

DD Europe

DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19 (No.2)

June 2017

WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTRACY**

Imminent: Change of Paradigm or Political Formula

Since the beginning of development towards Democracy, political parties have been an obvious and indispensable component of "democratic" political systems. To some extent, direct decision-making by individuals did sporadically occur, particularly in the USA and Switzerland, but it was marginal, not playing any important role in the contemporary world. And yet, after due, unbiased consideration, we have to admit that the institution of political parties is incompatible with the very idea of democracy.

Each political party tries to promote the interests of a certain category of citizens, even to the detriment of other categories and the State or even the World as a whole. The vast majority of the population desire to have jobs in order to secure a good standard of living for themselves and their families. So one of the ways to get votes is to promote the creation of jobs, even at the price of over-exploiting natural resources and damaging environment. In the long run, this development is disastrous. It is the future generations who will pay the price. A truly democratic system would focus on preserving environment by a reasonable policy of balance between employment and healthy environment. If a well-informed citizenry could decide, they would surely vote for measures assuring such a balance. Instead, people let themselves be manipulated by party politicians who promise to promote measures benefiting just their respective voters in the immediate future, avoiding to speak of more distant years to come.

Another distorted and insane approach is that to the "defence" policy. The military industrial complex together with large sections of the party-political establishment benefit from international tension and occasional wars, even artificially provoked, regardless of the millions of innocent victims and material losses of the population. It is party politicians, not the citizens, who decide about the never ending mass murders and other crimes we have to witness every day.

Most of these horrors are caused by decisions taken

The World's Development to Democracy

**INSTEAD:**

in countries of Europe and North America, i.e. in countries considered as "democracies". Consequently, we would have to believe that the perpetration of these horrors is constantly voted for by the majority of citizens in "democratic" countries. This is nonsense, a gigantic bluff. If given the opportunity to vote on the basis of unbiased information, surely, most grassroot citizens would reject wars and oppression of their fellow humans, no matter the pretexts. Responsible for these horrors are big political parties who manipulate opinion in

order to seize and keep power, no matter what. Party political rule has been established without any consent by citizens. To call it "democracy" is a gigantic deception. Fortunately, people of the most developed countries begin to understand this. Party-political rule is doomed. When a sufficiently strong opposition gets the upper hand, party-political rule will be abolished and replaced by **genuine democracy**. May it not be too late!

INTERNATIONAL

Czech Republic

Mgr. **Miluš Kotišová** is one of top level intellectuals participating in the project of presenting for the public a Citizens' Constitution. Already on 31 december 2014, she presented an essay headed *Method of Deliberation* (11 pages, in Czech). That paper puts forward several principles on which a Citizens' Constitution should be based (in Czech).

The composition of a Citizens' Constitution takes place gradually

During the whole process, discussions and voting on details are admissible.

New participants of the process are welcome at any time.

An important and valuable component of the presentation is an information about Mgr. Kotišová's knowledge of the political system of Costa Rica, a country which she had visited several times. This section contains, among other, a summary of Costa Rica's Constitution – her inspiration for the work on a future Citizens' Constitution of Czech Republic.

Here are a few quotations from her essay **The Money Sapiens Manifest**:

"Veiled in metaphors, money is often described in rather vague terms – including by economists themselves - as "energy", "lubricant", "the heart of the economy", "a force", "blood", "a shadow", "the nerve system". Hayek used to call it "a product of spontaneous order".

"What remains well hidden behind the statements is the fact that money nowadays is seen and treated as a commodity (money itself is the product to generate more money directly) and newly created money does have its privileged ensemble of co-creators (state, legislation, central bank and private banks, with the state holding the shorter end of the stick at the moment). So we really should have a much better idea by now as to what money is and is not. Make no mistake, every time new money gets issued, from thin air or *ex nihilo*, the creator has a specific agenda in mind: who they want to support, what kind of activity and/or behavior they prefer, what types of industries they want to see develop or reap benefit from, what segment of society and so on and so forth."

"The new monetary language system as I envision it would consist of 4 basic parts:

- greatly reduced legislation (mainly setting the rules for multidimension price composition, i.e. the actual price info composition IS the greater part of legislation)
- nation-wide database
- open source production/research/educational cluster
- and multidimension prices (think of it as the barcode or more graphically sophisticated symbolplex – using all possible signs so far invented, not just numbers – understandable for humans)"

"POLITICS CAN BECOME A PUBLIC COGNITIVE PLATFORM THAT CONTINUOUSLY GENERATES AND UPDATES A SYNTHESIS OF ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE WHILE PROVIDING AND REFINING HANDY REAL-TIME DELIBERATION MECHANISMS AND INSTRUMENTS."

In 2003, Prof. **Peter Dienel**, a world-renowned professor teaching in Wuppertal, Germany, invited me to present the work of our Czech DD group at the symposium he would hold at his university. I presented the following paper:

SELECTED PARTS OF A DRAFT OF THE CITIZENS' CONSTITUTION (excerpts)

(The draft is a comprehensive amendment to the Constitution adopted by Czech Parliament in 1993. In our draft, the original text is printed in ordinary letters. Our amendments are printed in fat letters, while the formulations we propose to abolish are put into brackets.)

Introduction:

Legislative power belongs to Parliament, **the institution of popular initiative and referendum, as well as – in a precisely defined area – to the institution of Citizen Commissions.** The organization of these two last mentioned institutions belongs to the independent Referendum and Citizen Commissions Authority.

Article 1

(1)....

- Czech Republic fulfills the obligations imposed by international law **in so far as they are not contrary to the principles expressed in the Citizens' Constitution.** In controversial cases, the citizens have the right to demand that the proposed obligations be assessed by Parliament and Citizen Commissions. The final decision can be made by national referendum.

Article 2

- The people is the source of all power, they exert it by the intermediary of legislative, executive and judicial power **or directly, by the plebiscite, popular initiative and referendum, and, in a precisely defined area also by Citizen Commissions.**
- (A constitutional law can define the cases when the people exert state power directly.) **The Citizens' Constitution guarantees that the people can exert state power directly, if this is demanded in a petition supported by at least 1 % of citizens' of Czech Republic within six months. The petition has to be organized without financial support by the authorities and big private or state enterprises. The details will be determined by law.**

There are two kinds of referendum:

- a) Plebiscite, id est Referendum proclaimed by the Government, Parliament, or a local council.
- b) Popular referendum, proclaimed on the basis of successful initiative of a citizen, a group of citizens, or a citizen movement.

In both cases, to pass the proposal, a majority of the referendum participants is sufficient.

Referenda can be organized on the national, regional, or local level. Referenda can be obligatory (in some explicitly defined cases), or *ad hoc*.

Article 53A

The Institution of Citizen Commissions

Chief Principle: The Citizen Commissions' function is only advisory. Decisions are made in representative bodies and referenda.

Note: Prof. Dienel was very positive to the ideas expressed in this paper. But among the participants of the symposium, there were a few party politicians who protested: How can anybody propose elimination of political parties? What a sacrilege!

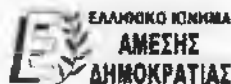
J P

On 27th May, the group **Citizens for Constitutional Reform** plan to hold a conference in Prag where a new, Citizens' Constitution will be presented for public debate. The most important novelty will be exclusion of political parties from decision-making processes and election of MPs in single mandate voting districts.

On 21 February, Mr. **Tomio Okamura**, chairman of the *Liberty and Direct Democracy Movement*, sent an e-mail to Mrs. **Eva Sfrižovská**, editor of the *Czech Dialogue*, summing up the program of that Movement. The program contains, among other, a criticism of the current Czech policy damaging the country, of the quarrels inside the government coalition, and a favourable assesment of the Brexit.

Greece

George L. Kokkas



Greek Direct Democracy Movement

42, Hippocrates str. / 10680 - Athens - Greece

Tel.: 2103648300 - Fax: 2103610882

Mob.: 6944545888

ekad@dimopolis.gr

www.dimopolis.gr

On 9 March, Mr. **George Kokkas** sent us the following mail:

"Last weekend (4th - 5th March 2017) happened a really very rewarding Conference in Thessaloniki, as well as an opportunity to understand each other's environment and common ground in order to strengthen our common desire for a European Free and Direct Democratic governance. There were Democrats from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Estonia and colleagues from MSS and EFDD who presented us the electronic platform of "Rousseau".

We believe that the visionary political orientation which was presented there, along with the practical experience of each participant's country, is the cornerstone and foundation of our effort for a Direct Democratic Euro-Vision as was the title of our similar common efforts we began at year 2009 with you (Jiri Polak) an "Omnibus für direkte Demokratie" in Athens.

Draft sum up article:

In a move full of symbolism on Sunday 5th of March, delegations of Direct Democracy Patriotic Movements in the Balkans, joined their hands, on Greek-Bulgarian border, on the spot joining the borders between the two countries.

The agreements made with the Balkan Patriots have particular historical character since they were concluded for the first time at this level, after the Balkan Wars.

In this border meeting, it was agreed:

- To produce a Memorandum of Direct Democracy Patriotic Movements in the Balkans, which is to finalise the fields of common positions and actions. This Protocol, which is under development, will be distributed to all Balkan Direct Democracy Movements in order to take under consideration and signed by all interested parties. This Protocol will be circulated at first to the Balkan countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia, and then it will be announced for consideration and agreements, by the DD Orgs of other Balkan countries.
- To organise as soon as possible a Conference of the Balkan Direct Democracy Organisations in Brussels, under the auspices of Pepe Grillo's Movement of 5 Stars. The conference will finalize the common positions and actions of the movements.

The 3rd, 4th & 5th of March, Thessaloniki becomes again "the mother of all battles" for Freedom and Direct Democracy

THE PATRIOTS DIRECT DEMOCRATS OF EUROPE & THE BALKANS

GIVE HANDS TOGETHER!

We are determined and will prevail!

On Sunday, the 5th of March, we meet at the Greek-Bulgarian borders. Greeks, Bulgarians, Italians, English, Romanians, Serbs, Estonians...

- To begin tours by joint Inter-Balkan delegations of the Balkan Movements in the countries and cities of the Balkans, so that the positions of the Movements be presented directly to the people of the Balkan peninsula.
- To launch the already under development studies and plans, aiming to the verticle integration of the Balcan economies.
- To develop a common front of the Balcan Countries and Peoples, against the growing aggressiveness of Turkey and Neo-ottomans.

We should note here that the commonplace for the Balkan delegations was "to finally get rid of the rotten and corrupt political systems of the Balcan countries, which have crippled the prospect of our national countries hypostases and have plundered our peoples, leading them to hunger, suicides and indignity."

Germany

Md magazin Nr. 112 /2/2017

Editorial Mrs. **Claudine Nierth** Wackelt die Demokratie?

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MD INTERN

Einladung zur Bundesmitgliederversammlung

Bulgaria

A new DD activist: Mr. **Stanislav Stoynev**, <atlatibg@gmail.com>

Welcome!

USA

3 February, letter sent to the web by Mrs. **Courtney Breese** (excerpt):

"Looking back, 2016 was an important year for NCDD and the dialogue & 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 in 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 continue this work with you all."

On 15th March, Mrs. **Courtney Breese** wrote, (excerpts) "First, we want to encourage everyone to join us for today's Confab Call with Journalism That Matters on strengthening



the relationship between journalists and D&D practitioners. This special 90-minutes call begins **today, March 15th at 1pm ET/10am PT**, and it promises to be one of our most exciting Confabs yet. You can learn more and register by visiting <http://ncdd.org/23125>. You can also get some background on the journalism-D&D opportunity by listening to the [latest episode](#) of NCDD's podcast!

We've had lots of other interesting and exciting news on the blog over the last month, too! In case you missed it, we've recently shared news posts about:

- Calling on our network to [invite your local librarians](#) to learn more about D&D methods. Through NCDD's partnership with the American Library Association
- Several [job openings](#) from across the field
- The [Elevate Engagement Un-Conference](#) continuing the conversation on connecting journalists and public engagement workers in person this May 18-21 in Portland, OR
- A [field-wide discussion](#) from our listserv asking, "Is dialogue under attack? And if it is, what do we do about it?"
- A [new Kettering publication](#) looking at higher ed, deliberation and democracy

We hope you'll visit the blog to learn more about these and other stories from across the NCDD network!"

24 April, information from Mrs **Courtney Breese** (excerpt)

NCDD Launches New Membership Structures to Strengthen Dialogue & Deliberation Field

We live in critical times. Dialogue, deliberation, and a commitment to effective public engagement methods are crucial to helping bridge the increasingly bitter partisan, racial, religious, and socioeconomic divides in our society.

NCDD is committed to improving discourse and decision-making through better engagement by providing our members with the latest news, tools, and resources in D&D. But there is also a great need to do even more, and that means that NCDD must keep itself sustainable in order to help our community do this important work together. **In order to do that, NCDD is rolling out some adjustments to our membership structure.**

(Further information at

<NCDD-UPDATES@LISTS.NCDD.ORG>

UK

On 21 April, **INIREF** sent a critical e-mail to the net. Excerpts: **"The brexit-related antics of prime minister May have increased the urgent need for better democracy and reform of our "constitution".**

In the on-going drama of Britain's projected exit from the EU some experts have called for improved governance and constitutional reform, for instance:

Referring to the "brexit" referendum,

Constitutional amendments are – or should be – hard to achieve... Unlike ordinary law-making, constitutional changes are for keeps." (Compare 1. below)

Richard Dawkins, University of Oxford's former Professor for Public Understanding of Science:

"The British Constitution is often praised for its flexibility and capacity to adapt. On the other hand, critics have constantly complained that it gives too much power to the executive and lacks checks and balances."

Michael Keating, Professor of Politics at the University of Aberdeen and Director of the Centre on Constitutional Change
INIREF COMMENTS

Agreed. And surely the antics of prime minister May after the brexit ballot, with the contempt which she showed for our elected parliament, show that we need better "checking and balancing" of government: New rules should be laid down in proper constitutional law.

Our (constructive) criticism of UK constitution goes back decades, is independent of "brexit". If our proposals for better democracy had been followed – see www.iniref.org/enter.html – there could have been ballots about EU treaties and practices, plus other not less important matters, years ago, because with direct democracy added to indirect "representative" democracy the electorate can launch a referendum whether the government wants one or not." It is our role (as democracy reformers) to critique our democracy and government, this did not start only in the brexit era. Relevant here is our recommendation (documented) for the first Scottish Independence referendum, that at least two ballots should be held, one instructing the gov. to open negotiations and a later one so that the people can decide if the worked out conditions are acceptable. We made and make a similar recommendation for brexit.

- "In almost all modern states there is a clear distinction between constitutional and other laws. Commonly, it is more difficult to change constitution. For instance, a "super-majority" of elected representatives may be required and an indication of regional consensus needed. These measures serve to indicate how importantly constitution is regarded. There are very good reasons to distinguish constitutional from other law and to treat it with more care." In: Citizen-led democracy is essential for [sustainable](http://www.iniref.org/latest.html) constitutional reform <http://www.iniref.org/latest.html>

Campaign for direct democracy in Britain
Citizens' Initiative and Referendum I&R – GB
<http://www.iniref.org/> Link to site index

Contact: info@iniref.org

2 May, **INIREF** sent the following letter to the web (excerpt)

ELECTION JUNE 2017 – we can

TAKE BACK CONTROL BY CLAIMING OUR ACTIVE POLITICAL RIGHTS

Approach parliamentary candidates and ask them to support the introduction of citizen launched referendum. For this, Parliament must pass a new Democracy and Political Rights Act. Spread the word and kick off debates about the need for more and better participation in politics: We need the People's Law Proposal (Citizens' Initiative and the Electors' Veto referendum to block unwanted government law or policy.



WORLD PEACE



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DD Europe



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Vol. 19 (No.2)

June 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

