



# WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 (No. 1) March 2001

## Philosophical Foundations of Direct Democracy

(cont., by Jiri Polak)

Experts say Einstein's Theory of Relativity was the last great *objectivist* or *realist* theory in physics. According to Einstein, reality is independent of the observer and conforms to objective physical laws. Einstein used to say, "God doesn't play dice". Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the Theory of Relativity began to be challenged by *Quantum Mechanics* which deals with the realm of subatomic reality. The most prominent figure here was Niels Bohr who, together with Heisenberg, founded the *Copenhagen Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics*. According to this view, prior to observation, reality only exists as an immense number of potentialities (*wave functions*) of which one is actualized by the act of observation, while the others *collapse*. To my knowledge, attempts at combining the two approaches into one (*Dirac*) have not been quite successful.

Soon, Einstein began to quarrel with Bohr. A corner-stone of the Theory of Relativity is the postulate that no signal can be transmitted at a speed exceeding the speed of light. In 1935, Einstein, together with Podolsky and Rosen, published an article describing a hypothetical experiment aimed at proving that Bohr (who, implicitly, questioned this) was wrong. There are some particles which always exist as twins seeming to spin in opposite directions. If you tear them apart and let one of them pass through a filter changing its spin then, according to Einstein, the spin of the other particle could not be affected if they both travel at a speed approaching the speed of light. (The *EPR Paradox*)

Until the 1970s, this postulate could not be tested experimentally. But in the late sixties, John Bell invented a method (*the Bell Inequality*) and even a calculus permitting to evaluate the results (*Bell's Theorem*). Repeated experiments showed that Bohr was right and Einstein was wrong on this point.

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## !NEXT LUND! 1<sup>ST</sup> GDDM CONFERENCE

(THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
DIRECT DEMOCRACY)

JUNE 9 - 10, 2001, LUND, SWEDEN



SPARTA - Tunavägen 39

"All power is originally in the People and should be exercised by them in person, if that could be done with convenience, or even with little difficulty."

"The Legislature ought to be the most exact transcript of the whole society. Representation is made necessary only because it is impossible for the People to act collectively."

Quoted from Philadelphia II ([philadelphiatwo.org](http://philadelphiatwo.org))

### **Preliminary information:**

The agenda will be set by Senator Mike Gravel, USA  
Chair: M.Dane Waters, President of the I&R Institute, Washington  
Organization and information: Jiri Polak,  
[jiri.polak@swipnet.se](mailto:jiri.polak@swipnet.se), tel. + (0)46-58891

**Participation fee:** If we get a sufficient grant, as we hope, no participation fee will be required. If not, a small fee of about \$ 50 (mainly for the meals) will be asked for on arrival. Those who require vegetarian food should let me know a few days in advance by e-mail.

**Accommodation:** If you want me to book a hotel room for you, please let me know by **15<sup>th</sup> May**. Prices: Hotel Sparta (weekends) about \$ 47 per night; hotel Lundia (weekends) about \$ 75 per night. The prices include breakfast. On weekdays, the prices are somewhat higher. Guesthouse: "Täget" (Train) behind the railway station; about \$ 25 per night; has to be booked well in advance.

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# 1<sup>ST</sup> GDDM CONFERENCE (cont.)

**Directions:** By flight to Copenhagen, Denmark (Kastrup airport); from Kastrup by train to Malmö, Sweden (about 35 minutes); from Malmö to Lund by taxi (about \$ 37) or by local train ("Pågatåg"). From the Lund Central station to Sparta by taxi, by local bus (No.1) or on foot (about 25 minutes walking). The Lundia hotel is situated opposite to the station. By train, bus or car from the continent: boat from Sasnitz to Trelleborg, then go on to Malmö.

**Preliminary program:** Informal meeting and registration at the reception of the Sparta hotel on Friday 8.6. from 17.00. Proceedings begin on Saturday at 9.30. There will be some country reports like in Pribram and Athens, but we shall also talk organizational matters. The conference will be open for the public who will get an opportunity to ask questions and discuss. Dr. *Mikael Nordfors* will present his *Vivarto* system bridging the gap between direct and representative democracy. This system is already arousing interest both in Sweden and abroad.

## GDDM - background:

On the First International DD Conference (Czech Republic, 1998), Senator Gravel proposed to establish a formal worldwide organization. At the Second International DD Conference (Greece, 2000), Senator Gravel was not present but some participants decided to constitute themselves a WDDM Committee (Worldwide Direct Democracy Movement). Senator Gravel joined the Committee later. At the NDDIE Conference (Munich, November 2000), he was elected chairman. It turned out, however, that some Committee members did not agree with his ideas and, after a period of internet discussions, the movement split. The adherents of the original concept remain members of the WDDM, while the followers of Senator Gravel have formed the GDDM. The differences are the following:

**WDDM:** No leadership, only a spokesperson and some other functions; rotation of spokespersons every 6 months; precise rules of membership and voting inside the Committee; requirement of two-third majority when voting; contacts and dissemination of the DD message only or mainly by the internet.

**GDDM:** Strong leadership; no rotation of functions, only periodical elections; flexible rules; simple majority sufficient; frequent face-to-face meetings (once or twice a year); everybody attending such a meeting will be entitled to participate in discussions and voting.

The GDDM will be a service organization facilitating contacts and building information channels among local DD organizations without trying to influence these organizations in any way. Between the WDDM and the GDDM, there is no rivalry or tension. Friendly relations and cooperation will be maintained. In the GDDM, there is an understanding of the differences between the American self-empowering tradition (on the basis of which *Philadelphia II* is surely a promising approach) and European parliamentarism. Therefore, a special strategy for Europe will be discussed in Lund.

## INTERNATIONAL



USA:

**Information from Mr.M.Dane Waters,**  
(<http://www.iandrinstute.org>)

• On 24 October 2000, Mr.Waters wrote, "As you probably know, the status of ballot measures can change many times before an election occurs. Unlike candidates that are on the ballot, ballot measures can quickly be thrown off the ballot and be restored to the ballot by the courts. ... This update is designed to give you the most up-to-date information we have on what will be voted on statewide this November. Additionally, I would urge you to visit our updated Ballotwatch site at <http://www.ballotwatch.org> where you can find links to the full text of statewide ballot measures as well as links to state sponsored pro/con statements and voter guides." In the following text, Mr.Waters enumerated five changes which had taken place since his latest report.

• On 4 November 2000, Mr. Waters wrote, "The election is only a few days away. As each of you know, the citizens will be voting on over 200 statewide ballot questions in addition to deciding who will reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. The Institute has been tracking all of these statewide ballot measures and we have provided information to almost every single major news organization (CNN, ABC News, Fox News Channel, CBS News, National Public Radio, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York

Times, National Journal, Campaigns & Elections Magazine, C-Span, Associated Press, UPI, etc) about what will be voted on next week as well as historical trends, attempts to regulate the process, etc."

• Further on, Mr.Waters brings the article *Voters must choose between issues on Election Day* by PETER ROFF, National Political Analyst (Washington, Nov. 1; UPI)

• On 17 November, Mr.Waters wrote, "As my earlier mails have stated, there is a tremendous amount of discussion taking place around the country about the possibility of making changes to the initiative process. Over the last several months, many prominent elected officials have come out publicly calling for changes to the initiative process ... Whether or not these calls for change will result in positive changes to the initiative process is hard to say, but previous attempts by state legislators to address "concerns" associated with the initiative process have done little but increase the cost of utilizing the process and have diminished the ability of most everyday citizens to utilize this important tool. ..."

"It is incumbent upon the citizens to be vigilant in ensuring that any legislative process, whether it be the initiative process or the legislative process utilized by elected officials, operates properly and that legitimate concerns are addressed."

Mr.Waters urges all American citizens to supply the I&R Institute with relevant information concerning this trend.

• On 29 November, Mr.Waters brought more information about the same subject, including an article by MICHAEL R. WICKLINE (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette).

## INTERNATIONAL

• On 13 December, Mr. Waters wrote, "I came across the following articles and thought you might find them of interest. They give a good overview of some of the discussions taking place around the country regarding the initiative and referendum process." ...

- *Utah's official-English measure is blocked* (Associated Press/Utah, December 1, 2000).

- *Judge blocks property measure* (The Oregonian, December 7, 2000)

- *Legislature should undertake reform* (The Spokesman Review, December 7, 2000)

• On 11 January 2001, Mr. Waters wrote, "This update has a little of everything. In this roundup you will read about: the current state of the initiative process in Washington State, how the Washington State business community may start using the initiative process to accomplish some of their reforms, how the Oregon Teacher's Association has sued Oregon Taxpayers United for Racketeering, how the Colorado Secretary of State has ruled that the internet can not be used for signature gathering, how Mississippi will be voting on April 17 on removing the Confederate Battle emblem from their flag - and much more.

Additionally, I would to ask a favor of each of you. The Institute as you know is a non-profit that survives on tax deductible donations. We are undertaking our 2001 fundraising campaign and I would like to include in our funding request quotes from our readers as to how important the Institute is and how the information we provide has been helpful to you (at least I hope the information has been useful to you - especially to the media that we have worked closely with over the last few years). These quotes will be included in our funding appeals and will help convince potential donors of the value of what we do."

• On 29 January, Mr. Waters wrote, "As I have discussed in previous emails, state legislatures are considering numerous laws and amendments that will have an impact on the initiative process. The following articles discuss some of those efforts in Washington State and Maine. After each article I have included the name of the Institute's state contact who is coordinating the Institute's response to the proposed legislation. (If you know of someone who would like to help the Institute track legislative actions in a state and serve as the contact person to coordinate our response please let me know at your earliest convenience).

Additionally, a conference has been planned for March 23, 2001 at Santa Clara University School of Law that will discuss the California initiative process. The Initiative & Referendum Institute will not be participating in this conference and takes no position on the views

### PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF DIRECT DEMOCRACY (cont.)

It seems that, after all, God does play dice. This development forces us to change our *Weltanschauung*. Reality seems to be affected by the way we look at it (Heisenberg's *Uncertainty Principle*). Exact predictions cannot be made on the basis of objective physical laws, strictly speaking, we can only guess what reality will look like by using statistical rather than mathematical methods. Sometimes, this change is defined as a transition from *transcendence* to *immanence*. Since the second half of the twentieth century, such a transition is observable virtually in all fields of western intellectual activity.

Illustrations of this phenomenon can be found in thousands of books and articles and their number increases all the time. Let me mention a few additional examples pertaining to the domain of exact sciences:

The de Broglie, Bohm and Vigier approach, consistent with Bell, postulating that any event, no matter how insignificant, occurring anywhere in the universe, affects the entire universe;

The Many Worlds Theory (Everett-Wheeler-Graham; in my opinion, completely crazy) according to which every observation makes the world, lock, stock and barrel, split into two different worlds which have no mutual contacts and are therefore unaware of their counterparts' existence. This process is supposed to go on and on, so that there are billions of worlds and their number increases all the time.

The *Anthropic Principle*, (weak, strong and participatory) postulating that "in a fundamental way, the presence of conscious

beings such as ourselves may be crucial to the observed structure of the entire universe. We may be central after all." In plain language: The universe is such a nice place to live in because we have chosen that which suits us best. How flattering!

In the field of medium dimensions, the hypothesis of *formative causation* postulating the existence of *morphogenetic fields* (Dr. Rupert Sheldrake) seems to have been verified experimentally, at least to some extent.

Not even mathematics, this most exact of all exact sciences, has escaped this trend. There are two ways of looking at mathematics. We can believe that mathematical relations exist in their own right, independently of anything. But we can also consider mathematics as a product of the mathematicians' brains. Lately, the latter approach has become dominant. So that the belief that *two and two makes four* might not be quite obvious in all settings.

And what about *time* and *space*? They too seem to be independent of us and of anything. But scientists tell us that before the Big Bang, they did not exist.

No wonder that many physicists, rather than other categories of scientists, believe in God. But I think that the physicists' interpretations of their discoveries are terribly one-sided. They do not take into account individual differences among observers and the fact that the observers live in society as well as in a larger biological environment which almost certainly puts severe constraints on their observations. People are not free to observe - and thereby create - any type of reality. Therefore, to get a more or less adequate picture of the world we live in, we have to also consider the achievements of other sciences - above all psychology, sociology, and social psychology. That we'll try to do in the next issue.

(To be continued)

## INTERNATIONAL

being expressed at the conference but as you know part of our mission is to keep you informed on upcoming I&R conferences and symposiums." ...

The articles mentioned are the following:

*State s residents like to take the initiative* by David Postman, Seattle Times political reporter.

*Tough fight looms over bills to curb referendums* by Paul Carrier, Portland Press Herald Writer (January 19, 2001)

*The California Initiative: Fourth Branch of Government* (Santa Clara University School of Law; March 23, 2001)

• On 12 February, Mr. Waters wrote, "It s that time again. The Institute has begun the preparations for its next international conference. It will be held in San Francisco from Thursday, August 30 through Saturday, September 1. This is Labor Day weekend, which will give attendees a great opportunity to combine learning with a vacation opportunity in San Francisco and the west coast.

We are hoping to have between 400 and 500 people attend (possibly more). The conference will be a balanced overview of I&R in the U.S. and in select countries around the world. Panelists and participants will consist of activists, academics, the media, elected officials and other opinion leaders. It should be a very diverse and influential group.

The agenda is not complete and still in development but some of the POTENTIAL panels include:

- 1) A comparison of the U.S. and Swiss initiative systems
- 2) A look at the current state of the initiative and referendum process in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Africa
- 3) A look at the use of national referendums to address sovereignty issues - in particular Canada (Quebec secession), Northern Ireland (Good Friday Accords), and the break-up of Yugoslavia
- 4) A look at the possibilities of establishing a national initiative or referendum process in the United States
- 5) A look at the reforms attempted through the initiative process including drug policy reform, term limits, school choice, bi-lingual education, ending racial preferences, animal protection, environmental reform and tax reform
- 6) A look at the current efforts to regulate, restrict, establish or reform the initiative process
- 7) A look at the current legal struggles of the initiative process (access restrictions, super majority requirements, single subject restrictions and circulator requirements)
- 8) A look at the difficulty of getting governments to actually implement initiatives once the voters adopt them
- 9) A look at the fiscal impact of initiatives
- 10) A look at the possible use of the internet to collect signatures and increase citizen participation in the initiative process
- 11) A point - counterpoint debate about the initiative and referendum process

Any comments you have regarding these potential panels and recommendations on potential panelists and speakers would be greatly appreciated. ... The registration fee will be somewhere in the \$350 - \$395 range.

• On 15 February, Mr. Waters sent us the *I&R Update Volume 4 Number 2 - Initiative and Referendum Legislation*. (See the I&R Institute s website).

### **I&R Update Volume 4 Number 4 - Legal News,**

**February 24, 2001**

### **Part of the Initiative & Referendum Institute's Citizen Lawmaker Series of Educational Tools Table of Contents**

*Introduction/ Overview; Colorado; North Dakota; Oregon; Washington State*

*(see I&R Institute s website)*

### **More information from the USA:**

• On 26 October, a Symposium on Internet Voting and Democracy was held in Los Angeles. It was sponsored by Loyola Law School and the *Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review*. 15 scholars and politicians were on the panels.

• On 24 October 2000, **Mr. John Suhr** called our attention to this website: <http://www.nova.edu/ssss/DR/crwww.html>

• On 26 October, **Mr. Lee Gottlieb** wrote, "...visit [www.gotworld.net/morph.html](http://www.gotworld.net/morph.html) and read the latest issue of *Metamorphose*, a publication of the Active Humanists of America. It's for citizens who are tired of forked-tongue politicians and businessmen; citizens who would like to create a better world for themselves and their children."

• On the same day, **Mr. John A. Newell** called our attention to *Psycheocracy: The Scientific Selection of Primary Candidates* (<http://www.home.earthlink.net/~jnewell957/>)

• On 31 October, **Mr. Evan Ravitz** wrote, "U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D, Alaska 1969-81) and I will be on KGNU 88.5FM (live at <http://Kgnu.org>) on the Connections call-in show, Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30-9:30 AM Mountain Time to discuss the new Direct Democracy Initiative proposed by Mike s non-profit Philadelphia II. Senator Gravel was THE maverick anti-nuke and anti-war Senator of the 70s. The Direct Democracy Initiative is THE most ambitious and well-thought proposal to allow people more lawmaking power - the central power of government. ...."

• On 31 October 2000, **Mr. Stan Price** wrote, "This might brighten your day ... H.L. Mencken is credited with this gem: "Government is a broker in pillage, and every election is a sort of advance auction sale of stolen goods." To which we added in recent history: not only an auction sale of stolen goods but the goods that are purchased are never delivered. ..."

• On 3 November, **Mr. John Suhr** mentioned another interesting website: <http://www.it21surveys.com> On 11 November 2000, he wrote, "Note in this article that 56% of those polled favored electing the President by popular vote vs. 39% opposed. ... Hopefully, the 1980 survey on the Constitutional Amendment to end the EC will be retaken soon, and we can see if 67% are still in favor. This should be an opportunity for Philadelphia Two and EDD.

<http://www.uniontrib.com/news/uniontrib/sat/index.html>

• **Mr. Daniel B. Jeffs**, The Direct Democracy Center, calls our attention to the book *America s Crisis: The Direct Democracy and Direct Education Solution*

*(http://www.realdemocracy.com)*

• On 30 December 2000, **Mr. John Suhr** wrote, "I just did something I haven't done for a while: I did an AOL search for "E-

Democracy" and found over 400,000 titles listed! Under E-Voting, there were 30. I feel sure if I went on to search "Internet Voting, Internet Democracy, Electronic Democracy, Direct Democracy," etc., I would find many, many more. ..."

- On 31 December 2000, **Mr. Steve Magruder** wrote, "I did a search for the exact words "direct democracy" on Google (arguably the best search engine) and I got 21,900 hits. Not bad." ....

- On 3 February 2001, **Mr. John Suhr** wrote, "Hope you'll find this interesting. I was not aware Congress had mandated E-voting, but am happy this is proceeding and that Microsoft and other major companies are behind it: <A HREF="http://www.infoworld.com/articles/op/xml/01/29/010129oplivingston.xml

">Click here: First congressionally mandated internet vote points the way to technology of the year</A>"

- On 16 February 2001, **Mr. David Parrish** wrote, "Here's an article about the U.S. Congress increasingly considering the use of voting via the Internet:

[http://www.idg.net/ic\\_429523\\_1794\\_9-10000.html](http://www.idg.net/ic_429523_1794_9-10000.html)"

- On 19 February 2001, **Mr. Evan Ravitz** wrote, "I watched the video this Dr. Macpherson below mentions at <http://www.netpress.com/aer/sali.ram>. After the video starts, you must go to Part Two by sliding the Realplayer "clip position" button (in the purple line to the right of the "start", "pause" and "stop" buttons) all the way to the right - which skips Part One.

He mentions a British poll taken in 1991, 1995 and 1999, all showing 77% approval for referenda and 77% for initiatives. This is statistically the same as the 1987 Gallup poll which shows 76% approval for "The voters should have a direct say on some issues". This is pretty stable and shows we will win!"

## CANADA

- On 05 December 2000, **Mr. Colin Stark** wrote, "CBC Radio 690 aired an interesting program on "This Morning" (Canadian Broadcasting Corp), Shelagh Rogers interviewed David Agnew <http://www.digital4sight.com/> and author Paulina Borsook <http://www.cyberselfish.com/> The CBC has a HUGE website supporting this brief interview. It is full of references to DD.

These will get you started.

<http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/thismorning/>

<http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/thismorning/contact.html>

<http://interact.cbc.ca/cgi-bin/WebX?13@@@.ee79284>

[http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/thismorning/sites/politics/digitaldemocracy\\_001205.html](http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/thismorning/sites/politics/digitaldemocracy_001205.html)

- On 13 February, **Mr. Colin Stark** appended a recent edition to the website of Canadians for Direct Democracy

<http://www.npsnet.com/cdd/FAQs.htm>

- On 24 October 2000, **Mr. Lorenzo Bouchard** wrote, "Incidentally I'm presently filling out the requirements needed to run for office as an Independent in this Fed. Election. One of my platforms is to develop a rapidly functional process of referenda in my riding on current issues in Parliament, if I should be elected. A gradual step to DD. (<http://mypage.direct.ca/l/bouchard>)

- On 6 February, Mr. Bouchard wrote, "I and my wife suggest that some of these activists as theorists, should get back from their key boards, and do some direct contact on the streets with pamphlets and signs, locally. Foster the concepts of initiatives, Referenda,

Recall and impeachment for a starter. I personally spend 1 to 2 hrs, 4 or 5 days a week, doing precisely that, on the streets of Victoria. My job starts at 4:30 afternoons so I have some free time around noon. Libraries, Cenotaphs, Court Houses, local newspapers and Universities are good areas to picket with a sign designing these tools for Democracy."

- On 12 and 20 January 2001, **Triaka@webtv.net** wrote, "Individuals have an Inherent Right to vote directly on the Policies of government" <http://globalvisions.org/cl/swm>

- On 8 December, **PreferredVoter@aol.com** wrote, "Please view the following web site to see a new and easy way to prevent vote fraud and eliminate the technical problems like those in Florida. <http://www.smart4all.com> Send me your comments."



## LATIN AMERICA

- On 3 November 2000, **Mr. Sergio Longueira** wrote, "Golpea a nuestra puerta una explosión social creciente y de proporciones. .... Lo que es de lamentar en todo esto es que no se encuentra una sola organización política en condiciones de encausar estos reclamos y darles perspectiva de poder ... Porque en definitiva de eso se trata ... mientras el poder este en manos de políticos rufianos o inútiles, todos estos reclamos solo van a quedar en eso ... grandes calenturas populares, y después ? .... Ojalá esta vez, se encienda la mecha de la organización social y política que permita la participación de la ciudadanía toda en la toma de decisiones políticas y económicas y se pueda desplazar de una vez y para siempre este poder corrupto y limitado de la pseudo democracia parlamentaria, clientista y podrida. ....

MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL POR LA DEMOCRACIA DIRECTA

[www.democraciadirecta.org](http://www.democraciadirecta.org)

- In January 2001, **Mrs. Romina Kasman**, Argentina, contacted Senator Gravel and expressed support for his ideas. She wrote, "Politicayactualidad.com is a great undertaking aimed to contribute to the democratic consolidation process, which is taking place in our continent, especially in South America and in our country, Argentina. ...." Mrs. Kasman and her colleagues, members of a Center for Social Research, Buenos Aires, are planning to participate in our coming Lund Conference. Needless to say we are extremely pleased to be able to establish, for the first time, regular contacts with this dynamic and increasingly important continent.



## NEW ZEALAND

- On 12 August 2000, **Prof. Michael Noah Mautner, Ph.D.** wrote, "...I believe that representatives in Parliaments committed to a Direct Democracy pledge - to act in Parliament as instructed by their constituents - is the most efficient way to introduce DD using the current systems. My wife Helene and myself tried it in the US and there are some others trying it now there. Should we as a group promote people to run for office as DD Representatives, and the formation of DD Parties? How can we help?" (NOTE: This is precisely the strategy to be discussed in Lund!)

"Maybe we can serve as a central clearing-house and database for DD activists worldwide.

I am receiving electronic newsletters in science and they are very useful. Would anyone be interested to work along on a Direct Democracy World Newsletter?" ([www.Direc](http://www.Direc))



Direct Democracy in action: **Dr. Michael N. Mautner** with his son collecting public petitions against nuclear power in Central Park, New York, in 1976.

- On 5 March, Dr. Mautner sent to the WDDM Committee a letter thanking them for having admitted his wife, Mrs. **Helene Mautner**, into the Committee. He wrote, "As you may know, Helene ran a symbolic Direct Democracy Representative campaign (the first one in modern times, we believe) in Maryland, USA, in 1984."

For details, you can contact [Directdemocracy@go.com](mailto:Directdemocracy@go.com)



## FRANCE

- On 31 October 2000, **Mr. Yvan Bachaud** wrote, "Le Mouvement pour l'initiative populaire MIP présente sur son site à <http://www.ifrance.com/initiativepopulaire> un projet complet de Constitution de la 1ère république citoyenne qu'il appelle de ses vœux.

Il propose une réforme radicale du Conseil constitutionnel et de la Justice... ! Il est inadmissible

1. Que le conseil constitutionnel soit **PARTISAN**.
2. que la responsabilité civile professionnelle des juges ne puisse pas être mise en cause. C'est une honte pour la France."

- On 21 December, **Mr. Georges Metanomski** wrote, "... In 1970s I developed a mainframe conferencing system based upon the concept of ordered and structured debate, favoring convergence towards consensus. While teaching computer science at the Haifa University, I tested it on a workshop called Compromise Solution of the Arab-Jewish Conflict, with participation of Arab and Jewish students. The debate started from two antagonistic stands apparently impossible to reconcile. Still, after a few months of interacting via the system, the original fanatic antagonism gave place to more and more mutual understanding and finally to 100% consensus about the compromise. ... I have recently tested the concept of the structured debate in the Internet context in France on the theme of death penalty. ...

The concept and reports of both tests are shown in my site: [perso.wanadoo.fr/zgmet/dirdema.htm](http://perso.wanadoo.fr/zgmet/dirdema.htm)

It is written in French, so, if you cannot understand it, I may resume some of its essentials in another message." ...

- On 21 January 2001, in a CICDD letter, Mr. Metanomski, speaking about research on EDD FOUNDATIONS, pointed out that he had identified a few research areas encompassed by these foundations. For details, you may contact the author at [Zgmet@yahoo.com](mailto:Zgmet@yahoo.com)

- On 6 March, Mr. Yvan Bachaud wrote:  
POURQUOI VOTER BLANC ...

Les Maires et les Conseillers municipaux ne sont *pas* choisis par les électeurs mais sont TOUS désignés par les Etats majors des partis qui placent leurs copains et maintenant leurs copines **en position éligible**.

Une fois élus ils font ce qu'ils veulent et pendant 6 ans les électeurs n'ont plus aucun pouvoir.

En Italie, par référendum *d'initiative populaire* (RIP), le 10.06.1991, le peuple a demandé et obtenu avec 95,5% de OUI (et 62,5% de participation) l'instauration du vote préférentiel. C'est à dire le droit pour les électeurs de modifier l'ordre des candidats sur les listes et donc de **CHOISIR** leurs représentants.

En France, le *Gouvernement* a refusé d'instaurer le "vote préférentiel" et le référendum d'initiative populaire (RIP) et "l'Opposition" a également refusé de déposer des propositions de loi en leur faveur. Dans ces conditions et aussi longtemps que les électeurs ne pourront pas **CHOISIR** leurs représentants par le vote préférentiel et **CONTROLER** leurs décisions par Référendum d'Initiative Populaire (RIP), nous les invitons au:

**VOTE BLANC** à défaut à **l'ABSTENTION**.



## GERMANY

**Mehr Demokratie, e.V.**, Pressemitteilung, Bremen, 5.12.2000 (A few quotations)

"Für das Volksbegehren "Mehr Demokratie in Thüringen" haben sich in der viermonatigen Sammelfrist bis zum 27. November 381.405 Bürgerinnen und Bürger (19,26%) eingetragen. Damit übertraf das 22 Verbände umfassende Aktionsbündnis deutlich die vorgeschriebene Hürde von 277.233 Stimmen (14%). ... Das ist ein politischer Erdbeben. Thüringen erlebt einen zweiten Aufbruch in die Demokratie. ... " (For details and more information you can visit <http://www.mehr-demokratie.de>)

- On 25 December 2000, **Mr. Carsten Scholvien** sent round this letter: "I wrote a small program to test the preferential voting system I developed a few years ago. You can apply it to votes with more than two options (candidates, propositions). You can test it at <http://cybnet.de/pvs/> There you can simulate different vote scenarios."

### PLANNING CELLS:

- On 11 November 2000, the periodical *vhw Forum Wohneigentum* published a long article by **Prof. Dr. Peter C. Dienel**, *Neue Chancen für eine Stadt der Bewohner; Das Bürgergutachten durch Planungszellen - Ein Aufruf zur Eigeninitiative*. The article brings additional information about this DD model which has already become routine in Germany and even in some other countries. On 6 December, *Mittelbayerische Zeitung* published an article on the same subject concerning the town of *Regensburg*: *Je 25 Bürger bestimmen; Stadt schafft Planungszellen*

- Information from **Dr. Michael Macpherson** (5 February 2001): "Lecture at the pre-congress seminar of the December 2000 Assembly of the European Regions, Seinäjoki, Finland. ... The main theme of the congress was "the new forms of the European governance." Lecture title: "The possibilities of information technology to improve and develop democracy and democratic processes". A video recording of the seminar which contains this lecture (in Part 2) may be found via the (mirrored) AER home page

<http://www.netpres.com/> or directly

<http://www.netpres.com/aer/sali.ram>

See lecture summary plus links to background material at <http://home.snafu.de/mjm/seinajoki.html>



## UK

• On 28 November 2000, **Mr. Bernard Clayson**, New Political System Moderator, invited DD supporters to join his group. He wrote: Do you believe

- A: you live in a democratic society, i.e. the voters have a say.
- B: political parties are the right way to govern.
- C: the current method of elections is the best.
- D: in Proportional Representation.

If your answer to all of the above is NO, then read on. If you think you do not have the time to get involved, ask yourself why. It wouldn't have anything to do with the fact that you're taxed at every twist and turn to pay for a crazy system of politics that never asks your opinion, and you wonder why you can't make ends meet? Yes, I do include the farce called elections, they're all over you like fleas on a dog's back, and then sod you until the next one in 4-5 years time.

<http://www.clayson.uk.com>

<http://www.silentmajority.co.uk/newpoliticalsystem>

- On 27 October 2000, we received a **Charter 99 Newsletter**.

This organization has, to some extent, a purpose similar to ours. We might establish cooperation. Their website can be downloaded at <http://www.charter99.org>

• On 3 March, **Dr. M. Macpherson** wrote, "I write to you now because you might wish to join or support efforts to introduce new elements of direct citizens democracy into the British parliamentary system of governance.

Here is a proposal to promote direct democracy in Britain. You may have other ideas, comments and improvements, which I think we all would like to hear about." . . . .

"A brief plea for more direct democracy is at

<http://iniref.tripod.com/background.html>, a concise appeal for I&R at <http://iniref.tripod.com/index.html>.

Also: <http://www.homeusers.prestel.co.uk/rodmell/>

<http://www.sztaki.hu/servlets/voting/call>

For more information you can contact Dr. Macpherson, [mjm@snafu.de](mailto:mjm@snafu.de)



## SWITZERLAND

Initiative by **Mr. Vladimir Rott** and **Mr. Heiko Dittmer** : 80 organizations in 26 countries demand referendum - euobserver.com - 08.01.01

Website: <http://www.egroups.com/group/democracy-europe>



## CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech MDD (Movement for Direct Democracy) has been registered at the Ministry of Interior. Address:

[pdemokracie@quick.cz](mailto:pdemokracie@quick.cz)

Spokesperson: Dr. Milan Valch; Secretary: Mrs. Pavla Barinova



## ROMANIA

**Dr. Angela Ionita** has set up a website:

[http://TD1.ici.ro/democracy.htm/prog\\_prelim.htm](http://TD1.ici.ro/democracy.htm/prog_prelim.htm)



## DENMARK

Danish Society for Direct Democracy: [www.folkestyre.dk](http://www.folkestyre.dk)



## ITALY

On 23 February 2001, **Dr. Antonio Rossin** wrote, "I have got the document below in an Italian DD discussion list. I think it useful posting it to you in English because it is a good picture (even though emphasized a bit) of what the reality of the people/politicians relationship is in my country

Notice that the Italian "bewildered herd" keep on voting the parliamentarists to rule over the people, and reject going and voting the Referendum and other I&R initiatives. . . ."

For the text of the document, please contact [rossin@tin.it](mailto:rossin@tin.it)



## SWEDEN

• On 23 December 2000, **Dr. Mikael Nordfors** wrote, "Vivarto Technologies and Safevote.com have recently signed a co-operation agreement. Safevote has maybe the best and safest electronic voting system in the world and Vivarto Technologies has the most advanced conferencing and deliberation features. We intend to integrate these two softwares into the best one without comparison in the field. We are of course interested in supporting I&R Institute as well as GDDM, WDDM or whatever with our software.

• A new site for e-democracy was just published for the young people in the town Haninge in Sweden. Address = [www.haningeungdomsrad.nu](http://www.haningeungdomsrad.nu). Some info about our voting systems is available in Safevote's newsletter, the Bell ([www.safevote.com](http://www.safevote.com)) In the latest issue, there is an article on the Vivarto Proxy Voting."

• On 10 February 2001, **Mr. Marcus Strömberg**, Göteborg, informed us that he was constructing a DD website at

<http://www.direktdemokrati.net/start>

• On 6 March, Dr. Mikael Nordfors wrote: Innovative tools for electronic democracy and deliberation? A Look at Pnyx Unchat and NetConference Plus eDemocracy is "growing up". It is becoming a market. On this market, we find an ever growing number of "eDemocracy toolkits", which are more or less innovative. All the more innovative tools we see today are based on a comprehensive scientific theory of democracy. Interestingly, we even see the occasional "democracy guru" becoming toolsmith. One such is Professor Benjamin "Strong Democracy" Barber, who has founded BodiesElectric.com. We have invited him and his Swedish business partner to come and present their tools.

### Lecturers:

Professor Benjamin Barber, New Jersey

- <http://www.bodieselectric.com>

Dr. Mikael Nordfors, Stockholm

- <http://www.netconferenceplus.com>

### Moderator:

Dr. John Götze, Stockholm

- <http://www.servicedialog.nu>

Time: Saturday 31/3 kl 12-14

Place: Statskontoret, Norra Riddarholmshamnen 1, Stockholm  
Free entrance, but registration obligatory." . . .

Please send your registration to [john.gotze@statskontoret.se](mailto:john.gotze@statskontoret.se)

**NOTE:** The above is only a selection - necessarily subjective and perhaps biased - from the flood of DD emails I (and thousands of other people round the world) have received during the latest months.

## DD in US States. A Reform Wave of 100 Years Ago - Parallels to Switzerland

Andi Gross

(continued from June 2000)

Before publishing, in 1889 and 1890, a series of articles which appeared in the booklet *Direct Legislation by the Citizenship through the Initiative und Referendum* (1893), Sullivan had interviewed in Zürich especially Karl Bürkli, a Social Democratic pioneer and veteran of the local democracy movement (1825-1901). Where did this interest in a democratic reform in the western US States come from in the first place? Why did, 100 years ago, so many Americans make efforts to broaden and complement representative, indirect democracy, within the framework of the rather rural "Populist Movement" of the 1890s and, after the turn of the century, the rather urban and intellectual "Progressive Movement"? Why did they succeed, between 1898 (South Dakota) and the end of WW1 (1918, Massachusetts and Washington) in pushing through citizen

rights (initiative, referendum and recall of elected representatives) in altogether 19, mostly western, States? Since then, only 5 more US States have established direct democracy. Corresponding efforts to revise the National Constitution have remained unsuccessful until today. In retrospect, J.N. Teal, a journalist residing in Oregon, the third state which introduced citizen rights into its Constitution, explained the relevant social and political background as follows: "Almost everywhere, the situation was the same: People felt that political praxis became more and more remote and they wanted to obtain more direct influence both on legislature and on implementation. Perhaps even more decisive was the insight that Parliaments were unable to promote people's preferences against powerful corporations. Corrupt Parliaments, controlled by these corporations, were rather the rule than an exception and laws had been made according to their wishes. Government and Parliaments were more accessible to powerful vested interests than to public interests. Therefore, people required to get means by which this could be changed and which would make their wishes carry weight." The motives were similar in Oregon and Zürich.

(To be continued)

## AN ELECTION LAW FOR CITIZEN DEMOCRACY

by Jaroslav Langer

(continued from November 1999)

On the election tickets, which have to be delivered to the voters in due time, at least one week before the election, all authorized candidates of the constituency have to be presented by name, address and profession. With each candidate, the supporting party or other association is mentioned. In case of election alliances of several parties or associations (which can also be agreed upon for one constituency only), all organizations supporting the candidacy have to be presented, in the first place that

which, in case of a proportional representation scrutiny (see below) is to receive the votes cast in favor of the candidate in question. The candidate and the respective association shall agree upon the priorities in this respect. The sequence of candidates presented on the ticket will be determined by sortition.

(to be continued)

For information about recent DD developments in Europe, especially the EU, you are invited to read **EUROPA-MAGAZIN** (<http://www.crossnet.ch/europa-magazin/>) containing high quality articles in German and French. Edited by Mr. **Paul Ruppen**, Zürich. □

*Please, send us your contributions for the June issue by the end of May. Thank you.*

Yearly subscription \$ 10,- by cash, cheque or transfer. Account Mr. Jiří Polák, 0168 677 293 ČS OP Praha 2, Jugoslávská 19, Czech Republic



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