person in the 21st century one needs to understand the basics of sustainable development and start living in line with our understanding, to bear this in mind, not now and then, but consistently and to adjust and reform politics accordingly. That's what the EU needs to continue to lead sustainability.
Easy? No, it's NOT. It is complex and difficult. It is the challenge of our generation. But no region in the world is better equipped than Europe to do what is needed, to actually show what comes after the logo phase...

LAUDATIO CONNIE HEDEGAARD

Mark DUBRULLE

Dear Connie,

A « laudatio » is a somehow old-fashioned academic expression. As you know, it has various connotations if using the Latin roots. It covers praise, a positive statement, gratefulness...But even: a funeral oration...

We all rejoice that the latter is not on the agenda today and that hopefully it will not be pronounced before several decades.

I'm using the laudatio in its most positive sense. I must confess that from year to year I find it increasingly difficult to write a sensible and eloquent discourse that should also be short and snappy. Because, yes, we are living in a fast-moving world, with quick tweets, constant SMSs, omnipresent mobile communication, fast trains, fast food, quick lunches and breakfast meetings, one-liners, flashing images, news breaking news, nightly marathon meetings...

When looking into your past political life and recently talking to you face to face, I'm wondering how you manage to keep your serenity, your capacity to listen quietly, to reflect on an issue and to express a strong opinion without apparent anger.

There is in you a remarkable drive. Not for power, not for fame, not for money. It is a driving force to translate your profound convictions about the urgent need to quit a now obsolete vision of progress and to shape a brighter future for the next generations.

In the past, many "laudationis" would evoke the most significant steps in one's life from early childhood on, probably overlooking one's curriculum vitae, unknown to most people, even close to praised person. Today, with Wikipedia, nearly everyone has got access to details of one's education and career. Also yours.

Returning home after our meeting in Paris two weeks ago, I read the notes I had jotted down on paper during our chat. I confronted it with the many other information sources I had gathered on you.

It was an impossible task to draw a full portrait of you in a 10 minutes speech. I concentrated on what I felt was your most relevant "trait de caractère", your personality.

In my perception – shared with many friends who had the privilege to work with you or meeting you in several conferences – it is your full personal commitment to civic and policy objectives, with your capacity to look beyond usual political fences.

At the age of 24 you were elected as the youngest member hitherto to the Danish national parliament. A member of the Conservative Party, but, as you pointed out, one cannot be systematically left or right wing in major issues when the future of the planet and the people are at stake. You demonstrated an intellectual integrity and courage on many occasions, not the least in the EU Commission.

In 1990, after six years of action in Danish parliament and governments, you left politics. With your experience on top of your background in Literature and History you started a career in journalism. You worked for the most influential Danish daily, were Director of DR radio news and you were a popular anchor on late TV news, I was told.

During the eighties the political agenda in Europe and the world was much dominated by the security issues, though in the eyes of foreigners Denmark was often seen as a pioneer in social, cultural and environmental affairs.

In August 2004, on a Monday, you were invited to join the government as Minister of the Environment; on Friday you raised a crucial question: what about the climate? Nowhere in the world governments had seriously addressed this issue. You felt its urgency.

Today thousands of people, probably even millions, are sharing that feeling. Two days ago, in Brussels, Paris and many other places, citizens loudly claimed for urgent action.

You took initiatives or participated in meetings, which never hit the headlines, such as the gathering of 25 environment ministers in Greenland. You associated scientists to stimulate cross-fertilisation between science and politics. You moved political leaders out of their silo thinking. It is too long to enumerate all your achievement as minister for Nordic Cooperation and later for Climate and Energy. But you were instrumental in making Denmark the first country in the world to commit to a global energy reduction, not just a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The public at large discovered your name and face when you joined the European Commission in February 2010. You were in charge of climate, with a newly created Directorate General for Climate Action, detached from the DG Environment. Your ambition was to make Europe the most climate friendly region in the world.

A year before your appointment in Brussels you hosted the 2009 UN Climate Change Conference, attended by several members of the Club of Rome, including from our Chapter.

From reliable sources we heard that you were an excellent colleague to work with. You worked hard and efficiently to reach out to other Commissioners. Although a loyal member of the EPP group you were less partisan than most MEP's, not afraid to seek alliances in other political groups.

Most of us here today know how the political agendas in the last decades were giving priority to the worldwide economic and financial crisis. Often to the detriment of long-term measures to halt further deterioration of the planet. As one of your former colleagues said: "Despite this inauspicious context, Connie squeezed out enormous progress during her five year at the Commission. She is due considerable credit for the Paris agreement in 2015 that was reached after her mandate, but where she had achieved remarkable preparatory steps, as acknowledged by her successor Miguel Arias Cañete."

I went through many statements from you or about you. It is stuff for a best-seller of at least 500 pages. Let me pick out two bits and pieces:

True, Doha was not fantastic, but we did make progress towards the 2015 deal. Of course, it's not difficult to be frustrated with the slow pace and the low common denominator of international negotiations. But does it mean that we should give up? Can the world afford that? Where would the dialogue continue?

Although frustration is a renewable source, it does not reduce emissions. To overcome frustration, one must remain intensely focused on the final goal that all parties have signed up a global climate deal by 2015. Doha took the first steps.

Scientists have been warning us for years that a warmer planet would lead to more extreme weather, and now it's arrived (2012)

It is simply incredible what big risks some people are prepared to take on behalf of future generations. Despite the facts and evidence in front of us, there are still many interests advocating doing nothing or continuing with business-as-usual. Or just forgetting the climate crisis until we have solved the economic crisis.

And whereas some see the current financial turmoil as a bitter setback for international climate protection, I see intelligent climate action as a driver of new opportunities for jobs in Europe, for investments in energy efficiency technologies, for boosting innovation and competitiveness, for lowering energy bills.

To me, tackling the climate crisis helps, not damages, our economic security and prosperity. Both crises are interlinked and must be tackled together."

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Dear Connie,

With such statements and credentials, it was obvious to my colleagues and to me that you were to be honoured. We are most grateful for your acceptance to be our guest speaker at this celebration of 100 Aurelio Peccei Lectures.

May I now invite our Honorary President Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council emeritus, to confer on you the title of Honorary member of the Club of Rome EU-Chapter?

Closing remarks

Count Herman Van Rompuy

Honorary President CoR-EU

President European Council emeritus, Minister of State, Belgium

I'm glad that I can make some concluding remarks after the committed speech of Connie Hedegaard. I do it as honorary president of the Club of Rome's EU-chapter. I took the floor a few months ago at the launch in Brussels of the latest report of the Club which, despite its encouraging title 'Come on!', deals with the gloomiest challenge mankind is facing today: the destruction of our planet. I'm happy that many things have happened since the famous report of Aurelio Peccei 45 years ago, about the 'Limits to growth'. I'm not at all happy that the overall situation has worsened but in some areas of the sustainability agenda, the world was successful: in the nineties almost 30% of the world population lived in conditions of extreme poverty, 13% nowadays.

Awareness about climate change has risen dramatically but policies haven't followed at the same pace. Time is running out; incremental progress will no longer do.

The Paris Agreement of December 2015 was a milestone. At that time all global actors expressed their collective will to take action. One great nation has since withdrawn its signature. The others are now even more determined. Everything will depend on implementation. The EU is no longer the biggest polluter, but it is ready to deliver.

The Union spoke this time in Paris with one voice. We are now implementing the decisions of my last European Council of October 2014 to which Connie contributed so much.

The EU will decrease its GHG-emissions with 23 pct by 2020 whilst the economy will be 53 pct bigger than in 1990. We are as ambitious for 2030 and 2050. We must further develop an energy policy that is focused on renewables, whose share in the energy mix of the EU has almost doubled in ten years' time. We did better than anticipated and the expected. We delivered.

The key question is whether all this is enough. Is it not 'too little and too late'? The long, hot summer of 2018 (which it was almost everywhere on the planet), was the umpteenth 'warning shot'. Looking at the political priorities of the public debate today, and knowing what is at stake in our world, I understand the anger and even the despair of those who are fully aware of the true state of our planet. As I said implementation of our own commitments is key.

This report 'Come on' advocates a new philosophical approach, denouncing individualism and its translation to the market economy. But individualism is not only an economic issue. It is deep-rooted in every aspect of our society and of human behaviour. If one defends absolute autonomy of the individual in many domains, don't be surprised that there is less solidarity in our society. The emancipation of the individual shouldn't turn into blunt egoism. It is also a moral issue and a moral fight. Egoism vs altruism. At the end egoism, the 'self', is self-destructive. It is not even serving our selfish interests.

Public authorities played a key role in creating the Welfare State in European societies. Now we have to make a drastic ecological correction. The Welfare State was not an incremental accomplishment. It changed society. Now, we are facing another challenge, even more existential. Welfare states were created on a national basis. But for adequate responses to the sustainability challenges we also need a global approach. We have to fundamentally adapt our systems and acknowledge that we aren't living in an empty world any more, but in a full world, which narrows down our choices, and makes a trade-off between economy and ecology outdated. Non-sustainable production is in the end uneconomic. Selfishness paradoxically kills the individual.

Public authorities at different level of power will play a central role. Via taxes and subsidies, via a legislative framework, our economic models have to be reoriented to less pollution, to less consumption of resources, to lower population growth, to more energy efficiency and more renewables, and less inequality. I'm a crusader for human development. This will give another meaning to the concept of economic growth.

Let us not forget that the political world, as well as the private sector, is often a prisoner of short termism. The fear to be unpopular has become even greater with the rise of populist movements. Political courage is needed to, for instance, combat the dominance of individual cars. This courage will be needed even after the massive introduction of electric vehicles. Real leadership is not only about resisting powerful lobby groups as in the automotive industry or multinationals, but often parts of the electorate itself. We often speak about a democratic deficit, but a leadership deficit can also be problematic.

Raising awareness can be done in many ways. Let us never forget to give hope. Despair and pessimism paralyse people. We should emphasise positive developments, of course based on facts. An energy revolution is already underway. Probably the best news of all is the rapid rise of clean energy-mainly solar and wind- all over the world. We can only be pleased that China is strongly engaged in developing renewables. We never thought a few years ago that the world would be so successful in that area. We have to promote good examples, so that citizens feel encouraged to support climate policies. We cannot wait until we have changed our economic structures. We have to act now and show the results of our actions to the people.

Many challenges became global. The UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is not a world government but one of the forms of world governance. It is an intergovernmental body and Europeans know the limits of that method, especially when unanimity is needed, in this case, with 195 sovereign nations! Reaching a compromise is not playing with words but trying to achieve results. Three months after the Paris Agreement the UN oversaw another unanimous agreement: the 2030 Agenda consisting of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. One can be sceptical, but It shows the shift in the international agenda. We all know that we have to implement those global commitments in a growing nationalistic climate all over the world, on all continents. Nationalism and populism, those expressions of egoism, are our biggest enemies by their aggressive deeds and words. We have to defend multilateralism in the name of peace and prosperity. We have to remain committed to moderation and conversation. We are at a crossroads in our civilisation.

Governments are driven by ideas but also by public opinion, by civil society, by what is happening in the world. Even if individualism and short termism is on the rise in our free societies, the cause defended by the Club of Rome have to be supported by citizens because parents everywhere are concerned for their health and their children's health, because polluted air is a plague for our cities, because the level of inequality is unbearable in many countries.

Political, moral and religious leaders have a special responsibility when it comes to population growth.

A world with more than 11 bn people in 2060, almost half of them in Africa, is unliveable. Massive illegal migration especially to Europe, the neighbouring continent, will be the unavoidable consequence, threatening its political stability. Migration will be needed for demographic reasons, but it has to be well organised and legal. Those who live on our territories deserve a humane treatment and a better future. Africa needs good education, the empowerment of women, good governance and investments in the interests of the people.

Sustainable development is a collective effort, to be undertaken at all levels of power and on a global scale, even if implementation will depend on decentralisation. The survival of the human race and the planet should refer other problems to the back plan. 'If the time is not ripe, we have to do everything to make it ripe' (Jeremy Bentham). That is the mission of the Club of Rome. It is our joint mission.

The Aurelio Peccei Lectures & Dialogues

Enquiries into the challenges of the 21st Century

2001- 2018

*In memory of Prof. Dr. ir. Raoul Weiler
(1938 -2019)*



IN MEMORIAM Prof. em. Raoul WEILER

Raoul Weiler was a jovial man, always smiling or laughing, positive and friendly, true to his vision on a sustainable world and indefatigable in his action. As a CoR-EU fellow member wrote “...*he was so full of life and spark, some people just seem to be everlasting...*”. His sudden passing away on 28 February 2019 after a serious stroke was a deep shock to all his colleagues and friends.

Convinced of the need for a European hub for the Club of Rome, he and a couple of friends founded a Brussels chapter in 2001. The new association aimed to building bridges between the European Union and the Club, organised a hearing in the European Parliament on the topic *Towards an EU Strategy for Sustainable Development*, a pioneering initiative, soon followed by regular Aurelio Peccei Lectures.

His academic background, coupled with an industrial experience in various functions, gave him a deep understanding of the challenges science and technology are facing in a fast-changing world. At an age when many are considering a slower pace of living after retirement he fully engaged in a relentless activity, spreading the core message of the Club of Rome, wherever he was in the world, as a lecturer, speaker or participant in international conferences.

The first *Aurelio Peccei Lectures*, under the auspices of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium, with small audiences, were followed by an enjoyable get-together for which he catered himself a couple of wine bottles, peanuts and cookies.

Raoul Weiler held a degree of Bio-Engineer in Chemistry, as well as Doctor in Applied Biological Sciences at the University of Leuven (KUL), Belgium. He spent some years as post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, (Chemistry), the Catholic University of America, Washington DC, (physics) and Université Paris V, Department of Physics, Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

He started his industrial career in a chemical multinational in Germany, Department of Applied Physics and ended in Belgium in Information Technology. His functions varied from researcher and process engineer of chemical production processes to manager of the information and communication department.

From 1995 on he held different teaching positions on the relationship between technology and society, especially on sustainable development and climate change at the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), the University of Antwerp (UIA) and University of Leuven (KUL), within the Faculty of Agriculture and Applied Biological Sciences and within the Centre for Ethics on Agriculture, Life Sciences and Environment (CABME).

He chaired many congresses on technology, was President of the Royal Flemish Engineers Association (KVIV), founder and chairman of the working party on *Science, Technology and Society*, Technological Institute of KVIV (1988-2001). In 2013 he was recipient of the Gusi Peace Prize International, Manila, Philippines.

He is the author, co-author and editor of numerous of scientific publications, patents, proceedings of symposia and congresses. Since 1993, seven books appeared on the theme of philosophy of technology, sustainability and global change. His last book, published in 2017 with Kris Demuyne under the title *Food Scarcity Unavoidable*, chiefly expected population and climate trends will badly clash in Africa.

In his last conversations Raoul talked about possible spin off for this report to the European Academy of Sciences, supported by Globethics and our Club of Rome EU-Chapter. We will try to materialize his wish as a tribute for all he gave us, his family, friends and humanity.

Lecture 1
24 April 2001, ULB, Campus Plain

***The Information Society and the demographic revolution:
where are the limits to growth?***

by
Professor Sergey Kapitza
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

Lecture 2
Tuesday 4 december 2001, Royal Academy of Belgium

RIO+10 and the Club of Rome strategy

by
H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal
International President of the Club of Rome.

Lecture 3
13 June 2002, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The new role and responsibilities of Business in a changing world:
an example: The Global reconstruction Fund***

by
Rinaldo S. Brutoco
President of the World Business Academy. Ojai, Ca. USA

Lecture 4
10 October 2002, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Globalization and Poverty.
An analysis of the structure of poverty in the new world order***

by
Francine Mestrum
Member of our Chapter and author of the book
Mondialisation et pauvreté.

Lecture 5
27 November 2002, Royal Academy of Belgium

The transformation of enterprises in the knowledge society

by
Verna Allee
Consultant and researcher in knowledge management and measurement of intangibles. (*The future of knowledge, increasing prosperity through value networks*, Butterworth-Heinemann, 2002)

Lecture 6

Thursday 13 February 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

The double helix of learning and working

by

Orio Giarini

Secretary General of the Geneva Association –
International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics

Lecture 7

Friday 28 March 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

A revolution needed to save the Earth's climate

by

Professor Jean-Pascal van Ypersele
Vice Chair IPCC

Lecture 8

Thursday 22 May 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

Network effects in the knowledge society

by

Dr. Peter Johnston
European Commission and Brussels-EU Chapter CoR.

Lecture 9

Thursday 8 May 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Thirty-four Million Friends Campaign of the
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)***

by

Jane Roberts
of PLANet sponsored by the Hewlett and Packard Foundations,
California campaigning for UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

Lecture 10

Thursday 12 June 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Our future Economy-
a new financial architecture for the wealth of human being***

by

Professor Stefan Brunnhuber
University of Wuerzburg and Budapest.
Member of the Austrian Chapter of the CoR

Lecture 11

Thursday 2 October 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Quality of life defines sustainability -
Visions from people around the world***

by

Professor Hendrik Hendrickx
Censydiam- University of Ghent

Christophe Fauconnier

Censydiam – Executive member of the Club of Rome (Brussels-EU Chapter)

Lecture 12

Wednesday 19 November 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Simplicity Movement in the USA:
another image of the US citizens?***

by

Ms. Vicki ROBIN, Seattle, WA.

Lecture 13

Wednesday 3 December 2003, Royal Academy of Belgium

Resource Justice and World Citizenship

by

Wolfgang Sachs
Wuppertal Institute, Germany

Lecture 14

Thursday 29 January 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Balance or Destruction
Eco-social Market Economy as the Key to a Global Sustainable Development***

by

Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher

FAW, Ulm

with contributions by

Dr. Josef Riegler

Eco-social Forum Europe

Frithjof Finkbeiner

Global Contract Foundation

Lecture 15

Thursday 4 March 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Operationalization of Sustainable Development with
Technology Assessment***

by

Professor Michael Jischa
President of the German Association for the Club of Rome

Lecture 16
Monday 17 May 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium

Ecological Debt. Who owes who?

Two complementary views on ecological debt:
one from the North and one from the South.

by
Joan Martinez Alier (Spain),
scientist
Vinod Raina (India)
theoretical physicist

Lecture 17
Tuesday 29 June 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium
In the presence of H.R.H. Prince Philippe, Honorary President

Towards Knowledge Societies

by
Jérôme Bindé
Deputy Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences
& Director of the Division of Foresight, Philosophy and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Global Governance. The Cultural Dimension

by
Kennedy Graham
Senior Fellow, Peace and Governance Division, UN-University

Lecture 18
Thursday 23 September 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Making Sustainable Development work.
Examples and Challenges in making it happen in Burma.***

by
Lawrence Watson
The Doi Tung Development Project

Lecture 19
Thursday 16 December 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium

***United Nations University:
Mission and Overview of Research Activities***

by
Professor Luk Vanlangenhove
Director UNU-CRIS, Bruges, Belgium

Lecture 20
Monday 17 May 2004, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Cultural Diversity as a pillar of Sustainability.
An Anthropological Approach.***

by
Professor Rik Pinxten
Center for Intercultural Communication and Interaction-CICI.
University of Gent, Belgium

Lecture 21
Wednesday 2 March 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Deconstructing Democracy.
The Limits to Privatization.***

by
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker
Member of the German Parliament, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on
Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Lecture 22
Thursday 14 April 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Global Competitiveness Report.
Stimulating the development of relevant strategies to achieve
sustained economic progress globally.***

by
Augusto Lopez-Claros
Chief Economist and Director of the Global Competitiveness Programme, World Economic Forum, Geneva.

Lecture 23
Thursday 2 June 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Globalization of Resistances
The World Social Forum (Porto Alegre)***

by
François Houtart
Dr in sociology, Professor emeritus of the Catholic University of Louvain,
President, Tricontinental Centre, Louvain-la-Neuve. Member, International Council of the World Social
Forum.

Lecture 24
Thursday 2 June 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

Linguistic Justice in Europe and in the World

by
Philippe Van Parijs
Doctor in philosophy (Oxford) and in social sciences (Louvain), professor, Catholic University of Louvain
(Hoover Chair Economic and Social Ethics), Visiting Professor, Harvard University (Dept of Philosophy)

Lecture 25

Thursday 15 November 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Eco-feminism in historical Perspective:
From the Enlightenment to the 21st Century***

by

Vandana Shiva

Lecture 26

Tuesday 22 November 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Environment Constraints, Technology Choice, and Population Dynamics:
A New Understanding of China Puzzle and Civilization Bifurcations***

by

Ping Chen

China Center for Economic Research, Peking University, Beijing, China

Ilya Prigogine Center for Statistical Mechanics and Complex Systems

University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA

Lecture 27

Thursday 24 November 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

***One Planet Budgeting:
Making Sustainability Real with The Ecological Footprint***

by

Mathis Wackernagel

Global Footprint Network

Lecture 28

Wednesday 14 December 2005, Royal Academy of Belgium

Biopolitics - Building New Values for the Millennium

by

Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis

President and Founder

Biopolitics International Organisation, Athens

Lecture 29

Wednesday 22 February 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

The UNESCO World Report: Towards Knowledge Societies

by

Jérôme Bindé

UNESCO Deputy Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences

Director of the Division of Foresight

Lecture 30
Tuesday 14 March 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

Building Knowledge Society – the Role of Pugwash and the World Academy of Art and Science

by
Professor Ivo Slaus
World Academy of Art and Science,
Pugwash Conferences, The Club of Rome

Lecture 31
Wednesday 29 March 2006, Université Libre de Bruxelles

***Micro-Finance for Development in Practice:
Experiences and Lessons from the field***

by
Marc Labie
Assistant Professor at the Department of Management of the Faculty Warocque of the University of Mons
and Professor at the European Microfinance Program, Solvay Business School

Perspectives for further expansion of micro-financing for sustainable development.

by
Peter Blom,
Chief Executive Officer Triodos Bank

Microfinance and private sector expert.

by
Charles Tollenaere,
Directorate-General for Development Cooperation

Lecture 32
Thursday 1 June 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Future of Society
A new image of reality that will transform society***

by
Dr. Marc van der Erve
Author of eight books, BSc in Applied Physics and PhD in Sociology.

Lecture 33
Thursday 22 June 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

Deserts as sustainable powerhouses and inexhaustible waterworks for the world

by
Dr. Gerhard Knies
Initiator and coordinator of the Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Cooperation TREC

Lecture 34

Thursday 28 September 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Beyond the Tipping Point:
Positive Feedback and the Acceleration of Climate Change***

by

David Wasdell

Founder and Director of the Unit for Research into Changing Institutions,
and International Coordinator of the Meridian Programme.

Lecture 35

Thursday 26 October 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Performance Economy
Metrics and business models for a sustainable economy***

by

Walter R. Stahel

Vice secretary-general and head of risk management research, The Geneva Association
Founder-director of The Product-Life Institute Geneva

Lecture 36

Thursday 23 November 2006, Royal Academy of Belgium

Converging Technologies for a Sustainable 21st Century

by

Hugo De Man

Professor Emeritus K.U.Leuven. Senior Fellow IMEC

Lecture 37

Thursday 1 February 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Resource Productivity –
A Long-Term Business Boosting Program -not only- for Germany***

by

B. Stephan Baldin and Klaus Dosch

Aachen Foundation

Lecture 38

Thursday 1 March 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Future of Work and Old-Age Security:
Opportunities Squandered***

by

Patrick M. Liedtke

Secretary General and Managing Director of The Geneva Association
Executive Member of the Club of Rome

Lecture 39

Wednesday 4 April 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

***ICANN: achievements and challenges
of a multi-stakeholder, bottom up, transparent model***

by

Anne-Rachel Inné

African Regional Liaison at ICANN

Giovanni Seppia

European Regional Liaison at ICANN

Lecture 40

Wednesday 9 May 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

Developing an early warning – reaction system for global and regional threats

by

Tapio Kanninen,

UN Department of Political Affairs, New York

Member of the Club of Rome

Lecture 41

Thursday, 24 May 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

Wikipedia and the educational landscape

by

Florence Devourard

Chair of Wikimedia Foundation

Lecture 42

Wednesday, 30 May 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Antarctica and Climate Change
Research in New Zealand***

by

Dean Peterson

Science Strategy Manager from Antarctica New Zealand

Nancy Bertler

Joint Antarctic Research Unit – Victoria University of Wellington

Lecture 43

Wednesday, 20 June 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Building consensus on health and environment
by communicating scientific facts***

by

Jacques de Selliers,

Co-founder Green Facts

***The Santo-Vanuatu Expedition 2006:
Biodiversity in state of emergency***

Guy Reinaud,
President Pro Natura Int'l, Board Member GreenFacts

Dr. Jacques de Gerlache,
Co-founder and Vice-President GreenFacts

Lecture 44

Wednesday, 19 September 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

The Global Marshall Plan Initiative

by
Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Josef Radermacher
Univeristy of Ulm, Germany

Lecture 45

Monday 22 October 2007, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Small Change Delivers:
Mobilising grassroots dollars to save women's lives***

by
Jane Roberts
Co-founder of 34 Million Friends of UNFPA

Lecture 46

Wednesday, 27 February 2008, Egmont Palace

***OECD strategy review on China innovation:
how to anticipate the turn towards Asia?***

by
Dr. Jean Guinet
Head of Unit of OECD, Paris, France

Lecture 47

Thursday 10 January 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

The mission of the university for peace of the United Nations

by
Dr. Martin Lees
Rector Emeritus of the U.N. University,
Secretary General of the Club of Rome

Lecture 48

Wednesday 27 February 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

OECD strategy review of innovation policies and their economic impact.

by

Dr. Jean Guinet

Head of Unit of OECD, Paris, France

Lecture 49

Friday 29 February 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Looking at the UNEP global environment outlook report, GEO-4:
The uses of modeling for analysing trends of the future.***

by

Prof. Barry Hughes

International Futures, University of Denver, Colorado, US

Lecture 50

Wednesday, April 9th, 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

Innovation concept and relation with R&D

by

Dr. Spyros Konidakis

former Director, European Commission

Lecture 51

Monday, June 2nd, 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

Renewable energies: a dialogue for sustainability

by

Dr. Jaeger-Waldau

Joint Research Center, Renewable Energy Unit, EC, Ispra-Italy

Dr. Marc Steen

Joint Research Center, Institute for Energy, EC, Petten-The Netherlands

Lecture 52

Thursday, 11 September 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

Technology Assessment, governance and sustainability

by

Robby Berloznik

Director viWTA, Flemish Parliament, Belgium

Jan Staman

Director Rathenau Institute, President EPTA, The Netherlands

Philippe Busquin

MEP, Chairman STOA, Former EU-Commissioner for Research, Belgium

Lecture 53

Monday 13 October 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

Sustainable cities: Buenos Aires at the beginning

by

Silvia Zimmermann del Castillo

Executive Director of the Argentinean Chapter of the Club of Rome

Minister Alan Beraud

Embassy of Argentina at the EU

Lecture 54

Thursday 4 December 2008, Royal Academy of Belgium

The world in 2025: a challenge to reason.

by

Thierry Gaudin

President, Prospective 2100

Lecture 55

Wednesday 14 January 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Science, scientists, a sustainable world:
Views from down under.***

by

Professor Penny D. Sackett

Chief Scientist for Australia

Lecture 56

Thursday 19 February 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

Systemic solutions for today's world challenges

by

Professor Bernard A. Lietaer

Research Fellow at the Center for Sustainable Resources
of the University of California at Berkeley

Lecture 57

Thursday 26 March 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

Renewable Energy Outlook 2030

by

Harry Lehmann

General Director at the German Federal Environment Agency

Lecture 58

Thursday 23 April 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

Photovoltaic Solar Energy: present and future

by

Professor Johan Nijs
CEO Photovoltech, Belgium

Lecture 59

Tuesday, 26 May 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Geo-engineering a new Copernican revolution.
An Ultimate Solution for Reducing Global Warming?***

by

Professor Raoul Weiler
International Expert Group for Earth System Preservation IESP, Munich
President EU-Chapter Club of Rome, Brussels

Lecture 60

2 June 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

Limits to growth: views and contribution from New-Zealand

by

Dr Helen Anderson
Chief Executive of the New Zealand Ministry
of Research, Science and Technology

Lecture 61

Tuesday 23 June 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

Tweewaters:

Belgium's most ambitious urban project

by

Jo Vandebergh
CEO, Ertzberg

Benoît Broos
director Real Estate

Lecture 62

Thursday, 8 October 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

Historic cities and adaptation to change

by

Dr. Ron Van Oers
UNESCO
Deputy-Director World Heritage Institute of Training and Research
for the Asia-Pacific Region

Lecture 63

Wednesday 14 October 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The Zero Carbon & Zero Waste Water House
in a bio-ecologically acceptable way in the suburbs of Brussels***

by

Ir. Guido-Henri de Couvreur
President, Mondo v.z.w.

Lecture 64

Thursday, 8 October 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Sustainable urbanisation and cities:
what could Europe learn from selected American and Indian experiences***

by

Dhiru Thadani
Architect and Planner, Washington DC and Bombay

Lecture 65

Tuesday 17 November 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Innovative economic policies for climate change mitigation.
The book and the future.***

by

Valentino Piana
Director of the Economics Web Institute

Lecture 66

Monday, 7 December 2009, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Bringing 20.000 people to Manchester City Waterfront Areas in 20 Years.
3 municipalities share canal side developments***

by

Professor Ian Douglas
Emeritus Professor of Physical Geography at Manchester University

Lecture 68

Wednesday, 10 February 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Climate change: past, present and future,
or what can past ice ages tell us about future warming?***

by

Professor Michael Ghil
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France, and University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Lecture 69

Tuesday, 23 February 2010, European Parliament, Brussels

Presentation of the film: World vote now

by

Joel Marsden

Lecture 70

Thursday 4 March, 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

The “Grenelle of environment” and sustainable cities in France

by

Jean-François GUET

Architect and urban planner

Head of planning and housing department of the CERTU

Sustainable Urbanization and Cities:

Lecture 71

Wednesday 31 March 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Alarming world wide fresh water situation
as a consequence of global warming***

by

Friedrich Barth

UNDP Senior advisor Environment, Climate and Energy

Lecture 72

Thursday 29 April 29, 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

The world and Europe up to 2050: trends and challenges

by

Domenico Rossetti di Valdalbero

Principal Administrator, European Commission, DG Research * Speaking in personal capacity

Lecture 73

Wednesday 29 September 2010, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

In the presence of H.R.H. Prince Philippe, Honorary President

Science, the future of climate, and governance

by

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele

Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore). Physicist, climatologist, extraordinary professor at the Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research, Université catholique de Louvain (UCL)

Lecture 74

Thursday 21 October 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Systems Thinking, Complexity and Network Science:
Towards a New Worldview?***

by

Erik Van Den Broecke

Managing Director, Complexity Management Institute

Lecture 75

Thursday 16 December 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

Understanding new China, arising from darkness

by

Jean-Marie Rousseau

International expert in Innovation and Territorial Intelligence

Former Administrator, DG Research, European Commission

Lecture 76

Thursday 27 January 2011, Royal Academy of Belgium

The biodiversity crisis and its governance

by

Christine von Weizsäcker

Biologist, Author. President, Ecoropa, President, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF),
Board member of CBD-Alliance and Federation of German Scientists, Representative of Women as
Major Group in the UN preparations for RIO + 20.

Lecture 77

Thursday 26 May 2011, Club of the University Foundation

***Real values and the new economics of change:
an agenda of action to 2050***

by

Ian Johnson

Secretary-General of the International Club of Rome

Former Vice President of the World Bank

Lecture 78

Thursday 29 September 2011, Royal Academy of Belgium

To be or to become

by

Dr. Marc van der Erve

Full member CoR-EU. Author of eight books, BSc in Applied Physics and PhD in Sociology.

Lecture 80
Monday 21 November 2011, Solvay Library
In the presence of H.R.H. Prince Philippe, Honorary President

Learning to live within Limits

by
Professor Dennis L. Meadows
Co-author of Limits to Growth

Lecture 81
Thursday 26 January 2012, Royal Academy of Belgium

From European Union to World Union: Realising Monnet's global vision

by
John Mc Clintock
British national and EU official, worked in Africa and in Poland. Studied economics at Oxford and agriculture at Montpellier.

Lecture 82
Tuesday 26 January 2010, Royal Academy of Belgium

Agenda for a new economy: from phantom wealth to real wealth

by
David C. Korten

Lecture 83
Thursday 23 February 2012, Royal Academy of Belgium

Heraclites and the four-fold flow of civilisation serenity

by
Dr. Jean-Philippe Cornélis

Lecture 84
Wednesday 20 March 2012, University Foundation

2052-A global forecast for the next forty years

by
Jorgen Randers
Professor of climate strategy, Norwegian Business School, Oslo

Lecture 85
Wednesday 15 May 2013, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The blue economy:
Shifting competitiveness beyond globalisation***

by
Gunter Pauli
Founder and Chairman
Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives (Zeri)

Lecture 86

Monday 17 June 2013, Royal Academy of Belgium

Re-inventing The Club of Rome

by

Prof. Dr. dr.h.c. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker

Co-President, the Club of Rome

Co-Chair, International Resource Panel, UNEP

Lecture 87

Wednesday 6 November 2013, Royal Academy of Belgium

Global future intelligence system

just created by The Millennium Project

and a discussion of

15 global challenges for humanity

From the annual State of the Future report

by

Jerome C. Glenn

Executive Director of The Millennium Project (Washington)

Lecture 88

Thursday 30 January 2014, Royal Academy of Belgium

The green economy roadmap.

A guide for business, policymakers and society.

by

Martina Bianchini

Chair of the ICC Green Economy Task Force.

Lecture 89

Thursday 6 March 2014, Royal Academy of Belgium

Innovation and foresight

The Lessons of Experience

by

Thierry Gaudin

Lecture 90
Thursday 15 May 2014, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The role of the media in boosting action towards a sustainable society
Panel discussion with the participation of***

Gilles Vanderpooten
Managing director, Reporters d'espoir NGO
Co-author with Stéphane Hessel (+) of "Engagez-vous"
Yasmine Boudaka
Journalist Speaker – 'UTOPIA', La Première – RTBF
Laurent Haulotte
Head of News and Sport, Deputy Director of Television- RTL Belgium

Lecture 91
Thursday 12 June 2014, Royal Academy of Belgium

***EXTRACTED.
How the Quest for Mineral Wealth is plundering the planet.***

Panel discussion with
author Ugo Bardi
Professor at the University of Florence, President, Association for the Study of Peak oil and Gas
Denis Goffaux
CTO and Member of the Executive Committee of Umicore
Ernst von Weizsäcker
Co-Chair, International Resource Panel, Co-President of the Club of Rome

Lecture 92
Wednesday 1 October 2014, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Local action.
Matching good governance and climate change mitigation.***

by
Pedro Ballesteros Torres
European Commission, DG ENER / A3
Initiator of the Covenant of Mayors

Lecture 93
Wednesday 18 March 2015, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Religion, spirituality and paradigms.
The search for values creating a sustainable and equitable society***

A panel discussion with
Joël Van Cauter
philosopher & economist,
Frans Goetghebeur
author, former chairman The European Buddhist Union
Guido-Henri De Couvreur

Lecture 94

Tuesday 19 May 2015, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Thanatia: earth's mineral resources destiny.
The need for Efficiency and Sufficiency***

by

Antonio Valero Capilla & Alicia Valero Delgado
CIRCE – Universidad de Zaragoza (E)

Lecture 95

Thursday 5 November 2015, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The future of farming
Agriculture, Food & Food Security.***

A debate introduced by

Dr. Alain Peeters and Dr. Piet Vanthemsche

Lecture 96

Tuesday 12 April 2016, Royal Academy of Belgium

***The new economic model:
Circular Economy and Decoupling.***

Dr. Janez Potočnik

Co-chair International Resource Panel (UNEP)
Former EU Commissioner for the Environment

Lecture 97

Thursday 26 January 2017, Royal Academy of Belgium

***Food Scarcity Unavoidable by 2100
Impact of Demography & Climate Change***

by

Prof. em. Dr. ir. Raoul A. Weiler
Dr. Kris Demuyne

Lecture 98

Wednesday 28 June 2017, Club of the University Foundation

***Sustainability Now
Necessity and Opportunity !***

by

Karl Falkenberg

Senior Advisor to the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC) dealing with Sustainable Development

Discussant: Dr. Anne Snick

Board member, The Club of Rome EU-Chapter

Moderator: Sandrine Dixon-Declève

Senior Advisor, Corporate Purpose, Sustainability, & Low Carbon Solutions Fellow, The Club of Rome

Lecture 99

Thursday 23 November 2017, Royal Academy of Belgium

No Sustainable Future without Ethical Values

by

Monsignor Prof. Dr. Obiora F. IKE

Executive Director, Globethics.net, Geneva

Professor of Ethics and Intercultural Studies, Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu, Nigeria

President, Club of Rome- NIGERIA Chapter

Discussant: Guido-Henri De Couvreur

Vice-President CoR-EU

Senior Advisor, Association for World Education

Lecture 100

Monday 10 September 2018, Royal Academy of Belgium

Under the High Patronage of Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians

A Brighter Future for Humankind.

The SDG's: Achievements and Perspectives.

with guest speaker

Connie Hedegaard

Chair KR Foundation, Former EU Commissioner for Climate Action.

Former Minister for The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen.



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Royal Academy of Belgium

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Monday 10 September 2018

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