

BIOPOLITICS - REGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

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This presentation wishes to alert politicians, scientists, and industrialists to develop the utilisation of biological resources. The effort is to integrate the greatest possible number of people in production, as a means of minimising unemployment and involving all the population in active and significant participation. It is expected that co-operation has to be realised in a non-aggressive, competitive manner. Otherwise, the gap between the rich and the poor will be widened.

Solidarity with other communities needs to be the main objective. In order to guarantee the conditions of life of future generations, renewable natural resources need to be used in preference to those that are non-renewable.

The survival of the human species is tied intimately to the conditions of the environment; the atmosphere, the lithosphere and the hydrosphere. Modern society, more preoccupied with satisfying the economic demands of entrepreneurs and consumers, produces suffocation emissions without taking into consideration the capacity of absorption by the receiving media. This attitude prevails at the level of the masses and of the individual. Often by ignorance, the degradation of natural systems is accelerated. Our host planet manifests everywhere grave symptoms of ill-treatment imposed upon it by man. We live in difficult times. On all of us rests the responsibility for future conditions of life on earth. It is not only the degradation of the physical, chemical and biological processes that is at stake. The problem of survival is also tied to unlimited political ambitions. No less serious, is the degradation that may result from increased despair by great fractions of the population pushed towards inactivity. The moment is grave. Reflection is required.

Unfortunately, biotechnology constitutes a fashion. Like all fashions it becomes common ground quickly forgotten. If we wish to guarantee the conditions of life for future generations and to avoid the proliferation of synthetic materials, we need to use natural products rationally and recycle waste materials. This perspective should continuously preoccupy public administration and private entrepreneurs.

Intervention in areas of research, production, transformation and commercialisation in the form of modern biotechnology needs to represent for all people a hope for a better life in the future. Participation is required so that all people will feel useful and maintain their self-respect.

This can only be realised by man's cultural, intellectual and economic integration. To achieve this planning remains a political issue, but every community needs to participate in the exact definition. This may provide help in dealing with the social problems resulting from increased rate of unemployment due to automation.

Problems, direct or indirect, are attached to a whole group of other issues that could be summarised with one term; co-operation.

- co-operation between all the small sections of the European Community, named as regions;
- competitive but not necessarily destructive co-operation;
- co-operation based on complimenting indigenous potentials, controlled in a way to avoid the excessive stocks that are not profitable to anyone.

Millions are dying from hunger. We are reduced to community egoism only momentarily. We need to reach the level of an interregional policy that comprises the entire population of every section of nations. If this is not done, we run the risk of never realising our primary goal; the unification of Europe. A policy of research is required. It can not lead us very far without an adequate social policy. It is not enough just to produce, to satisfy the appetite stimulated by the producers. It is required that as great a number as possible participate in the well-being of the community. It is necessary to increase and improve production and have the population participate in the realisation of the objectives. In order to guarantee the needs of future generations and their quality of life, the preservation of natural media and the careful development of productive capacity is required.

How can this be achieved without first creating a European conscience? It is advisable to approach the problem with the proper cultural, scientific, technological and economic perspectives so that the relation of one region and another does not become transformed into competitive exploitation. Unfortunately, this is frequently the case at present and can become more aggravated in the future. Let us build a Europe by mobilising all the forces that contribute to the co-operation of the regions, and help cement the ties among them. However, this must occur without creating an entire Europe that exploits developing nations.

As it was said in the Liege forum on biotechnology, we need to proceed toward co-operation by using the following steps:

- elevate and spread the indigenous potential of regions;
- accelerate the training of specialist;
- provide human and financial means for the development of biotechnology;
- facilitate the exchange of scientists between regions and between academic institutions and industry;
- facilitate the involvement of young scientists in productive activities;
- interconnect the banks of information;
- spread the lines of research in a way that will accelerate the obtaining of results;
- organise round table discussions among scientists, industrialists, financiers and government officials;
- facilitate and stimulate meetings of youth from different regions so as to promote authentic cultural integration;
- ameliorate the cultural level of the population;
- allow for the assimilation of research results, even down to the family level, so as to involve a greater number of people in the production and thus reduce social problems due to unemployment;
- intensify the research in areas related to vegetal production so as to become liberated from the dependence on non-recycled products;
- raise the attention in recuperating and recycling urban and industrial waste in order to avoid the accumulation of non-bio-degradable products, and thus minimise the pollution of natural receiving media and reduce the consumption of energy.

This list could be lengthened further by including all the aspects that need to be achieved in order to intensify co-operation among European regions and among other cultural and economic communities. Intensified co-operation could contribute to the establishment of a climate which guarantees peace.

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