

DD Europe

DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19 (No.1)

March 2017

WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTRACY**

Hundred years from now: Happy end after all (?) A vision....

At the early twenty-first century, the future of mankind looked gloomy indeed. Continuing wars in the Middle East region and Africa, artificially nourished tension between the USA and Russia, with China and India lurking behind, periodically exploding acts of Islamic terrorism, global warming, rapidly progressing destruction of the natural environment combined with pollution of the seas and even oceans – why could all that not be stopped? The greatest powers – North America and Europe, and to some extent even other countries, declared themselves, and were considered, to be "democracies", implying that all the horrors and threats of global destruction were receiving authorization from the majority of the citizens.

Owing to lack of information and insight, during some two hundred years or more, the vast majority of people all over the world let themselves be conned to believe that regimes based on election of at least two parties every few years were true democracies, a system expressing and implementing the will of the people, including all the horrors the man in the street was confronted with year after year. As more and more information was becoming accessible, especially thanks to the internet, vaguely, the insight began to emerge: Surely, this cannot be democracy? Since the nineteen nineties, in some western countries, especially in Germany, a few activists began promoting citizen right to Initiative and Referendum according to the Swiss model. These elements of *Direct Democracy* were even included in some constitutions and occasionally applied to certain branches of political practice. Some movements and even organizations adopted I&R as the chief component and final purpose of their program. However, the impact of such elements of more direct democracy on the system, the policy and the quality of life of the majority of the citizens remained slim. Gradually, a few political thinkers, including one or two social scientists, and persons operating outside the mainstream political sphere, were gaining the insight: In spite of the allegation pretending that no better system was possible in practice, the massive, all-embracing and never ending propaganda taking for granted that **THIS** was *democracy*, was in fact a gigantic lie. And the root of the evil was rule by political parties instead of a rule by citizens.

2117



DDD

People began to understand: Rule by political parties, and any party by itself, is incompatible with the very idea of democracy. Every political party endeavours to promote the interests of a certain category of citizens, even to the detriment of other categories of society. By contrast, *Democracy* means a system established in conformity with the wishes of a vast majority of citizens and benefiting society as a whole. Successively, individual citizens and even small organizations understanding this simple truth began to come forward, proposing certain improvements of the system, especially *Citizen Initiative and Referendum, obligatory if demanded by a certain number of citizens inside the respective voting district*.

These improvements were not negligible, but they were absorbed by the party-based systems without achieving any radical change of the system itself. However, since the early twentieth century, a more radical idea began to emerge: *It is not sufficient to introduce partial changes. What needs to be changed is the system as such, and the change has to be proposed and then adopted in referendum by the citizens themselves, not by political parties as the practice was until then*. This idea appeared in Poland and then especially in Czech Republic. During several centuries, people living in the latter country were subdued by surrounding powers – the Austrian Empire, the Nazi Germany (1939-1945) and the Soviet Union (1948-1989). As defence, they developed a culture of various ingenious background proceedings permitting them to survive more or less unscathed until it became again possible to express oneself freely. As a result, since the end of the twentieth century, some activists began to point out what we stress here: *Rule by political parties is not democracy. Democracy has to be built by a Constitution written and adopted by non-partisan representatives of grass-root citizens*. The principles of such Citizen Constitution, and then a few complete constitutions, began to emerge. One of them, written, after years of public debates, by Eng. *Zdeněk Trinkewitz*, began to obtain support in various layers of citizens.

Followed a several years long period of public debates, distribution of the text to various persons and institutions, later even demonstrations and appeals to politicians and the media. At first, these components of the establishment turned a deaf ear to these voices. However, the pressure grew and finally, in the two thousands and thirties, it became too strong to be ignored. Finally, in two thousand and thirty-four, a referendum took place.

It was a watershed in the development of the western world. Political parties disappeared or were reduced to insignificance. Parliamentary representatives were elected directly in single-mandate election districts. Beside decision-making referenda, the Constitution introduced deliberative commissions providing randomly selected advisory citizen groups with information permitting to make qualified recommendations. The maximum transparency eradicated corruption. The reform of the economic system resulted in a dramatic increase of the living standard of the population. Wasting public means on the production of weapons ceased. The bog of war, nourished by those who profited from artificially maintained fear, dwindled. An era of unprecedented prosperity and peace began.

By demonstration effect, the Czech development inspired other countries. Increasingly, people began to understand that, to solve the problems threatening not only their quality of life but, in the long run, their very survival, they had to take decision-making in their own hands instead of leaving it to party representatives, elected or not. A new political paradigm established itself, a paradigm based on cooperation and rational decision-making by the citizens and their true representatives. Wars ceased to exist. People finally understood that wars benefit, at most, only a few percent of the population, a slim political elite not hesitating to use genocide for their own criminal purposes.

Such a development could have started hundred years earlier. But better late than never....

Czech Republic

Zdeněk Trinkewitz: A Contemporary's Testimony (in Czech, 660 pages; basic information was published in the latest issue of this newsletter)

The author is one of the most prominent intellectuals of contemporary Czech Republic. The book begins by presenting his child's and adolescent's memories, beginning with the time immediately preceding the Nazi occupation and the Second World War., Eng. Trinkewitz' youth was very dramatic indeed. The most important part of the book contains a selection of his professional and political articles, not all published. His political analyses persuaded him that the contemporary political system of the Republic, even after the abolition of the communist dictatorship in 1989, was not really democracy. This insight made him adopt the idea of a Citizens' Constitution and join the nascent DD movement. In the concluding part of the book he presents his own draft of such a constitution which is going to be adopted as an official document.

Mgr. **Milus Kotišová** is also one of the most prominent Czech intellectuals. She speaks excellent English and Spanish. She is expert in the political system of Costa Rica which she has visited several times. She has published several highly theoretical works. Currently, she prepares the publication of a book dealing with money from a philosophical angle and the role played by it in political systems. In her view, money is a sort of language. The title of her essay is : *A New Democratic Lot: Politics as a Public Cognitive Field*. The Sub title: *A Philosophico-pedagogical Attempt at a "De-economization of Money, its Completion in Methodologically more accurate linguistic System and, with the Help of this new Language, at a Revival of the Substance of Democracy*.

In November, Mgr. **Kotišová** put forward a paper titled **The Money Sapiens – Manifest**
If Money Could Talk Rather Than Jerk the World Around

Even more radical is Mrs. **M. Kubátová** (no longer active). Until recently, her political analysis (about 60 pages) was accessible on the web (in Czech). Quote: "Only direct internet democracy is able to destroy the world-wide power élite..."

THE WORLD IS RULED BY ORGANIZED CRIMINALS!

Contents: The super-rich versus the mankind....The velvet imposture....The Party imposture... The Representation imposture... My personal experience with politics Why is politics a domain of men How to recognize totality, mock-democracy, democracy Swiss direct democracy ... Conclusion ...

Another activist, Mr. **Michal Hájek**, wrote: "It's only a matter of time when we'll witness the crumbling of the bubble of lies called states and democracy."

A few years ago, Mr. **Tomio Okamura**, of Japanese origin, founded the party called *Dawn of Direct Democracy*. In 2015, it was re-named *Freedom and Direct Democracy*. Since October 2013, Mr. Okamura has been a member of Czech Parliament.

Three lady activists, Mgr. **Miluš Kotišová**, Mrs. **Ilona Švihlíková**, and Mrs. **Gina Horylová** have put forward a new website called ARGUMENT. It opens a space for discussions about democracy and various political issues. Besides, these three activists start discussions in occasional informal fora and meet with great interest.

The above pieces of information suggest that a wave of dissatisfaction with what happens in the field of politics is rising in Czech Republic. This country might be the first one to introduce genuine democracy, a development bound to inspire the whole western world ...

Germany

mdmagazin 1/2017 Contents:

EUROPA

DER CETA-KRIMI: FORTSETZUNG FOLGT

BUNDESLÄNDER

WELCHER DIREKTE DEMOKRATIETYP IST IHR

BUNDESLAND?

THÜRINGEN VOM SCHLUSS AN DIE SPITZE IN NUR ZEHN JAHREN

HAMBURG, WIR HABEN NOCH LANGE NICHT FERTIG

NIEDERSACHSEN: BESSER; ABER LÄNGST NICHT GUT

LÄNDERTELEGRAMM

INTERNATIONAL

WELTKONFERENZ FÜR DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE

ITALIEN: KEINE NEUE VERFASSUNG

KURZ NOTIERT

REZENSION

LOBBYKRATIE

BUNDESWEITE VOLKSENTSCHEIDE

EINE VERTEILMILLION IM STIFTUNGSFONDS

OMNIBUS FÜR DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE

DIE INITIATIVE ALS URSPRUNG DER DEMOKRATIE

LESERBRIEFE

ZU "EIN DEMOKRATISCHER NEUANFANG" UND "NICHT

AUFREGEN; NUR ANREGEN LASSEN"

ZUM JAHRESWECHSEL

10.000, DIE MEHR WOLLEN, ALS NUR WAHLEN

Switzerland

Europa-Magazin 2/2016

Edito by *Paul Ruppen*

Forum für direkte Demokratie und EUROPA-MAGAZIN

Deutsche Politik im Zeichen der Brexits – Der erste Austritt

von <http://www.german-foreign-policy.com/>

Die Briten sind weg! Ein Interview mit Michael Efler,

Bundesvorstandsprecher von Mehr Demokratie

Die Briten stimmten für den Austritt!

Von Helle Hagenau, Beauftragte für internationale Beziehungen

der norwegischen Nei til EU-Bewegung

Buchbesprechungen

Jan -Werner Müller: **Was ist Populismus?**

Zerstörung und Transformation des Gemeinwesens

Das Jahrbuch 2015 des *Denknetzes*, einem 2004 gegründeten

Verein, widmet sich dem Thema "Demokratie".

Die Handelspolitik der EU in Afrika

von Johanna Weichselbaumer

Tribunaux d'arbitrage du TTIP et procédures d'arbitrage

international entre l'investisseur et l'Etat – une attaque

contre la démocratie et l'Etat de droit

par Alfred De Zaya

Kurzinfos

CETA-Abkommen nun doch unterzeichnet

Zulassung für Anbau weiterer Genpflanzen in EU geplant

Lobbyismus in der EU

Wie das Onlineprojekt Lobby Facts dem Lobbyismus

Schranken setzen will

von Erik Wesseliuss, Corporate Europe Observatory

Kurzinfos

Verbände analysieren Junckers Investitionsplan

Paul Ruppen: Überlegungen zur Nicht-Umsetzung der

"Masseneinwanderungsinitiative"

UK

On 25 October, *INIREF* wrote (excerpt):

"Running a country is the responsibility of the people who live in it. If we are not allowed to take part effectively then we can achieve no more than a weak democracy and so we cannot fulfil our responsibilities. The way forward is to introduce citizen-led direct democracy in parallel with our existing "indirect" democracy of parties, councils and parliaments.

Internet and ICT in general can obviously assist politics and government but must not be allowed to replace real democracy. In the UK there is no direct democracy to speak of. Having a very occasional referendum which has been in effect imposed by the government does little to improve things (e.g. About electoral system. Alternative Voice, the "brexit" ballot).

The Localism Bill (gov. Law proposal around 2010) contained a section called community empowerment which included the right of one in twenty citizens to put forward a proposal and obtain a local referendum.

Even though the ballot result would not have "bound" the local council this suggestion that "ordinary" people might get a better way to participate in (our own) public affairs was, for the political class, like a red rag to a bull. In consultations to be seen at the government's web site landed many, many lobbyists such as local gov. associations, big companies and "developers". Finally the proposal for limited direct democracy was attacked and killed off by Mps in the House of Lords, mainly liberal DEMOCRATS who threatened to block the Localism Bill. The Government (Communities Ministry) caved in, perhaps willingly, and the community empowerment section was dumped.

In the UK, devolved areas, cities and smaller units we should introduce direct democracy to modulate politics. This will require focussed legislation in Parliament, starting with a new Bill of Political Rights.

p.s. We recommend Evan Ravitz' informative comment in this thread."

"Switzerland has had functioning direct democracy for a hundred and fifty years without electronics, now voting 4 times a year. 24 US states have had it for around a century, the origin of everything from women's suffrage to medical and legal marijuana.

One huge improvement that can be made without possibility of electronic tampering is to let people sign ballot initiative petitions on the Secretary of State's website, using the same ID (driver's license etc.) we now use to register to vote, change address, etc. in most states. This is VERY different from voting because voting is anonymous (secret ballot) whereas petitions & registration are public. This makes them confirmable like financial transactions that have been done online for at least fifty years.

Doing this would open up direct democracy to groups without huge funds to hire petitioners, as is almost universally necessary in the US. It would save the Secretary of State the considerable time and expense of comparing physical signatures, reduce misrepresentation and harassment for signatures, get more people to read more of the petition text online before signing and save paper and gas.

Perhaps eventually the internet will be secure enough for online voting. Until then it is not necessary.

Another big improvement is adding a deliberative process like Oregon has which is now spreading to Colorado and Arizona and is on the ballot in Maine this year, called citizen initiative review.

healthydemocracy.org

30 November, Mr. **David Gallup** wrote (excerpt):

Read David Gallup's new blog

at <http://www.worldservice.org/update.html>:

How do we stop war? By David Gallup

War is state-sponsored terrorism. Or if not "terrorism, then legally condoned killing. War-time killing is not considered to be a crime of "murder" because states claim a power (currently considered legal) to wage war. Under humanitarian law, war is meant to be used for self-defense. More often than not, however, governments initiate internal and international wars as a tool of aggression – to maintain power and control over people, land, resources and ideology.

Is humanitarian law meant to stop war?

Why do national governments allow the carnage and barbarism to continue in Syria and elsewhere? Because international humanitarian law (the "Laws of War") allow tanks, war planes, battleships, and missiles to be built, and sold as if they are fruits and vegetables in the produce section of a grocery.



INTERNATIONAL

3 february, **Courtney Breese** wrote: (excerpts) "Looking back 2016 was an important year for NCDD and the dialogue and deliberation community. We convened our seventh national conference, launched the Emerging Leaders Initiative, the NCDD Podcast, and lots more! **Look back upon the year and NCDD's accomplishments in our 2016 Year Review.**

As 2017 gets underway, NCDD is committed to continuing to support the dialogue and deliberation community through sharing resources, convening conversations, supporting collaborations, reaching out to new networks and lifting up the stories of the work of this network. Our communities and nation continue to need dialogue more than ever, and we look forward to continuing this work with you all."

"Don't forget to check the NCDD blog regularly for upcoming events as well as news from the field"



YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION 20,- euro

ACCOUNT NR.: JIRI POLAK, 002022-0168677293/0800

IBAN CZ74 0800 0020 2201 6867 7293

BIC - SWIFT: GIBACZPX

BANK ADDRESS: CESKA SPORITELNA, OLBRACHTOVA 62, PRAHA, CZECH REPUBLIC



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19 (No.1)

March 2017

**WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY
NEWSLETTER**

Published by MDD - Movement for Direct Democracy

Responsible editor: Jiri Polak, Design: Bohuslav Binka, Picture: Katka Svehlova

MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

JIRI POLAK, ASSARHUSAVÄGEN 64, S-24736, S. SANDBY, SWEDEN

PHONE: 046/58891, E-MAIL: JIRI.POLAK@SWIPNET.SE

