

## REMARKS ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THE CREATION OF THE I.U.B.E.

### Professor Michel Despax

Honorary President

University of Social Sciences of Toulouse

France

The following presentation consists of only a few remarks on the project of the International University for the Bio-Environment (I.U.B.E.) that this conference dealt with.

The project has already advanced from the embryonic stage. This conference has succeeded the meetings of previous years, all organised by Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis. We acknowledge her for the ability and dedication in making all the achievements of these last years a reality. We are also confident that she will continue her work in the future, with the assistance of those she will associate to the excellent idea of this project.

This conference contributes greatly to the promotion of the project, but a long way still has to be covered. We should feel confident for the future and think clearly for the time being.

From our common debates, we have been led to a few conclusions and would like to make some recommendations concerning what should be avoided, what should be done and the means we should use to implement our goals.

### **What to Avoid:**

- A. Duplication: We should not repeat activities once included in the national or international plans - CEE International Commentary, UNEP. We should become complementary, not competitive.
- B. A high degree of generalities: Although the preservation of all forms of life is our common motive, we should be able to organise our activity into categories, for the purpose of becoming more efficient. Taking care of the environment is one of our tasks, but this implies action in diverse fields. In the Greek land of Pantheism, God was present everywhere and nowhere specifically. This should not be the case with our concern for the environment. We should define our priorities, as precisely as possible.

### **What to do:**

Our intention is to create an International University. It is a very definite decision for it to be an international one. To go one step ahead, it should be multidisciplinary as well. A university consisting of:

- students
- 'instructed' professors
- organisation and local facilities
- targets, teaching and research service

The Students. Concerning students in various fields such as science, geography, biology, and law—who have already taken a university course on the Environment, the International University could help students in the 3rd circle to deepen their studies in some topics of high priority - Erasmus - taking into account the nature of their environmental studies. A good method of learning is for groups of two to four students specialised in social sciences to work on a common subject. To avoid duplication, the kind of public that should be selected in priority consists of:

- Students in engineering and management.
- Engineers and decision-makers (continued instruction).

The Professors. They should be university professors from different specialties but also experts and engineers with an 'environmentalist' view. The Structure. To raise funds in order to cover the budget of an international university is a difficult task. However, Dr. Vlavianos Arvanitis has demonstrated that nothing is impossible; to her, the word 'impossible' is not in the Greek vocabulary. Every possible structure should assume the idea of a network between existing institutions, laboratories and institutes, a principal already included in several national plans,

particularly in France. We should return to the origin of such institutions as the need for industrialisation of the agricultural production or urban restructuring and reassemble them on such a diversified basis, that would allow for both coordination and a multidisciplinary approach. The Objectives. The target is education, especially for those who need it more - engineers and technicians who are not familiar with the issues of our concern.

Research. The international university should provide opportunities for research, but every kind of it. Emphasis, in accordance with the actual state of science and technology, should be put on the investigation of a standard behaviour against every activity harming the environment. This is to go further than the well-known 'punctual impact' studies and provide the international planning with a new analysis and decision making, in the place of the failed approach of today.

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Professor **Michel Despax** is the Honorary President of the University of the Social Sciences of Toulouse. He is also on the Faculty of Law of the University, having previously also served as President from 1978 to 1983. Director of the Institute for the Juridicial Studies of Urbanism and Construction, he founded and directs the Revue Droit et Ville, and is a member of the European Council of Environmental Law. He has engaged in numerous teaching and conference missions overseas and is president of the Mid-Pyrenees French Society for Environmental Law, a field in which he has published extensively. He has been awarded the Elizabeth Haub Prize by the University of Brussels, and has been decorated as Officer of the Academic Palms, Chevalier of the National Order of Merit, and Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.