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European Civic Forum Rome, 11 May 2007

The European Civic Forum board of director's meeting took place on 11 May 11 2007 in Rome in the head office of ARCI, Nuova Associazione.

The following organizations were present in this meeting : European House of Budapest (Hungary), CSV (United Kingdom), Capmagellan (Portugal), Contact 2103 (Belgium), LDH (France), League of the education (France), CIDEM (France), AEDH (Belgium), GSI Italia (Italy), Anima'fac (France), ARCI (Italy)

AEGEE (Belgium), ANO pro Evropu (Czech Republic), Youth Work Ireland (Ireland), JTI (Estonia), PAREMVASSI (Greece), IRI - Europe (Germany), Documenta (Spain) were excused.

1) Adoption of the report of the last meeting (2 February 2007)

The Board of directors adopted the report of the meeting of 2 February 2007 organized in the European Economic and Social Committee.

2) Information concerning the official creation of the FCE

In France, when once wants to create an association (law 1901), it is necessary to join to the file a letter with information on the association's Steering committee dated and signed by each one of its members. The majority of the members have already signed this letter. As soon as the totality of the members will have signed it, the file, which is already ready, will be put down in the services of the Prefecture de police de Paris.

3) Participation of the FCE to the liaison group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

The EESC is, at the European level, the institutional surrounding of consultation, representation and information of organized civil society. It is composed of representatives of economic, social and civic organizations of the Member states.

To set up a stronger and more structured cooperation with European civil society organisations and networks, the Committee decided to set up a liaison group to interact with these organisations and networks. The liaison group is both a liaison body and a structure for political dialogue. It is composed of 15 thematic European platforms.

Since March 2007, the European Civic Forum has joined this group. Jan Robert Suesser (LDH) represents the network.

The first mission of the FCE is to make propositions on how boost the institutional process at the European level to promote a Europe closer to citizens. To do so, FCE members will be associated to the elaboration of these propositions. They will be asked to do a presentation on how the EU is perceived in their country and which are the expectations of both, citizens and civil society organisations, towards EU.

4) Information on the ECI campaign

The ECI team took in consideration the remarks done by the Board of directors of the European Civic Forum and made the modifications needed in their leaflet. Two information emails were sent to the members of the network with documents given by ECI encouraging them to join this

campaign. Several contacts have already taken place between member associations and the coordinator of this initiative, Carsten Berg.

Besides, a space will be completely dedicated to this initiative in the new version of the FCE website.

5) Organization of board meetings

It was decided that two types of board meetings will be organized. During the meetings that will take place in Brussels, the board will mostly make decisions on the projects or the campaigns to be led and will take position with regard to certain European current events.

Meetings will be also organized in the countries assuming the presidency of the EU and this, in direct link with FCE's local members and, if possible, with other actors of national civil society.

So that these meetings are a rich experience for all, the Board decided to work upstream certain particularly interesting subjects, such as civil dialogue (in order to make propositions during the 2nd half of 2007) and intercultural dialogue (in anticipation of the holding of the European year of intercultural dialogue in 2008). Other subjects that were important for the board were citizenship of residence and Human rights and democracy in Europe. If members of the network are also interested in these subjects, they can propose from now on ideas of reflection and actions to be done.

6) Website and logo of the European Civic Forum.

A new logo and a new website have been conceived for the European Civic Forum.

Concerning the Flash info, the news on FCE members and of European actuality, it was decided that the participation of the members will be desirable for a better animation of the network. So, do not hesitate to send to Macarena NUÑO (contact@forumciviqueeuropeen.org) information concerning the current events of your organisation as well as some information on the reflections that take place in your country with regard to the current events of the European debate. The articles, written in French or in English, do not have to exceed 1 000 signs, spaces included.



Examples of logos

7) Next board's meetings.

The following calendar is proposed:

- September, 2007: Board of directors' meeting in Brussels (the date will be set up very soon).
- December, 2007: Lisbon (Portugal)

Organisation of a board of directors and a public meeting on civil dialogue in Europe.

- February, 2008: board of directors in Brussels
- April, 2008: Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Organisation of a board of directors and a public meeting on intercultural dialogue.

- In June, 2008: board of directors' meeting in Brussels
- In September, 2008: Royan (France)

Organisation of a board of directors and a public meeting on the services of general interest.

All these themes of European actuality will be debated by taking into account the concerns and the reality of the issue at the national level.

8) Thanks

The members of the board would like to thank ARCI for welcoming the board on its head office and Roberto Tavani for his availability.