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RE VIEW 2017

Report

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1. The President's report

A lack of solidarity and shelter and support

At the time of writing, there have been a number of developments to the situation in Europe :

For the first time MEPs voted to remove their vice-president, Ryszard Czarnecki, a member of PIS from Poland. He had compared a fellow Polish legislator to a Nazi collaborator. Ryszard Henryk Czarnecki is a Polish politician and a member of Law and Justice. He has been an MEP since 2004 and vice-president of the European Parliament for the 2014-2019 period of office.

The 2019 European elections: on the same day, the Parliament voted against a list of European common candidates to continue with a more open brand of democracy.

These are merely two examples for us in Europe of the new forms of isolationism, the focus on national interests, and competition between nations.

Although war is not being fought in Europe, or rather in the centre of Europe, this does not mean that we are living through a period of peace.

Fires are raging at the outer edges of Europe: in the Balkans, in Ukraine, without even mentioning our near neighbours in North Africa and the Middle East.

And Europe is building more and more new walls, and is building Fortress Europe around itself, and is protecting itself against the millions of refugees who will be coming here in the long term.

Just like the United States, Europe has a “backyard” in which “failed states” in Africa and the Middle East are located.

Europe and the EU have not enabled states, in particular African states, to develop because of their implacable neoliberal economic policy over the past 30 years and above all and finally by continuing colonialism and imperialism.

“This “development policy” means that in the long term we are jointly responsible and to blame for these migratory flows, this migration towards our continent, which offers a promise of peace, justice and freedom, while protecting itself against migrants using walls, barriers and perfidious bilateral agreements.

Europe as a player in a globalised world champions the free movement of goods, services and capital, but wants to prevent human beings from freely travelling to Europe.

If we have to have globalisation, let it be fair: let there be freedom of movement of people and goods everywhere and for everyone.

We at Emmaus Europe act as guarantors, with our 304 member groups in 17 countries, of the Emmaus Movement in Europe, espousing the values of peace, freedom and justice. For over a decade we have been urging our MEPs in Strasbourg and Brussels to commit to these values on our continent.

We must continue to focus on achieving a united, free and fair Europe.

We discussed these trends at our last regional council meeting in Sweden.

We once again reiterated that **on a daily basis our groups welcome and integrate the most excluded members of society into our solidarity economy system, and we demonstrate that another society is possible with everyone who lives in Europe, and with everyone who is looking to live a decent life.**

Last year, we decided to join Migreurop and RREUSE as a natural consequence of our commitment and also to seek out circular economy and migration partners in Europe.

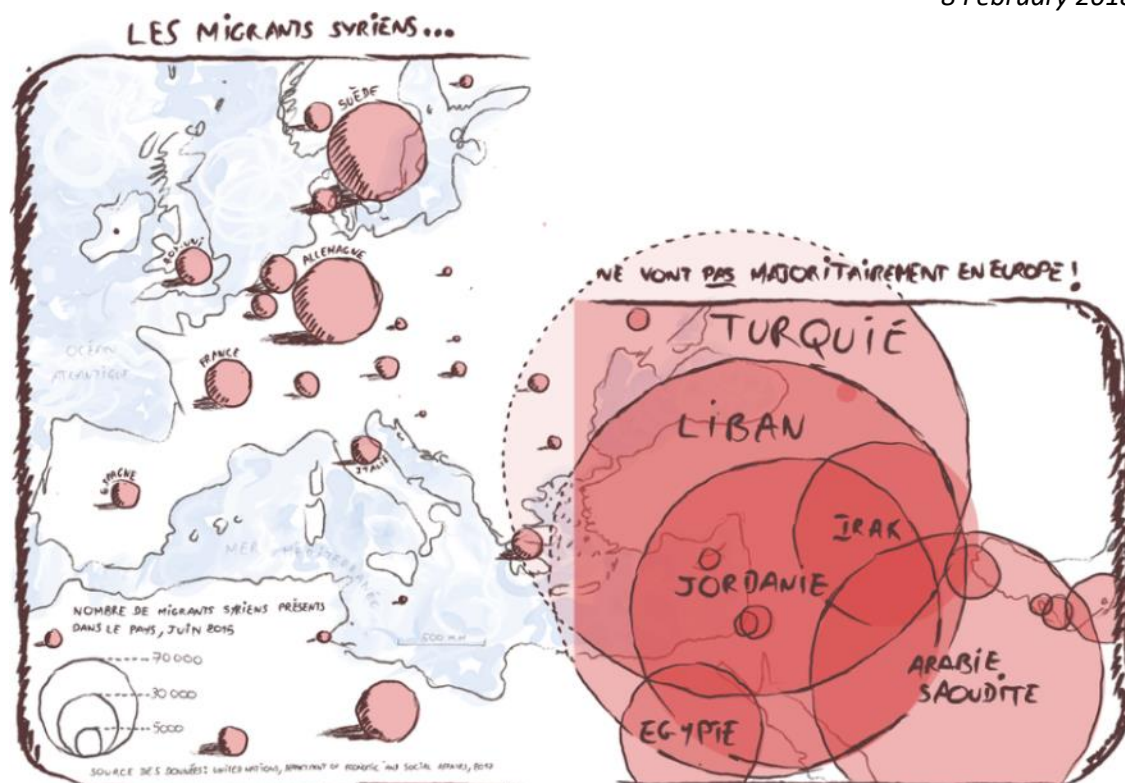
In the end, the 2015 regional assembly decided to continue with the various types of training delivered: with the Emmaus groups with a certain area of expertise, with Migreurop, RREUSE and Emmaus International.

Plans for 2018

- Continue national and European lobbying.
- Train our activists and groups.
- Integrate new groups from Latvia, Lithuania and Georgia.
- Work with Emmaus International and take part in the Alternatives Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17-20 September 2018.

Thank you to you all and let's KEEP GOING.

Willi Does, President,
8 February 2018



Les migrants syriens ne vont pas majoritairement en Europe !
Cette carte a été réalisée par Nicolas Lambert et Françoise Bahoken, Migreurop, (2017), *Atlas des migrants en Europe. Approches critiques des politiques migratoires*, Paris, Armand Colin, p.34.

2. What is the future for the safe haven of Europe?

2.1. Europe – a failure of fundamental rights

“Europe is asking itself questions: the EU Councils of Ministers are continuing to take place and the European internal affairs commissioner has still not reached an agreement, despite the European Parliament’s constructive view of the issue.

...There is a need to put in place a system of true European solidarity to prevent countries from isolating themselves. However, today we are seeing the advent of selfish movements. Cécilia Malström is struggling to develop a resettlement programme. It is vital that protected people are shared out across Europe. It is not right that an asylum seeker has between a 1% and 65% chance of success depending on the state in which s/he submits their application. European asylum policy should take on a different dimension: we must share responsibility for refugee reception.”

Excerpt from the speech delivered by Jacques Barrot to the RAEE,

Paris, 11 May 2011

In 2017, 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. Frontex became the European** border and coastguard agency in 2016 and hopes to more effectively crack down on people smugglers.

We must add the **outsourcing of border management, with the memorable EU-Turkey agreement in 2016,** to this modus operandi.

It has to be said that the Member States have been overwhelmed and 2017 was pivotal for continuing with the hotspots and relocation. As long as both of these measures for sharing out solidarity-responsibility across Europe are not fully implemented, **the EU’s response to migration will remain fragile from an operational and political standpoint.**

This security-based and repressive vision has failed because most of the EU’s countries, apart from Sweden and Germany, rejected this policy.

In 2017, a large number of agreements continued to draw inspiration from the informal agreement with Turkey: informal migration agreements have been signed with **Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and Ethiopia,** and incentives to readmit their nationals or people who have simply travelled through their territories are financial.

Outsourcing of migration policy and the increasingly repressive nature of these policies are making outsourcing a formidable weapon in the openly declared war on migrants. The climate of peace has made way for a reception crisis. European selfishness is betraying the EU’s founding values.

At the same time, Jean-Claude Juncker was optimistic when undertaking his mid-term review. He painted a

picture of economic revival: the economy has been recovering for five consecutive years. 2% growth for the EU and 2.2% in the monetary area. The unemployment rate is at its lowest level for nine years, which is thought to be due to the €225 billion "investment plan for Europe". The plan has granted loans to small businesses and infrastructure projects. Public deficits are down and this **"budgetary discipline"** which does not "harm growth" is "working very well in all the countries of the EU."

The migration situation is also optimistic: the number of 'illegal' arrivals from the Eastern Mediterranean has been cut by 97% because of the EU's agreement with Turkey, and the number taking the Central Mediterranean route has been reduced by 81%. **"Europe must continue being the continent of solidarity"**. **Juncker is proposing a legal migration system because our continent is aging and we need these migrants. This would notably take the form of a "European blue card."**

At the present time, **the only picture that can be painted of these policies to combat "immigration" is very sombre:**

- Firstly, the right of asylum as enshrined in the 1951 Geneva Convention is being distorted: the countries of Europe are passing on responsibility for border control to third countries, thus reducing the possibility of people in real danger being able to exercise the right of asylum.
- Migration routes are increasingly dangerous, the number of people smugglers is growing, the payments being demanded are increasing, and the routes are increasingly deadly.
- Development aid is contingent upon developing countries agreeing to undertake border controls, and the unconditional return of "failed" asylum seekers, which is a way of distorting aid.
- Agreements are signed with dictatorships (Sudan and Eritrea) giving these states the power to control whether their nationals are allowed to migrate; these self-same nationals are also being repressed by these states, which warps the right of asylum.
- It is impossible for the national and European courts to verify the lawfulness of these informal agreements; these agreements also evade parliamentary oversight.
- Walls and barbed wire fences are also being built.



Reuters Le Monde 2017

Whereas the European Parliament and Commission believe that the EU should be based on solidarity and cooperation, the Member States use their national interests to justify border closures. They are calling into question the founding philosophy of the European Union by doing this.

“Since 2015, Emmaus Europe has been tirelessly calling for secure access routes to European territory for migrants and refugees to be opened up in compliance with international and European law.”

Regardless of the political, economic or environmental reasons that make migrants leave home, they are all hopeful and determined to find a better life for themselves and their families. This determination means that they are successful in their countries of adoption, as the history of migration across the centuries has proved.

This struggle is more necessary than ever before

The European Union has addressed issues relating to asylum and migration over time within the broader context of the development of the EU. Nevertheless, for close to 70 years, the Emmaus groups are proof of society's capacity to welcome and integrate deprived and excluded men and women. We offer them the respect and dignity provided by work, living in a community and helping others who have even less. Some of them decide to return to their home countries in order to utilize their refound energy and respect to help the most disadvantaged people.

The vulnerable situation of migrants excludes and exposes them and means that they face a lack of care and provision in Europe. This increases stigma and their material deprivation and their moral distress.

The reception given to migrants by Europe violates fundamental human rights. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom promote the principles of human dignity, physical and moral integrity, freedom, privacy, and respect for family life, equality and non-discrimination, while prohibiting inhumane and degrading treatment.

These provisions **make each State responsible for coping with the consequences of the “mass influx of people.”** There is an obligation to safeguard the dignity of victims of tragedies. Punishing them by turning them back at the borders of Europe is an aberration that only conceals latent social problems and goes completely against the letter and spirit of human rights laws.

Since April 2015 we have been proposing and calling urgently for the following in the **immediate aftermath of the SOS Méditerranée Aquarius search and rescue ship, whose home port is Catania in Italy, once again saving migrants at sea, with 421 people rescued in this instance:**

- **Open up legal and secure access routes to European territory for migrants and refugees in compliance with international and European law.**
- **The above-mentioned provisions to be applied and to work for temporary protection in the event of a massive influx of people. We are asking you to consider an appropriate response to migration as soon as possible.**
- **Comply with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulating that: 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.**
- **Stop criminalising support for socially excluded people.**
- **Rethink the allocation of development aid. Emmaus is an alternative which is already self-supporting.**

At a time when the three European institutions signed the Gothenburg Declaration on the European Pillar of Social Rights – 17 November 2017 – inequality is continuing to grow in a society in which human beings are subjected to economic ‘constraints.’

Has this society not gone truly haywire? This society criminalises the homeless (Hungary) and migrants, and those who help migrants (Ventimiglia, Calais, Grande-Synthe, there are plenty of examples).

A real positive at Emmaus is that no requirements are placed on those living in the communities. People who live in our communities do not ask anything of anyone and do a remarkable job for the planet.



We can contact local councillors in our respective countries so as to **help them organize an appropriate reception service for these migrants and refugees, based on our long-standing experience in this area.**

We need to shake up national opinion and move away from an isolationist attitude in order to do this.

“What’s my message? Just one, I believe, which is a cry, Share! Give! Offer a helping hand to others! Always have a broken pane of glass in your comfortable existences so that you can hear the cries from outside.” Abbé Pierre.

2.2. What has become of us when the law views hospitality as a crime?

Emmaus puts forward humane solutions for migrants in Europe

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

The Emmaus model demonstrates that offering shelter and support to the most excluded people, while also enabling them to regain their dignity via the economic, social and environmental alternative espoused by Emmaus, is possible.

What do we want? 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.**
- **The social and solidarity economy.**
- **Environmentally-friendly and sustainable consumption practices and methods.**
- **An austere and frugal lifestyle.**

This desire for peace and to live together in harmony is the very essence of our Movement and is the driving force behind our work. Initiatives to champion migrants' rights take the form of:

- **Work-based inclusion**
- **Financial self-sufficiency.**
- **Knowing how to live together.**

In 2017, Emmaus was once again a concrete example of an alternative offering humane shelter and support and successful integration. Receiving migrants is a political choice! If we champion this alternative to local, national and European elected representatives, we are showing that another sort of policy is possible.

3. Ensuring recognition for the role played by social stakeholders in the circular economy: lobbying the European political authorities

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

a) Our stated aim is to ensure that people remain aware

For close to 70 years, the Emmaus Movement has worked to create a more humane society by helping those who suffer most and by espousing practical alternatives to the profit-based social model. Our policy of recovering unwanted goods and recycling waste is at the heart of our alternative proposals. Our consumer society produces vast quantities of waste to which the Emmaus companions and employees give a new lease of life. Emmaus' traditional income-generating activity of ragpicking has now evolved and encompasses a wide range of sectors: textiles, WEEE and furniture. The Emmaus groups' grassroots experience, notably in 14 EU countries, of collecting, sorting, preparing for re-use and recycling waste, makes Emmaus a key circular economy stakeholder. In addition to our expertise, the social impact of our work makes Emmaus unique. Our waste recycling work helps to better protect the environment and also forges social links by creating jobs and reintegrating excluded people into the world of work.



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 by showcasing the movement's experiences in order to champion a social and solidarity economy model.

The Circular Economy working group on the Emmaus Europe Board has continued to progress, championing Emmaus Europe's position on the Circular Economy Package. In conjunction with the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe and the Secretariat in a liaison role, the work was continued simultaneously 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 voice of the voiceless must prevent the powerful from sleeping at night.”

An area fraught with pitfalls

In order to maintain and consolidate Emmaus' position as a social stakeholder in the circular economy sector, the main risks have been identified:

- The real risk of the social and solidarity economy model being misused, hijacked and trivialized.
- 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 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 has attentively followed the debates in the European Parliament, and also the negotiations on COREPER (Committee of Permanent Representatives) with regard to the circular economy package. The key point was the introduction of the concept of the social and solidarity economy.

b) The misfortunes of the groups – survey of the groups' practices/know-how

During summer 2017 a survey of Emmaus Europe's national delegates was run to find out about the legislative barriers encountered by the groups in their day-to-day activities. A leaflet summarising the findings was published and presents the barriers and solutions applied by the groups.

The Emmaus groups have traditionally faced countless issues in their day-to-day work: internal organizational issues, issues relating to the smooth running of the group, its economic survival, administration **and...legislation**. What is the situation like for our European neighbours? What legislative problems do the groups encounter across Europe? What similarities are there? How have the groups solved their problems? This leaflet seeks to answer all of these questions. It provides an **overview of the groups' practices and their relationship with their national legislations**. The information used in the leaflet was collected by the national delegates – there is one delegate per country. The information was taken from their personal accounts, from countries such as Portugal and Ukraine. The leaflet also contains the national delegates' predictions for the future of Emmaus in their respective countries. Some of them are positive; others display concern for the future.



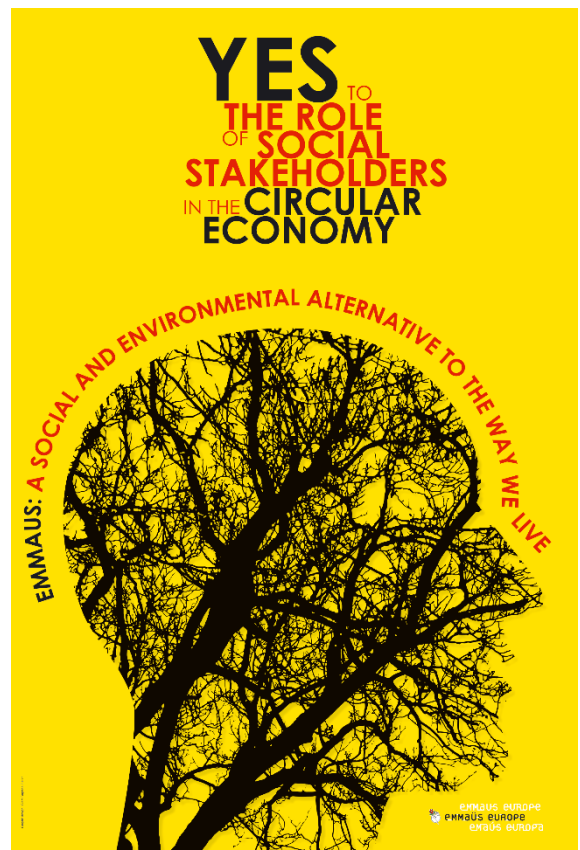
c) **Raising the awareness of Emmaus activists, so that they in turn raise the awareness of civil society, the general public and decision-makers about the circular economy**

The following awareness-raising documents for Emmaus activists are still available:

- Our position paper listing Emmaus Europe's assertions.
- All of our advocacy resources (template letters to ministers, heads of state, MEPs). This enabled feedback to be obtained from the groups, as Emmaus Europe is always responsive to local/regional concerns.
- A poster has also been created.

As a matter of fact, **the very future of the Emmaus groups is at stake, the game is being played in Brussels and we need to ensure that the dice are not loaded against us.** Who by? By **private sector players.** Businesses are grabbing an increasingly large share of the circular economy, to the detriment of the work done by social stakeholders, namely **Emmaus, as we work on a day-to-day basis to 'recycle' people, by recycling the goods we sell in our charity shops.** The intention is not just to allow things to slide, instead we need to set in motion or continue advocating at the local, national and European levels **so that our role is recognized and so that the circular economy is all about a social focus and solidarity.**

These resources provide **further in-depth information** about the reality of the Emmaus groups in Europe, and a basis for **developing our advocacy strategies** to target local, regional and national bodies. The poster can take pride of place in our groups, kitchens and charity shops, and will remind us all that by working together we can defend our income-generating activity by joining forces and proclaiming:



“Yes to recognition for the role played by social stakeholders in the circular economy!”

3.2 Internal and external mobilisation strategy

“A proven alternative model that European legislation should protect and encourage”
dans le cadre réglementaire européen

In line with the work done in previous years, Emmaus Europe continued placing the emphasis on the social and solidarity economy as part of the circular economy. The priority is to demonstrate the contribution made by these stakeholders in terms of sustainable development and solidarity to the circular economy as a whole. This includes employment and cohesion objectives and took the form of advocacy initiatives at the European level following **the tabling of amendments to the planned recast of the waste framework directive in 2016.**

As the timescales were extended and the environment parliamentary committee vote was postponed until January 2017, contact was maintained throughout 2017, with a view to the plenary vote in the Parliament and examination by the Council of the EU, made up of representatives of the Member States with:

- The MEPs (notably those from a country in which Emmaus Europe has a foothold) sitting on the environment committee and the whole parliament (apart from the Eurosceptics and xenophobes) at the same time.
- 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).
- Letters were sent to the 28 Member States to ask them to involve us in discussions that affect associations.
- Contact with RREUSE to discuss the place given to social stakeholders in the waste framework directive.
- Contact with delegations in Brussels (COREPER).

a) Appeal to MEPs at the European Parliament – Strasbourg and Brussels

“We, the Emmaus ragpickers, would be grateful if you put forward our recommendations and
championed our position to your colleagues at the plenary session vote on 14 March 2017 in
Strasbourg.”

Across Europe, the Emmaus residential communities and employment access schemes employ 15,000 people, companions and employees, by integrating them into the labour market, which they might not have been able to access, protecting them from the underground job market and the parallel economy, which both cause vulnerability. They become financially independent and regain their dignity through this work.

The creation of socially-inclusive jobs has kept increasing over the past few years, at a time when exclusion and precarity are becoming an ever greater threat on our continent.

The Emmaus groups are only asking for their best practice to flourish throughout Europe, because this best practice is modern and practical and contributes to economic development, helps look after the environment, and fosters social and solidarity action to address exclusion.

Bolstered by this experience, we, the Emmaus ragpickers, are calling on you to support the compromise amendments on the Bonafè report relating to the proposed Waste Directive (2015/0275(COD) as approved in a vote by the ENVI Committee on 24 January 2017. These amendments tabled by MEPs aim to:

1. Acknowledge and consolidate the role of the social stakeholders in waste management and recycling

The role of the SSE stakeholders, such as associations and social enterprises, in the re-use and preparing for re-use sector, needs to be acknowledged and consolidated. The Member States should take the measures needed to promote the role of the SSE stakeholders in this sector, and include appropriate economic instruments, social clauses in public procurement contracts, easier access to waste collection points, and any other economic or regulatory incentives.

2. Maintain the distinction between waste and non-waste

Emmaus commends the approach adopted by the rapporteur Simona Bonafè in her draft report. She has presented an amendment which emphasizes the clear distinction between preparing for reuse (which only concerns waste) and reuse (which only concerns non-waste products).

3. Differentiate between preparing for reuse and recycling objectives.

The Circular Economy Package needs to set a clear and specific target for preparing for reuse, so that investment is channelled into this sector, in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

b) Focusing on the substance of the amendments: appealing to the 28 Member States.

On 14 March 2017, the European Parliament adopted the circular economy package, including the reform of the waste directive. This approval is a step towards an economic model with a more positive social and environmental impact. The directive includes several of Emmaus Europe's proposals which took the form of amendments proposed to the various political groups in the European Parliament.

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.

Our increased involvement in EU affairs beyond our borders reflects our desire to champion the general interest and the interests of the groups.

During the negotiation process with the Member States, some Emmaus groups were able to meet their political representatives to inform them in greater detail about our **stance and the proposals stemming from it, including the added social value unique to the work done by the Emmaus groups.** Well aware of the fact that legislation governing their activity is developed both in Brussels and domestically, some requests have

been taken into consideration by some countries including Italy, Spain and France. However, we have come up against the challenge of a lack of political will, i.e. this is a considerable challenge and relates to the EU's strategy for the sector as a whole. The Member States have a role to play to further develop the social aspect of the circular economy, such as the creation of jobs stemming from the repurposing/reuse sector. This would involve adopting a policy conducive to fostering reuse-related activities at European level instead of those relating to recycling.

The Emmaus groups in Europe work to achieve sustainable development and equality, doing everything possible to avoid this bad practice and the negative environmental and social impact that recycling alone has because it reproduces a model of consumption that is harmful to the planet and future generations.

c) Rethinking the relationship between the economy and society

At the time of writing, the circular economy package directives, including the waste framework directive, are being approved and edited by COREPER. Their legality still needs to be checked and they still need to be approved by the Member States. The package is set to be published in the EU's official journal in late summer 2018. This will mark the start of the two-year period during which Member States must **transpose the directives into national law going via the national parliaments.**

A relative lack of citizen involvement in a joint political forum that is still being created to suit political considerations means that the worth of the EU is not recognized. It is time for the Emmaus groups across Europe to take action to defend our interests! This should not be an issue at a time when certain governments are looking for new ways to develop based on a social project able to meet the expectations of citizens and combat populism.

By living together...by pooling our resources...by fighting for justice...the struggle against poverty...involvement in history...are no longer the preserve of the big movers and shakers, the specialists and politicians, but are EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.

"The social laboratories that are the Emmaus groups demonstrate their viability and vitality on a daily basis and show that a more humane European society is possible."

4. The Emmaus groups in Europe

a. Group locations



In 2017, Emmaus Europe had **317 member organisations** in 17 countries. 298 were full members and 19 were trial members.

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, Latvia, 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. In the Baltic States, in Latvia one group has joined, while in Romania, Germany, France and Sweden 15 in total have joined.

b. A region in which the most isolated groups live together in fraternity

In 2017, everyday life in Europe was primarily marked by the **watering down of migrants' rights, criminalisation of solidarity towards migrants, and the exclusion of an increasingly large swathe of society.**

The daily lives of the groups in Europe are packed with solidarity economy activities (recycling, shelter and support, training and reintegration of the most deprived people), **social initiatives** on housing and social support, fighting for the rights of the weakest members of society, environmental protection work and promoting fair trade, **initiatives to promote respect for human rights** (commitment to ensure that the right of asylum is respected and against human trafficking, grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities) and **international solidarity initiatives** via the sending of lorry loads of goods and other types of support to groups in a number of countries.

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. In these troubled times in which we are seeing the rise of Euroscepticism and populism, the Emmaus groups have a role to play by demonstrating that practical solutions can be applied within a republican framework. This is an asset as we continue to build an alternative society.

5. Coherence with the Movement's international policy directions

5.1 At the midway point of the 2016-2020 term of office

The European members of the Emmaus International Board (known as CEIs) and the members 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. They will have completed half of their mandate by early 2018.

Emmaus Europe knows that you have a European vocation and are working with the interests of future generations in mind to convey Emmaus' policy areas and make them sustainable. Over the course of 2017, the Emmaus Europe Board transformed these ideas into initiatives, with these initiatives being a common basis for all, which we must continue to implement. As a reminder, they are as follows:

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

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

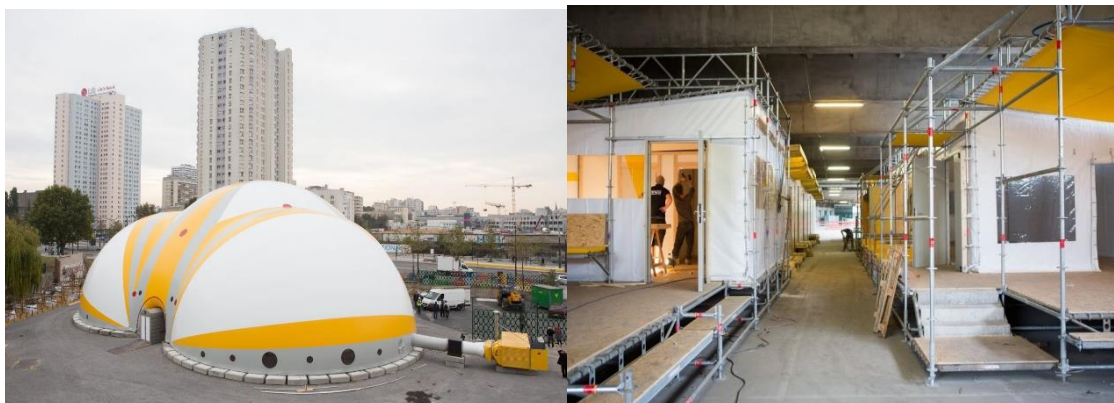
12-14 February 2017 in Paris, France

The first council meeting of 2017 was marked by a sequence looking at how to attract dynamic new people to the movement, including leaders for the groups in Europe. Françoise Clausse ran the session.

The meeting agenda also included items such as devising the European solidarity programme and a discussion about getting member organisations involved in three focus areas stemming from the Jesolo World Assembly (2016).

At the first 2017 RCEE the resigning CEI were replaced (2016-2020 period of office). Maryse Faure and Keith Tolladay joined the EE and EI Boards.

The board members visited the *Centre de Premier Accueil des Migrants* at the end of the evening (initial reception centre for migrants). Emmaüs Solidarité opened the centre in October 2016 and it is located at the gateway to Paris.



Centre de Premier Accueil des Migrants – Emmaüs Solidarité. Paris.

6-8 October – Höör - Sweden

The second RCEE of the 2016-2020 term of office was held in Sweden. The meeting discussed solidarity criteria as part of the overall Emmaus International debate.

The RCEE also devoted a morning to the political situation in Europe in a changing world, and the challenges that it poses for our movement. A declaration was published as a result of the elected representatives' introductory discussions. An excerpt from the declaration: *"With regard to European policy, we have observed the following:*

- *The advance of the right and extreme right and a strong resurgence of nationalist and neo-nationalist assertions.*
- *That the POWERS THAT BE are developing widespread control and surveillance with a significant increase in the use of violence, the subordination of entire states, and that they are making minorities invisible and causing them to lose their rights.*
- *New social movements and alternative initiatives (albeit still marginal and with a low profile) are emerging.*

Regarding Emmaus:

- *We should prevent social models (that differentiate between those at the top and bottom of the pile) from being replicated in our groups and organisation, and we should be aware that at times it is difficult for the Emmaus groups to reach a consensus.*

At European level, we observe that:

The various issues involved in exclusion are interlinked, and that precarity prevents people from being able to plan for the future.

At European level, WE PROPOSE:

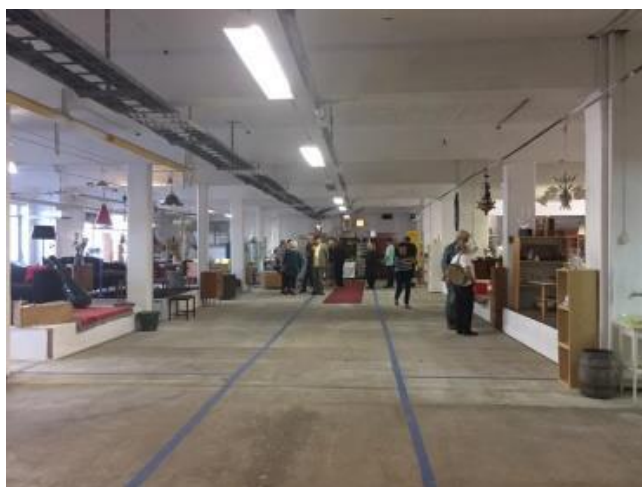
- *That true democracy and citizen participation models should be reinforced.*
- *That policies to be championed are those that prioritize the WELLBEING of each and every person and the protection of the rights of all without any distinctions.*

For the Emmaus groups, we must consider the following:

- *That local circumstances should be the source of inspiration for political proposals and that we should increase local-level partnerships and work with local politicians.*
- *We should arrange themed meetings on politics and how to do local advocacy, which enable us to understand the current situation in order to produce hard-hitting messages at different levels with a local, national and regional vision, and other institutions.*
- *We must run advocacy initiatives at the European level by taking part in networks and building alliances to champion plurality.*
- *We must develop topic-based training courses in line with the groups' requirements using our practices as the basis, conserving the balance between our social and economic aims. Signed in Backagarden on 6 October 2017.*

The complete declaration can be downloaded via the website's members' area: www.emmaus-europe.org

The daytime meeting was coupled with a social evening: the chance to meet and dine with friends of the Swedish groups at Myllan Recycling Center, a former textile factory that three Swedish groups are helping to convert into **Scandinavia's largest indoor flea market** (see the photo opposite).



2016-2020 period of office

***The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe is**

comprised of Councillors of Emmaus International (CEIs): since February 2017, Maryse Faure and Keith Tolladay have volunteered to serve the Movement, thus completing the RCEE. The following have also continued serving: Eduardo Sanchez, Hans Van Beek, Silvana Nogarole, Tobias Petersson, Julia Finer, Jean-Philippe Légaut, Nathalie Martz, Maria Luisa Testori, Michael Heap, and Willi Does.

And 15 national delegates: Willi Does representing Germany, Jean-Marc Sigrist representing Switzerland, Gregorz Hajduk representing Poland, Natalia Mysula representing Ukraine, Gélú Nichitel representing Romania, Jose Maria Garcia Bresó representing Spain, Robert Jansson and then Martha Hannus representing Finland, Jos Van der Meer representing the Netherlands, Delia Ressende Clément representing Portugal, Michael Hudson representing the UK, Viktoria Olausson and then Lottah-Mathilda Öhlund representing Sweden, Maria Balseca representing Italy, Annick Berthier 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 executive body

Three face-to-face meetings of the Regional Executive were held in 2017: 21-22 April, 3-4 July and 8-9 December. They were all held in the shared Emmaus building in Montreuil in the Paris Region. 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, Birgitta Goranson-Iliste, Hans Van Beek and Jean-Philippe Légaut, members.

5.4 Geographical and themed synergies: the European collectives

The European Collectives are working groups. They meet once a year as a minimum requirement. It is vital to meet, develop synergies and share experiences. 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.

Once again, 2017 provided the opportunity for groups to meet. The groups took advantage of their meetings to champion the values advocated by the Emmaus Movement since the outset at the local, national and regional levels.

a) European geographical collectives: bringing alive regional solidarity

- The Romania Collective met twice in 2017: 25-7 April at Amicii d'Emmaüs, Târgu Jiu, Romania. 19-20 September 2017 hosted by the Roanne Committee of Friends in Mably, France.
- The Poland-Ukraine Collective met twice in 2017: in March at Emmaus Oselya, Lviv, Ukraine. And on 27-8 October at Emmaus Brat Albert, Nowy Sacz, Poland.
- The Bosnia-Herzegovina Collective met twice: in April 2017 at Dobož Istok, Bosnia-Herzegovina. And 30 November 2017 in the shared Emmaus headquarters in Montreuil, France.

For more information, please refer to the 2017 solidarity review and the meeting minutes published in the members' area.

b) The European migration / human trafficking collective, Paris – France: 16 February 2017

The 2017 meeting focused on the implementation of the policy areas chosen by the Emmaus Europe September 2015 Regional Assembly, namely: **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.**

Participants came from Romania, Switzerland, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sweden, Italy and France to review progress on the areas chosen in Krefeld in 2016 and set the roadmap for the year ahead.

A presentation by Migreurop of its initiatives and awareness-raising resources enhanced Emmaus' own discussions.

The people behind the **European Resource Centre for Preventing Human Trafficking and All Forms of Exploitation** in Sarajevo also took part in the February 2017 meeting. The meeting was informed about the activities run by ISF to protect trafficking victims. Trafficking is unfortunately still a topical issue.

The European dimension of our migration commitments: the chosen initiatives

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."*

Get involved in creating Emmaus International's blog on migration.

Call for the Dublin system to be abolished.

In light of the proposals that emanated from the collective, the next day's regional council agreed to prioritize the issue of migration in 2017 based on a shared approach.

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

c) Defending Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

A walk to defend Article 13 marked the turn of the year. Michel Federico walked across a swathe of France. He arrived in Place de la République in Paris on 22 January, shouting from the rooftops about article 13. 22 January was also the day when the 10th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's death was commemorated.

Nathalie Martz and Maryse Faure were involved in implementing the Article 13 initiatives. Activists from some 20 communities, the movement at the international level and the community branch of Emmaus France ran

the initiative. Swimmers and kayakers trained throughout 2017 to be ready to cross the Straits of Gibraltar. Many communities got involved and supported the event both practically and financially.



In the end, the participants were unfortunately unable to cross the Straits because of bad weather. Bolstered by their strong beliefs, the participants paid tribute to the migrants laid to rest in the town's cemetery and placed a symbolic doorway on the beach at Tarifa opposite the Moroccan coast.

The suffering of migrants in Ceuta, the Moroccan "Calais", confirms that Article 13 needs to be defended in order to assert the rights of migrants. For more information: <http://article13-emmaus.org/01/>



Tarifa – 4-10 September 2017

Freedom of Movement: a folly, necessity or right?

The Migreurop network's and the Étrange Miroir collective's *Moving beyond borders* exhibition on migration policy was taken to Italy by Emmaus Ferrara.

From 25 September – 7 October 2017, the journeys undertaken by

migrants, while also highlighting the mechanisms and measures that are responsible for their perilous journeys across the Sahara, Mediterranean and to the eastern borders of the EU, were displayed in the centre of Ferrara. In addition, a conference was organised by Emmaus on a topic dear to the Emmaus Movement.



d) Political rhetoric: the Common European Asylum System

The European institutions have revised several provisions in the asylum package as part of a broader 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.

The stated goal of these proposals is 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.

At a time when **the Member States of the EU are concerned about the increase in the number of asylum claims**, in July 2017 the Emmaus Europe elected representatives sent a letter to the MEPs and the three presidents of the European institutions. Here are the main thrusts of the letter:

Emmaus Europe, speaking on behalf of 309 Emmaus groups in 17 countries across Europe, is deeply concerned about the fact that the Common European Asylum System is not only ineffective as a strategy, but also goes against the right of freedom of movement.

It seems obvious that the enlightened and progressive vision of migration, as seen in Sweden and Germany, has evolved towards a control and national and European border protection ethos. The current policy of "Fortress Europe" is a blatant violation of the principle of freedom of movement enshrined in Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Regardless of the political, economic or environmental reasons that make migrants leave home, they are all hopeful and determined to secure a better life for themselves and their families. This determination means that they are successful in their countries of adoption, as the history of migration across the centuries has proved.

The reality being faced by migrants, pushed back by the barriers erected around Europe, as well as by agreements with their countries of origin (notably the dysfunctional states such as Libya or Turkey, which undermine individual freedoms on an almost daily basis), is unacceptable.

The Emmaus groups in Europe are calling on you to reconsider your current approach and once again support appropriate reception and integration procedures with respect for the fundamental right of migrants to seek a better life.

Our founder, Abbé Pierre, espoused a message which underpinned his actions and what we continue to do today: "What's my message? Just one, I believe, which is a cry, Share! Give! Offer a helping hand to others! Always have a broken pane of glass in your comfortable existences so that you can hear the cries from outside."

Do you no longer hear the cries from outside? Have the challenges and political pressure become so overwhelming that nationalism and protectionism are your only response? The Emmaus groups are proof of society's capacity to welcome and integrate deprived and excluded men and women. We offer them the respect and dignity provided by work, living in a community and helping others who have even less. Some of them decide to return to their home countries in order to utilize their refound energy and respect to help the most disadvantaged people.

Our experience challenges you, as MEPs, to open up your neighbourhood policy and invest in the migrants' countries of origin, in order to enable every individual to earn their living wherever they want.

We invite you to visit us in our groups to get a taste

of the alternative that we represent and discuss once again seek to help the most deprived and together ways of ensuring that political institutions excluded people.”

The examination phase of the asylum package and the work of the Juncker commission will end in the next few months. However, we need to work sustainably at all levels.

“We are all completely justified in taking a stance due to our movement’s stated mission, enduring nature and worldwide presence.”

e) For justice for migrants

European activists from the Emmaus Movement took part in a citizen counter-summit and the Euro-African campaign event for **migration justice in Brussels** on 12-13 December 2017.

On the eve of the last European Council meeting of the year, this event formed part of the campaign for migration and social justice run by CNCD 11.11.11, a Belgian umbrella organisation of close to 90 development NGOs, trade unions and associations. These organisations take action to eradicate inequality so that every person can live a dignified life wherever they choose. The organisations call for safe and legal migration routes and fight for equal rights for all. They also work to ensure that everyone’s social rights are respected, whether they live in their countries of origin or are migrants, and whether they live in the developed or developing world.



Unlike the current commonplace restrictive and repressive migration policies, migration justice is based on the fundamental concepts of solidarity, respect for rights and equality, in order to demonstrate that another sort of policy is possible. The two days saw plenty of discussion, particularly about border closure and outsourcing of migration policies, and the criminalisation of those who help refugees. Real-life examples of initiatives in this area and alternatives, including those put forward by the Emmaus Movement, were shared by the organisations in attendance.

Glimmers of hope offered by citizens

Local initiatives were also presented, such as the Citizen Support for Refugees Platform. This Belgian platform wants to develop practical solidarity with all migrants by reiterating that the right to live a dignified life belongs to all. The platform enables citizens to volunteer online to offer accommodation, meals, transport etc and all the information is shared via the organisation's Facebook page, which has already been liked by over 40,000

people.

Via the Hospitable districts movement, launched in September 2017 by CNCD 11.11.11, citizen collectives are taking action in Belgium to ensure that their local districts make a practical commitment to improving reception and living conditions for migrants. To date, 11 Belgian districts have voted to become hospitable districts.

Finally, a European citizen initiative is set to be launched in early 2018 to champion receiving migrants in Europe. This initiative will bring together EU citizens and they will then invite the European Commission to put forward a legislative proposal in an area in which the EU can legislate. The campaign continues!



5.5. Training in Europe

The *Emmaus in all of its facets* training course was held for the fourth successive year at Emmaus Cologne in Germany. The course took place on 11-14 June 2017 and attracted 11 participants from five countries: Spain, Finland, France, Romania and the UK.

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.

Finally, living at Emmaus Cologne, the warm welcomed offered by the community, and the chance to visit Cologne, also made for a pleasant experience for the entire group.



6. Being responsive to the needs of the groups

6.1 Appeals to get involved and passing on information about initiatives

- A solidarity programme brought together the European groups in 2017. 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.
- **The 2017 Paris Salon** - The largest second-hand goods sale in France firmly placed the spotlight on our role as a purveyor of culture as “France’s leading bookshop.” The big sale also raised the profile of our responsible consumption and reuse **know-how** and our **capacity to innovate (Village de la récup’)**. The 18th Salon also enabled us to showcase our **campaigning work** with the **activism book fair and public debates** facilitated by Médiapart. **18 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:** A sale was held on 5 November in Toulouse and was run by the groups in Southern France. The idea was to raise funds to create more places in the region’s communities. Our friends in the Nord Pas de Calais-Picardy Region held their sale on 1 April in Lille. Unsold items from this sale were taken away by Emmaus Romania! This provides a further illustration of the fraternity prevalent in the movement.



- **The special solidarity sale in Turin: 17 October 2017.** The sale was a fantastic chance to meet and interact, not just for the communities, companions, leaders, volunteers, young people from the Italian summer camps, but also with some French communities from the Rhône-Alpes and Nice region who enthusiastically responded to the appeal for European involvement in the sale.

The profits generated by the sale were allocated to a number of Italian Emmaus communities: renovation and development work needs to be done so that more people can be housed! The rest of the profit was shared equally between EI and EE for solidarity.

The initiative was linked to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty via the Citizens in Solidarity Forum in which associations and citizens, the presidents of Emmaus France and Emmaus Europe, representatives of Emmaus International and the French Article 13 initiative all took part.

The film *Hiver 54* was screened in memory of Abbé Pierre. **Graziano Zoni**, the former president of Emmaus Italy, introduced the film. The film also commemorates Mani Tese, who worked closely with Abbé Pierre and ran

vital campaigns and initiatives for the pacifist movement and for international solidarity. Graziano sadly



passed away at the end of the first day of the sale like an activist on the streets, displaying his passion for the Emmaus Movement and for the poor right until the very end of his life. **This sale was dedicated to him and he would have been delighted with the result.**

6.2 Monitoring of the initiatives carried out 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 2017 solidarity review for more information about the solidarity initiatives.

6.3 The summer 2017 work camps in Europe

In spring 2017, 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 2017, work camps were run in the following European countries: Italy, Finland, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Spain, Lithuania and UK.**

7. Opening up to the outside world

7.1 Participation in the EU's institutional spaces

Social and solidarity economy meeting as part of the Gothenburg Social Summit, Sweden, November 2017

On 17 November, the Parliament, Council and Commission proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights at the social summit for fair jobs and growth in Gothenburg in Sweden. The European pillar had been announced by President Juncker in his 2015 state of the union speech and presented by the European Commission in April 2017. For the record, the pillar lists 20 principles and rights that should be followed by the Member States. They fall under three categories:

- Equal opportunities and access to the labour market
- Fair working conditions
- Social protection and inclusion

At the same time as the Social Summit, the European Commission organised a **conference on the role of the social economy for the future of work in Gothenburg on 16 November 2017 (Sweden)**. The event attracted a variety of participants: those who are actively involved, representatives and supporters of the social economy in all of its diversity, political decision-makers at the European, national and local levels, and academics. Emmaus Europe was invited to present **the important contribution made by the social economy** to social cohesion in the EU, and its potential as a job creation model. Willi Does, the president, had to turn down the opportunity to be on a panel.

Gabriela Martin, the EE coordinator, and Robert Larsson from Emmaus Friedeskdal, took part in the meeting. Delegations and ministers took part, particularly from countries in favour of the social and solidarity economy (Spain, Portugal, Greece, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Italy and Sweden). At European level, some Member States are fully aware of the opportunity to set in motion a new dynamic with regard to the role to play by social and

solidarity economy organisations. There were plenty of opportunities to directly publicize Emmaus Europe's recommendations. Political discourse and action must radically change: human capital needs to be recognized in a Europe aiming to be more human.

Meetings to enrich the discussion process

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.

Emmaus Europe has taken part in meetings, including a meeting with Heinz Becker on the role of social enterprises in Europe with a view to the drafting of his own-initiative report on creating a status for social economy businesses. And a meeting with Ulla Engelmann, the new head of the unit tasked with the social economy at DG GROW, and a meeting with Pervenche Berès, a member of the ECON committee (economic and monetary affairs) in the European Parliament and the socialist group coordinator.

7.2 Participation in European networks

May 2017, Syracuse, Italy MIGREUROP general assembly and parallel events - 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. 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>

Emmaus Europe took part in Migreurop's general assembly against the backdrop of solidarity towards migrants being criminalized. Marie Balseca, Italy's national delegate, took part.

The current media-political trend is to criminalize maritime search and rescue operations and tarnish the image of the humanitarian organisations involved. The idea being conveyed to the public is that an immigration business exists. Consequently, the NGOs are not saving human lives; instead, they are a "mafia that transports criminals."

Apart from the Sabir Festival – a festival of Mediterranean cultures – a training course was held on the ambiguous link between **migration, development and international trade** in the relationships between migrant countries of origin and transit, at which the members of several organisations and networks highlighted the following points:

- They denounced the current situation in which **solidarity is a criminal offence**: the 'crime' of solidarity in France, media campaigns against maritime search and rescue operations in Italy, slandering humanitarian initiatives...
- Focusing attention on the **root causes of migration** and not on migration itself.
- Campaigning for freedom of movement and settlement.
- Viewing migration as a **structural phenomenon** and not as a 'temporary episode' in European history.

The general idea that emerged from the meeting was that it is vital to work together in order to do more and be

more effective.

The meeting with the members of Migreurop also resulted in the idea to join the **migration justice** campaign and take part in the events in Brussels. You are all invited to consult, use and circulate Migreurop's educational resources.

November 2017, Charleroi, Belgium - The first international conference on the role of social enterprises in the circular economy: a story of solidarity, resilience and adaptability, RREUSE

Emmaus Europe took part for the very first time in the RREUSE general assembly and the conference that attracted 100 participants from 13 European countries.

RREUSE is a European network of social enterprises active in reuse, repair and recycling. Emmaus Europe has been cooperating with RREUSE since 2016 and became a member in 2017. Find out more by visiting the website: <http://www.rreuse.org>

Extending the service life of products by reusing and repairing has a major social and environmental impact and is at the heart of the vision for a circular economy. These activities can be a driving force for developing human capital, reinforcing social cohesion and contributing to urban and regional regeneration. These aspects are rarely mentioned when the circular economy in Europe is being discussed.

The main aim of the November conference was to showcase examples of cooperation between social enterprises, the local authorities and classic companies so that the participants can debate what initiatives to take to more effectively include the principles of the social economy in a circular economy. Top quality speakers from the European institutions, local authorities and social and classic businesses presented their views.

The event took place in Charleroi in Belgium, a city with a proud industrial heritage and equally a city that has experienced a serious crisis because of the disappearance of the coal industry. The city is rising from the ashes because it is diversifying its business activities and also thanks to significant funding for social enterprises. We had the opportunity to visit some of them on day two of the conference.

Gabriela Martin, the EE coordinator, Jos Van Der Meer, Julio de la Granja, Michael Hudson and Gorka Mediavilla from Navarra took part. Stéphanie Mabileau from EF and Antoine Drouet from Les Ateliers du Bocage also attended.



RREUSE 2017©

The packed days shared with RREUSE were marked by the added value provided by repair and reuse activities in

a circular economy and by showcasing best practice by non-profit organisations working together for a circular economy.

There was also the opportunity to take part in two site visits to a textile sorting centre belonging to the Terre network and the Val de Sambre recycling depot.

Emmaus Europe is still on the transparency register

Our registration took effect in 2016. Emmaus Europe still 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. 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 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.

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. We are keen to receive many more items of regional news!

8. Agreeing on a vision of Europe based on responsibility and solidarity is vital

“Advocating a Europe which brings together citizens and solidarity!”

A historic social summit - Gothenburg

The leaders of the EU – those who head the institutions, but also the heads of state and government – have proclaimed the European pillar of social rights. This proclamation is a shared commitment made by all the member states, including those not in the Euro zone. The institutions do not control everything; power remains held as before: with states, the social partners and NGOs. However, it is partly the EU's remit to work to balance out some forms of social injustice. Talks with the member states have been intense, it would seem, because some wanted to avoid at any cost new social rights being created via this proclamation.

In parallel to this meeting, events involving social partners and the non-profit sector were organised. The involvement of civil society, notably the Emmaus Movement, would only help strengthen the social dynamic and citizen involvement.

Is this desire for a new social Europe a way of compensating for the fact that Social Europe remains unfinished business?

It has to be said that the idea of combining social and macro-economic objectives advocated by Jean-Claude Juncker is full of pitfalls. Alongside these laudable ambitions, budgetary prospects look gloomy after Brexit, and particularly for funding for social policy.

While it is down to states to set their own protection policies, the EU is responsible for putting forward policies to restore a balance between the wealthiest and poorest members of society. Some European states are experiencing an increase in inequality, so a shared solidarity/social cohesion solution must be sought.

Credibility in the eyes of citizens: the awkward situation faced by Europe

Practical improvements to how social policy in Europe is coordinated are still at an embryonic stage. And the decision to return to a pathway of cohesion and solidarity has not prevented nationalism from being very much an issue, nor has it stopped the rise of populism.

The situation in 2017 has been marked by the rise of nationalism-populism everywhere as an inescapable fact.

The threat of a new rise, notably during the 2019 European elections, should not be excluded. Italy will need to challenge the anti-Europe discourse in 2018. Politicians need to bolster citizen adherence to the EU through European projects that reconcile them with the community project in order to curb this phenomenon. It's time for results: we need a Europe that protects while still having an open society.

The current European situation is an improvement. The economic upturn, the drop in unemployment and the reduction of budget deficits are the best reflections of this point.

Finally, the last solution needs to be **the future of Social Europe**. Intrinsically economic right from the outset, the social ingredient must be introduced into the European project in order to reconcile citizens with the EU. The Commission therefore needs to support social policy and social investment.

Turning our attention to social investment, two projects need to be redrafted by the EU. Firstly, how should migrants be integrated? And how should European identity be defined? If both of these issues are not rapidly addressed, the EU will leave the door open to populists, who draw on these issues when making their Eurosceptic arguments. Clear plans to deal with these issues are needed.

For several years, some countries have demonstrated a willingness to put in place a shared European social policy, and given this open-minded approach and the EU's popularity crisis; the Commission must take action fearlessly and set up a cross-Europe initiative supporting innovation and the social economy.

As for social matters, the need is for a new social ideology integrating the most excluded people and safeguarding the region for future generations.

LIVING TOGETHER...this test bed, this experience MAKES IT CLEAR that seeking a new way of interacting, changing and sharing in all areas and at all levels, with a view to a good relationship between men and women, a liberation,

IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS...and is an issue for each of us, everywhere, whether we live in a community or not!

It is part of the human vocation and condition.

It is vital if we want to LIVE and survive.

Emmaus La Poudrière

9. How to contact the Emmaus Europe Secretariat

- **Véronica Acevedo Caro:** Admin-finance assistant
- **Camille Decaens & Théo Robin subsequently:** 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 enshrined 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

YES^{TO} THE ROLE OF SOCIAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

EMMAUS: A SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE WAY WE LIVE

Graphic design: Emmaus Europe / 2017

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