

ConCERNed for Humanity Club

General Assembly May 4, 2016

M. Dittmar

- 2003/2016: 13th anniversary of the **conCERNed for humanity** club (well, I was informed some 10 days that 2 years(!) ago our status as a club was terminated .. without further explanations) more later! Who remembers our conference with Hans von Sponeck May 8, 2003? just when the Iraq war was declared to be won by G.W. Bush? Bertrand Russell (from our Club Statute)
“All who are not lunatics are agreed about certain things. That it is better to be alive than dead, better to be adequately fed than starved, better to be free than a slave. Many people desire those things only for themselves and their friends; they are quite content that their enemies should suffer. These people can only be refuted by science: Humankind has become so much one family that we cannot insure our own prosperity except by insuring that of everyone else. If you wish to be happy yourself, you must resign yourself to seeing others also happy.”
- last year activities.. May 2015 to 2016
- Budget situation (Gabriele)
- Voting for the new committee
- **Discussion: Accepting or not “The end of the club as a club”?**
- “future” activities? Discussion “beyond capitalism” and Giovanni Siragusa: Idea of a philosophical forum at CERN.

the goals of our conCERNed club if this is too much within fundamental science environment?

use the scientific method to make us and others aware of world problems:

- collect facts and discuss them with others:
inside and outside of CERN
In case: shoot the message not the messenger!
- develop expertise on particular areas of interest
- (if asked) provide scientific facts for groups/movements outside CERN.
- show that we as CERN–people are also responsible citizens.
- and following Albert Einstein's view:
"The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them."

the goals of our conCERNed club..

state of the world remembering 2003/2016?

use the scientific method to make us and others aware of this centuries world problems:

- Wars? Bombing countries to stone age
Afghanistan (2001-xx Iraq (2003-xx), Palestina (2001-xx), Libya (2011–), Syria, Ukraine, Jemen, ...
- CO2 levels in the Atmosphere Week April 24 2016: 407.8 ppm (almost 4 ppm higher than in 2015) <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/> (actually April data 1956 (60 years ago) about 315 ppm, 1986 (350 ppm) and 2016 \approx 408 ppm!)
- Energy problem, Peak oil problem etc (conventional crude oil “plateaued” since 2006.)
Barrel oil Price (2003 = 30 dollars), to around 100 dollars/barrel (2010-2013) and collapsing at the end of 2014/15 to 30 dollars and slowly growing to 45 dollar/barrel (today).
- Fukushima disaster, fusion illusions, Areva incompetence etc
- other problems.. everyday news
Biodiversity loss, agroindustrial food system poisons us all.
- Theoretical alternatives are discussed in the literature, but nobody has time to read these days. Why didn't all the techno revolutions bring us the promised free time?

Activities .. May 2015-April 2016

for all details (website maintained by Francesco!) <https://espace.cern.ch/ConCERNedForHumanity/Lists/Announcements/AllItems.aspx>

- May 8, 2015: General assembly plus the movie Even the rain (about the water privatisation in Bolivia (and elsewhere)).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIcSIEn6hCw> French version..
- participation in the “Bike to work team” (organised by Mario)
- conferences etc at our website, nicely maintained by Francesco (many thanks) <https://espace.cern.ch/ConCERNedForHumanity/default.aspx>
- Short version of my ETH Lecture (“Which path towards sustainability”) .. every Wednesday 12:30 since March 2015 (dates May 13, 20 and 27)
- a monthly “book” reading group. A few interested started to read/discuss the works from Emma Goldman, Alexander Berkman and Peter Kropotkin.
First presentation 2. December 2015

An evening to remember: Emma Goldman, Peter Kropotkin and Alexander Berkman.

According to Wikipedia:

- **Prince Pyotr Alexeyevich Kropotkin (December 9, 1842 February 8, 1921), Russian geographer, economist, activist, philologist, zoologist, evolutionary theorist, philosopher, writer, and prominent anarchist.**
- **Emma Goldman (June 27, 1869 May 14, 1940) political activist, writer, and famous speeches. Pivotal role for anarchist political philosophy in North America and Europe in the first half of the 20th century.**
- **Alexander Berkman (November 21, 1870 June 28, 1936) leading anarchist in the early 20th century, famous for both his political activism and his writing.**

Emma Goldman an exceedingly dangerous woman to Minute 3:25

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm5tb_5WovA

“Are We Good Enough?” by Peter Kropotkin (10 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jytf-5St8WU>

Howard Zinn: The hay market affaire <https://vimeo.com/97183800>

Other Activities May 2015-April 2016

other related activities of club members outside of CERN

- Active participation by several members in independent “civil society” groups in the pay de Gex (ATTAC, Association Kolibri etc)
- 3 of us became “Permaculture designers” (with several related ongoing activities)

Scientific Networks?

- I am a board member (since September 2015) of the European Network of Scientists with Social and Environmental responsibility (ENSSEER <http://www.ensser.org>).
- about 20-30 Scientists from Switzerland association “Critical Scientists Switzerland” in March 2015 (I was selected as the president ..). Please join us! GA July 1, 2016 in Neuchatel.

Please consider to become active in these Networks .. majority from biology and agro-ecology departments of different Suisse universities. Physicists are needed!

The status/future of the conCERNed club:

Provide an environment at CERN to learn and teach about (and according to individual interest)

- still almost impossible to organise “monthly debates” with invited speakers! (obviously not because of missing topics), however
- few of us meet regular for lunch chats (various topics about sustainability)
12:30-xx let us know if you are interested to join
- book reading/presentation/discussion club? started
- working group(s) on particular topics towards “summary talks, articles and publications”?

The many unsolved problems: apparent lack of time and and interest at CERN

and now even this little seems to be too much for some hidden power at CERN! (lets look at the emails .. what to do?)

Kind of a summary for the 13th anniversary of the club:

Some short term new members during their presence at CERN, but many older/founding members are now slowly disappearing from CERN. **Urgent need for new active conCERNed people! Please join the efforts**

If you want the club to continue in one way or another we need your contributions!

- please pay your membership fee (10 FS);
- please bring in people, ideas and help organising conferences, movies etc. your initiatives are required to organise meetings during 2016!
- small round table working groups always possible on individual interests.
- please inform the new (old?) president/deputy about your activities if you want to act within the conCERNed club "umbrella."
- **New proposal looking for interested persons:**
Discussion "beyond capitalism" and
Giovanni Siragusa: Idea of a philosophical forum at CERN.