

May 23rd 2001

Dear ACC-member

I think every one of you is very well informed through e-mails about the state of affairs of our association. There is probably no need to inform you further.

And then, anyway, I feel like telling you about our most recent initiative. Together with three other associations and 13 folk high schools in Denmark, we have yesterday May 22nd founded a new organisation. The association is -so far- called Youth 2002 and it has one single aim, which is quite a lot though: In summer 2002 we are going to gather 1000 young people from all over Europe at folk high schools in Denmark, where they are going to discuss the future of Europe and to draft a future constitution for Europe.

The project should be seen in the context of the EU-enlargement process and of the endeavours of the Inter Governmental Conference of Nice to invite all population groups, institutions, organizations, parties, layers etc. to open a thorough, common and long-lasting debate on the future of Europe. For us it is crucial, of course, that the future of Europe is something to be debated upon by not only EU- and candidate countries, but by all European populations affected by an eventual result.

The Youth 2002 has as its raison d'être only the planning and carrying through of this project and it is going to "close" as an association after the project ending.

ACC is as a co-founder represented in the board of the association. The ACC-board decided recently at the 12th meeting in Budapest to appoint me as the primary candidate for the board and subsidiary Elly Andersen. In reality it means, that Elly will have a seat in the board, because I personally am probably going to be employed in the new secretariat of the Youth 2002.

For those few of you not knowing Elly, I can tell that she is very experienced in International Youth work. Elly was and is for example closely related to the development of the Minority Courses at Højskolen Østersøen, Denmark, which I think most of you have heard of.

You will hear much more of this of course, and you are now more important than ever! It is because of us co-cooperating, that it is possible to put weight behind the argument, that projects like these are important at all. Our network is also very attractive for the Youth 2002 project and fortunately we are very respected for this contact-network.

Two comments should be added to the call for the General Assembly. If you have paid your 2001-fee already, you are entitled to vote at the General Assembly. If not, you are very welcome anyway, also to take part in debates of course, but for formal statutory reasons, you can't vote. At the GA in Latvia, 2000, it was stated that we would arrange the GA 2001 in Frisia. We tried to fundraise for a working camp in Terschelling/Skylge as close to the GA as possible. Unfortunately it failed, which means we don't have any funds for supporting travels, lodge and board. Since there are many more members, who would have easy and cheap travels to Budapest, we decided to arrange it there in stead.

All the best,
John