



OFFICE INTERNATIONAL

du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux

Regroupement des fédérations européennes des jardins familiaux

association sans but lucratif

Dear allotment gardeners

2011,

Year of the 85th anniversary of the International Office,

Year during which we have organised our 36th international congress with a very symbolic and adequate subject during this anniversary year : “The allotment gardens of the future”.

The 3.000.000 European allotment garden families can be proud of the valuable past of their movement and can build on established core values in order to achieve an even more successful future.

Our activities in the social, ecological and economic areas remain the basis of our success, but we still have to increase and develop them. We have to do even more than in the past.

We have to use and develop our best realisations everywhere without forgetting, however, to take into consideration the changes in our society and the new needs and wishes of our members and of the citizens.

We have to take up the challenges and move with the time in order to transmit a movement with a valuable heritage to our successors. This movement nonetheless has also to remain young and up-to-date. It must always remain ready to serve its members and society and to protect nature and the environment.

We have to ensure that the principles of a good governance will be applied everywhere and at all the levels of our movement.

We have to put forward our expertise in such a way that our members, the authorities and society can take advantage of it.

We have to increase our efficiency and visibility by a good use of the new means of communication and by cooperation with other stakeholders.

However we also have to strengthen the real contacts between the individual allotment gardeners at all the levels of our movement in order to take advantage of the personal added value of each one of them.

In order to guarantee the future of our associations we have to sensitise children and young people to our ideas. We have to really integrate them in our associations by transferring responsibilities to them, by allowing them to fix their marks especially when they try to go new ways.

Let us support the innovative projects developed in our associations, make them known. Let us find new ideas in order to enable our associations to become better and more efficient.

The changes and the diversity are the essence of every associative movement. Not moving forwards means going backwards.

Today the allotment garden movement is more than a hundred years old and the unification of the national federations in the International Office moves as well towards this centennial.

During the coming fifteen years let us meet the new challenges, face the opportunities, let us make the necessary changes and prepare for what lies ahead in order that our Office in 2026, even being a hundred years old, will remain young, dynamic and up-to-date.

Our values are not only simple symbols. They are real tools of management. They are capable to mobilize the federations, the associations and the individual allotment gardeners.

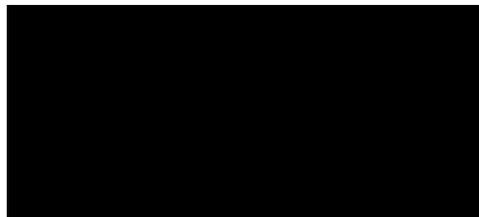
As stated in the conclusions of the workshops during our international congress: communication, cooperation and coordination must be the keywords for the future.

Let us hope that the 3.000.000 allotment garden families throughout Europe, which are affiliated to the International Office, will each one personally feel concerned and will be ready to help.

3.000.000 small steps in the same direction, that means towards a more human society in a nice and healthy environment, will help our important movement to become even bigger, better and more efficient.

The visibility of our movement will increase. Our movement will then become an unavoidable element for the well-being of all.

I hope to be able to rely on each one of you to reach this aim and wish you, as well as your family, a Happy New Year 2012, a good health and much success in your garden.



Malou WEIRICH