

 **EMMAUS EUROPE**
EMMAÛS EUROPE
EMĀŪS EUROPA

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VIEW

2016

Europe

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Contents

1. President's report by Willi Does
A lack of solidarity, unilateralism and abrogation of responsibility with regard to the European Union's founding values.
2. Uncertain times – a resounding 'no' to the social divide
 - 2.1. Fortress Europe is opting for security to the detriment of fundamental rights
3. Lobbying the European authorities about the Circular Economy Package.
 - 3.1. Promoting the Emmaus Movement's experiences in order to champion a social and solidarity economy model
 - a. Background
 - b. Continue surveying group practices/ know-how in this area
 - c. Raising the awareness of Emmaus activists, so that they in turn raise the awareness of civil society, the general public and decision-makers about the circular economy
 - 3.2. Internal and external mobilisation
 - a. Adopt the proposed amendments to the waste framework directive
 - b. Meeting with MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Brussels
 - c. MEPs believe that the social economy should have a place in the waste directive
4. Update on the Emmaus groups in Europe
 - a. Group locations
 - b. Sharing experiences brings alive the region and makes the Emmaus Movement stronger
5. Regional life
 - 5.1 Outcomes of the 2015 Regional Assembly
 - 5.2 Implementing the main strategic areas: the agenda and priorities of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE)
 - 5.3 The executive management body: the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe
 - 5.4 Regional and themed working groups: the European collectives
 - 5.5 Key events of the year
6. Our response to isolationism: solidarity between the Emmaus groups
7. Links with the outside world
 - 7.1 The EU transparency register
 - 7.2 Joining European networks: Migreurop and RREUSE
 - 7.3 The Emmaus Europe website
8. Paying Europe's debt towards its citizens: the social pillars
9. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat



1. The President's report

A lack of solidarity, unilateralism and abrogation of responsibility with regard to the European Union's founding values.

Europe stands at a crossroads. In the past, the European ethos was all about hope, bringing down national borders, and ensuring that the continent was peaceful following two World Wars.

Cooperation instead of confrontation was the name of the game, and for a long time it seemed to be the basis of democracy and welfare. However, things have changed drastically since then and as Martin Schulz (the former president of the European Parliament) explained, **“the breakdown of Europe is a realistic scenario”** and also **“the generation of Mitterrand-Kohl pointed out that a strong Europe would be in the interests of the member states.**

The new Orbán generation feels that we must defend the interests of our nations against Europe. That's a change of paradigms.”

New forms of **nationalism** are back, many political parties and movements are standing for national protection and hard borders for European countries, and also more and more of the continent's population is turning away from the idea of European integration.

Since the 2008 **financial crisis**, promises of an affluent European society have come to nothing. In Southern Europe, overall unemployment stands at over 25% and youth unemployment is close to 50 % Social security benefits and negotiated and social entitlements have been abolished or watered down.

Our common currency did not bind the nations together and the main responsibility for this situation lies with Germany with its trade and austerity policy.

The neoliberal concept of competition is preventing a solidarity-based solution to the financial crisis.

The failure of Europe in the **refugee crisis**

- Europe with its historical values of integration and open borders is becoming a fortress against refugees and migrants.
- There is no solidarity with Italy and Greece in order to fairly share out 120,000 refugees around Europe.
- Even countries like Austria, Sweden and Germany, initially willing to welcome and integrate refugees, are becoming more restrictive and in these countries right-wing parties are gaining more influence and power.

Europe has to realize that two of the three common goals have not been achieved:

1. Addressing the reasons why people flee their home countries.
2. A common strategy for distributing refugees in Europe.

3. Only the reduction of the figures was successful because of political agreements and pressure placed on other nations outside Europe.

What is Emmaus' response to this sad situation?

In 2016, Emmaus Europe worked on the following topics:

- **Circular Economy** - This was discussed in detail during the last RCEE (Regional Council), also with the decision to become a member of RREUSE. Several meetings with MEPs were held in Brussels and Strasbourg, also a handbook was published helping the member groups to understand the different types of circular economy work undertaken by our groups, as well as being designed to motivate the MEPs to support our amendments.
- A **Migration Collective meeting** was held in Krefeld and was attended by the local authorities and the Mayor of Grande-Synthe.
- **Training sessions** - one course was run this year with 13-15 participants. The course focused on the Emmaus Movement's history and values.
- We worked on our **action plan** with five topics and how the plan fits with the three focus areas selected by the last EI World-Assembly.
 - **An ethical and social economy providing access to fundamental rights**
 - **Social and environmental justice for a sustainable world**
 - **Peace and freedom of movement and settlement for universal citizenship**

Emmaus Europe seeks to strengthen and safeguard Emmaus' identity in Europe with the aim of:

- **Fighting all forms of exclusion** and social, racial, political, economic, religious, philosophical, ethnic and other **kinds of discrimination**.
- **Working to ensure that the rights of the poorest members of society are recognised and used.**
- **Developing different facets of the solidarity economy** to give work and employment to those in our societies who are very often forgotten and excluded.

Our experience over time has shown that migrants and undocumented people in particular want and are really able to work and earn a living: our shared responsibility is to empower them in their efforts to find a better life in Europe.

Willi Does, President

Jan 2017

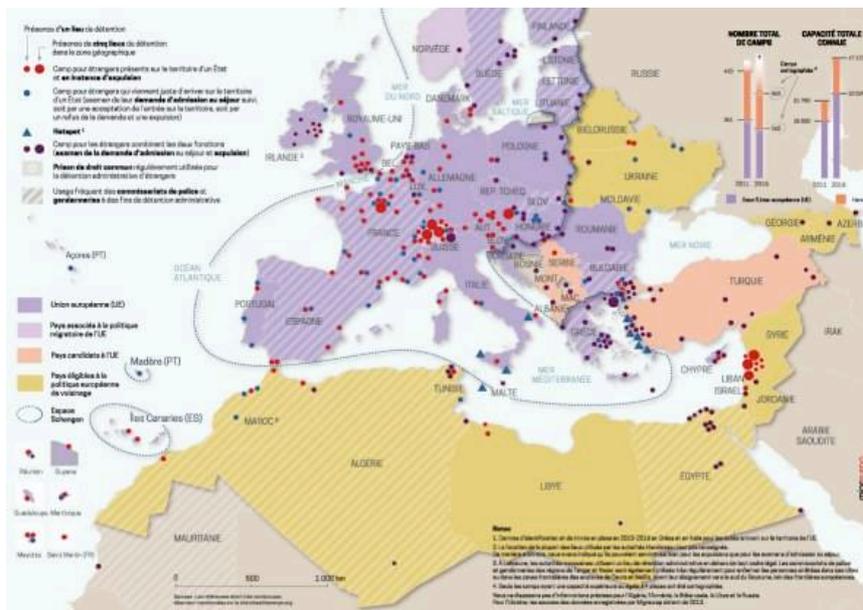
2. Uncertain times – a resounding ‘no’ to the social divide

2.1. Fortress Europe is opting for security to the detriment of fundamental rights

The motion on migration approved in a vote by the 2015 Manchester Regional Assembly is still topical today.

“Emmaus Europe calls upon you to immediately:

- Open up secure access routes to European territory for migrants and refugees in compliance with international and European law.
- Set up a migrant and refugee reception system based on solidarity between Member States, in particular activating the system provided for by the European Directive of 20 July 2001 relating to temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced people. The reception system must be appropriate throughout Europe and all the Member States should take their fair share of migrants and refugees.
- Reform the right of asylum, with the abolishment of Dublin III being the basis for this overhaul.”



2016 map of the camps – Despair at the gates of the EU Migreurop

In 2016, even though the EU is founded on the values of freedom, democracy, equality and respect for human rights promoting the peace and wellbeing of its citizens, it continues to wage war on those fleeing armed conflict through a paramilitary organisation – Frontex. In

addition to this modus operandi, **the EU has outsourced border management with the memorable EU-Turkey agreement in 2016.** Emmaus Europe steadfastly opposes endangering the right to claim asylum: “the Member States must stop fortifying their borders and at long last assume their refugee and asylum seeker reception obligations.”

Migration *hotspots* and *resettlement* are two measures which epitomize the solidarity-responsibility ethos at European level: however, until they are fully implemented, **the EU’s response to the crisis will remain flimsy from a policy-making and operational standpoint.** Time will tell whether they yield results, which in itself involves **constant monitoring of the European Council.** This would be the case even in a stable world order...

Indeed, **above and beyond simply managing migration crises**, the European Union and its Member States need to **undertake a wholesale review of their entire migration strategy**.

As things stand, **mismanagement has heightened the divisions and tensions** within and between the EU's Member States. It is worth stating that **the countries of Europe were not prepared** to collectively handle **migration in a humane fashion**. Consequently, **palliative measures such as 'recolonisation' and 'hotspots' have deepened the social divide and caused a war between the poorest members of society**.

We are shouting from the rooftops that **the indecency of the disputes between the Member States** has gone so far that **restoring a balance in this context will be difficult for all the stakeholders** at all the stages of the process.

The centrifugal spiral in which Europe is currently caught needs to be halted in order to prevent the individual interests of the States from holding sway over solidarity and cooperation in Europe.

Social peace is threatened in the EU: the discriminatory and nationalist policy of the public authorities, an increasingly individualistic and selfish view based on rejecting others. We are seeing growing citizen mistrust of the European project.

The rules of a neoliberal economy also hold sway in this context, excluding the weakest members of society and destroying the environment for future generations. This destructive policy which excludes people has a terrible impact: people flee their home countries.

The members of the European Parliament, Commission and Council have an overwhelming responsibility. **Faced with the combined pressure of the Eurosceptics and Europhobes, they must swiftly give fresh impetus to European construction and the European ideal of peace and solidarity.**

“A message to Europe's politicians: you are called upon to combat nationalism and eradicate the effects of the migration crisis which are reducing solidarity in the EU.”

This generates a **social divide and works against social cohesion**.

On the other hand, **the Emmaus model demonstrates that offering shelter and support to the most excluded people to enable them to regain their dignity via the economic, social and environmental alternative espoused by Emmaus does actually work**.

Almost 70 years ago, on 1 February 1954, our founder **Abbé Pierre awakened the conscience of the general public and politicians** by launching an appeal to help the most deprived and forgotten members of society. We are keeping this appeal alive as the situation remains as critical as ever today.

2.2. The scale and impact of the support offered by our groups in Europe

Emmaus' aims and objectives encourage us to protect the rights of those who suffer most.

The fact that certain Member States are blocking some directives with high social added value is having an impact on fundamental rights. It has to be said that the harmonization processes are currently at a standstill.

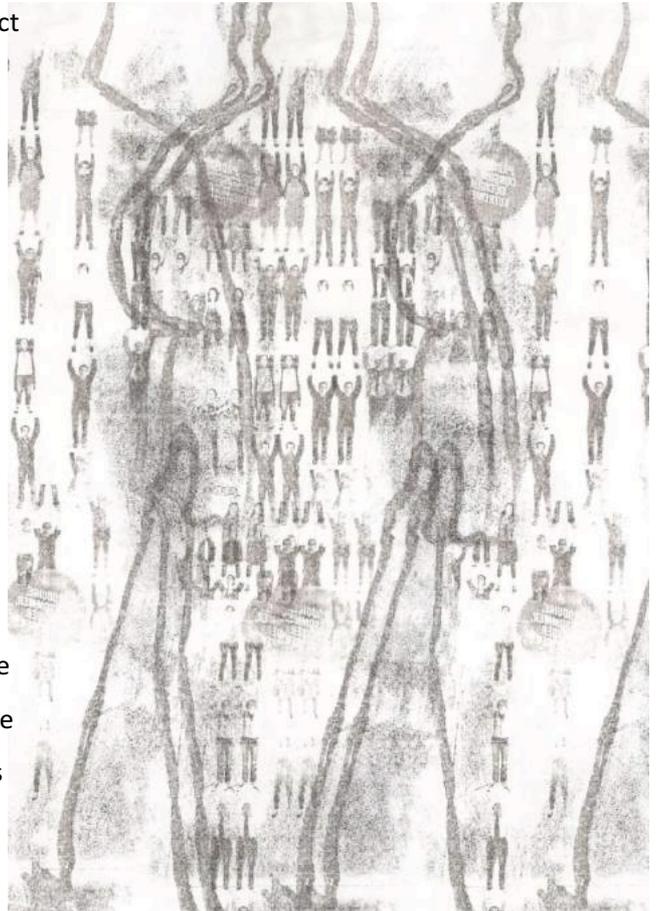
Via our 300 member groups located across Europe, we are confronted by human distress, but we demonstrate that living together in harmony is possible. Emmaus provides housing for migrants and tries to help them to obtain residency. The European groups can be sure of one thing: humane solutions commensurate with the crisis of values that we are experiencing are being implemented in Europe by our groups. **This demonstrates our**

confidence in the fact that the challenge of welcoming and integrating migrants can be met in the long term. The sheer abundance of initiatives in each country where Emmaus works is immeasurable but is most definitely palpable and concrete. It is put to the test on a daily basis in order to defend those who suffer most.

A more social and humane Europe is needed. Emmaus has been implementing this ethos for close to 70 years by:

- Offering shelter and support for migrants and campaigning to ensure that their rights are protected and respected.
- Implementing environmentally-friendly and sustainable consumption practices and methods.
- Having an austere and frugal lifestyle.
- Developing the social and solidarity economy locally.

Emmaus' own experience shows that the social and solidarity economy concept can be used to help create jobs, foster social inclusion and have a major positive impact on habits and behaviour. This observation is noteworthy in the current crisis context.



3. Lobbying the European authorities about the Circular Economy Package

3.1 Promoting the Emmaus Movement's experiences in order to champion a social and solidarity economy model

“From ragpicking to recycling: the traditional work of the Emmaus groups, whose core objectives are still offering shelter and support and solidarity.”

a) Background

Our stated mission is to **ensure that people stay aware, focus our action on human beings** and to see in them an infinite wealth and the promise of people thriving in a fraternally supportive environment.

Emmaus Europe's work with the institutions, including the European Parliament, the democratic heart of the European Union, involves:

- Publicizing all the activities and success stories generated by the Emmaus groups in Europe.
- Monitoring legislation and



negotiations about draft directives and regulations on the topics of migration, the social and solidarity economy/employment, and the environment.

- Mobilizing the Emmaus groups and alerting European and national political representatives about any legislation that could potentially jeopardize human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Indeed, over 70% of national legislation now results from decisions taken in Brussels, as public policies are taking on an increasingly European flavour. **Emmaus Europe wants to highlight its presence on the European stage in response to this phenomenon.**

Following the **February 2016 Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE), a working group on the circular economy was formed. The group is made up of elected representatives** and their aim is to jointly develop **Emmaus Europe's official opinion of the Circular Economy Package**, working in conjunction with the Regional Executive and Secretariat.

The working group laid the foundations and set a schedule for its work focusing on three areas:

- 1. Advocacy and lobbying at the European and national levels.**

2. Raising the awareness of members of the RCEE and group stakeholders.
3. Continue surveying group practices/ know-how in this area.

The circular economy is at the very heart of Emmaus' traditional income-generating work. It was therefore vital that Emmaus Europe lobbied the European parliamentary committees working on the issue and developed its own proposals.

The vote on the circular economy package presented opportunities but also threats to Emmaus in Europe: the organisation's position could be strengthened or jeopardized.

The core aim was swiftly identified, namely to safeguard and consolidate Emmaus' position as a social stakeholder in the Social and Solidarity Economy sector (SSE) in general and more specifically in the Circular Economy (CE).



What were the main risks?

- The risk of the social and solidarity economy model being misused, hijacked and trivialized is real.
- Emmaus Europe fears that the proposed package creates a system which favours large profit-driven private sector groups, rather than social stakeholders, like Emmaus, who work to develop social ties (job creation and reintegration) and protect the environment (waste reduction). This capitalist approach could compromise Emmaus' waste management and recycling work, thus stymieing the circular economy's potential social benefits. The circular economy should not be viewed as a simple economic tool used for profit-making because the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a key component. Consequently, the role played by social stakeholders needs to be acknowledged and bolstered.

This is why Emmaus Europe attentively followed the debates in the European Parliament, notably with regard to the circular economy package introduced by the European Commission in December 2015.

Throughout 2016, the organisation called for the concept of the social and solidarity economy to be introduced and voiced its recommendations and proposed solutions.

b) Continue surveying group practices/ know-how in this area

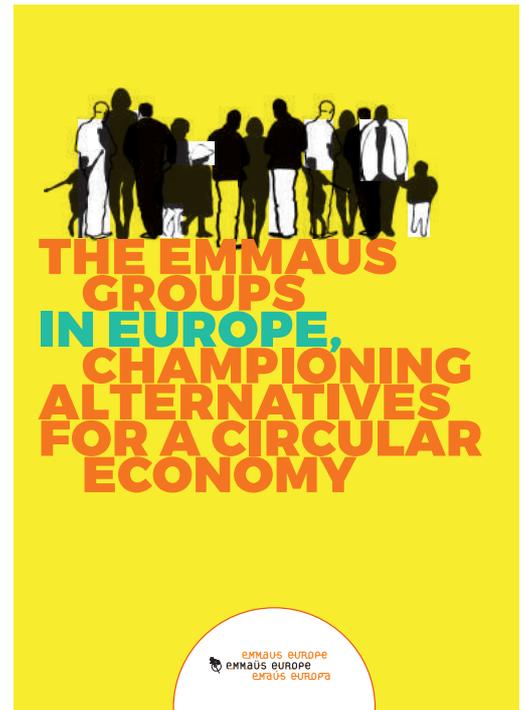
In the past, Emmaus Europe has surveyed the groups' eco-friendly practices, has produced guides and has created an Environment section on our website.

A decision was taken to update these resources, placing the emphasis on the circular economy. This led Emmaus Europe to showcase the European Emmaus Movement's unique circular economy know-how and experience.

The Emmaus groups in Europe – championing alternatives for a circular economy

This publication was based on the findings of an internal circular economy survey of 50 target groups (August-September 2016). Sixteen countries are represented, as are the different types of Emmaus organisation (communities, back-to-work schemes, committees of friends). The publication is aimed at European politicians with the idea being to continue our lobbying work, support Emmaus Europe and champion the interests of the groups.

The book describes trial initiatives and examples of innovation implemented by the groups. The strong local roots and unique nature of the work done by the groups are also highlighted.



c. Raising the awareness of Emmaus activists, so that they in turn raise the awareness of civil society, the general public and decision-makers about the circular economy

▪ A booklet explaining useful circular economy terminology was sent to the Emmaus groups at the start of summer 2016. The aim was to make the concept and issues more accessible and to showcase practical examples implemented by the Emmaus groups and the values championed by the groups in response to the environmental crisis. The waste hierarchy and links with the work undertaken by the Emmaus groups were also reviewed. Finally, the regulatory framework proposed by the European Commission was explained with useful links and a bibliography being provided for further reading.

The following documents were also sent out with the aim of raising the awareness of Emmaus activists:

- Our position paper listing Emmaus Europe's assertions.
- All of the lobbying documents were debated in the regions in France. This enabled feedback to be obtained from the groups, as Emmaus Europe is always responsive to local/regional concerns.

3.2 Internal and external mobilisation

“A proven alternative model that European legislation should protect and encourage”

In line with the work done in previous years, in 2016 Emmaus Europe started lobbying European politicians about the Circular Economy Package. The aim is to safeguard the Emmaus model in Europe and get the Social and Solidarity Economy – with its aims of fostering cohesion and creating employment – included in the circular economy. In practical terms, the following national/European level advocacy work was done:

Emmaus Europe tabled amendments to the proposal for a recast of the Framework Directive on Waste (30 June 2016) in order to influence the debate and the content of the directive.

The following documents were sent out throughout the first half of 2016 in order to have an influence:

- Letters/emails to **MEPs to ask them to consider Emmaus Europe’s position on this issue.**
- Letter templates were also made available to the member groups so that each group could advocate and ramp up the campaign at the national level (and even in their own constituency).

a) Adopt the proposed amendments to the waste framework directive

- **Include the Social and Solidarity Economy in the proposed package.**
- **Acknowledge and consolidate the role of the social stakeholders in waste management and recycling**
- **Maintain the distinction between waste and non-waste**
- **Provide access to information for preparing for reuse stakeholders**
- **Call for the inclusion of a visible and consistent eco-tax payment**
- **Differentiate between preparing for reuse and recycling objectives.**
- **Safeguard income generated by the sale of products prepared for reuse**
- **Require the final waste generated by preparing for reuse to be collected**
- **Limit the use of delegated acts by the Commission**

The Environment Committee (ENVI) started to consider the amendments on **29 September 2016**. This committee is tasked with discussing environmental matters in the European Parliament.

Finally, the self-same committee is set to vote on the final report. The **vote was initially scheduled for 8 November 2016 but was put back until 24 January 2017**. The plenary session of the European Parliament will then take a vote on the legal text and it will be studied by the Council of the EU, made up of representatives of the Member States.

As the dates were put back and the Environment Committee vote was postponed until January 2017, contact was maintained throughout 2016 with:

- MEPs (particularly those from countries in which there is an Emmaus Europe member group).
- The ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy Committee) parliamentary committee (70 members and 70 substitute members).
- The ENVI – Environment Committee (70 members and 70 substitute members).
- The European Commission’s Environment Directorate-General, in this case an Emmaus group from Europe is in touch.
- The civil servants at the ENVI Committee’s secretariat in Brussels.
- The office of the former president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz (Germany, S&D)
- The president of the French Socialist Delegation, Ms Pervenche Berès, a member of the ITRE Committee.

b) Meeting with MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Brussels

The amendments submitted by Emmaus Europe and incorporated by the MEPs

All the amendments (1-8) were tabled at least once.

Eight different nationalities were represented at the meetings we held: Germany, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy and Sweden. We met with five political groupings: all the parties, apart from the independents and sovereigntists.



*Francesc Gambus, rapporteur for the directive on waste landfill, EPP – Spain and Willi Does, president of Emmaus Europe.
Pavel Telicka – vice-president of ALDE – Czech Republic and Julio de la Granja*



Michèle Rivasi and Pascal Durand, the Greens sitting on the Environment Committee, and a tweet by Jean Arthuis – ALDE – chair of the Committee on Budgets - France.

Apart from the important meetings held with Dominique Riquet, Jo Leinen, Robert Rochefort, Edouard Martin, Guillaume Balas, Luke Ming Flanagan, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Estefania Torres, Michel Dantin and Françoise Grossetête, Emmaus Europe was in regular contact with Simona Bonafe and Pervenche Berès.



Left to right: Simona Bonafe, Pervenche Berès, Gilles Pargneaux, Jo Leinen. Socialists & Democrats

Emmaus Europe was also in contact with the following:

Mark Demesmaeker, European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Belgium, Karl Florenz, EPP, waste directive rapporteur, Germany, Philippe Juvin, EPP, France, Miriam Dalli, S&D – Malta, Claude Turns, Greens, Luxembourg.

A few observations

The MEPs listened to Emmaus Europe’s assertions. Indeed, as the Emmaus stakeholders have been demonstrating on a daily basis for close to 70 years, the circular economy is much more than a simple economic tool designed to make European industry more competitive; first and foremost, the circular economy has great potential for fostering solidarity and sustainability in Europe.

Some of the groups, particularly those on the left of the political spectrum, took on board our assertions. However, we encountered a terminology issue, i.e. **the term SSE (Social and Solidarity Economy) has no legal standing in the European Union because it has not been defined in any pre-existing legal documents.** More support will be needed from the centre and right-wing parties.

This is a considerable challenge and relates to the EU's strategy for the sector as a whole. The Member States may have a role to play in further pursuing the social aspect of the circular economy, which would involve adopting a legal definition of the SSE at European level.

Other circular economy meetings

The non-profit **Climate Chance** and the **Heinrich Böll Stiftung France Foundation** arranged a colloquium on *Comparison and prospects for French and German regional action and public policy on energy transition and the circular economy*. It took place on 12 December 2016 at the Palais du Luxembourg in Paris. Emmaus Europe was invited and Willi Does took part in the discussion day at the French Senate. Simone Peter, the co-president of the German Greens, and the former environment, energy and transport minister for Saarland, also took part.

Willi Does specifically took part in the following round-table discussion: **Public policy and regional action on the circular economy**. **Bernard Soulage** and **Patricia Savin**, the president of **ORÉE**, chaired the discussion.



Willi Does was able to exchange views with Nicolas Thierry, vice-president of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region of France, tasked with the issue of the environment, and a representative of Suez – Veolia.

CEES - Cercle Europe et Economie Sociale

Since 2011, the CEES (the Europe & Social Economy Circle) has been holding informal monthly meetings in Paris between French social and solidarity economy players and social entrepreneurs on the one hand, and European politicians on the other. The circle brings together the main players in the social economy in France (including BPCE, MGEN, Groupe UP, MAIF, le Mouvement Associatif, CASDEN and la Ligue de l'enseignement).

Meetings were held with the president of the circle in order to find out more about each other's activities.

Willi Does, the region's president, and the coordinator, Gabriela Martin, took part in a lunch attended by **Philippe Juvin, an EPP MEP and member of IMCO (Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection)**,

at which the conversation focused on **an overview of European current affairs from a political perspective and the issues in 2017.**

The programme for 2017 includes a meeting in January with **Virginie Rozière**, a member of the S&D and an MEP, for a discussion about the parliamentary own-initiative report on a special status for social and solidarity economy enterprises, currently being drafted by the JURI Committee (Committee on Legal Affairs).

c) MEPs believe that the social economy should have a place in the waste directive

At the time of writing (**25 January 2017**), the European Parliament's Environment Committee (**ENVI Committee**) has just voted on **amendments to the framework directive on waste**. There is still a long way to go before arriving at the final revised directive. However, the result of the vote is quite positive for us, although some details still need clarifying.

Key facts about the version approved by the committee in a vote:

- The social economy has officially been given a place, as proposed by Emmaus Europe (recognition and need for the role played by social stakeholders in waste recycling to be consolidated).
- A definition of 'preparing for reuse' exclusively for products/materials which have become waste.
- A definition of approved preparing for reuse centres in line with the RREUSE network's definition.
- The preparing for reuse targets have been separated: 3% of total municipal waste generated between now and 2025 and 5% by 2030 – **An Emmaus Europe and RREUSE proposal**.
- Preferential access to waste for social enterprises.
- Inclusion of social enterprises in some provisions to implement Extended Producer Responsibility.

Naturally, some issues still need addressing, so the arguments to be highlighted need to be brought together with a view to the **plenary vote in Strasbourg on 13-15 March 2017**.

The directive will then be adopted, **following a final review by the rest of the MEPs. Following the plenary session, the Parliament will have adopted its first official stance on the amendments made to the framework directive on waste. The next stage in the process will be negotiations with the national governments coordinated by the Maltese Presidency of the EU.**

Emmaus Europe is therefore calling on the Member States and the European Union to take responsibility for protecting a proven model, a model that provides practical everyday alternatives and works for a more sustainable and humane world.

“It is time for the Emmaus groups across Europe to take action!”

4. Update on the Emmaus groups in Europe

a. Group locations

In 2016, Emmaus Europe had **304 member organisations** in 17 countries.

The following map shows the locations of the Emmaus groups in Europe.



Emmaus is present in the countries marked in dark orange on the map: Germany, Spain, Italy, Portugal, UK, Sweden, Finland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, Ukraine, Romania, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Belgium, Denmark and Albania.

Emmaus Europe is now the Emmaus region with the largest number of Emmaus groups. New groups have joined the Movement, both in Eastern (Romania, Bosnia and Albania - three in total) and Western Europe (Germany, UK, Finland and France - 14 in total).

b. Sharing experiences brings alive the region and makes the Emmaus Movement stronger

The sheer number of groups in Europe inevitably means that there are major cultural, social and even economic differences between the groups. **This is Emmaus Europe's strength.** All the Emmaus groups in Europe champion alternatives for a truly circular economy

The daily lives of the groups in Europe are filled by solidarity economy activities: recycling, and offering shelter and support, training and reinclusion to the most disadvantaged people. **Social initiatives in the following areas:** housing and social support, campaigning for the rights of the weakest members of society, environmental protection and developing Fair Trade. **Initiatives to safeguard human rights:** campaign to ensure that the right of asylum is respected and campaign against human trafficking (grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities). **International solidarity initiatives:** sending containers of goods and other forms of support for the activities of groups in a variety of countries.

In 2016, everyday life in Europe was primarily marked by **a decline in respect for migrants' rights, the social balance being upset by the economic crisis, and austerity policies causing poverty and unemployment to rise. In other words, a larger swathe of society is being marginalised.**

5. Regional life

5.1. Outcomes of the Regional Assembly held in Manchester in 2015

The European members of the Emmaus International Board (known as CEIs) and the European member of the Wise Persons' Committee elected in September 2015 in Manchester took office in April 2016 at the World Assembly held in Jesolo in Italy. If you wish to find out more about the 2016-2020 term of office elected representatives, please refer to the Regional Assembly minutes in the members' area of the website: www.emmaus-europe.org

The 5th Regional Assembly **set the work areas and priorities enabling it to achieve its objectives** for the period until the next assembly.

This will take the following form for the next four years:

The European Emmaus groups meeting at their regional assembly have reaffirmed their commitment to step up their initiatives and campaigns to address the root causes of exclusion. They are working to combat predatory international finance, the economic and social policies that cause extreme poverty, security-based migration policies, and a failure to care for the environment, all this in cooperation with civil society.

The groups have devised the following action plan so that their objectives can be achieved.

- 1. Step up our European Union lobbying work on the issues that affect us by drawing on the groups' day-to-day initiatives.**
- 2. Promote training so that we can analyse and understand the challenges of today's society.**
- 3. Campaign against current European migration policy in order to champion freedom of movement in conjunction with Emmaus International and the Emmaus Movement's national organisations (referring to article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention).**
- 4. Defend and protect commonly-held resources in order to guarantee access for all.**
- 5. Bolster solidarity in the Emmaus Movement**

Emmaus Europe knows that you have a European vocation and are working with the interests of future generations in mind to convey Emmaus' recommendations and make them sustainable. Over the course of 2016, the Emmaus Europe Board transformed these ideas into initiatives, with these initiatives being a common basis for all, which we must continue to implement.



5.2 Implementing the main strategic areas: the agenda and priorities of the Regional Councils of Emmaus Europe - RCEE – the organisation's Board

12-14 February 2016, the Chatou branch of Emmaus Bougival, France

Apart from visits and meetings arranged by Emmaus Bougival, and a session on the international dimension and issues in the run-up to the Jesolo World Assembly led by the Secretariat of Emmaus International, the February 2016 RCEE sought to develop the policy areas selected by the Manchester 2015 Regional Assembly. The national delegates shared news about the latest events in their countries, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE. The European solidarity programme was also devised at this statutory meeting in which elected representatives who took office at the Jesolo World Assembly and outgoing elected representatives took part.

14-16 October, Emmaus Haarzuilens, Netherlands

The second regional council of the year was only attended by representatives elected for the 2015-2019 term of office who took up their roles in April 2016.

This statutory meeting revolved around **Emmaus Haarzuilens' 50th anniversary celebrations**.

A morning session was devoted to Circular Economy issues and news, while the meeting also saw the new elected representatives take up their roles. All of the representatives took part in the Dutch groups' celebrations at Haarzuilens.

Thanks to two long-standing European communities for the warm welcome!

2015-2019 period of office

***The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe is comprised of Councillors of Emmaus International (CEIs):** Jean Karekezi, Hans Van Beek, Silvana Nogarole, Tobias Petersson, Julia Finer, Jean-Philippe Légaut, Nathalie Martz, Paul Matthews, Eduardo Sanchez, Maria Luisa Testori, Michael Heap and Willi Does.

And 14 national delegates: Willi Does representing Germany, Jean-Marc Sigrist representing Switzerland, Gregorz Hajduk representing Poland, Gélu Nichitel representing Romania, Jose Maria Garcia Bresó representing Spain, Robert Jansson representing Finland, Jos Van der Meer representing the Netherlands, Delia Ressende Clément representing Portugal, Paul Matthews and then Michael Hudson representing the UK, Julia Finer and Viktoria Olausson representing Sweden, Maria Balseca representing Italy, Annie Blanc representing France, Sabina Arnaut Jahic representing Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Julio de la Granja representing Belgium.

Patrick Atohoun is a member by right as the chair of Emmaus International.

5.3 Day-to-day implementation of the work areas: the Regional Executive – Emmaus Europe’s executive body

Three face-to-face meetings of the Regional Executive were held in 2016: 14 March, 29-30 July and 9-10 December. All the meetings were held in the shared Emmaus building in Montreuil in the Paris Region (it should be noted that the Executive is consulted by email on a daily basis by the secretariat, elected representatives and member groups).

Members of the Executive since September 2015: Willi Does, President, Silvana Nogarole, Secretary, Michael Heap, Treasurer, Hans Van Beek, Birgitta Goranson-Iliste and Julia Finer, members.

5.4 Regional and themed working groups: the European collectives

The European Collectives are working groups. The collectives are an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the reality of the groups and to discuss:

- Each member’s situation (premises, activities, shelter and support offered).
- Progress made on the initiatives supported by Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.
- Applications for support (practical and financial support).
- The regional transport programme (loads sent and needs for the next programme period).

Emmaus Europe has two types of collective: the geographical collectives (Romania, Poland and Ukraine, and Bosnia-Herzegovina) and the themed collectives.

a) European geographical collectives: mobilizing the Europe region and bringing alive solidarity between countries

- The Romania Collective met twice in 2016: in March in Satu Mare (Romania) and in September in Sion (Switzerland).
- The Poland-Ukraine Collective met twice in 2016: in May in Rzeszów and in October in Lublin (both in Poland).
- The Bosnia-Herzegovina Collective met twice: in Sarajevo in July and in December in Montreuil.

New collective representatives have been appointed and 2016 was their first year in post.

For more information, please refer to the 2016 solidarity review and the meeting minutes.

b) The European migration / human trafficking collective, Emmaus Krefeld, Germany: 24-5 June 2016.

In the current migration context, the meeting focused on people's tendency to cling to their cultural identities. Stakeholders from the Emmaus Movement in Europe met with representatives of Krefeld local council and the local refugee centre. Damien Carême, the mayor of Grande-Synthe in the Calais area and the person behind France's first humanitarian migrant camp, took part in the two days of collaborative discussions. Each participant was able to share their experiences and opinions of the tendency to cling to cultural identities, while seeking to address it.

The presentation of positive local initiatives run in Krefeld and Grande-Synthe and refugees' testimonies added to the debate with concrete examples of offering shelter and support to people in very different migration situations. Krefeld is taking in people who mostly want to put down roots in Germany and be a part of society. The Grande-Synthe camp, meanwhile, is a response to the humanitarian emergency and primarily provides accommodation for people looking to travel to the UK. In both cases, the active involvement and support of the local population and the courage of local politicians **are vital if positive migrant reception initiatives are to be successfully run.**

The **MEP Cécile Kashetu Kynge** (Italy's former minister for immigration), a co-rapporteur at the European Parliament, sent the meeting a video message about the *situation in the Mediterranean and the need for the EU to have a global approach to migration*. Her message stressed that safe access routes to Europe need to be created.

This meeting fell within the scope of the rollout of the policy areas approved by the September 2015 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe, namely to step up our European Union lobbying work and to protest against current European migration policy in order to champion freedom of movement in conjunction with Emmaus International and the Emmaus Movement's national organizations. In keeping with this work, **the Migration and Human Trafficking Collective will continue its work championing solutions that enable people from all backgrounds to integrate society and will strive to ensure that their fundamental rights are respected.**

Let's move beyond the selfishness of individual countries and awaken solidarity!

c) The main concepts setting the tone and content of the work to be done

Call for the Dublin system to be abolished

Make a shared declaration to the media/Join in with a shared EF and EI initiative to champion Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: *"Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."*

Use the social networks and education to raise civil society's awareness.

d) The joint campaign to defend Article 13

Emmaus Europe joined the steering committee set up to coordinate the project. The committee brings together representatives of 20 communities, Emmaus International and Emmaus France, and the community branch of Emmaus France, which launched the initiative. The campaign in support of Article 13 has involved swimmers and kayakers crossing the Straits of Gibraltar and groups doing campaigning work in their local areas. For more information visit the campaign's website: <http://article13-emmaus.org/01/>

e) Focusing on the most sensitive European issues: the EU Member States are concerned about the increase in the number of asylum seekers

The European Commission proposed several revisions of the provisions of the Asylum Package on 13 July 2016. These revisions are a new component part of an overall reform. One of the aims was to **amend the Dublin IV System regulating the Member State responsible for processing asylum claims.**

Bolstered by its campaign on these regulations between 2009 and 2013, Emmaus Europe has noted that the first phases of the process of harmonising the European asylum system have not been evaluated in any way, even though the last legal texts were approved in a vote in 2013. How can a system whose strengths and weaknesses are unknown be improved? The stated goal of these proposals is to tackle the migration crisis and to make the asylum system fairer and more efficient across Europe, while guaranteeing the fundamental rights of asylum seekers. The proposals do contain positive points, notably with regard to quicker access to employment for asylum seekers. However, they are likely to water down the standard of the overall system.

Apart from a **measure stipulating that provision can solely be made for asylum seekers in the Member State that is examining their applications**, measures that seem very restrictive have also been included. The funding and energy being harnessed could be used to combat poverty, while fostering the integration of our temporary guests! In our 300 groups across Europe, we live side-by-side with the most forgotten members of society and we demonstrate that we can all live happily together.

“Far from being a purely technical initiative, our primary aim is to draw your attention to the fact that the **right of asylum** should not be tarnished!”

The term obscures real-life situations which are all too often forgotten - human beings who are fleeing danger and find themselves living on European soil in unspeakable conditions and in no-go areas.

Everyone is duty-bound to fight for their right to be acknowledged and therefore ensure that article 1 of the European charter is upheld: “Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.” **Definitely an issue requiring monitoring!**

5. 5. Key events in 2016

The World Assembly was held in Jesolo (Italy) in April 2016

At a time when hundreds more migrants had once again perished when attempting to cross the Mediterranean, the Emmaus representatives, whose groups are located in 37 countries on four continents, met in Jesolo in Italy for their World Assembly.

Emmaus activists from around the world affirmed that **“it is not enough to act, we must conquer - defeating the forces pushing against us.”**

An ethical and social economy providing access to fundamental rights

Social and environmental justice for a sustainable world

Peace and freedom of movement and settlement for universal citizenship

These three priorities set by the Emmaus Movement are the central theme for the work to be done in the post-2016 world assembly period.

If you wish to read the full declaration (**For a renewed insurrection of intelligence against absurdity and in favour of justice**) published at the 2016 WA, please go to: <http://www.emmaus-international.org>.

2016: an anniversary year in Europe

2016 was the year of the 60th anniversary of the Federation and Emmaus Haarzuilens' 50th anniversary.

Emmaus Helsinki was founded in 1966 and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016.

It was Emmaus Berne's 50th anniversary in Switzerland.

Emmaus celebrated its 25th anniversary in the UK. In 1991, the first Emmaus community in the UK started work in Cambridge with two caravans and a portakabin.

The 2016 Verdensspejl Festival

The Emmaus group Genvej til Udvikling (known as GtU) took part in this festival during the Aarhus Festuge, the Aarhus arts and culture festival. This year's Verdensspejl Festival, which showcases cultural diversity, took place in the historic function rooms of Aarhus' city centre racecourse. The festival lasted for a week (28 August – 3 September).

GtU contributed to the 2016 festival by selling goods from the developing world and by participating with two of its members in a debate about migration. The debate about migration was one of the festival's activities. Participants discussed freedom of movement and Emmaus Europe's involvement, with EE championing Emmaus' position on this issue.

Julien K.M. Murhula, the RCEE representative for migration, also contributed to the debate. The debate and various activities were a source of inspiration and provided food for thought.

Visit to Abbé Pierre Klunserre in Denmark

Emmaus Europe's coordinator visited the Abbé Pierre Klunserre community based in Alborg. The meeting with Roger Depoilly and the various stakeholders on a big selling day enabled us to recall the story of this Emmaus group and its contribution to the Emmaus Movement. Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome!



March 2016 – Invitation from the Progressive Caucus, a progressive forum for discussion and action in the European Parliament – socialists and democrats, greens, European left. Eva Joly, Ernest Urtasun, Fabio De Masi, Curzio Maltese, Sergio Cofferati and Guillaume Balas are the people behind this initiative. **The Progressive Caucus aims to give a voice to those who develop alternatives in Europe by offering a platform, raising awareness, encouraging public debate and running information campaigns. Emmaus Europe participated alongside Emmaus France on the topic of migration. Emmaus France stressed the fact that the Emmaus Movement's values are being put into practice and that we show that migrants can be helped and integrated. The counter-example of Calais. Emmaus Europe focused on the shelter and support offered by groups in Europe and its assertions with a view to recreating a more humane Europe. These include calling for safe access routes to Europe, implementation of the temporary directive in the event of a mass influx of people, and reforming the right of asylum.**



In 2016, protecting the victims of human trafficking remained a topical issue

Even though human trafficking may appear to be an impossibly complex international issue, this is not the time to give up. The groups in Europe continue to develop broad-based initiatives in this area.

- In July 2016, the Bosnia Collective travelled to the **European Resource Centre for Preventing Human Trafficking and All Forms of Exploitation** in Sarajevo. This was the chance for the Bosnian Ministry of Security's anti-trafficking coordinator to reaffirm her support for the activities run by the Emmaus-ISF.
- In October 2016, the EE president travelled to Vilnius to meet the mayor and deputy mayor, accompanied by the leader of the **Missing Persons' Families Support Centre (MPFSC)**. The aim was to demonstrate the Emmaus Movement's international reach and to confirm the council's support for the activities run by the organisation.
- **Focus on human trafficking** Publication of resources in line with Emmaus Europe's work. This project is

based on the observation that the issue of human trafficking is often relegated to second place in discussions with the topic of migration holding sway, as was the case in Krefeld in 2016, even though the increase in the number of migrants has significant implications for human trafficking. Emmaus Europe released two publications: a more conceptual publication about the victims of human trafficking and why this issue concerns Emmaus. The second publication aims to shed light on data about migration and trafficking in 2016.

Thank you to the contributors from the Emmaus-ISF at the Sarajevo Centre!

Training in Europe

The Emmaus in all of its facets training course was held for the third successive year at Emmaus Cologne in Germany. The course took place on 13-16 November 2016 and attracted 13 participants from eight countries: Germany, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, UK, Romania, Switzerland and Ukraine.

The course is aimed at companions, employees, leaders, volunteers and friends keen to reinforce their feeling of belonging to the Emmaus Movement. The course harnesses the knowledge of resource people from the Emmaus Movement and focuses on:

- Gaining an understanding of the history of Emmaus and its founder, Abbé Pierre.
- Familiarizing oneself with the Emmaus Movement's fundamental values, notably following the Jesolo World Assembly (2016).
- Emmaus' development in Europe and worldwide.
- Give new groups an idea about the Movement's reach.



This training course is also a great opportunity for Emmaus stakeholders from across Europe to meet. It is an opportunity for everyone to share their experiences, practices and vision of the Movement. These shared moments rekindle the feeling of belonging to a movement, particularly for groups from countries in which there are few Emmaus groups.

**Championing the Emmaus values in Europe involves
being receptive to the Emmaus ethos as it is lived out elsewhere.**

6. Our response to isolationism: solidarity between the Emmaus groups

6.1 Activities supported by the European groups in 2016

- A solidarity programme brought together the European groups in 2016. The programme enables groups to become involved in funding one or more solidarity initiatives run by the European member organisations that have applied for support.
- 2016 Paris Salon: In 2016, 14 European groups from outside of France worked alongside the French Emmaus groups in support of international solidarity outside Europe. Groups from Belgium, the Netherlands, the UK and Romania attended the Paris Salon.
- Regional sales: Our friends in the Franche-Comté Burgundy Region held a sale in 2016. Their sale took place on 1 October 2016 in Vesoul. Our friends in the Nord Pas de Calais-Picardy Region held their sale on 2 April in Lille. A substantial proportion of their profits has been allocated to European solidarity.



6.2. Initiative monitoring by Emmaus Europe

Monitoring and supporting the groups is made possible by the links forged with them, by them taking part in work meetings, and by the friendly and responsible welcome they all offer. *Thank you to everyone for your cooperation!*

Please refer to the 2016 solidarity review for more information about the solidarity initiatives.

Taking action together to discuss alternatives to make for a fairer and more socially responsible Europe.

6.3. The summer 2016 work camps in Europe

The summer camps: working for the good of others. It should be noted that the Emmaus groups host volunteers throughout the year and not just in summertime. The aim of the summer volunteer programme is to enable the general public to discover the values of the Emmaus Movement and the people involved in it.

In mid-April 2016, the European work camp schedule was sent to all the European Emmaus groups and was publicized outside the Emmaus Movement via the EE website (new generations tab). **In 2016, work camps were run in the following European countries: Italy, Finland, Romania, Belgium, Poland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Spain, Lithuania and UK.**

7. Links with the outside world

7.1 The EU transparency register

The EU has a transparency register containing information about organisations whose work is linked to European policy (e.g. specialized consultants, NGOs, think tanks, etc). The transparency register can be consulted by the public and is used by politicians and the institutions when a request is received.

Being on the register bolsters Emmaus Europe's credibility and makes a whole range of formalities more fluid.

Emmaus Europe has undertaken the formalities to be included on the register. Our registration took effect in August 2016. Emmaus Europe now receives public consultations launched by the European Commission in the following areas: employment and social affairs, environment, regional policy and home affairs.
<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/>

7.2 Joining European networks

MIGREUROP - This European and African network of activists and researchers endeavours to publicize and combat the widespread detention of foreign nationals and the growing numbers of migrant camps, an approach



at the heart of the EU's policy of 'outsourcing' border management. Migreurop was founded in 2002 and brings together over 45 associations and 55 individual members from 17 countries in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Emmaus Europe has been involved in Migreurop since 2013 and has been a member since 2016. Go to the website for further information: <http://www.migreurop.org>

RREUSE is a network of social enterprises active in reuse, repair and recycling. The network aims to foster interaction between its members and lobby the European authorities. RREUSE has over 30 members in 18 countries. Emmaus Europe has been cooperating with RREUSE since 2016. Find out more by visiting the website: <http://www.rreuse.org>



7. 3. The Emmaus Europe website

The Emmaus Europe website is used to share information about life in the region and to find out what is going on in the European Emmaus groups.

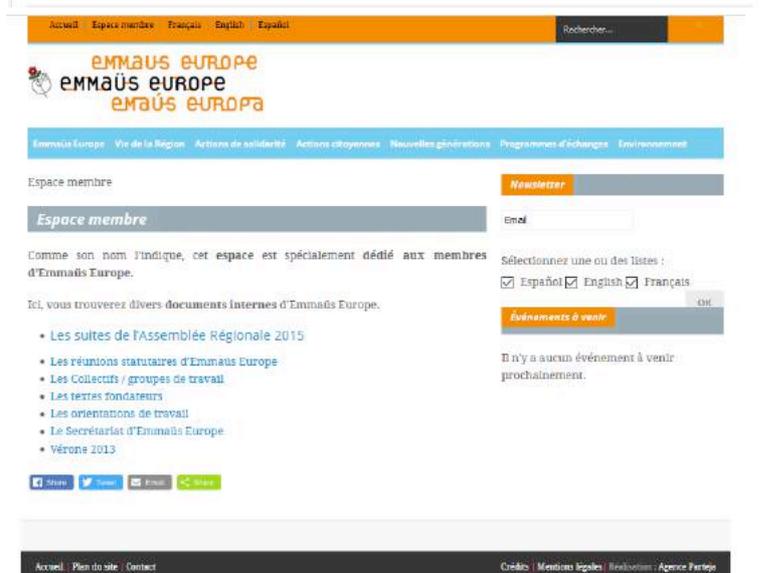
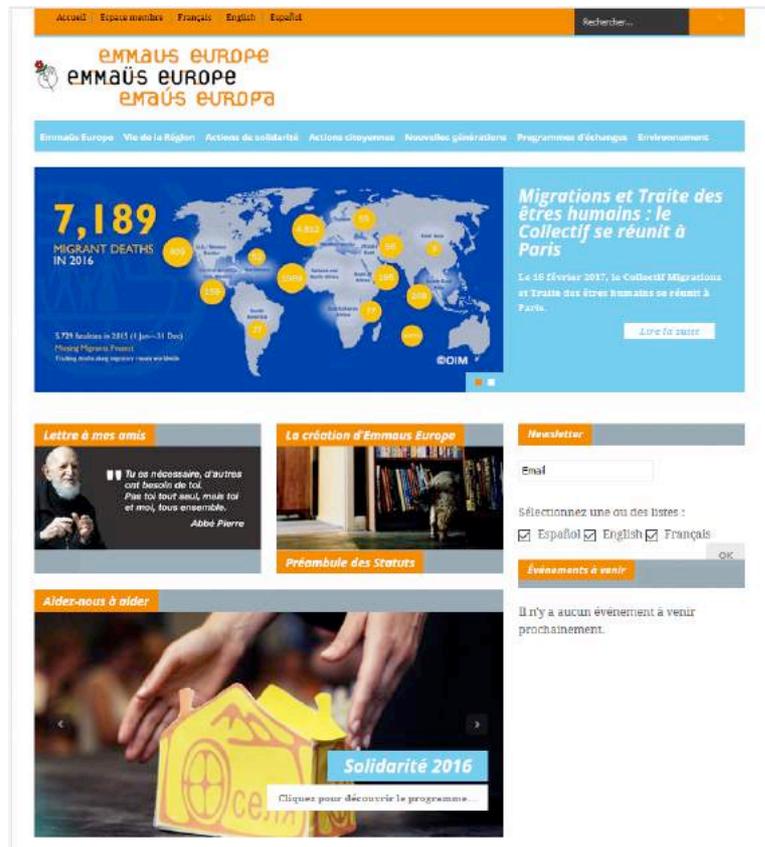
The website contains comprehensive information about Emmaus Europe and a large number of resources about the organisation's different work areas.

The year is punctuated by numerous regional events listed in the *Main events of the year* section. News about Emmaus Europe and the European Emmaus groups is also regularly published on our website.

The list of European elected representatives, the directory of European Emmaus groups, and the list of organisations with which Emmaus Europe works, are all resources available for consultation on the website.

Finally, the website contains a complete archive of Emmaus Europe's documents. Minutes from statutory meetings, reports from the Collective meetings, annual reviews and the annual accounts, as well as many other documents, can be downloaded from the website, either as open-access or members only documents in the members' area (password: eemmaus).

Our website belongs to the European Emmaus groups. Everyone is invited to share information about their activities and events and post their videos on the site.



8. Paying Europe's debt towards its citizens: the social pillars

“Advocating a cohesive Europe which does not sacrifice social standards”

2016 truly was a year for debates about the social pillars. The European commissioner Marianne Thyssen reported back throughout the year on the debate and the proposals shared by the experts and political decision-makers in her area of expertise. Thyssen is the European commissioner for employment, social affairs, skills and labour mobility. Members of Emmaus Europe held a meeting with her in March 2016 at the European Commission in Brussels.

Thyssen stated that she had two objectives at the start of her period of office: firstly to “help create jobs and improve social protection” and secondly to “combat poverty and social exclusion.” She was willing to embark upon a real dialogue with the Emmaus activists, who were able to discuss several topical European issues with her.

Her aim is to ensure social equality so as to prevent social dumping. In this respect, the commissioner stresses the need to increase the involvement of the workforce and management in economic governance.

One of the commissioner's priorities is to give fresh impetus to a social Europe. The involvement of civil society, notably the Emmaus Movement, would only help strengthen the social dynamic and citizen involvement.

Would this fresh impetus address the current issue of an unfinished social Europe which is kindling nationalism and fuelling populism?

Would one of Jean-Claude Juncker's objectives be to foster convergence of European economic governance in order to **reconcile social and macro-economic objectives**?

Progress therefore needs to be made on shaping a social Europe and developing a programme to coordinate social policy in Europe.

Tangible improvements are urgent and worth considering so as not to lose credibility in the eyes of European citizens. We need to return to the path of cohesion and solidarity.

In 2017, Europe is still being negatively affected by the economic difficulties in the eurozone and the uncertainty caused by Brexit at a time of key national parliamentary elections (Netherlands, Germany, France and potentially Italy). The situation in 2017 is marked by the rise of nationalism-populism as an inescapable fact.

Outside Europe, the world is an increasingly uncertain place, and the EU needs to find its place.

On 22 January 2007, Abbé Pierre, the founder of the Emmaus Movement, left us “to go on a long journey”, as he used to say. A decade has passed since his death and the anniversary represents a chance to showcase Abbé Pierre's spiritual legacy, which is alive and well in the Emmaus groups, while continuing to champion social justice and solidarity on all fronts and in all areas. **2017 looks set to be a pivotal year.**

9. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat

- **Véronica Acevedo Caro:** Admin-finance assistant
- **Camille Decaens:** Solidarity coordinator
- **Marie Tixier:** Events coordinator
- **Gabriela Martin:** Coordinator

- **By email**

contact@emmaus-europe.org

- **Stay in touch**

www.emmaus-europe.org

For information about the fundamental rights championed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, please visit <http://droitshumains.emmaus-europe.org/>

- **By telephone**

0033 1 41 58 25 70 / 71 /73 or 60

- **By post**

47 avenue de la résistance, 93104 Montreuil,
France



« **Look,
really take a good
look at what we,
the good for nothings,
the poorest and most
despised people,
have been able to do
with the rubbish
nobody else wants.** »

*Abbé Pierre,
September 1954*

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