

ECOVAST REPORT
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Editor: Pam Moore

EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE AND SMALL TOWN

ECOVAST,
c/o, Mrs Pam Moore, 59 Bodycoats Road, Chandlers Ford,
Eastleigh, Hampshire SO 53 2HA UK
Tel +44 23 8027 5153
E mail : pam.moore59@ntlworld.com

ECOVAST website – <http://www.ecovast.org>

Discussion sites : <http://ecovast.webs.com/> and
<http://ecovastdiscussion.grouply.com/>

Contents of this edition of the Newsletter

Editorial
Report of the President
Report of the Secretary General
Obituary _ Prof Charles Christians
News from the Sections
Biennial Assembly 2011
Economic Structures and Regional Use of Wind Energy
PREPARE partnership
ARC2020 and the Common Agricultural Policy
EC DG Agri Rural Development Advisory Group
ERCA
Details of events notified to the Secretary General

EDITORIAL

It does not seem possible that we are already almost half way through 2011! I hope you will find this, the second Newsletter of the year, interesting. A third Newsletter will be published at the end of the summer, hopefully, in mid-September. Please send me any copy by **31 AUGUST**. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pam Moore

REPORT of the PRESIDENT

It does not seem that long since my last report – but time probably flies as I am getting older. Pam has reported below on our last IC meeting in Luxembourg but I would just like to add that it was very pleasant to meet our Luxembourg colleagues who have been strong supporters of ECOVAST for many years. I hope that, having met us, they will attend future general meetings too.

I have written to several of you in individual sections since the last Newsletter and await replies. I do hope to meet many of you at our General Assembly meeting in Vienna in October 2011. I fully appreciate just how difficult it is in this financial climate but I do hope as many as possible can attend. I too am living on a small pension and I have to pay all my expenses which is not easy. We have already decided to only have two International Committee meetings this year (the second being in Vienna at the time of the GA) in the hope that more people will be able to attend the General Assembly.

I would like to visit as many Sections as possible during my tenure as President and I would be grateful if you consider local events to which you could invite me. I know I will be visiting Germany, Austria and Croatia this year and I have already agreed to go to Macedonia next year. I attended the PREPARE Organising Group meeting to represent ECOVAST in late January 2011 and you will see my report below.

May I wish you all well for the rest of this year and hope that the financial crisis will improve as the year goes on.

Valerie Carter

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, we have held a very useful meeting of the International Committee in Luxembourg. Our hosts were our member there, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the venue was a fine reused mill building in Beckerich – “An der Millen”. The former mill is now in multiple uses, with meeting rooms and a restaurant in one area, and the former saw mill restored to its former glory by local volunteers.

Besides the business meeting, the IC Members enjoyed interesting presentations, both on the work of the Ministry, and about the village, by the Mayor, who then led a fascinating tour to see local projects. These included not just the mill, but also a sports hall, and a bio-energy plant using animal slurry and woodland chippings

Our President has attended a number of events, as indicated in her report, and Past President, Phil Turner and I have attended a meeting of the EC DG Agri Rural Development Advisory Group in Brussels. Shortly, we will represent ECOVAST at Europa Nostra’s Annual Congress in Amsterdam. We now have details of this year’s General Assembly – separate piece. I hope members will note the date in their diary. More details will be circulated in due course.

Pam Moore

OBITUARY

I have just received the sad news of the death of our friend Professor Charles Christians. Charles passed away on 20 May 2011, at the age of 80 years. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter, but in the meantime, I shall be writing to Madeleine, Charles’s widow, to whom we extend our deep sympathy.

Pam Moore

NEWS FROM THE SECTIONS

AUSTRIA – The section is involved in preparatory talks about the official 2012 exhibition of the Province of Upper Austria concerning the fields of landscape and historic small towns.

Work continues for the international conference on historic water supply systems (aqueducts), taking place in Vienna this year in October. We shall also be hosting this year's ECOVAST General Assembly on 23 October.

Some future funded work on Landscape identification is on the horizon. We are quite optimistic that we can report in due course valid contracts in this field (Green Belt Project and TEN-Project, both concerning hotspots of the "green spine" of Europe).

Arthur Spiegler & Brigitte Macaria

CROATIA - The Croatian Section is working further on preparations for the International Conference in Ivanic Grad in November 2011, together with the local organization 'Prijetelji bastine – Amici Hereditatis' (Friends of Heritage). The Conference theme is 'Models for Management of Historical Towns Revitalization and Development Processes' and has been announced internationally. The First Call documents can be found in the Section's web pages (in Croatian and English languages) – www.ecovast.hr .

The Section's members also participated in a number of events recently. An informative meeting with regional NGOs was organized in Osijek on April 8, 2011 by ECOVAST Vice-President Tihana Stepinac Fabijanic with the guest from Austria Mr. Stefan Luetgenau. This was related to the Danube Strategy and the Danube Civil Society Forum (DCSF) to be organized 30 June – 1 July in Eisenstadt. The Municipality of Osijek and the local organization of Slap helped this event to take place and 15 organizations from Eastern Croatia turned out to hear about the new European network in the Danube area. Tihana Fabijanic will also participate in the 4th meeting of Key organizations in Belgrade, June 1, 2011.

Also in April ECOVAST Croatia (Vice-President Valerija Kelemen Pepeonik) participated in the 2010 Annual Assembly of the Croatian Rural Development Network (HMRR ; www.hmrr.hr). At the moment the network has 16 member organizations including six Local Action Groups (out of 10 LAGs now established in Croatia). To remind you HMRR was established in early 2006 by seven civil society organizations, ECOVAST Croatia being one of them, linked by the wish to jointly contribute to improving conditions for integrated development and a good quality of life in rural areas. The activities of the HMRR are based on European good practice and the LEADER approach.

President of Croatian ECOVAST, Biserka Dumbovic Bilusic, was in Strasbourg on May 3-4, 2011 where she participated at the 6th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention. She represented the Ministry of Culture of Croatia, but also presented activities of the Croatian Section of ECOVAST related to landscape protection. She presented the results of the 2010 ECOVAST International Conference in Tuheljske Toplice on the problems of landscape, which addressed topics in Chapter 6 of the ELC, which encompasses specific measures: building consciousness, identification and evaluation, education and training, functioning and management.

Several of the Section's members (B.Orbanic, J.Kale, T.S.Fabijanic), as well as collaborating organizations (Dragodid etc.) will participate in the next few weekends in May in the 4th International Workshop on dry-stone wall techniques 'Moj kazun' organized by Vodnjan Municipality in South Istria. The event includes an exchange of expert theory and practice on the revitalization of traditional techniques in dry-walling, with involvement of local inhabitants and the public. This year it is organized through the Croatian and Slovenian co-operation programme Revitas (EU Pre Accession Assistance).

Tihana Stepinac Fabijanic

GERMANY – As ECOVAST President, I visited the German national section in May 2011 at their meeting in Crossen an der Elster, Thuringia. The Section had organised a small conference in the morning of 21st May with three external speakers including one from a Leader group from a brown coal mining area. This was followed by an excursion of the local area around Crossen, organised by Professor Max Linke. The Section hosted a dinner where Angus Fowler – the Chairman of the Section – was thanked for all his work for ECOVAST and the Section. The President was also a guest at the dinner, which was followed by a meeting of the German Section Committee. The Section's General assembly was held the following morning, the 22nd May 2011 where new officers were elected. A committee of 6 people was appointed with Irmelin Kuttner as Chairman and Andrea Weigert as Treasurer. The meeting also heard about, and were invited to attend, the ECOVAST General Assembly to be held in Vienna on 23rd October 2011 with a possible excursion the day before the event to be organised by Arthur Spiegler. It was hoped that several members of the German section would attend.

Valerie Carter

MACEDONIA - The project CITIES from the programme Europe for Citizens has ended and a publication and DVD will follow in the languages of all partners (Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Slovakia and The Netherlands). ECOVAST Macedonia has applied for new project training concerning rural tourism development with a partner from Sweden and we are waiting for results of the application. As an NGO we became a member of the Forum of NGOs in the Bitola region and this will offer a better chance to promote our activities.

Victoria Momeva Altiparmakovska

ROMANIA - We were and are very busy with different Projects. We are continuing with the restoration Projects co funded with EFRD for the village churches from Apostolache and Varbila and we applied for European co funding to create a School for Traditional crafts useful in restoration (practical workshops and class studies) in collaboration with the Union of Restaurateurs from Romania. For this it was necessary to meet various Ministers and complete multiple forms. We hope that the application will be successful

Magdalena Banu

RUSSIA - The Section took part in organizing the exhibition "Will Pryce. Parallels - Wooden architecture yesterday, today and everywhere" in Moscow, State A.V. Shchusev architectural museum from 22 February – 27 March 2011" – see <http://www.ecovast.ru/novosti.htm>.

We organized the Cecile Round Table "Wooden architecture yesterday, today and tomorrow" at the International day of Wood - 21 March 2011 and we took part in the "Days of Architecture in Vologda" city with the lecture architect Andrey Ivanov and the exhibition "Wooden architecture yesterday, today and everywhere'..

Olga Sevan

UNITED KINGDOM – Following our very busy time last Autumn, when we hosted the Biennial Assembly and associated events, the Section has not been very active. I hope that a number of our members will be able to join with our friends in Europa Nostra UK, when they hold their programme of events in Portsmouth in September. These will include a one day conference on the heritage of Defence of the Realm, a day visit to the Isle of Wight (different sites to those visited by ECOVAST last year) and walking tours of Portsmouth and the Historic Dockyard. See the events section of this Newsletter for details of how to obtain details.

Pam Moore

ECOVAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

The 2011 General Assembly, together with meetings of the two working groups on Landscape and Rural Architecture, will be held at the Hotel Karolinenhof, Vienna on SUNDAY 23 October. We are not organizing a separate conference this year, because members will be able, if they wish, to join ECOVAST Austria and others at a major international event in the days prior to the GA. This is on the topic "Historic Water supplies, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" and will be held from 19-22 October in Vienna. There will be conference and excursion sessions. More information about the symposium can be obtained from officers of ECOVAST Austria (either Dr Arthur Spiegler – a.spiegler@reflex.at or Dr Brigitte Macaria - b.macaria@chello.at There is, however, a possibility that ECOVAST's Landscape Group may be able to offer an excursion for members either on Saturday 22 October or Monday 24 October. This bus tour would look at the landscape overlooking Vienna and those in surrounding areas. Its cost and feasibility will depend on the level of interest – unless we can fill a small bus, it cannot go ahead. More information about the GA will appear in the next Newsletter, and through a separate mailing; through that we will also ask for expressions of interest in the excursion.

Pam Moore

ECONOMIC STRUCTURES AND REGIONAL USE OF WIND ENERGY

This article considers wind turbines in Germany and how the added value can be retained in the rural economy by favouring wind farms owned by residents or investors from the region

1. Use of wind energy

The main types of sustainable energy are bio-, solar-, and wind energy. Wind energy originates, among others, by the various warming of the earth's surface and is therefore a transformed form of solar energy. Currently wind energy is almost solely used for the production of electricity through wind power plants. Generators with horizontal shafts fixed onto a steel tower as construction form prevail. Drive is through circular rotors with three rotor blades. This kind of energy is primarily dependent on the force of the wind and the rotor diameter. Onshore locations with high wind velocity are the lowland coastal regions, but also exposed areas in mountainous and hilly regions. To be able to use these suitable windy locations to an optimum, wind farms are being planned.

According to an EU guideline, the proportion of sustainable energies to the overall consumption is to increase to 20% by 2020.

EU - Country	Production of Electricity / GWh 1)			
	Share of Wind Energy			
	Year 2000		Year 2008	
	1000 GWh ¹⁾	%	1000 GWh	%
1. EU - 27	22.3	0.7	118.7	3.5
2. Denmark	4.2	11.7	6.9	19.0
3. Germany	9.4	1.6	40.6	6.4
4. Ireland	0.24	1.0	2.4	8.1
5. Netherlands	0.83	0.9	4.3	4.0
6. Greece	0.45	0.8	2.2	3.5
7. Portugal	0.17	0.4	5.8	12.6

8. Spain	4.7	2.1	32.2	10.3
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1) GWh = GigaWatt hours. – Source: EDS European Data Service, Online Database Environment and Energy. Eurostat, Luxembourg.

Table 1 : Percentage of wind energy in the production of electricity in selected European countries

Table 1 demonstrates the percentage of wind energy in the production of electricity for European countries during the period 2000 to 2008. The percentage of wind energy both in north and south European countries has increased dramatically. In some regions of Europe wind energy has a considerably higher significance. Thus the percentage in several north German states is over 40%. With the extent of electricity production the economic significance of wind energy has increased. In Germany the turnover from wind power plants in 2008 was 3.5 billion Euros, the number of persons employed in the wind power sector was 85,100.

Construction type: 1000 KW nominal capacity Investments/Output/Costs	Location 1 100% Reference yield/Year	Location 2 130% Reference yield/Year
1. Investments, 1000 € ¹⁾	1919.0	1919.0
2. Output		
2.1 Power yield, 1000 KWh / Year	2516.4	3271.3
2.2 Power price, ct/ KWh (incl. 19% turnover tax)	10.08	8.37
2.3 Turnover, 1000 €/ Year	253.7	273.8
3. Costs / 1000 €/ Year ²⁾		
3.1 Writing off	96.0	96.0
3.2 Operating costs	26.4	26.4
3.3 Management	6.1	6.6
3.4 Interest payments ³⁾	47.4	47.4
3.5 Turnover tax (19%)	35.3	38.5
3.6 Trade tax	5.2	7.2
3.7 Corporation tax	6.7	9.4
3.7 Total costs	223.1	231.5
4. Profit after taxes, 1000 €	30.6	42.3
5. Pay - off - Period, Years	15.2	13.9

¹⁾ Construction including of additional investments (Planning, electricity / road connection etc.); working period / construction: 20 years. ²⁾ Prices / costs: Calculated for an average year of the working period. ³⁾ Credit financing: 80% of investments, Credit term 20 years, Average interest rate 5%, Disagio 2%, Annuity credit.

Table 2: Electricity yield, costs and profit for a wind power plant in two locations

2. Economic structure

On the European level there are hardly any exact data on wind power plants. The regional contribution can only be determined on the basis of more exact economic calculations. Therefore - unfortunately - the circumstances of one country only can be gone into here, in this special case, the circumstances of Germany. Due to the regional statements the use of offshore wind

energy will not be gone into further. The economic assertions are mainly based on the author's own surveys with planning offices and other institutions, which are concerned with wind energy. It is assumed that the calculated wind power plants are part of a medium sized wind farm.

Table 2 shows the relevant economic yields for a wind power plant of 1000 kW. Two locations with different reference yield are also shown. The reference yield is the amount of electricity which is achieved on an average of five years with a wind velocity of 5.5 metres/second at a height of 30 metres. A reference yield of 100% should portray a suitable location inland, one of 130% a more favourable location on the north German lowland. The quoted price of electricity is valid according to the Renewable Energy Law for plants which went into operation in 2010. With this, the investments per plant and the basic approaches for most of the various types of cost are determined. The costs concerned are averages for a representative year of a 20-year service life. With the stated types of cost, the operational costs and the interest should be taken note of. The operational costs include the maintenance of the plant, repairs, insurances, lease of the area being used and other costs. The interest concerns the amount to be paid in the medium term of operational life (after repayment of half of the credit). The legal form of a limited company is to be assumed for taxes to be paid.

The calculated profit is higher for location 2 with a better energy yield. Therefore it is clear that the higher electricity price, specified by law for unfavourable locations, cannot compensate this disadvantage. The pay-off-period states in how many years the investment for the plant with the yearly surplus can be gained. Compared with other investments the pay-off-period for the calculated plant lies in a slightly unfavourable span.

Figure 1 shows the costs and profit for location 1 for three wind power plants with increasing nominal power (capacity). It shows that both the costs and the profit increase considerably with higher capacity of the plants.

With the profit the tax burden of the larger plants increases too. After the writing off, tax comes second as far as the cost types are concerned.

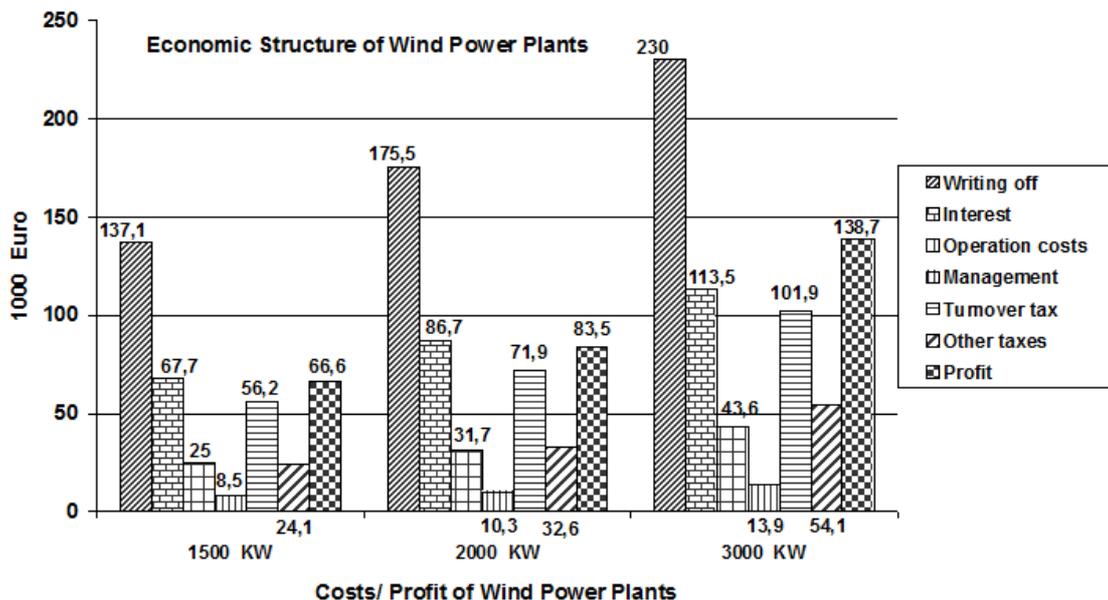


Fig. 1: Cost structure and profit for wind power with a reference yield of 100% (location 1)

3. Regional contributions of wind power

The use of wind power is a decentralised form of energy generation which mainly takes place in rural regions. So the question comes into being as to how these rural regions can participate in the economic potential of wind power. This essentially depends on the operating companies' concept. Wind farms are often operated by investment companies which offer investors a sharing. The company's registered office is mainly outside of the region, the investors are largely not from the rural environment. In this case, only the parts of the added value in the region designated by law and contract remain. Basically these are the trade tax for the community of the location and the lease payments for the freeholder. The profit does not usually remain in the region.

During the last few years the planning offices and regional investors (e.g. cooperatives, banks) have developed the concept of the citizens' wind farm. This concept provides that primarily residents of the region are to be won over as investors and later on as owners of the operational companies. The registered office of the company is in the region.

Table 3 shows the amounts which can remain in the region with a residents' wind farm. Five plant capacities and reference yields of 100% and 130% can be distinguished. Besides the lease and the commercial tax, the profit remains in the region too. Should a regional bank take over the credit financing, the interest goes to an enterprise in the region. Not taken into account here is whether parts of these payments flow from the region, as e.g. participating interests or communal contributions to the rural districts. It can also be seen here that the location with a higher electricity yield renders considerably more added value for the region.

Regional Added Value for :	Location 1 100 % Reference Yield		Location 2 130 % Reference Yield	
	Lease payments + Profit + Trade tax 1000 €/ Year	Lease payments + Profit + Trade tax + Interest payments 1000 €/ Year	Lease payments + Profit + Trade tax 1000 €/ Year	Lease payments + Profit + Trade tax + Interest payments 1000 €/ Year
1. 500 KW	1.6	26.2	6.8	31.5
2. 1000 KW	40.4	87.7	54.3	101.6
3. 1500 KW	85.3	153.0	105.7	173.4
4. 2000 KW	108.7	195.3	135.7	222.4
5. 3000 KW	178.6	292.1	216.9	330.4

Table 3: Regional shares in added value of wind power plants under different conditions

Clearly to be seen is the considerable economic potential offered under the calculated price-cost-relation for various regions. A pre-condition however are operator-concepts which favour regional shareholders.

Ralf Bokermann

PREPARE – PARTNERSHIP FOR RURAL EUROPE

I attended the PREPARE Organising Group meeting in Brussels, on behalf of ECOVAST on January 27 and 28 2011. We met on the Thursday at the FARNET – Casa de Asturias – near Brussels Central Station. The meeting was well attended with members from Slovenia (the PREPARE Co-ordinator); Croatia; Finland; Hungary; Czech Republic; Sweden; Slovakia; Latvia; Estonia and Brussels, as well as myself. This meeting was fairly short and discussed the past Mott Foundation Programme and the recent PREPARE activities. Michael Dower managed to attend for more than an hour – taking a break from his ARC 2020 work – which proved a pleasant reunion for many old friends. We all managed to meet for dinner that evening and I was able to make many new friends who I hope to meet again in future years.

The following morning we met at the hotel where many of us stayed – not far from Brussels Midi Station. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss and agree the PREPARE Action Plan for the year 2011. The principal items were the PREPARE Gathering – this year to be held in Serbia - and a discussion on the exchanges between Rural Parliaments.

This business was followed by reports on the co-operation between PREPARE and other international organisations, particularly on the work of the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD); the European Rural Alliance (ERA); the European Rural Community Association (ERCA -I also attended their annual conference in May 2011 – see separate note); the European Leader Association for Rural Development (ELARD) and finally the work of the Agriculture and Rural Convention (ARC2020). This work has been led by Michael Dower in Brussels and many organisations including ECOVAST and PREPARE have been involved in its preparation. The final ARC2020 document has now been published.

The next part of the meeting agreed the contents of the contracts for the PREPARE Co-ordinator and the co-ordinators office.

There had been three applications to join PREPARE, two from Macedonia and one from Serbia and they would be invited firstly as 'observers', with a decision of membership being made later. The date and time of the next Organising Group will be agreed in due course. (Please note that a full note of the Minutes from the Prepare Co-ordinator Goran Soster, is available for those who would like it) goran.soster@siol.net

Valerie Carter

ARC 2020 AND THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

RURAL DEVELOPMENT THE LINKING OF EU FUNDS

For the last year, ARC 2020 has been calling for the CAP post 2013 to be focused on a Paradigm shift in agriculture and a Rural Renaissance. We urged that the current second pillar of the CAP, which contains the rural development measures, should be succeeded by a true Rural Policy, and that this Policy should have a strong element of local delivery, building upon the LEADER experience but able to draw down funds not only from the CAP but also from the Regional, Social and Fisheries funds of the EU.

So, we were delighted when, in August last year, the Commissioners for Agriculture, Regions, Employment and Fisheries wrote a joint letter to the President of the Commission proposing that, from 2014 onwards, there should be a joint strategic framework for the rural, regional, cohesion, social and fisheries funds. In the ARC Communication, published in November 2010, we suggested how this link between the main developmental funds of the EU could be achieved at EU, national, regional and local level.

We now know that the Commission is thinking in the same way as us. At a Conference on 12-13 April, called by the Fisheries Directorate DG MARE, officials from the four directorates for Agriculture, Regions, Employment and Fisheries described the joint work that they are doing to clarify how the combined strategic framework proposed by the Commissioners might work in practice. They expect to propose that the principles in the framework should be reflected in harmonised Regulations for the four Funds, plus Common Guidance related to local development; that Member States should be required to produce national strategies with a scope parallel to that at EU Level; and that the Operational Programmes for each Fund produced at national or regional level will then reflect the integrated purpose of the national strategy.

As to local delivery, they envisage the setting up of sub-regional partnerships in all areas, whether urban or rural, which need significant developmental effort. These would incorporate the LEADER principles, but would have a wider and more flexible scope than most LEADER groups now have. Each partnership would draw up a local development strategy for its area, on an integrated basis, i.e. covering as appropriate the scope of all four Funds, linked to the national strategies and operational programmes. In implementing the local strategy, the partnership would then be able to call down funds from whichever of the four EU funds or related national funds were appropriate. The rules for deployment of the different EU funds would be harmonised. For each partnership, the EU might identify a 'Lead Fund', which would act as the main channel for EU funds and might provide the main continuity funding for the administration of the partnership.

Those present at the DG MARE Conference in April warmly welcomed this evidence of integrated thinking within the Commission, and the recognition by officials that a linked-up approach at EU level must be reflected at national, regional and sub-regional level if it is to achieve the effective development that so many rural (and urban) areas need. But they expressed strong concern about the willingness of Member States to take the same integrated view, and urged that means be found to persuade Member States to do so.

We urge members of the ARC 2020 Network to speak up, in their countries, for the benefits of an integrated, focused, multi-funded approach to local delivery of development efforts.
<http://www.arc2020.eu/front/>

Michael Dower

Common Agricultural Policy

Phil Turner attended an influential event last year at the Brussels Offices of the Committee of the Regions, organised by ARC 2020, the grouping of non-government organisations campaigning in the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Please tell him what action you are taking in your own country to influence Politicians from Member States.

Michael Dower, who has been very active in ARC 2020, has reported on progress towards integration and urban / rural linkage and the possibility of LEADER for towns and sub-regional partnerships:

Michael Dower

EC DG AGRI RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Pam Moore represented ECOVAST and Phil Turner represented the PREPARE Network at the meeting in Brussels of the DG Agri RD Advisory Group, on 25 May. The meeting commenced with elections for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. There was only one nomination for Chairman – Mr Peter Pascher, a farmer representing COPA; he was duly elected. For the two Vice-Chairman posts, three candidates stood – Gerard Peltre of RED (former Chairman of the

Group), Madame Faustine Defossez of the European Environmental Bureau and Monsieur Giles Rousseau of UECEV (European Livestock and Meat Trading Union). Mme Defossez and M. Rousseau were elected.

Mr Pascher tabled a paper laying out his Strategic Agenda and discussion on the issues it raised took place. These will, it was acknowledged require more thought before any of them can be implemented.

The meeting continued with a presentation by Mrs Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann of the Commission on the future of European Rural Development Policy post 2013. This clearly indicated the current thinking of the Commission, and provoked considerable discussion and comment from the eighty or so Group members present. Amongst the statements made by Mrs Loriz-Hoffmann was the announcement of the EC intention to abolish the AXIS system, it being felt that one measure can serve many objectives – better packages are envisaged. Measures could be combined, with flexibility, harmonising rules with other funding sources.

Other topics on the Agenda included a progress report on the European Network for Rural Development, and presentations on two research studies – SEGIRA (Study on Employment, Growth and Innovation in Rural Areas) and ERASMUS (challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector).

If anyone would like more information on any of these topics, the powerpoint presentations are available – please contact Pam Moore (pam.moore59@ntlworld.com).

Pam Moore and Phil Turner

EUROPEAN RURAL COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION (ERCA)

I attended the ERCA International Dorfkonferenz held in Berlin over two days 13 and 14 May 2011. I was welcomed by the President of ERCA, Professor Bert Brockhuis. Several members of ECOVAST attended – from Germany and Croatia as well as myself from the UK. Franz Nahrada was to have been a speaker at the event but as he was ill he made his presentation via video. The event was very well attended by people from all over Germany representing village networks and also from 15 countries, including several of our colleagues from PREPARE who are members of the ERCA Board.

The intention is that the event should be held again in two years' time to see what progress has been made. There was a strong desire to develop a German Rural Parliament following the model from Sweden and Estonia and other countries. One conclusion was that the European Networks should aim to link their web sites so that people can see what each of the different networks is doing. ECOVAST already does this, and if the ERCA Board agrees, we can add their link.

Valerie Carter

EVENTS NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL

June 8-11 Europa Nostra Congress 2011, Amsterdam, more details at www.europanostra.org

September 10-13 Europa Nostra UK Annual Meeting, Portsmouth "Defence of the Realm", more details from lester.borley@waitrose.com

October 19 – 23 Vienna, "Historic Water supplies, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow", symposium organized by ECOVAST Austria and others. Information from Dr Arthur Spiegler

a.speigler@reflex.at or Dr Brigitte Macaria b.macaria@chello.at

November 11, Ivanic Grad, Croatia, conference is 'Models for Management of Historical Towns Revitalization and Development Processes'. Details at <http://www.ecovast.hr/>

November 22–25 "Preservation of Cultural Heritage", Moscow, Russia contact vp@Vvcentre.ru