



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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September 2017



WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRXTRAKY**

A Vision by Jiri Polak

Looking back at the recent two hundred years or so, I can hardly understand the mentality of the people living in the terrible times of most of that period. It is true that, in the ideology of the most developed countries of Europe and America, *Democracy* was the ideal to be striven for and even fought for, but what exactly was meant by that word? Strangely, nearly all people, including the big media, the official documents and all other component parts of the establishment were taking it for granted that democracy had to be based on several parties which were fighting for power and had the right to form government, by those who obtained most votes in periodical elections.

But if you give the problem a critical and unbiased thought, you must draw the conclusion that *democracy* and rule by *political parties* are two mutually incompatible forms of government, no matter how many parties are involved. Mostly, it is the biggest party which forms government, even if - which is mostly the case - it had been elected by less than 50 % of votes. This system has never been approved by referendum, it has been established by party bosses without discussion with citizens. The citizens are being systematically brainwashed without understanding that the system presented for them as *democracy* is in fact a gigantic imposture. Apart from this aspect, all the time, leading politicians of various parties participate in all sorts of dirty practices behind the scenes. Until the next election, grassroot citizens have nothing to say, even if some of the election promises are broken during the interlude.

This perverted, mendacious system, established in most western countries after the collapse of communism in the late twentieth century, survived, although gradually decaying, until the second half of the twenty first century. Although most people remained passive, uninterested, or vaguely convinced that nothing better could exist, some prominent intellectuals understood the truth and

2284 Peace and Prosperity



Picture by *Vladimir Pechar*, Czech Republic



promoted the idea that a better, truly democratic system had to be established. Perhaps the most important among them was the American professor of political science, **Ph.D. Theodore L. Becker**. Chaired by him, the first international conference on Direct Democracy took place in Czech Republic in 1998. A loosely organized, informal network was established and, for many years, continued a fruitful internet discussion.

A second international DDD Conference was organized by Mr. **Georgios Kokkas** in 2000 in Athens.

From being, to begin with, a small group, unknown for the public, this movement gradually grew until it could not be ignored any longer. For various reasons, especially historical, it turned out that it was to be Czech Republic, the location of the first DDD conference, where Citizens' Constitutions first began to appear. Already in the first half of the 21st century, practically everybody had access to the internet and, especially young people, used it on a daily basis.

One of the citizens' constitutions put forward in the early twenty-first century, that composed by **Eng. Zdenek Trinkewitz**, was accepted as the official document of the DD movement. Especially in one respect it differed from all constitutions adopted in any country since the late nineteenth century: Political parties were excluded from nation-wide as well as region-wide decision-making processes. Parliamentary elections were to take place in single-mandate districts and any MP could be recalled at any time if so voted by more than half of the respective electorate. For many years, this principle remained only an idea. However, discussions took place, thanks to, among others, **Mgr. Milus Kotisova** and two more authors of constitution drafts - **Eng. J. Piroutek** and of **Ph.D. R. Stedron**.

Successively, already in the first half of the twenty-

first century, an insight began to dawn upon the minds of an increasing number of people: **Party-political rule cannot be democracy. Each party tries to promote the interests of a certain category of citizens to the detriment of other categories and in favor of an oligarchy consisting of various, visible or hidden interests. By contrast, democracy is a system trying to satisfy, as much as possible in practice, the interests of the whole population of voters.**

An invisible process was taking place in the minds of contemporary citizens. An insight was emerging: In true democracy, the decision-maker is the **individual citizen**, not any group or category. Individual citizens are opposed to war and any unnecessary violence. They want to live in peace, tolerance, healthy environment and mutual respect for others. It is the oligarchs and other, open or hidden, interests, who cultivated incessant conflicts and even local wars against imaginary enemies. In reality, it was these obscure oligarchic forces who were the real enemies. In a true democracy, these enemies are deprived of power, lasting peace prevails and social resources cease to be wasted on military industry. There is a spectacular rise of the living standards, all over the world. The worst poverty vanishes even from Africa, Asia, and South America.

In the second half of the twenty-first century, this insight finally prevailed in the minds of all, or a great majority of the citizens of the World. This was the beginning of a Golden Age in the history of mankind. We, who are blessed to live in this marvellous time, look back in horror at the unnecessary suffering of the millions and billions of the poor devils forced to live under the rule of criminals pretending to only fulfill their social duties. .

But let us remain vigilant and strong! Let us not slip again into a precipice like that once overcome by our ancestors!

International

Czech Republic

Prag Declaration

adopted at the conference

Citizens for Constitutional Reform

held in Prag on 27th May 2017

A true democracy must be based on a constitution written and then approved in referendum by grass-root citizens, not by political parties. Each political party tries to acquire advantages for a certain category of citizens, on whose backs party bosses then climb to power. By contrast, *democracy* strives to obtain the best attainable quality of life for all citizens.

The political system of Czech Republic and other western countries are not democracy, but *partyocracy*. A realistic draft of a truly democratic CITIZENS' CONSTITUTION of CZECH REPUBLIC exists already. It has been compiled on the basis of several years' discussions and consultations among experts, social scientists, and active citizens.

We demand that this draft be presented for voting by citizens in a national referendum

Experts warn against ecological catastrophes menacing to destroy in a few years conditions of human life on this planet. Party politics are unable to avert such a catastrophe. Increasingly, such politics are obsolete and dysfunctional. What is needed is large-scale cooperation of all citizens on the basis offered by the Citizens' Constitution. The establishment of political systems based on such constitutions in the most important countries might prove to be a *conditio sine qua non* for the survival of the human race.

Citizen Constitutions

Beside the Constitution Draft presented by the movement *Citizens for Constitutional Reform*, which has been translated into English, there are two more such drafts – that by **Eng. Jan Piroutek** and that by **Ph.D. Radoslav Stedron**. Both exist, so far, only in Czech.

USA

A new important publication: ***The Routledge Research Companion to Referendum and Direct Democracy*** Edited by **Matt Quortrup** (Coventry University, UK) and **Laurence Morel** (University of Lille, France). A chapter in this publication has been written by Ph.D. **Theodore L. Becker**, probably the most prominent expert in this field: *Nothing Fails like Success: Teledemocracy in the Grip of Oligarchies*. Excerpt: „An article presenting a tour d' horizon of various forms of deliberative polling and teledemocracy. It suggests that while there has been a growth and proliferation of various forms of citizen empowerment through these new forms of citizen engagement, they are unlikely to transform the current system of representative democracy. Yet, the experiments indicate that wiser and new democratic policy making can be conducted by utilizing these fora.“

29 June, a circular letter by Mrs. **Courtney Breese**:

„**Latest News from NCDD** (excerpts)

Here's a summary of the major work that we at NCDD have been up to since our last update:

NCDD officially changed our membership structure. Learn more at ncdd.org/23569 and

[join or renew](#) your membership today!

Check out the message from NCDD Board Chair **Martin Carcasson**. Read more about

MCDD and our growth at ncdd.org/23896

Stories and Courtney reflections from Elevate Engagement.

Learn more about the connections at ncdd.org/23991

NCDD Orgs Respond on How to Save American Democracy – ncdd.org/23917

New Video on Bringing Participatory Budgeting to Schools – ncdd.org/23852

Exploring Possibilities by Challenging Assumptions – ncdd.org/23831

Visit NCDD's [News Blog](#) and [Resource Center](#) for many more important updates and resources from across the D&D and public engagement field!

On 12 June **Rootsaction** wrote: „**Brad Pitt** stars in a new movie called *War Machine* that presents the ongoing U.S. War in Afghanistan as something only a fool would ever imagine could be won.

This new Hollywood film presents the U.S. Military as hopelessly unconcerned with reality and destined never to choose to end a war that creates enemies in the name of „freedom“. There is, however, another institution capable of ending the war: Congress.

Congressman Walter Jones (Rep., N.C.) has just proposed a not completely novel idea:

Congress should cut off the funding for any more U.S. War-making in Afghanistan.

The time has come to say enough is enough.

Not only is much of the rest of the world condemning U.S. war-making, but even some in Hollywood have been unable to hold in their grim laughter at the fervent pretenses of the supposedly humanitarian war makers.“

On 1st June, Mrs. **Sandy Heierbacher** wrote (excerpt): „The past year has been a particularly challenging and a critical time for dialogue, deliberation and public engagement. The country seems more polarized than ever and we've seen

deep division not just among political parties, but along racial, ethnic, and religious lines as well. It's evident to all of us just how needed our field's work of bringing people together across divides truly is.“

Mr. **Mark Antell, USA**, prepares the publication of an excellent essay titled *Autonomy, Plenty and Direct Democracy*.

UK

On 28 May **INIREF** wrote: (excerpts) „**Find the candidates in your area with the help of DEMOCRACY CLUB** - Voter guide for election June 2017

Election June 2017 - we Take back control by claiming our active political rights to citizens' direct democracy. Write or talk to 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. Find the candidates in your area with the help of DEMOCRACY CLUB <https://candidates.democracyclub.org.uk>

„As things stand, our political rights are so WEAK that we clearly DO NOT HAVE CONTROL of our own affairs and of our political representatives (MPs), Parliament and Government. Having a referendum from time to time does not help much. Only Parliament, which has always followed the will of government on this, can set the question and decree that a ballot shall be held. The result, the will of the people, is regarded as only advisory, not legally binding on Parliament and government.

For the vast majority of people our political rights are LIMITED to casting a vote once every five years for a politician and political party.

What can be done to improve all of this? The people, the electorate, voters, must be enabled to select, debate and decide by ballot on public issues, in addition to electing politicians who then make law and govern for us. We must add the methods of direct democracy to the existing indirect „representative“ rule by party bosses, supposedly „checked and balanced“ by Parliament.“.....

On 14 July **INIREF** wrote (excerpt): „**INIREF QUERIES THE DESIGN OF A POSSIBLE SECOND UK/EU „brexit“ REFERENDUM** – Brexit Referendum2: Survey shows increasing support? The Independent 18 6 2017. Designing a second (21C) UK/EU referendum is a serious, worthy and urgent cause which therefore deserves to be treated as a special project. We would need to bring together pro-referendum activists with experts in democracy design to thrash out a well made proposal.“

GERMANY

mdmagazin ausgabe 3 2017 (contents)

DEMOKRATIE-REFORMEN

Die Demokratie-Kampagne 2017

Ich will abstimmen. Wählen und nicht wählen reicht nicht

Demokratie braucht Regeln – Lobbyismus auch

Starke Demokratie durch starke Kommunen

Mehr Wahlrecht auf Bundesebene

G20 Protestwelle in Hamburg

Demokratisches Leben in der EU

BUNDESLÄNDER

Schleswig-holstein schlägt CETA die Tor zu
Ländertelegramm

BUNDESWEITE VOLKSENTSCHEIDE

Eine Viertelmillion im Stiftungsfonds

WIR TRAUERN

Gebhard Kirchgässner

Franz Thedieck

INTERNATIONAL

Millionenfaches Nein verdient Respekt

OMNIBUS FÜR DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE

Der Volksentscheid

REZENSION

Gegen Wahlen

KURZ NOTIERT

Demokratie-Nachrichten

MD INTERN

Ankündigung der Bundesmitglieder-Versammlung

Kampagne 2017 beschlossen

EUROPE

Europa-Magazin 1/2017

edito by **Paul Ruppen**

Direkte Demokratie – Grundrechte – Menschenrechte

von Alex Sutter, humanrights.ch

WIDERSPRUCH (prosím ofotit informáci na s. 4. časopisu)

Die Schweiz und das Völkerrecht von Luzius Theller

Demokratie und die internationale Rechtsordnung von
Paul Ruppen

Buchbesprechungen

*Europa zerbricht am Euro: Unter deutscher Vorherrschaft in
die Krise*

Konzerne – Stadt – Demokratie

Kurzinfos

Corporate Europe Observatory – Lobbying in der EU: [https://
www.corporateeurope.org/](https://www.corporateeurope.org/)

*Aarhus-Konvention: Europäische Union erfüllt rechtliche
Vorgaben nicht*

Zahlen und Maul halten

*C'est la première fois qu'un pays se retire de l'Union
Européenne*

Kurzinfo

Nervenkrieg um den Brexit

Die EU hat uns nicht verdient von Cristina Asensi, Attac
Spanien

Kurzinfos

Brexit: Gibraltar wird zum Zankapfel

CETA-Abkommen: EU-Parlament gibt grünes Licht

*Kommission präsentiert die europäische Säule sozialer
Rechte*

Eine radioaktives Isotop

Made in Italy

Der neue EU-Botschafter in der Schweiz

Junkers Szenarien für die kündige EU

in the Council of the Euro-Populismus

ESTONIA

In March, Mr. **Ero Liivik** defended his doctoral thesis "*Direct
Democracy in Estonia: Legal Sociological Aspects*" in the
Council of the Institute of Social Studies.

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DD Europe



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MDD - MOVEMENT FOR DIRECT DEMOCRACY

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

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

