



JESUIT EUROPEAN SOCIAL CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Table of Contents

General Affairs

- 1. Staff 4

European Affairs

- 1. Focus Areas 5
- 2. Partnerships and Networks 5
- 3. Programmes/Events 6
- 4. Communications/Publications 8

Advocacy and Projects – Natural Resources

- 1. Focus Areas 9
- 2. Partnerships and Networks 9
- 3. Programmes/Events 11
- 4. Communications/Publications 11

Advocacy and Projects – Ecology

- 1. Focus Areas 12
- 2. Partnerships and Networks 12
- 3. Programmes/Events 12
- 4. Communications/Publications 13

Social Coordinator CEP

- 1. Focus Areas 14
- 2. Programmes/Events 14

Foreword

There can be no doubt that 2014 has been a year of intense political activity for the EU as it has renewed its three basic institutions: the Parliament (May) and the European Commission / Council Presidency in autumn. All of these changes have taken place in the context of a severe economic crisis that is hitting some Member States especially hard. The European Union, and in general what could be called the European Project, have always found resistance from the public, sometimes strong resistance. Unfortunately the crisis has increased public distrust in the European institutions especially in some Southern European countries. The tough measures that have been introduced to reduce public deficits have led to significant cuts in health, education and social services spending in many countries.

2014 has been a time for a thorough re-evaluation of the state of the Union and its institutions. The discussions preceding the elections have shown that despite the difficulties, the added value of the Union, in a multipolar geopolitical context and with emerging economies, remains very important. The European Project, despite the doubts of many citizens, is still meaningful after all these years. At JESC we have tried to closely follow these events and we have actively contributed to the debate especially through [Europe Infos](#), the newsletter we publish jointly with COMECE, the secretariat of the Bishops of the European Union here in Brussels.

Another important activity undertaken by JESC was the organisation of the Social Week. In June, under the theme of "Volunteering and the public good: commitment to an active citizenship" over 70 Jesuits, collaborators and volunteers from a diversity of works of the Jesuit social apostolate in Europe met in Naples (Italy). It was an extraordinary opportunity to discover the implications of our ministries as members of civil society.

Finally, this year we had a major change in the team at JESC. Frank Turner has returned to his Province, after ten years of intense dedication to European Affairs, especially under the perspective of Catholic Social Thought. Frank has left a strong sense of gratitude for the rigor of his contributions and the passion for justice that has always guided his work. An eloquent testimony to this was the large group which gathered at the premises of JESC from various Catholic and Protestant organisations for a farewell celebration. At the same time we welcome Martin Maier, a German Jesuit, as a new member of the JESC team. Martin is a renowned theologian and has been director of the prestigious journal 'Stimmen der Zeit.' Now responsible for European Affairs at JESC, he brings extensive experience of pastoral and academic collaboration in Latin America.

You will find more information about the state of our advocacy work on Ecology and Natural Resources (which has this year been particularly focussed on conflict minerals) in the following pages of this Annual Report.

General Affairs

1. Staff

Luis Santiago Cano (Until February 2014) - *GIAN-Ecology advisor*

Claude Debbichi - *Administration, Accounts*

Emmanuelle Devuyst - *Advocacy Officer*

José Ignacio García SJ - *Director*

Martin Maier SJ (Since October 2014) - *Secretary, European Affairs*

Stephen Rooney (Until September 2014) - *Policy Advisor*

Paula Sendin (Since May 2014) - *Communications Officer*

Frank Turner SJ (Until April 2014) - *Secretary, European Affairs*

1. Focus Areas

1. A civilisation of shared frugality

On different occasions this concept was presented which goes back to Ignacio Ellacuria's claim for a new civilisation of poverty, based on human rights, universality, justice, and sustainability.

2. Economics and Catholic Social Teaching

A group of about 15 economists from the European Commission meets once a month to reflect on faith issues in relation to their work, and to discuss actual challenges like poverty in Europe and freedom of expression and religion. The secretary for European affairs was a co-founder of this group in early 2014, and Frank Turner's role was later assumed by Martin Maier. The role is as a permanent member of this group and as a resource person for their reflection on what it means to be a Christian and a professional economist in the Commission.

3. European Elections

Relating to the European Parliamentary elections in May 2014, JESC undertook several activities, producing various publications. These are reflected in the list of events given below.

2. Partnerships and Networks

1. EU institutions

a. In the European Parliament, Frank Turner attended the 'Intergroup on Poverty and Human Rights': an 'intergroup' is a forum of the Parliament designed to unite political groups across much of the political spectrum on important themes of shared interest.

b. 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.

2. COMECE (Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the EU)

JESC and COMECE work together in several ways, most visibly on the online monthly journal [Europe Infos](#), the editor of which is Mme Johanna Touzel of COMECE. The editorial is written alternately by the General Secretary of COMECE and by Frank Turner/Martin Maier, JESC members contribute to every edition and share the work of the editorial committee.

3. 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.

Frank Turner worked frequently with both agencies as a consultant: in the field of Catholic Social Thought, social theology and ecclesiology. In 2014 he led a New Year event at CIDSE and gave a study morning to Caritas Europa, on the theme of 'Learning from Evangelii Gaudium', as part of their ongoing formation.

3. Programmes /Events

- a. Leading a New Year event of prayer-reflection at CIDSE: Brussels, January (Frank Turner)
- b. Study morning with Caritas Europa, 'Learning from Evangelii Gaudium': Brussels, February (Frank Turner)
- c. Speaker at debate in Heythrop College, University of London: 'A New Start? Britain and Europe' - on the issues at stake in the (then) forthcoming elections: London, March (Frank Turner)
- d. Moderating the parliamentary launch of the IXE election website, 'The Europe Experience': London, April (Frank Turner)
- e. Input/training in Church Social Teaching, for most of team of CIDSE: London, April (Frank Turner)
- f. Chair of a conference in the series 'Regards croisés', organised by the Jesuit community in Luxembourg. The speaker, Dr. Anna Iara of

the European Commission, was also invited through JESC: Luxembourg, May (Frank Turner)

- g. University Conference: The civilisation of poverty and today's global challenges: Leuven, October (Martin Maier)
- h. Conference and homily in commemoration of the UCA martyrs : La Pairelle Spirituality Centre, Wépion, near Namur, October (Martin Maier)
- i. Conference and participation in the study day 'Without the poor, no salvation. Liberation theology today': Innsbruck, November (Martin Maier)
- j. Commemoration of the UCA martyrs in the Chapelle de la Résurrection: Brussels, November (Martin Maier)
- k. Conference and participation in the congress, 'Move to a new civilisation shared-frugality. Perspectives of Utopian Thinking', marking the 25th anniversary of the killing of Ignacio Ellacuría in San Salvador: University of Vienna, December (Martin Maier)
- l. Presentation and discussion of the concept of a Civilisation of poverty in the Econ initiative group in CEC: Brussels, December (Martin Maier)
- m. Conference: Justice is also a question of faith. To "civilisation shared-frugality ": Oldenburg, December (Martin Maier)

4. Communications/Publications

Media	Title	Date	Issue	Author
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Editorial : European Elections and Evangelisation	February	168	FT
<i>Europe Infos</i>	The EU's 2030 Climate and Energy Policy	March	169	SR
<i>Europe Infos</i>	European Elections 2014: Mr Hugues what did you achieve as an MEP?	March	169	SR
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Editorial: Ukraine: a True Revolution?	April	170	FT
<i>Europe Infos</i>	European Elections 2014: Sylvie Goulard, what have been your achievements as a MEP?	April	170	FT
<i>Europe Infos</i>	The Church – supporting political engagement	May	171	SR
<i>Europe Infos</i>	European Elections and Evangelisation			
<i>Popoli</i>	L'Europa, i gesuiti e le crisi (Italian translation from FT's original)	May		FT
<i>Europe Infos</i>	The fence of shame	May	171	JIG
<i>Europe Infos</i>	New perspectives for the ECB	June	172	JIG
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Edito : The post-election crisis and the ground of our hope	June	172	FT
<i>Europe Infos</i>	The UK and the EU: membership without belonging?	September	174	FT
<i>Europe Infos</i>	A fair energy transition in Europe	October	175	JIG
<i>Europe Infos</i>	The trade unions face the TTIP	October	175	JIG
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Edito: Reconciliation over the war graves	November	176	MM
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Energy efficiency in the EU : moving in the right direction	November	176	JIG
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Screening the new Commission	November	176	PS
<i>Europe Infos</i>	A quick review of the Barroso Commission	December	177	MM
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Guardian of Trust	December	177	MM

1. Focus Areas

1. Conflict Minerals and EU initiative

In March 2014, the European Commission published a proposal for regulation “setting up a Union system for supply chain due diligence self-certification of responsible importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating in conflict affected and high-risk areas.” This proposal was complemented by a joint communication on accompanying measures from the European Commission and the High Representative.

Since then most of our activity during 2014 has been connected to this crucial initiative launched by the European Commission. The European civil society, which has been asking for stronger regulation, is disappointed with the EU voluntary scheme, which would not only be redundant with the OECD guidelines, but also insufficient for the reporting and possible penalties where these rules are breached.

Intense advocacy work was conducted in 2013 and 2014, mostly in Brussels and in the Member States but also in Geneva and the DRC, trying to influence European policy makers. Several meetings were held with European parliamentarians and Member States to try to convince them to improve the Commission's proposal.

JESC, as partner of several networks of the civil society, has been developing MEP mapping to identify allies and blockers, arguments and counter-arguments, to be better prepared to meet them to explain our position.

The ad hoc European Civil Society Coalition is working with a group of MEPs that belong to different groups in order to write and support amendments to the proposal, to make it efficient which implies a binding regulation with a broad material, geographical and enterprises scope.

2. Partnerships and Networks

1. GNMR-Europe - « Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources » a member of the Global Ignatian Advocacy Network ([GIAN](#))

This working group is made up of three Jesuit European organizations: JESC, UK Jesuit Missions and ALBOAN. We meet three times a year and develop a joint working plan on the issue of responsible supply chains of minerals.

GIAN-Europe conducted a joint field mission between ALBOAN and JESC in Kivu (June) in order to refine our understanding of the situation of artisanal mining since the American Dodd-Frank Act entered into force and bring back stories from the people concerned.

We have visited several artisanal mining sites, meet politicians, artisanal miners, women, Congolese Civil Society organisations and internal displaced camps. It is essential to have a balanced understanding of local realities both in the implementation of laws relating to the governance of natural resources and the way that local people live on a day-to-day basis.

The GNMR-Europe group has also developed a "ready-to-use advocacy toolkit" on Conflict Minerals to support other European Jesuit organisations to lobby at Member State level and to raise awareness among Jesuits.

The last GNMR-EU meeting took place in Toronto and Montreal (October) to meet our Canadian and American colleagues working on natural resources to identify common issues and potential partnership

2. [Ad Hoc European Coalition on Conflict Minerals](#) – Core Group

The coalition includes the following organizations: Justice and Peace Belgium EurAc, JESC, Global Witness, Pax, Amnesty Europe, SOMO, Christian Aid, MVO Platform, CORE, Amnesty International, PowerShift, EVB, CCFD. This coalition emerged after the consultation by the European Commission on responsible sourcing. We look for a common position and advocate together in front of the Commission so the European civil society can speak with one single voice.

3. EurAc – [European network of NGOs active in Central Africa](#)

4. RBRN - [Réseau Belge Ressources Naturelles](#)

5. ECCJ – [European Coalition for Corporate Justice](#)

6. CONCORD - Working group on Raw Materials

7. [Franciscans International](#)

8. CEIDA - [CSR of Extractive Industries in Developing Areas](#). CEIDA is a research group promoted by Josep Maria SJ within ESADE Business School in Barcelona

3. Programs/Events

1. A Seminar was organised in collaboration with Franciscans International in Geneva and EurAc under the second Universal Periodic Report of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Council of Human Rights of the United Nations. This seminar was held on 21st March 2014 entitled "[DRC: Breaking the Links between Natural Resources and Conflicts](#)" and brought together panellists, including Mary Robinson, UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region and Bishop Ambongo, President of the Episcopal Commission on Natural Resources (CERN). The aim was to link the European advocacy for legislation on "conflict minerals" and the Universal Periodic Report of the DRC by linking the illegal exploitation of minerals and violations of Human Rights.
2. Workshop of CEIDA: [Inclusive, Sustainable Development in the Extractive Industries](#). Barcelona, 24-26/03/2014. This first seminar was attended by twenty researchers, academics and practitioners in the field to discuss best practice and related issues. Our project manager presented the proposal of the European Commission on responsible sourcing of minerals from conflict zones and advocacy work in this area by the European civil society.
3. Conference-debate on "[How to stop Conflict Minerals?](#)" at Salon Valériane, Namur, Belgium organised on 6th September 2014 by the Belgian Network on Natural resources. The panellists were Karel de Gucht, Trade Commissioner, Marie Arena S&D MEP, Louis Michel Alde MEPs, Philippe Lamberts Green MEP and Claude Rollin EPP MEP.

4. Communication / Publications

Media	Title	Date	Author
JESC website	Press release on the Commission's proposal	5/03/2014	JESC
JESC website	Civil Society Briefing Note on Responsible Sourcing and Conflict Minerals	12/10/2014	JESC
JESC website	BNNR triptych on Conflict Minerals	11/2014	BNMR

1. Focus areas

1. Communication and awareness. Our main engagement in Ecology is the publication of Ecojesuit (www.ecojesuit.com), a bimonthly newsletter produced jointly with the ESSC (Philippines) offering stories on ecology and environmental challenges.
2. Energy. The energy transition as a process of substitution of more pollutants and limited sources to less polluting, and preferably renewable, sources of energy, has been one of the issues that we have focused our attention on in 2014 and will certainly continue to do so in the coming years.
3. Water. In Europe the most debated issue is the commodification of water and the loss of reference as a public good. GIAN Ecology decided to work for two years on the theme of "Water for All". On this issue we have followed the work of several networks in Brussels (BlueGold by the EPC and another initiatives promoted by Food & Water Europe).

2. Partnerships and Networks

1. GIAN – Ecology: this is an international network of Jesuit institutions involved in environmental issues. JESC is the Coordinator.

3. Programmes / Events

1. Presentation at the session organised by the Jesuits in formation at Heythrop College. London, 9th April, 2014.
2. Organisation of the Workshop on Ecology at the Social Week. Naples, 24-28th June, 2014.
3. Organisation of the Seminar Values and Development, in the framework of GIAN Ecology. Namur (Belgium), 3-5th November, 2014.
4. Participation at the Conference on Transformative Land and Water Governance organised by the ESSC. Mindanao (Philippines), 21 – 23rd May, 2014.

4. Communications / Publications

Media	Title	Date	Issue	Author
<i>Europe Infos</i>	The EU's 2030 Climate and Energy Policy	March	169	SR
<i>Europe Infos</i>	A fair energy transition in Europe	October	175	JIG
<i>Europe Infos</i>	Energy efficiency in the EU : moving in the right direction	November	176	JIG
<i>Ecojesuit</i>	Ecology and Ignatian Spirituality	15 February		JIG
<i>Ecojesuit</i>	Mapping ecological conflicts	15 March		PS
<i>Ecojesuit</i>	Reflection : Communities and hope : Easter in Valladolid	15 May		JIG
<i>Ecojesuit</i>	Reflection : A fair energy transition	15 September		JIG
<i>Ecojesuit</i>	US-China joint agreement on reducing carbon	15 November		PS

1. Focus Areas

1. Social Week

The [Social Week](#) is a gathering of the different actors of the Jesuit social apostolate in Europe. Organised every three or four years, the Social Week brings together Jesuits, collaborators and volunteers from the various works of the social apostolate in Europe to pray, reflect and share together. It is an opportunity to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and experiences to share the mission of the Society in Europe. This year under the title of "Volunteering and the public Good: Commitment to an active citizenship" the Social Week gathered more than 70 people from 16 different countries in Naples, from 25 to 27 June.

2. Social Centres.

The Society of Jesus has a wide network of social centres in Europe. Varying in size, history and capacity, the social centres have three types of activity in common: to develop research, to publish -generally journals but today they also run attractive web sites- and thirdly, they also offer some training courses. Some of them are also linked to universities. After the meeting in January 2014 the need for greater collaboration has been highlighted.

Programmes / Events

1. Social Week, Naples (Italy) 25th – 27th June, 2014

a. Presentations and working groups

- i. Wednesday 25th. Jérôme Vignon, President of Semaines Sociales, France: Voluntary engagement and active citizenship in Europe: the role of Churches.
- ii. Thursday 26th. Theodora Hawksley. Theologian, Edinburg University: Volunteering: love and freedom.
- iii. Friday 27th. Xavier Network Working Group on Volunteering (Alboan, Entreculturas, Leigos para o Desenvolvimento, Jesuit Missions UK, Jesuit Missions Germany): International Volunteering.

b. Workshops (organizers)

- i. Migration & Asylum (JRS-Portugal)
- ii. Ecology (JESC)
- iii. International Volunteering (Xavier Network Working Group on Volunteering)
- iv. Welfare State (Jesuit Social Network, Italy)

c. Visits

- i. Gesù Nuovo. Jesuit Residence in downtown: Cultural, Family Counselling and Youth centres.
- ii. Quartieri Spagnoli. Marginalized neighbourhood.
- iii. San Giovanni a Teduccio. Youth program for children coming wih parents are in prison or involved in violent groups.
- iv. Scampia. Parish and Social Centre Alberto Hurtado. They promote many cultural programs and the cooperative "La Roccia".



The Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC) is a work of the European
Conference of Jesuit Provincials.

Jesuit European Social Centre
Rue du Cornet 51
1040 Brussels – Belgium
www.jesc.eu
info@jesc.eu
