

Communication about the ELIANT-Meeting with Commissioner John Dalli on 13 May 2011 in Brussels

On Friday, May 13th, the *Action ELIANT* presented 15 demands of Applied Anthroposophy with regard to EU policies supported by 1 million signatures of European Citizens, to the European Commission. Part of this presentation was a respective letter to the President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso, the "*ELIANT Memorandum*", which discussed EU policies and legislation, particularly in the areas of agriculture, public health and medicine, education, curative education and social therapy as well as EU research policies, with its distinctive 15 demands to amend these policies, together with examples of the 1 million signatures and all signatures in electronic form.

The **representatives of the ELIANT founding members** were received by John Dalli, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Health and Consumer Policy.

Michaela Gloeckler explained the meaning of Anthroposophy to the Commissioner as follows: “The word anthroposophy means: wisdom of man. The philosophy is based on the German Idealism, Goethe, Schiller, Fichte and Schelling among others. Until World War I it was a philosophy, but after World War I, it started growing until it became a big ecological movement with working areas as Education (Waldorf /Steiner schools), Agriculture (Biodynamic), Medicine and therapies, Economy, Art, Disability care (Curative Education and Social Therapy). Now, after almost 90 years, we can also find other civil movements from various directions working on the same goals. We focus on the quality of human life, with interdisciplinary aspects: 'idealistic philosophical based arrangements in favour of civil society'.”

Juergen Erdmenger (Head of ELIANT’s delegation) added: “Dear Commissioner! When you say: 'patients and consumers first', we may say 'human beings first' in order to cover all activities of applied anthroposophy”.

Commissioner Dalli stated (after Ueli Huerter, the President of the International Biodynamic Association – IBDA, had introduced biodynamic agriculture and food):

“We are supporting the highest possible qualities of our food; we face the inner qualities in that sector. There must be a balance in the accessibility of food, so we have to ensure that Biodynamic Agriculture is protected, developed and not taken over (overrun) by others. Our motto is 'responsible innovation', which has to serve citizens. We must not disrupt the aspirations of citizens for quality.

And he added, after he had heard all introductions from the ELIANT representatives in the other applied anthroposophic working fields:

“Thank for your short explanations. It is interesting to see how your movement has grown in Europe. I am actually fascinated by the holistic approach of life. We have to concentrate on the human being, involving all aspects of life. This is something 'we' try to push. I am interested in your background, your projects and the integration of them in society. I would like to visit a facility or hospital.”

Summarizing Commissioner Dalli outlined in his response that the activities of the organisations of Applied Anthroposophy do contribute to the objective of the European Commission to foster smart innovation (EU Strategy 2020) with their integrated and holistic approach for a healthier life for all citizens. He underlined that this approach is indispensable

at the EU level and has to be supported and protected. Commissioner Dalli welcomed the "*ELIANT Memorandum*" as a first presentation of the views and considerations of Applied Anthroposophy and offered more detailed discussion with and a response of the responsible Directorate-Generals and Units.

The **15 demands formulated in the "ELIANT Memorandum"** concentrate on the following issues:

Agriculture and nutrition

- No artificial vitamin fortification for biodynamic and other organic baby food
- Assure the continued legal manufacture and use of biodynamic preparations
- Legal protection of biodynamic agriculture and organic farming against GMO contamination
- Hygiene legislation in the food chain must not lead to the abolition of SMEs in rural areas; introduction of the concept of salutogenesis in hygiene measures
- Secure voluntary (not mandatory) electronic identification (EID) in animal keeping and production

Medicine and Health

- develop adequate legislative and regulatory frameworks to secure access to all Anthroposophic Medicinal Products for human use (AMP) equally for citizens in all European Member states
- implement fully the right of establishment and the free movement of services for Anthroposophic Medicine (AM) professionals,
- integrate the appropriate patients' rights into measures relating to consumers' interests, especially in view of patients using AM,
- appropriately integrate the AM into measures related to the improvement of public health

Education and lifelong learning

- improve educational outcomes by reassessing how certain childhood competences such as the development of imagination in free play are prerequisite to the development of competences later on in life,
- engage the motivation, thinking skills and creative action of young people through, for instance, the increased use of portfolio work and greater freedom of curricula,
- involve more actively independent educational stakeholders in the clusters devoted to educational themes

Disabilities

- pay special attention to the situation of people with special needs, such as learning disabilities and complex dependency needs, within the European Disability Strategy 2010 – 2011

Research

- Future R&D Programmes of the EU, in particular FP 8 should more substantially take into account the need for holistic research approaches to living processes,
- Establish a technology platform "Complementary and holistic research in life sciences".

The Action ELIANT was started with the view to strengthen citizens' participation in European politics, as demanded in the discussion about an EU constitution and finally codified in Article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty. The Action ELIANT finished its activity to gather over 1 million signatures for its objectives before the final regulation about this article comes

into force on 1 April 2012. ELIANT is part of the European civil society and regards itself as a for-runner of the new instrument of an "European Citizens Initiative" (ECI).

ELIANT was founded by organizations of Applied Anthroposophy in 2006 with the aim and objective to strengthen humanistic approaches in EU politics and to demonstrate that such approaches to life, society and politics is demanded and supported by a growing number of citizens in Europe and worldwide. The "*ELIANT Memorandum*" and detailed information about ELIANT and the Action ELIANT can be found at www.eliant.eu.

Brussels, May 16th, 2011

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