



JESUIT
EUROPEAN
SOCIAL
CENTRE

Annual Report 2017

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A YEAR OF TRANSITION



José Ignacio García SJ



Martin Maier SJ



Peter Rožič SJ



Emmanuelle Devuyst



Henry Longbottom SJ

Foreword

In spite of the ongoing crisis of the European Union, there were also glimpses of hope for the European project in 2017. The victory of Emmanuel Macron in the French presidential election in June was, in a sense, a victory for Europe. In his visionary Sorbonne speech in September Macron made a plea for a "refoundation" of the European Union. Unfortunately, this plea has remained unanswered till now by the other member states and especially by Germany.

A major contribution of the Catholic Church to rethinking Europe was the Rome Dialogue in October, which brought together 350 political actors, Church leaders and representatives from the civil society. Pope Francis shared in his closing speech his vision of a Christian contribution to the future of the continent. If Europe could rediscover itself as a community and reflect on the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity and the option for the poor, then, according to the Pope, Europe would become a "source of development, for itself and for the whole world."

JESC intends with its partners to keep alive this vision of Europe based on the Gospel, Christian social thinking and the orientations of the last general congregations of the Society of Jesus. We do this by organizing conferences like "Universality, Catholicity and the crisis of the European Union" by Prof. José Casanova from Georgetown University and panel discussions like "Three narratives of capitalism" with Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Andrea Tilche from the European Commission, and Klaus Buchner from the European Parliament.

Of growing importance in the work of JESC is to gather groups of sharing and reflection on the future of the European Union. One of these groups, « Passion for Europe », produced a fundamental text, « Rediscovering the European common good », which was partly published in our newsletter Europe Infos and disseminated among European decision makers. Based on this text, a weekend session will be given in September 2018.

The E.U. legislation process on conflict minerals has come to an end. JESC was much involved in this process through its advocacy officer Emmanuelle Devuyst participating in a large civil society network. In the February issue of Europe Infos, Emmanuelle reported mixed results: the legislation was a step forward, but it was to be regretted that the European Union did not assume more responsibility for the minerals trade and did not fully recognise the human rights of the affected communities living inside conflict zones.

This year saw major changes in the team of JESC. On January 1st, I was named acting director until the new director was to be named, since José Ignacio Garcia SJ had left to direct the Jesuit Refugee Service - Europe office, soon after having spent a number of fruitful years in JESC. Peter Rožič SJ became the JESC director and the JCEP Social Coordinator on September 17th. Moreover, as Paula Sendín moved on, Afonso Espregueira joined us for a few months as Communications officer, before entering the Jesuit novitiate in Portugal. Finally, in December

2017, two strong advocacy officers in the area of natural resources moved on from JESC, Emmanuelle Devuyst and Henry Longbottom SJ. All of the departing team members have been greatly missed, and we wish them all best and many blessings in their further personal and career paths.

Martin Maier SJ

Emmanuelle Devuyst



General Affairs

Legal Status

The Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC) is an 'Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif' under the Belgium Law since 29th of March 2012.

Staff

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|------------------------|--|
| Claude Debbichi | Administration, Accounts |
| Emmanuelle Devuyst | Advocacy Officer (until December) |
| Afonso Espregueira | Communications Officer Intern (until August) |
| José Ignacio García SJ | Social Apostolate Coordinator (until September) |
| Henry Longbottom SJ | Advocacy Adviser (until December) |
| Martin Maier SJ | Acting Director (until September); Secretary, European Affairs |
| Peter Rožič SJ | Director and Social Apostolate Coordinator (since September) |
| Paula Sendín | Communications Officer (until February) |

General Assembly and Administrative Council

Since September 2017, the General Assembly and the Administrative Council of JESC have been composed of Franck Janin, Martin Maier and Peter Rožič. Further changes in these bodies are envisaged for 2018.

European Affairs

Martin Maier SJ has been the Secretary for European Affairs since 2014.

Focus Areas

- 1. Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato si'*:** An ongoing central focus for JESC in 2017 was the dissemination of the encyclical *Laudato si'*. Martin Maier and Henry Longbottom gave several conferences and workshops on the encyclical. Fr. Maier participated in a theological working group of CIDSE.
- 2. Economics and Christian Social Teaching:** Martin Maier continued to participate in the meetings of a group of economists from the European Commission to reflect on faith issues in relation to their work.
- 3. Rethinking the European Project:** JESC was invited by several groups and institutions to participate in rethinking the European project. Martin Maier and Franck Janin participated in the "Rome Dialogue – Rethinking Europe" organized by the Secretariat of State of the Vatican and the COMECE.
- 4. Archbishop Oscar Romero:** Due to his long personal association with El Salvador, Martin Maier was asked for many articles, interviews and conferences on Oscar Romero, who will be declared saint in October 2018.
- 5. Passion for Europe:** JESC co-founded the group "Passion for Europe" with eight members from five different EU-countries. The group produced the fundamental text "Rediscovering the European common good."

Partnerships and Networks

E.U. Institutions

In the European Parliament, Martin Maier attended various events and meetings with MEPs and personalities from this institution. Some members of the team maintain personal contacts that go beyond business meetings, bridging the intellectual and pastoral dimensions. These contacts are intrinsic to our mission of supporting politically engaged Christians in integrating their faith with their political responsibilities.

COMECE

JESC and COMECE work together in several ways, most visibly on the online monthly journal *Europe Infos*, the editors of which are Mrs. Johanna Touzel of COMECE and Martin Maier of JESC. The editorial is written alternately by COMECE and Martin Maier, JESC members

contribute to every edition and share the work of the editorial committee. In partnership with COMECE, JESC participates in the Justice and Peace Europe initiatives and events.

Caritas Europa and CIDSE

These two networks represent Catholic lay organisations active in the field of social justice. Whereas *Caritas Europa* focuses both on poverty within Europe and on development and humanitarian assistance in other continents, CIDSE is an umbrella organisation of Catholic agencies which work specifically on international development and solidarity.

Programmes and Events

Meeting MEP Sylvie Goulard (Martin Maier, 12 January)

Meeting a group of Christian leaders (Martin Maier, MCC de Paris, 13 January)

Conference in Paris with Jérôme Vignon (Martin Maier, 14 January)

Conference "Les chrétiens en Europe" (Martin Maier, 8 February)

European Parliament: Participation in the Conference on Religion and EU External Action: EU Guidelines on Freedom of Religion or Belief. (Martin Maier, 26 April)

Speech on Pope Francis and his roots in Ignatian spirituality in the FCJ Spirituality Center in Brussels (Martin Maier, 29 April)

Participation in the Parliamentary Evening on "Migration and integration in the labour market - an interim result" (Martin Maier, 3 May)

Participation in the 5th meeting of the Interest Group on work-life balance: Digitalisation and the future of work – best practices and legislative challenges for Europe (Martin Maier, 4 May)

Meeting with MEP Klaus Buchner, ÖDP on TTIP, conflict minerals and business and human rights (Martin Maier, 9 May)

Speech on the future of the EU from a Christian perspective in the FCJ Spirituality Center in Brussels (Martin Maier, 9 May)

Lecture "Transitional Corruption? Securing Democracy and Justice in Post-Communist Europe" (Peter Rožič, organised by Justice and Peace Europe with COMECE, 16 May)

Visit with Prof. José Casanova in the European External Action Service on "Europe's fear of religion" (Martin Maier, 22 May)

Moderation of the conference of Prof. José Casanova on "Universality, Catholicity and the crisis of the European Union" in the Chapel for Europe (Martin Maier, 22 May)

Moderation of the conference of Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer in « Three Narratives of capitalism » in the Chapel for Europe (Martin Maier, 7 May)

Organization and moderation of a reflection group on the future of the European Union, called "Passion for Europe"

Participation at the European Parliament Art 17 conference "The Future of Europe - Reflections for the EU by 2025" (Martin Maier, 27 June)

Participation at the dialogue seminar on the "Future of Europe" in the European Commission. Short speech for the farewell of Katharina von Schnurbein (Martin Maier, 7 July)

Participation in the annual meeting of the Theological Commission of the Latin American Conference of Provincials in Santo Domingo (Martin Maier, 13-17 August)

Peter Rožič presents original research in the American Political Science Association annual meeting conference in San Francisco, "One Norm, Many Variations: Continental Regimes and the Global Justice Cascade" at a panel "Trend and Processes of Democratic Devolution" (1 September)

Participation in the annual meeting of the Catholic Theological Association of Great Britain in Durham (Martin Maier, 4-7 September)

Conference in Vienna on The European Union – an incredible success story in Kollegium Kalksburg (Martin Maier, 26 September)

Welcoming the students of the Jesuit Residential College (Maribor), offering a visit to EU and other institutions (Peter Rožič, 26-27 September)

Talk on JESC at the Representation of the Tyrol (Peter Rožič, with Dr. Burtscher from the Commission, 27 October)

The "Slovenia and Beyond: Comparing Small State Foreign Policy in the EU" panel participation (Peter Rožič at the ASEES 49th Annual Convention, Chicago, 12 November)

Communications and Publications

| Media | Title | Date | Issue | Author |
|---|---|----------|--------------|--------|
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | A new President for the European Parliament | February | 201 | PS |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Edito: You shall not tell lies! | February | 201 | MM |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Edito: The European Union – drawing on its past to confront its future | April | 203 | MM |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | New spring in Europe? | May | 204 | MM |
| <i>Ephemerides theologicae Zagrabienses</i> | Le paradoxe de la réinvention moderne du politique | May | Vol. 87 N. 1 | PR |
| <i>Metina Lista</i> | Lustration of the former political elites | May | | PR |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Getting together one year on: celebrating the memory of British MP Jo Cox | June | 205 | HL |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Edito: France chooses Europe | June | 205 | MM |

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|--|--|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| <i>Bogoslovni vestnik</i> | Assessing Tocqueville's Analysis of the Impact of Religion on Democracy | June | | PR |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Financial Transaction Tax: has the time come? | July-August | 206 | AE |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Stuck in the doldrums: EU-Africa trade deals | September | 207 | HL |
| <i>Choisir</i> | Révolution et foi chrétienne | September | 2017 | MM |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Edito: Rethinking Europe | September | 207 | MM |
| <i>En Question</i> | La théologie de la libération : source d'inspiration dans la lutte pour la justice | Juillet/Aout/Sept | 122 | |
| <i>Jesuiten in Deutschland</i> | Laufen befreit – Körper und Geist: Geistliche Übungen und körperliche Fitness haben miteinander zu tun | October | | PR |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Rediscovering the European common good | November | 209 | Passion for Europe |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Passion for Europe: remembering crisis to heal division | November | 209 | PR |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Pope Francis in dialogue with Europe | December | 2010 | MM |
| <i>Nova Science Publishers</i> | Religious Legacy in Post-Communist Transitional Justice | 2017 | | PR |
| <i>Aggiornamento damals und heute Perspektiven für die Zukunft</i> | Jesus Christus der Befreier (hg. von A. Schavan und H. Zollner, Freiburg) | 2017 | | MM |

Advocacy and Projects

Focus Areas

1. **Conflict Minerals:** With regards to the European political agenda, the period covered by this report was still mainly devoted to advocacy work surrounding the EU Conflict Minerals Initiative in collaboration with several of our partner networks. JESC, as part of the ad hoc European Civil Society Coalition on Conflict Minerals, has been involved in the last part of the legislative process of the dialogue between the three European Institutions.
2. **Human Rights and Business:** The conflict minerals issue is an integral part of the broader recommendations on Business and Human Rights. On twelve crucial questions, JESC was more involved in the first part of 2017, namely through the European Coalition for Corporate Justice, whose workshop on Human Rights Due Diligence gave us the opportunity to become a member of their working group on the issue. We also attended the Final Conference of Human Rights in Business on the removal of barriers to access to remedy for corporate related Human Rights abuses.
3. **Great Lakes Region:** Due to our connections in the region, we pay attention to the Democratic Republic of Congo and its neighbouring countries. The worrying electoral situation in DRC has been a particular topic of interest these last months, and we have been participating in a Civil Society meeting on the Electoral Process in the DRC and EURAC Conference 'Thinking EU-Central Africa relations beyond the Great Lakes. Challenges and opportunities of extending EurAc's geographical scope'. We have also had a visit from our partner Christian Bwenda, from the Congolese civil society, to hear one internal voice recognized for his expertise in the mining sector in DRC.



Partnerships and Networks

With regard to the European political agenda, the period covered by this report was mainly devoted to advocacy work surrounding the EU Conflict Minerals Initiative in collaboration with several of our partner networks.

In its natural resources advocacy, JESC has developed and strengthened its existing collaboration with other organisations and networks based in Brussel and beyond. Its principal Jesuit partners in the Conflict Minerals Campaign have been Jesuit Missions UK and ALBOAN.

On a European level, the chief means by which JESC has been able to carry out effective participation in the Conflict Minerals Campaign is through its membership of the *European Coalition on Conflict Minerals "Core Group"*. The Core Group is a platform of NGOs and campaigning organisations who have contributed to the campaign in varying degrees according to their resources and expertise. Members of the Core Group include:

- Justice & Peace Belgium,
- European network of NGOs active in Central Africa ("EurAc"),
- Global Witness,
- Pax Christi International,
- Amnesty International Europe,
- Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations ("SOMO"),
- Christian Aid,
- MVO Platform (a Dutch coalition dealing with CSR issues),
- European Coalition for Corporate Justice,
- PowerShift,
- CCFD Terre Solidaire,
- ALBOAN.

Through the Core Group, JESC assisted in coordinating joint work, developing common advocacy and strategy positions, and approaches to the European Commission in relation to its stance vis a vis responsible sourcing. This allowed European civil society organisations to speak with a single voice.

JESC is also a member of the Belgian Network on Natural Resources (Réseau Belge Ressources Naturelles - RBRN), which has been involved in the Conflict Minerals Campaign from the beginning of the initiative. Since the end of 2016, it has been reflecting on the selection of new advocacy projects involving palm oil and the related issues of land grabbing, land rights, and food rights.

Other Brussels-based advocacy platforms of which JESC is an active member include European network of NGOs active in Central Africa (EurAc), and the Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network (AEFJN). In relation to the latter, JESC has cooperated in a potential common project on funding two field research projects in mining in Africa. Finally, JESC has become a member of the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ), a platform

currently engaged with business and human rights issues, specifically human rights due diligence.

JESC continues to participate in the Jesuit Global Ignatian Advocacy Networks Justice in Mining and Ecojesuit, as well as in the Ecology cluster of the network called Higher Education for Social Transformation (HEST) of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials ([see here](#) the November 15 Bonn meeting news).

Programmes and Events

On March 2017, together with the Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network (AEFJN) and Justice & Peace Belgium, JESC hosted a debate on human rights and European consumption, held at the Chapel for Europe. Many stakeholders participated in the event, including Marie Arena, MEP responsible for conflict minerals.

During March 2017, JESC team member Henry Longbottom visited various initiatives and projects coordinated or linked to the Jesuits in the Democrat Republic of Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe, under the "Great Lake Regions" campaign to deepen exiting relationships and explore new ways of collaboration.

Between 2-3 May 2017, Emmanuelle Devuyt, JESC Advocacy Officer, attended the 11th Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains held in Paris. This is an annual conference organised by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Regions.

Henry Longbottom and Peter Rožič participated at COP 23 events in Bonn (Germany) from 6 to 17 November. For a full and rich report on the contents and outcomes of the Bonn events [see here](#).

Henry Longbottom and Martin Maier participated in in the Symposium 'Connecting Ecologies' hosted in Campion Hall (Oxford, December 2017). The event brought together politicians, theologians, ecologists, anthropologists and climate scientists for a discussion of how we might positively respond to climate change and ecological crisis.



Communications and Publications

| Media | Title | Date | Issue | Author |
|--|---|-----------|-------|--------|
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Rural depopulation: the harvest is rich but the labourers are few | January | 200 | HL |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | Mixed results for legislation on "conflict minerals" | February | 201 | ED |
| <i>JESC Website</i> | Conflict minerals exhibition and roundtable | March | | JESC |
| <i>Business & Human Rights Resource Centre</i> | A choking beast of prey – Mega Mines in Zambia | April | | HL |
| <i>Europe Infos</i> | A first step in the fight against conflict minerals | May | 204 | ED |
| <i>Catholic Times</i> | Campaigning against 'conflict' minerals | July | | HL |
| <i>Ecojesuit News</i> | Stuck in the Doldrums – EU-Africa Trade Deals | September | 207 | HL |
| <i>Ecojesuit Website</i> | Press Release: Ecojesuit at COP 23 | November | | HL |

Networking Justice - Social Coordinator of the JCEP

Introduction

Over the past years, the group of Social apostolate delegates has maintained a rich dynamic, which has been nurtured by the untiring work of José Ignacio Garcia, who coordinated the group so well until September 2017. The group's meetings have been organized by the steering committee of José Ignacio Garcia (the outgoing Conference coordinator), Alberto Ares and Jérôme Gué. After the annual meeting in Bilbao, Peter Rožič took over the coordination of the social apostolate networks in Europe and the Near East:

Programmes and Events

Social Apostolate Delegates Annual Meeting, Bilbao 22-23 September 2017. At this year's annual meeting we sought conversion in the social apostolate with regards to ecology, spirituality, collaboration and more. The meeting started with short, realistic and encouraging reports from nine province delegates, joined by the incoming Europe and Near East delegate Peter Rožič, the SJES secretary Xavier Jeyaraj, and close collaborators from the Spanish social apostolate sectors.

Munich Marathon: Peter Rožič was interviewed in the German radio "DomRadio" about his participation in the Jesuit marathon fundraiser. He explained physical assets for the competition, as well as the importance of the spiritual side. (October 8)

An Unexpected Call: From Teaching to Serving Justice. (Peter Rožič, [full article](#), September).

Father General Arturo Sosa SJ spoke to Social Delegates and GIAN Leaders on what discernment in common means, Universal Apostolic Preferences and the apostolic planning. The meeting was held in Rome, Italy. (19 September)

Peter Rožič participated, as the social apostolate coordinator,

- At the Xavier Network September 27-29 meeting and the Entreculturas annual gathering on 30.9., both in Madrid (El Escorial);
- At the October 4 JRS Europe Regional Coordination Meeting in Brussels;
- With Henry Longbottom, at the October 6 Faith & Politics steering committee, Brussels;
- At the November 20-21 HEST steering committee meeting and the HEST migration cluster meeting in Madrid (Comillas).

Between December 17 and 19, Peter Rožič visited the major works of the social apostolate sector in the Barcelona region: Cristianisme i Justícia Social Centre, Migra Studium, Fundació La Vinya, and Fundación Salut Alta.



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