

# Emmaus Europe

In 2008, there were many occasions on which Emmaus Europe counted on your participation.

Thank you very much to all of the groups that gave some of their time to build the Europe based on the Emmaus values.



## 2008 Review

### Together for a Europe based on the Emmaus values

In the aftermath of the atrocities committed during World War II, the leaders of the countries of Europe, both the victors and the losers, decided to consolidate the peace that had been achieved by making many sacrifices, in order to recreate the European family. The 20<sup>th</sup> century was therefore the century of the European construction.

The peoples of Europe have had to and must still learn and relearn to live together to guarantee to all that Europe will no longer be the scene of so many atrocities. The cultural, political, religious, social and geographic diversity that characterizes Europe, while an asset, has too often been at the root of conflicts on European soil, with the Balkans being one of the most painful examples.

**Just like Abbé Pierre we believe that “the 21st century will be fraternal or it will not be”. After the many battles witnessed by Europe during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, today we want to see a united, strong and supportive Europe.**

**This is why Emmaus Europe was created: to spread this wave of hope, solidarity and sharing across Europe, which is the very basis of the Emmaus Movement.** Emmaus Europe is determined to play a part in building a future with a human face, so that future generations will never again have to face the evils that their predecessors suffered.

*Julio de la Granja, President of Emmaus Europe*



### New office!

The year 2008 saw our move, in May, to the joint headquarters in Montreuil, in Seine-Saint-Denis (France). Emmaus Europe has set up its offices on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the building that is now shared by the bodies of the Movement: Emmaus France and Emmaus International.



## Improving communication

### Creation of Emmaus Europe's own website

The year 2008 saw an ongoing discussion between the Secretariat of EE, the graphic designer and the Emmaus Europe's website developer.

Its construction was the object of many debates.

A little over a year after the Regional Assembly in Strasbourg (August 2007), which called for a specific website for the European Region to be set up, it was launched at the beginning of 2009.

One of the priorities set by Emmaus Europe's highest authority was indeed the improvement of the association's communication through, among others, the creation of a website.

The website has been online since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009: it is dedicated to improving communication between groups and Emmaus Europe, but also between the groups themselves.

A directory of groups is now available via an interactive map of Europe showing the countries where Emmaus is present: visit the section "Directory of groups".

A members' area was also created to meet the needs of internal communication. In addition, two discussions are reserved for debates between the member groups and the elected representatives in Emmaus Europe's website forum. You can access to it using the login name "eemmaus" password "ee2005".

[www.emmaus-europe.org](http://www.emmaus-europe.org)

1,2,3,4,5,6 **EUROPE**

## Monitoring the French Presidency of the EU

Establishment of a watchdog common to Emmaus Europe and Emmaus France in light of the French Presidency of the European Union.

A letter was distributed every month during the second half of 2008: "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 EUROPE".

One of its objectives was to inform the European groups

about how the European Union's work was progressing and its impact on the actions of groups.

## Regional coordination

A twofold aim for Emmaus Europe: participate in the training and information of all, groups and bodies, and encourage debate.

Presentation of Emmaus Europe to the European groups and diffusion of the proposed solidarity actions to be supported

Participation in the Emmaus France and the Association Emmaus de Paris' Solidarity Commission meetings

Participation in the meeting of Regional Secretariats organized by Emmaus International

Participation of Emmaus Europe at the Emmaus France's General Assembly

Follow up and accompaniment of the European Collectives' activities: diffusion of information

Presentation sequences on Emmaus Europe before the meetings of the committees of regions in France

Participation in the evaluation meeting of the Summer Youth Camp 2008 in Srebrenica, Bosnia

Meeting with the Banca Etica, Emmaus Europe's partner, in Padoue, Italy

Participation in the International Day "Find out all about International Solidarity", organized by Emmaus International

## Training and New Generations

In 2008, four European representatives proposed activities related to the theme of the training and to the issue of new generations.



**Training on Migration and migration policies: what are the issues at stake for Emmaus?**

Following requests made at the Emmaus Europe Regional Assembly in 2007, the European members of the World Council on Training and New Generations, in partnership with the Regional Secretariat, thought that it was time for the members of Emmaus Europe to get to know each other and to work together. This is why the first European training course, held in Ferrara in May, focused on this priority issue for Emmaus Europe.

**The International Training Camp on Sustainable Development**

An event at a European level was organized at the Lusophone University of Lisbon (Portugal). The Movement chose to devote this time for information and training to this issue in which the Emmaus groups have been involved for many years. Since the International Training Camp in Lisbon in October 2008 took place in Europe, the Europe Region was associated with Emmaus International in its organization and development.

It brought together 35 participants from fifteen countries: Italy, France, Finland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, India, Lebanon, Chile, Uruguay, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi and South Africa.



## Regional solidarity

Intra-European solidarity operated in 2008, as in previous years, with the economic, material and human resources contributions of many groups.

Visit the section *Solidarity Initiatives*

### Emmaus Salon in Paris, June 2008

Many European groups participated in the Paris Salon in 2008.

Among the countries represented were: Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, Germany, UK, and the Netherlands.

The Europe Region was represented by a stand showing the activities and commitments in Europe.

### The convoys

In 2008, as in previous years on the occasion of the International Youth Camp held in Bosnia during the summer, a convoy was organized for the local population. Composed of seven trucks on loan and chartered by various communities, this convoy contained furniture, clothes and objects of all kinds, things that may be useful to people from that country in reconstruction.

### Intra-European containers program

The Secretariat of Emmaus Europe serves as an interface between the groups Emmaus Europe that passed along their needs in terms of equipment and those who volunteer to make shipments. Thus the Secretariat has followed up and gathered information throughout 2008. Check the status of the intra-European program on containers in the section *Solidarity Initiatives / Containers and convoys*.

### European Collectives: working groups in charge of the solidarity of the Region

Shortly after the creation of Emmaus Europe, it was decided to provide a framework of European coordination to the long-time-existing solidarity ties between groups of Western and Eastern Europe.

The idea was not to replace what already existed, but to facilitate joint work between

those working in the field and their partners.

The objective is thus to organize solidarity actions for groups in the East, in a framework of transparency and sustainability.

All of these solidarity actions are handled by the Collective in charge of the supported country, together with the Regional Executive and the Secretariat of Emmaus Europe. The Collective



In 2008, 43 containers were handled in Europe transmits the positions agreed by the Movement to the groups and is the spokesperson for the actions and proposals of the groups in the Movement's bodies.

In 2008, the Collectives have continued their solidarity actions for one country in particular through calls for solidarity sent by Emmaus Europe to all European groups.



### The Bosnia Collective

Actions supported in 2008:

#### International Forum of Solidarity, Bosnia

- *Organization of an International Youth Camp and convoy in Srebrenica.* Objective: To provide for the expenses of young participants staying at the camp and for the expenses of the convoy.

- *European Centre of civil services to the population of Srebrenica:* Fundraising for the purchase of a plot of land for the creation of this centre offering social, economic, cultural and ecological activities.

### The Poland/Ukraine Collective

Actions supported in 2008:

#### Emmaus Rzeszów, Poland

- *Fundraising for the purchase of a plot of land for building the community house and improving the lives of companions.*
- *Isolation of the attic's roof in the shop to improve sheltering conditions for the companions and the clients.*

#### Emmaus Lublin, Poland

- *Fundraising for the reconstruction of the carpentry workshop in order to complete the work and equipping of the workshop for the official opening of the social carpentry enterprise to achieve self-sufficiency.*

#### Mutual Aid Community Oselya, Ukraine

- *Fundraising for the rehabilitation of a building for rent.*
- *Support for the remuneration of 5 employees in 2008 to contribute to the stability, management and organization of the community.*



### The Romania Collective

Actions supported in 2008:

#### Un coup de main d'Emmaus in Iasi, Romania

- *Repair exteriors of the workplace of the community.* Objective: Improve the companions' living environment.

- *Carpentry workshop:* Action supported by Emmaus International with funds raised by the revenue from solidarity sales organized in 2007 by all the member groups of the Movement. The premises and workshop have been equipped.

### Migration and Human Trafficking Collective

This group is working on the issue of migration and human trafficking, as part of the development of Emmaus Europe's citizen actions.

During 2008, the Collective's action has focused on activities and demonstrations for the rights of Migrants. The fight against human trafficking continued through the actions supported in Lithuania by the prevention program monitored by the Missing Persons Family Support Center in Vilnius, Lithuania.

### Summer volunteering: youth camps in Europe

The groups that hosted young people in 2008 are in Belgium, Bosnia, France, Germany and Italy.

# Political actions and regional alliances

During 2008, the European Region committed to defending the rights of migrants.

Visit the section *Citizen Activities*



## Co-organization of the Citizen Summit on Migration and Mobilization of all the European Emmaus groups

**The objective of the summit:** make the voice of civil societies from Europe and Africa heard and denounce the agreements of the European Pact proposed by the French Presidency of the European Union and adopted by the European countries. France promotes a selective immigration and seeks to compel the South to readmit their expelled nationals.

**This citizen mobilisation was held over two days:**

- On Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the second Euro-African non-governmental conference was held: the day featured an opening plenary session, 6 thematic workshops (North-South relations; selective migration; freedom of circulation; migrant women; minors in migration; right of asylum) and a closing plenary session, during which a Euro-African statement was adopted. Renzo Fior, Manager of the community of Villafranca (Italy) and

President of Emmaus Italy was the speaker for the Emmaus Movement.

- On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 a festive march, followed by a concert allowed the concerns of citizens towards the European migration policy to be expressed.

The summit was also an opportunity to **submit alternative proposals** before the Euro-African interministerial conference on migration and development on November 25<sup>th</sup> bringing together both African and European countries.

Therefore, **citizens' organizations were present** on the day of the conference near the conference location to protest against the rejection of dialogue and to try once again to be received at the Summit to present the alternatives that we defend, and give them media coverage. **Emmaus, of course, was there.**

[www.despontspasdesmurs.org](http://www.despontspasdesmurs.org)

## Mobilization against the *Outrageous Directive*

**The work of Emmaus Europe took place in several stages:**

- **April – Signing the joint appeal:** Emmaus Europe, along with Emmaus International and Emmaus France, signed an appeal to MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) to reject the draft directive.

• **April** – In addition, a model *letter* was sent to all the European Emmaus groups. *Addressed to the MEPs*, the letter aimed to raise the awareness of each MEP about the dangers involved in the draft directive. The Emmaus groups based in the EU Member States got involved by sending the letter to their MEPs.

• **May** – *Joining the demonstration on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Brussels*: the Outrageous Directive should have been submitted for approval on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2008. Consequently, a demonstration, in which Emmaus Europe participated, was organized on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Brussels to protest against the adoption of the directive and the ensuing measures. In the end, an amendment was proposed and the vote was delayed until June 18<sup>th</sup> 2008.

• **May** – *Joining the demonstration on June 14<sup>th</sup> in Paris*: following the postponement of the European Parliament vote, a second demonstration was held in Paris on June 14<sup>th</sup> 2008. An appeal to join the demonstration was sent to the European Emmaus groups.

• **June** – *A press release signed by the presidents of Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International* was distributed on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2008, to protest against the adoption of the Outrageous Directive.

• **June** – Participating in the Development Research and Information Centre colloquium on June 27<sup>th</sup> on the topic of “Migration and development: the issues and pitfalls of co-development.”

The Returns Directive, which has been christened the Outrageous Directive, was put forward for adoption to the European Union Council of Ministers on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, two days before the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

So as to request the postponement of the vote and the abandonment of the directive, a *letter* was sent to the President of France and to several French ministers, who held the EU Presidency at that time.

## Networking

During the fall of 2008 the two General Assemblies were held of:

- EAPN

European network of associations fighting against poverty and social exclusion (in Bulgaria).

- FEANTSA

European Association Working with the Homeless (in the United Kingdom).

Emmaus Europe was represented by Xavier Vandromme, World Councillor on Political Action and International Solidarity and member of the Emmaus Paris Association.

## Statutory life



- Two Regional Councils of Emmaus Europe: March and October.
- Four Regional Executive meetings: in Alfortville, in Brussels and in Montreuil.
- Two conference calls between the members of the Regional Executive were held.

Participation of the European elected representatives in the two World Councils:

- WC PAIS, February in Alfortville, France
- WC TNG, October in Lisbon, Portugal

Organization of the European Collectives meetings:

- **Bosnia**, March 21<sup>st</sup> in Alfortville, France
- **Poland/Ukraine**, May 21<sup>st</sup> in Lublin and November 14<sup>th</sup> in Krakow, Poland.
- **Romania**, March 15<sup>th</sup> in Iasi, Romania

In 2008 the Europe Region has followed and informed 5 groups called "trial members": Mutual Aid Community Oselya (Ukraine), Emmaus Burnley (United Kingdom), Emmaus Rzeszów (Poland), Växjö Solidaritetsförening (Sweden) and Emmaus Feniks (Netherlands) that joined Emmaus in 2008

# And in 2009...

## Off to Brussels!



See you at the Regional  
Assembly of Emmaus Europe  
from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009!

2009 is a year in which a number of important anniversaries will be celebrated within European groups.

It will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emmaus Movement and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Manifesto. They will all remind us of the success of the Emmaus Movement.

For Emmaus Europe, 2009 is also the year of its Regional Assembly.

We would like to be even more numerous in 2009 and tomorrow to work within Emmaus Europe in the achievement of our aim:  
**TO SERVE THOSE WHO  
SUFFER THE MOST**

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