



CIRIEC : 50 YEARS IN BELGIUM

CIRIEC's headquarters have now been located in Belgium (Liege) for 50 years. In May 1957, during the 3rd CIRIEC congress in Paris, the members of CIRIEC's General Assembly decided to move the headquarters of the international organisation from Geneva to Liege. It has to be recalled that the CIRIEC first started in Geneva where it was created in 1947 to ensure the durability of its review, the *Annals*, founded in 1908.

It has been 50 years since CIRIEC has entrusted its Belgian section to take over the permanent secretariat of the international association. The Belgian section, created in 1952, empowered itself with a board of directors embodying the various trends in public, social and co-operative Belgian economy.

To celebrate the fifty years of CIRIEC in Belgium, the Belgian Section is organising an international symposium in November 2007, welcoming the International Board and publishing a small booklet recounting from the first steps to sum up to the constitution of the Belgian section in 1949, and up to the transfer of the headquarters from Geneva to Liège.

International symposium (Thursday, 29th of November 2007, Palais des Congrès de Liège)

Objective : bring together approximately 200 CIRIEC members (of which about 40 non Belgians) to initiate a reflection on the changes that have occurred for the past 50 years and the coming prospects.

Agenda (see appendix)

Organisation :

- invitation requested (6000 to be sent, of which 5000 in Belgium; no registration fees for CIRIEC members; a small fee will be asked for non members);
- interpretation will be done in four languages (FR, NL, DE, EN);
- documentation stands (display cases) will outline 60 years of publications from both international and Belgian CIRIEC (with pictures and souvenirs);
- computers will be available displaying the new CIRIEC website.

Reception for International Board members and Belgian Section Administrators (Thursday evening, 29th of November, Liege (location to be confirmed))

A reception will be given in the evening to members of the International Board who will further meet the next day. Administrators of the Belgian section will also be invited as well as various political, economical, socially-involved and academic leading figures. Official interventions are possible (Governor of the Province of Liege? Mayor of the City of Liege?).

International Board (Friday, 30th of November 2007, ETHIAS, Liege)

Exceptionally the International Board will take place in Liege. The participation of about thirty delegates, besides the Belgian ones, can be expected. Will be present delegates from Germany, Austria, Sweden, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Canada, Japan, Turkey and presumably one or the other country from Latin America (Argentina? Brazil?).

Historical booklet

A booklet of about forty pages will be published, describing on one hand the history of the Belgian section, from its birth to the transfer of the international secretariat to Belgium, and on the other hand, the first ten years of the International CIRIEC (1947-1957). A team of historians will carry out the realisation of the booklet. It will contain an introductory word from Mrs Leona Detiège, CIRIEC's president. Publication will be done in three languages (FR, NL and EN) and will be handed out to all participants (number of copies to be assessed) and to all members of the Belgian section.

Funding

Financial aid will be asked to Belgian federal, local and community public authorities. Sponsorship will also be requested of firms, organisations and institutions, which have been supporting CIRIEC's activities for the past 50 years. Supporting entities will benefit from a high visibility (logo on the programme, the invitations (6000 copies) and the historical booklet, each participant will receive a list of all sponsors,...).

APPENDIX. SCHEDULE FOR THE CONFERENCE

9.00 Welcome

9.30 Opening session under the presidency of Leona Detiège, President of P&V's Users Committee, Honorary Mayor of the City of Antwerp, CIRIEC President

Interventions by :

- B. Lévesque, associate Professor, Ecole nationale d'administration publique (ENAP), University of Quebec, Montreal (UQAM), Canada
- B. Rentier, Rector of the University of Liège, Belgium
- a representative of the cities and communes, partners of CIRIEC's Belgian section
- Claude Durieux, Governor of the Hainaut Province, Belgium
- representatives of the Belgian federal government and of regional and community governments*

Testimony by Roger Ramaekers, former FEBECOOP President and Secretary General, former CIRIEC Vice-President, Belgium

11.00 Coffee-break

11.30 Round table : **Public economy, 50 years after: which organisation and missions to answer our populations' needs?**

President : M. Pinchera, Vice-President and Secretary General of CIRIEC-Italia, Italy

Introduction : J. Fournier, Honorary President of the French National Railway Corporation (SNCF), Honorary President of Gaz de France, France

Participants :

- W.G. Hanss, CEO, Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe - (LVB) GmbH (Municipal transport company of Leipzig), Germany
- J.C. Fontinoy, President of the SNCB Holding (Belgian Railways), Belgium
- S. Moreau, General Director of Tecteo, Belgium
- C. Viaene, General Director of the IBE-IBG (Brussels' Municipal Energy Company), Belgium
- R. Schauer, Professor at Linz University, Austria

13.00 Lunch (on the spot)

* to be confirmed

14.30 Round table : **Social and cooperative economy, 50 year after: which activities and strategies to respond to today's challenges ?**

President : L. Beaulieu, CEO, FondAction (Development Fund for Cooperation and Employment of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CNTU)), Quebec, Canada

Introduction : J.L. Monzón, Professor at Valencia University, Spain

Participants :

- L. Fröbel, Director, SERUS Ek. För & Swedish Institute for Social Economy (SISE), Sweden
- B. Aykaç, Professor at Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey
- B. Machiels, Director, EuroMF & Head of Unit « Europe » - Algemeen Christelijk Werknemersverbond – ACW (Christian Trade Union), Belgium
- J.F. Hoffelt, General Secretary of FEBECOOP, Belgium
- J. de Sá Professor at the University of Lisboa, Portugal

16.00 Coffe-break

16.30 **What role should CIRIEC play: present and future?**

Presidency : Guy Quaden, Governor of the National Bank of Belgium former CIRIEC Director, Belgium

Interventions by

- representatives of the Japanese and Latin American sections

Interventions by :

- K.H. Lambertz, Minister-President of the German speaking community of Belgium
- B. Cerexhe^{*}, Minister of Economy, Employment and Scientific research of the Bruxelles-Capitale region, Belgium
- J.Cl. Marcourt^{*}, Minister of Economy, Employment and Foreign trade of the Walloon region, Belgium
- M.D. Simonet^{*} Minister of Higher Education of the French Community of Belgium
- K. Van Brempt^{*}, Minister of Mobility, Social economy and Equal opportunities of the Flemish region, Belgium

Closure by B. Thiry, Director of International relations by ETHIAS, Director of CIRIEC

17.30 End of the colloquium

* to be confirmed