

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



NSC/Inf (2009) 10 prov
5 March 2010

(restricted)

2009 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

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1 FOREWORD by the Executive Director, Mr Denis Huber

2009 was a year of very positive developments for the North-South Centre marked with the return of one of its founding States, Italy, and the accession of two new members, Serbia and Morocco. The accession of Morocco, the first non-European country to join the Centre, reinforced the legitimacy and credibility of the Centre as a vector of dialogue and co-operation between the Council of Europe and its neighbouring regions. The accession request of a second African country, and, most importantly, the first member State from the Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Verde, was received at the end of the year and has been welcomed by the Committee of Ministers.

In 2009, the Centre continued and reinforced the implementation of the strategic document approved in spring 2008, in particular the process aimed at elaborating a Committee of Ministers recommendation on global education, the follow-up programme of the Euro-African Youth Summit and the implementation of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. This was done in the context of the first year of implementation of the Joint Management Agreement signed in November 2008 with the European Commission, designed to promote global education in the new EU member States, as well as Euro-African youth co-operation, and of the new Euro-African dimension integrated into the CoE/EC youth partnership.

The North-South Centre also developed and deepened its co-operation with the Alliance of Civilisations, through its involvement in the “Restore trust, rebuild bridges” initiative and the Alliance’s regional strategy for the Balkans. In November, the North-South Centre organised its annual Lisbon Forum, in partnership with the Alliance, whose Special Representative, Mr Jorge Sampaio, is now the Chair, and the Aga Khan Development Network. The 2009 edition was devoted to the theme “Creating a culture of human rights through education”.

In March, the Centre organised its 14th Annual Award Ceremony of the North-South Prize which was awarded to Jorge Sampaio (Portugal) and HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah (Jordan) for 2008. The 2009 Prize was awarded to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev (the Russian Federation) for his historical role in the reconciliation of the East and the West at the end of the 1980s and his subsequent commitment to the protection of the environment, and to Rola Dashti (Kuwait), for her action in favour of equality between women and men in the Arab World. The Ceremony will take place in Lisbon in spring 2010 in relation with the official ceremony of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre. The celebrations marking the Anniversary started already in 2009 with the adoption by the Parliamentary Assembly of Recommendation 1893 on “The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity”, proposing a new statutory resolution to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2010.

Lastly, on a more personal note, 2009 has been a year of important efforts aimed on the one hand at consolidating the relations between the NSC and its member states and on the other hand at developing its enlargement prospects. In this connection – and beyond the very dense relations existing with the host country – I had the opportunity to visit no less than 10 other member States¹, as well as 7 non member States². The contacts that I established on these occasions, mostly at the level of capitals, came as a important complement to the awareness raising work accomplished at the level of the Embassies in Strasbourg and Lisbon. I am confident that they pave the way for new progress in the year 2010, when the NSC will be celebrating its 20 years of existence.

¹ Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Norway, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Morocco, Switzerland.

² South Africa, Turkey, Tunisia, Cape Verde, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Algeria, Azerbaidjan.

2 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 STATUTORY ORGANS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

A meeting of the **Bureau** of the Executive Council took place on 30 January 2009 in Strasbourg. The main issues discussed were the preparations of the North-South Prize Ceremony and the meeting of the Executive Council which took place in Lisbon on 16-17 March, the implementation of the 2009 programme of activities and the preparations for the 20th Anniversary of the NSC (see page 32).

The 41st meeting of the **Executive Council** took place in Lisbon on 17 March 2009. On that occasion, the Executive Council warmly welcomed the accession of Serbia and the return of Italy to the North-South Centre (see page 7), which entered into force on 1 and 15 March respectively, thus enabling the participation of both countries at the North-South Prize Ceremony and the Executive Council meeting.

The members of the Executive Council also noted with regret the confirmation given by the Chair, Mr Claude Frey, that he would not continue to chair the Executive Council beyond 31 March 2009. They unanimously thanked Mr Frey for his hard work, commitment and support to the Centre over the past five years. As a follow-up, **the Executive Council elected Ms Deborah Bergamini, Representative of Italy, as its Chair** (with effect from 1 April 2009), and **Ambassador Eberhard Kölsch, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council of Europe, as its Vice-Chair** (with immediate effect).

In addition, the Executive Council took a number of important decisions. In particular, it:

- entrusted the Committee of Representatives of the member States, at its meetings in April and October 2009, to make the appropriate arrangements concerning the **impact of the accession of Serbia and Italy on the 2009 budget of the NSC**, while expressing its wish that these meetings be open to the other stake-holders of the North-South Centre;
- invited the **EU Committee of Regions** to be represented at the next meeting of the Executive Council on 12 November 2009, with a view to discussing co-operation prospects between the Committee of Regions and the North-South Centre;
- fully supported the North-South Centre's participation in the **new initiative « Restore trust, rebuild bridges »**, to be launched at the 2nd Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations (Istanbul, 6-7 April), and welcomed the co-ordinating role given to the Centre in this regard;
- noted with interest the information provided on the **follow-up to the “Etats généraux culturels méditerranéens”** organised on 4-5 November 2008 in Marseille by the French EU Presidency with a substantial contribution of the NSC/CoE, and encouraged the enhanced participation of the NSC in this process.

The new **Chair** paid a working visit to Lisbon when she took up her duties on 1 April. She had a series of contacts with the NSC Secretariat, the Portuguese authorities and the diplomatic community in Lisbon on 1 April and, the following day, opened, together with the Portuguese State Secretary for European Affairs and the Minister for Social Development, Family and Solidarity of Morocco, the conference on the role of women, as actors of change in the Mediterranean. She also issued a public statement on her first day in office (see appendix 2).

The 52nd meeting of the **Committee of Representatives of Members** of the North-South Centre took place in Strasbourg on 17 April. It took a number of important decisions. In particular, it :

- took note of the decisions taken by the Executive Council at its 41st meeting of 17 March and congratulated the new Chair of the Executive Council, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, Representative of Italy, and the new Vice-Chair, Ambassador Eberhard Kölsch, Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council of Europe, on their election, for the Executive Council's remaining term of office ending in spring 2010;
- held an exchange of views on the adjustments to be made to the NSC 2009 budget following the accessions of Serbia and Italy, endorsed measures to reinforce the Centre's structural capacity and set aside a dotation for the 20th Anniversary of the NSC, while agreeing to resume its discussions on the budgetary adjustments at its next meeting;
- agreed that the 2009 Lisbon Forum theme would be "Creating a culture of human rights through education";
- held an exchange of views with Ambassador Jacques Huntzinger on the follow-up to the "Etats Généraux culturels méditerranéens" organised on 4-5 November 2008 in Marseille by the French EU Presidency;
- having noted that Ambassador Eberhard Kölsch would cease its functions of Permanent Representative of Germany on 30 June 2009, expressed its gratitude to its Chairman for his commitment, hard work and efficient leadership over the last year;
- elected Ambassador Athanassios Dendoulis, Permanent Representative of Greece to the Council of Europe, as Chairman, as from 1 July 2009.

On 26 June, the **Bureau** held its first meeting under its new Chair, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, and took a number of important decisions. In particular, it:

- warmly welcomed the confirmation of the accession of Morocco to the North-South Centre as from 1 July 2009;
- appointed Mr Jorge Sampaio as Chair of the Lisbon Forum for the next two years (2009-2010);
- held an exchange of views with Mr Sasi on his report on the future of the NSC and endorsed the proposals contained in the preliminary draft recommendation attached to it;
- welcomed the initiative taken by the Chair to organise an event on the Council of Europe's work to combat violence against women on 9 September in Venice (Italy), in the double context of the 60th Anniversary of the CoE and the 20th Anniversary of the NSC;
- approved the proposed activities for the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre;
- warmly welcomed the prospect of further developing co-operation with the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and discussed the preliminary version of a draft co-operation agreement.

This meeting was followed by the Jury of the North-South Prize (see page 28).

The **Chair** used the opportunity of her presence in Strasbourg to have, together with the Executive Director, bi-lateral meetings with the Deputy Secretary General, the President of the EU Committee of Regions and the Ambassadors of Greece and Switzerland. In addition, on 25 June, she hosted a

working lunch for the representatives of the member States of the North-South Centre which provided an excellent opportunity to present herself to them.

The 53rd meeting of the **Committee of Representatives of Members** of the North-South Centre took place in Strasbourg on 2 October. It took a number of important decisions. In particular, it

- elected Mrs Margaret Hennessy, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the Council of Europe, as its Vice-Chair;
- nominated Serbia to the vacant seat in the Executive Council;
- approved the financial statements of the North-South Centre for 2008 as presented in document CM (2009) 101;
- endorsed a number of complementary budgetary adjustments for 2009;
- took note of the draft programme of activities for 2010 as presented in document NSC/EC (2009) 6 prov;
- entrusted its Chair and the other representatives of the member States in the Executive Council to relay the member States' views and priorities at the meeting of the Executive Council on 12 November 2009;
- agreed the ceiling of obligatory contributions and approved the apportionment of the contributions of the member States for 2010.

Following this, the 43rd meeting of the **Executive Council** took place on 12 November in Lisbon. During this meeting, the Executive Council unanimously adopted the 2010 budget and programme of activities. In addition, it took a number of other important decisions. In particular, it:

- expressed its gratitude for the voluntary contribution of 30,000 euros announced by the government of Luxembourg for the 2nd edition of the African University on Youth and Development, which will take place in 2010;
- took note with satisfaction of the proposed inclusion in the Co-operation Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Al Jaber Foundation of a contribution to the North-South Centre of 75,000 euros per year for the period 2010-2013;
- welcomed the announcement made by the Minister of Education of Cape Verde regarding her country's official request to join the North-South Centre;
- endorsed the collaboration proposals with the Committee of the Regions of the European Union and entrusted the Chair and the Secretariat to take the appropriate follow-up action in this regard;
- welcomed the prospect of further developing co-operation with the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, approved the draft co-operation agreement and authorised the Chair of the Executive Council to sign it at the plenary session of the Conference of INGOs in January 2010 (subject to the final approval of the draft co-operation agreement by the Conference of INGOs;).

2.2 MEMBER STATES

During 2009, special efforts were made to both consolidate relations between the NSC and its member States and to develop its enlargement prospects.

In this context, the decision taken by the government of **Serbia**, on 15 January, to accede to the North-South Centre constituted a first major development at the start of the year. This decision was fully in line with the programme of Serbia's recent Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (May – November 2007) and followed close contacts during 2008, in particular with the Serbian Minister of Youth and Sport (who took the initiative of this decision) and with the Serbian Ambassadors in Strasbourg and in Lisbon. Formal notification of this important news was received on 6 February through a note verbale sent by the Permanent Representative of Serbia in Strasbourg to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. This accession took effect on 1 March 2009.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of **Italy**, Mr Franco Frattini, through a letter dated 13 March, informed the Secretary General of the Council of Europe of his government's decision to rejoin the North-South Centre. In his letter, the Minister stated that Italy decided to rejoin the Centre "appreciating its current work and its programmes for the coming years". This decision, which took effect on 15 March 2009, was of major political importance, as Italy has been one of the ten founding States of the Centre in November 1989 and was a big contributor until its withdrawal in 2006.

Shortly after, the official request of **Morocco** to become a member of the North-South Centre was received through a letter dated 20 March addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Morocco, Mr Taïb Fassi Fihri. This request was based on the "advanced status" negotiated between the European Union and Morocco in October 2008, on the choice of King Mohammed VI in favour of democratic openings, the reinforcement of good governance and the promotion of human rights, as well as the already existing fruitful co-operation between Morocco and several bodies of the Council of Europe, in particular the Venice Commission. It also followed the contacts established between the North-South Centre and Morocco for many years already.

Following the formal approval of this accession request by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Morocco joined the Centre on 1 July 2009³. The accession of Morocco, the first non European country to join the Centre, reinforced the legitimacy and credibility of the Centre as a vector of dialogue and co-operation between the Council of Europe and its neighbouring regions.

Finally, the accession request of a second African country, and, most importantly, the first member State from the Sub-Saharan Africa, **Cape Verde**, was received at the end of the year (see page 16).

Throughout 2009, considerable efforts were made by the Executive Director of the North-South Centre to consolidate relations with the member States (see page 3).

On 10 March, a delegation of the Parliament of **Norway**, headed by its then President, Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, visited the North-South Centre Headquarters, in the context of an official visit to Portugal. The Executive Director made an extensive presentation of the current NSC activities,

³ As a follow-up, the North-South Centre organised an awareness-raising seminar on the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre in Rabat on 22-23 February 2010.

priorities and challenges, and replied to many questions. The discussion included Euro-African and Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, co-operation between the NSC and the Alliance of Civilisations, the importance of world wide promotion of human rights, and co-operation prospects between the NSC and the newly created “Wegerland Centre”, located in Oslo under the auspices of the Council of Europe.

Following this, the Executive Director attended the inauguration event of the **European Wergeland Centre (EWC)** in Oslo on 28-29 May. The theme for the event was “Building bridges: Education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship, from policy to practice”. The event was attended by a large number of high-level personalities, including the Minister of Education of Norway and the President of the Parliament of Norway. The Executive Director met with the Executive Director of the EWC and relevant interlocutors in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, and discussed prospects for co-operation between the North-South Centre and Norway in general and the EWC in particular.

As a follow-up, a delegation from the Wergeland Centre, led by its Executive Director, Ms Ana Perona-Fjeldstad, paid a working visit to the North-South Centre in Lisbon on 6 October. The aim of the visit was to further discuss co-operation prospects between the two institutions and share information on reciprocal initiatives. Four areas of collaboration were identified during the discussions which served as an excellent starting point for this new partnership which will be further developed in 2010.

On 21 April, the Executive Director travelled to **Luxembourg** where he had two fruitful meetings, one with the Director for Development Cooperation in the Luxembourg Ministry for Foreign Affairs (with whom he discussed a possible Luxembourg support to the NSC Euro-African programme), and the other with the Director of the European Institute for Cultural Routes (where prospects were explored of enhancing the Euro-Mediterranean dimension of the CoE cultural routes programme).

On 28-29 April, the North-South Centre took part in the “Portuguese Development Days”, an event promoted by the Portuguese Institute for Development Support (IPAD) of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of **Portugal**. This provided an opportunity for the Centre to disseminate information on its work and priorities to the Portuguese public and the diplomatic community posted in Lisbon.

On 16 November, the President of the Republic of Portugal, Mr Cavaco Silva, issued a declaration paying tribute to the North-South Centre on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of its creation (see appendix 3).

In her speech to the Parliamentary Assembly, on 28 April 2009, the President of the Republic of **Finland**, Mrs Tarja Halonen, stressed that, in the context of the severe economic crisis that the world is facing, “we need a fair globalization that promotes stable growth, provides adequate financing for enterprises and responds to the needs of workers for decent work. We have to remember that the welfare of people goes hand in hand with the welfare of nature. Markets alone cannot give the answers. The Council of Europe can provide us with useful tools in responding to the challenges of today. We must keep human rights firmly in our minds and work together for our shared principles and values. A human rights based approach will lead to more equitable and sustainable solutions.” She also urged for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, while noting that the Council of Europe had an important role to play in this respect. Lastly, she underlined that “promoting intercultural dialogue is crucial in today’s globalized world. Our societies are increasingly multicultural and their peaceful

development will depend on tolerance and respect between the various ethnic, cultural and religious communities.” In this connection, she welcomed the progress made by the Alliance of Civilisations process.

In his speech to the Parliamentary Assembly, on 29 April 2009 in Strasbourg, the President of the Government of **Spain**, Jose Luis Rodrigues Zapatero underlined that “the process that we live within the Council of Europe and on our continent in general cannot close up on itself. We have an ethic responsibility towards the international community and in particular a responsibility for cooperation, collaboration and dialogue towards our neighbours, shall it be about the countries on the East border of our Organisation, our closest neighbours or our neighbours from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean. We must build bridges between the different cultures, the different views, policies and experiences. This view was and still is at the root of the global initiative which is the « Alliance of Civilisations », which the Council of Europe closely collaborate with, and which constitute a special forum to prevent the erection of new walls, to prevent that identities build themselves through confrontations instead of being enriched with each other. Intercultural dialogue, which matters to the Alliance and in which Spain enjoys an avant-gardiste position, is not irrelevant to human rights, and that is why it is a very important objective for the Council of Europe.”

Both speeches show the relevance of the special role played by the North-South Centre for the Council of Europe beyond Europe, and the importance of its partnership with the Alliance of Civilisations (see page 17).

Between 8-12 May, the Executive Director paid a working visit to two of the Centre’s newest member States: **Montenegro**, who joined on 1 March 2008, and **Serbia**, who joined on 1 March 2009. His visit to Montenegro on 8 May included meetings at political level with the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs, for Culture and for Education, as well as contacts with the President of the National Youth Council and several other important civil society actors, in particular in the fields of human rights, education and youth.

The Executive Director’s visit to Serbia on 10-12 May included his participation in a European Conference on youth mobility (Belgrade, 9-10 May 2009), a meeting at political level with the Minister for Youth and Sport, as well as contacts with other Ministries (Foreign Affairs, Culture) and administrations (EU integration office), several important NGOs (in the fields of human rights, education and youth) and the CoE Office in Belgrade. He also participated at a reception given by the Ambassador of Spain for the 60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe, on 12 May (ie the day when the Ministerial meeting was taking place in Madrid). This visit was instrumental in raising awareness of the possibilities offered by the NSC to its new members States, in particular at governmental and civil society levels.

In her address to the Parliamentary Assembly (Strasbourg, 23 June 2009), the President of **Ireland**, Mrs Mary Mc Aleese, made a special reference to the importance of history teaching and learning in the promotion of a culture of peace, dialogue and mutual understanding:

“Understanding and accepting the past is essential for negotiating our way to a better future - but it is a very very difficult process. It can be particularly difficult to face up to unpleasant facts or events in which our forebears or even our contemporary colleagues may have been involved. Our sense of identity and pride so easily conduce to a desire to minimise or deny appalling actions, to only see the mote in the other’s eye. Learning to listen to “the other”, to stand in his or her shoes long enough to get a glimpse of what life looks like from the other side, is key to building up

enough traction to move forward. Tolerance, co-operation and trust have to be built the hard way, handshake to handshake, eye to eye and courageous outreach across history's chasms."

The Executive Director made a working visit to **Germany** (Berlin and Bonn) on 26-27 August, accompanied by Ambassador Kölsch, Vice-Chair of the Executive Council. The main objective of this visit was to strengthen contacts with the Ministries responsible for relations with the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre in particular, namely the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Berlin and the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation in Bonn. These meetings were very fruitful and opened prospects for increased co-operation between the NSC and the German authorities in areas of particular interest to them, including the Centre's Euro-Africa youth programme. The Executive Director and Vice-Chair also had a meeting with the Secretary General of the French-German Office for Youth (OFAJ).

The visit took place in connection with Ambassador Kölsch and the Executive Director's participation in the 2nd Bonn Conference for Development Policy (27-28 August), in which the NSC had been invited as a speaker in the round table dedicated to "education for development".

In his address to the Parliamentary Assembly (Strasbourg, 1 October 2009), the President of **Slovenia**, Mr Danilo Türk, spoke of the importance of cultivating a human rights culture in all CoE member States through joint efforts by the different actors of the "quadrilogue", the structure on which the North-South Centre is based:

"Education and awareness raising, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination ethnic pluralism and integration of immigrants are all indispensable in order to cultivate a human rights culture in all our member states. We need informed citizens, individuals who are aware of our values and principles and willing to promote them in order to firmly root them in the ground. Promoting an active citizenship in an era of globalisation is certainly one of the major challenges ahead of us and the Council of Europe has a distinctive role to play in this respect. The future of Europe lies not in consumerism - it relies on its citizens, responsible and active. Rhetoric must become reality. And this responsibility should be assumed by us all – heads of state, governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and indeed NGOs."

2.3 COUNCIL OF EUROPE INSTITUTIONS AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT

On the occasion of the first part-session of the PACE in January 2009, the previous Chair of the Executive Council, Mr Claude Frey, and the Executive Director met the **new President of the INGO Conference**, Mr Jean-Marie Heydt, who had been elected earlier in the week and who took over the seat in the Executive Council and the Bureau previously occupied by Mrs Annelise Oeschger. Mr Heydt confirmed his support and willingness to continue and if possible even strengthen the excellent co-operation between the NSC and the INGO Conference. This was subsequently confirmed through the Conference's proposal to conclude a Co-operation Agreement with the North-South Centre, similar to those that the NSC signed with the Parliamentary Assembly in 2005 and with the Congress of local and regional Authorities in 2008. A first draft was discussed and approved by the Bureau of the Executive Council at its meeting on 26 June 2009 and then by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs and its Transversal Group on Europe and global challenges on 1 October 2009. Following this, the Executive Council approved the Co-operation Agreement at its meeting of 12 November and authorised the Chair of the Executive

Council to sign the co-operation agreement at the plenary session of the Conference of INGOs in January 2010, subject to its final approval by the Conference of INGOs⁴.

Throughout 2009, the North-South Centre worked in close co-operation with the **Parliamentary Assembly**, in particular, with the **Committee of Economic Affairs and Development** which, in the context of the Centre's 20th Anniversary, prepared a report and recommendation on "The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity", and with the **Committee on Education, Science and Culture**. In this context, the Chair of the Executive Council, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, and the Executive Director held an exchange of views with both Committees during the 3rd part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly in June. The report and recommendation were discussed and adopted during the **Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly**, held on 20 November in Bern (see page 32).

The Centre also had the opportunity to work closely with the **PACE Sub-Committee on Equal Participation for women and men in decision-making** when it co-organised the conference "Status and political participation: women as actors of change in the Euro-Mediterranean region" in Lisbon on 2-3 April (see page 26).

On 13 March, the **Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly** held a debate on "mobilising parliaments for Africa's development", on the basis of a report by Mr Bjornstad (Norway). In its ensuing Resolution, the Assembly stressed, inter alia, that the North-South Centre has a wide range of experience on which to base new work focusing on global development education and on good governance founded on human rights, democracy and rule of law. In this connection it recommended to make fuller use of the Assembly's Co-operation Agreement with the Centre and called on the governments of the CoE member States to step up their support for and, as the case arises, join or resume their membership of the North-South Centre.

During their meeting in Madrid on 12 May, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe celebrated the **60th Anniversary** of the Organisation. On this occasion, they adopted a declaration in which they, in particular:

- reaffirmed their commitment to the Organisation, two decades after the end of painful divisions of Europe and its progressive uniting around shared common values;
- reaffirmed that human rights are universal and indivisible, and that they are inalienable rights of each and every individual, indicating that the Council of Europe will continue its action to promote human rights in order to respond to the challenges of these changing times;
- underlined that the Council of Europe will step up its action to make gender equality a reality and to promote the rights of children and persons with disabilities, and that it will pursue its efforts to fight human trafficking as well as to prevent and combat violence against women and children, including domestic violence;
- foregrounded that there must be strong social cohesion and the active exercise of democratic citizenship, involving in particular young people, underlining that vigorous action to combat all forms of intolerance, in particular by means of education, prevention and standard-setting

⁴The Co-operation Agreement was signed on 27 January 2010 in Strasbourg.

is required. The Organisation will pursue its action in all these fields, including the promotion of cultural heritage and of intercultural dialogue based on respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as advocated by the Council of Europe's White Paper. The co-operation initiated with the Alliance of Civilisations will contribute to this effort;

- underlined their will to intensify the cooperation between the Council of Europe and other international organisation, welcoming the progress already made to this end since the Warsaw Summit, particularly with respect to the European Union. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations gave new impetus to the partnership and political dialogue with the European Union, and its implementation must be pursued. This search for synergies with other international actors has also led to closer co-operation with the OSCE and the United Nations and these efforts can only be encouraged.

These orientations, which are a continuation of the Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw in May 2005, will serve as basis for the North-South Centre's work in the years to come.

On 30 September, Mr Thorbjorn Jagland (Norway) was elected Secretary General of the Council of Europe by the Parliamentary Assembly, for a 5-year mandate starting on 1 October 2009. The new Secretary General issued a joint statement with the North-South Centre Chair on 16 November on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the North-South Centre (see page 34).

2.4 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

2009 saw the launch and first year of implementation of the **Joint Management Agreement (JMA)** signed between the North-South Centre and the **European Commission** on 27 November 2008. The project is based on two main pillars, firstly to strengthen global education in the new member States of the European Union and, secondly, to promote Africa-Europe youth co-operation in the context of the EU-Africa Strategy – and targets mainly civil society actors and local authorities. The project is being carried out over a three-year period (2009-2011), with a total amount of approximately 1.300.000 euros, of which the European Commission is providing 900.000 euros and the North-South Centre 400.000 euros.

2009 also marked the first year of implementation of the **new Euro-African dimension** added, as a follow-up to the Euro-African Youth Summit of December 2007, to the ongoing EC/CoE Youth Partnership, on the basis of a 200.000 Euros envelope (co-financed by the EC and the NSC).

In order to co-ordinate the planning and implementation of the activities to be held in 2009 under these two EC/NSC joint programmes and, in particular, the organisation of the launch events (see pages 19 and 23), the Centre organised bilateral preparation meetings with CONCORD, the European Youth Forum, the Committee of the Regions of the EU, as well the European Commission, on 19-20 January in Brussels.

The first meeting of the NSC-EC **Joint Management Agreement (JMA) Advisory Steering group**, composed of representatives of EU member States, as well as the European Commission and partners from the civil society and local authorities involved in the JMA project, was held in the North-South Centre premises on 28 April. This introductory meeting enabled the participants to discuss the JMA, clarify the role of the Steering group, get acquainted with the 2009 calendar of activities developed in the framework of the JMA and further explore possible synergies for their implementation.

The second meeting of the JMA Steering Group took place on 22 October during the European Development Days in Stockholm. During this meeting, each partner gave an update on its work progress. A discussion was held on the elaboration of a document on policies, priorities and development funding in EU countries and the preparation of tools to support development and on the next steps leading to the creation of a framework for development education in Europe.

During 2009, the North-South Centre developed its working relations with CONCORD and DEEEP representatives, in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement. The fruitful discussions led to the agreement, in principle, to formalise the NSC-CONCORD co-operation through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding. It is proposed by CONCORD to include, in the MoU, co-operation prospects, not only in the domaine of education, but also in other domaines of common interest such as euro-mediterranean co-operation, migration and euro-africa co-operation. It is foreseen the MoU will be signed during the first half of 2010.

During 2009, the North-South Centre also developed its working contacts with the **Committee of the Regions of the European Union**, following the contacts initiated in 2008. On 16-17 February, the Executive Director visited its Headquarters in Brussels to make a presentation of the North-South Centre's work, in particular its Euro-African activities, to the RELEX Committee of the EU Committee of Regions. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss future co-operation between the Committee of Regions and the North-South Centre.

Contacts between the two institutions continued and were strengthened through an exchange of views held between the Chair of the Executive Council, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, and the President of the Committee of Regions, Mr Luc van den Brande, on 25 June in Strasbourg. Letters were also exchanged between April and October 2009.

As a follow-up, the Executive Council invited the EU Committee of Regions to be represented at its next meeting on 12 November 2009, with a view to discussing co-operation prospects between the Committee of Regions and the North-South Centre. A set of collaboration proposals was prepared by the two institutions and examined and endorsed by the Executive Council. The proposals for co-operation will be followed up in 2010.

In 2009, the Executive Director also used the opportunity of his presence in Brussels in February to establish contacts, at Secretariat level, with two other important EU institutions: the **EU Council** and the **Economic and Social Committee**. With regard to the EU Council, there was a confirmed interest for the NSC's contribution to the Union for the Mediterranean and to EU efforts aimed at promoting dialogue between cultures and religions and preventing radicalism. Regarding the latter, the new priority that the ECOSOC is advocating (promoting economic and social right in the relations between the EU and third countries) offers an interesting field of co-operation, in particular through the Centre's annual Lisbon Forum.

Following the **European Parliament** elections in June 2009 and the departure of the previous EP representatives in the Executive Council, the Chair of the Executive Council wrote to the President of the European Parliament asking him to nominate new representatives. In view of these nominations, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre held an information session on the work and priorities of the Centre with members of the EP Development Committee in Strasbourg on 16 September. He also met the Chair of the Committee, Mrs Eva Joly. Following this, on 22 October, the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament approved the nomination of Mr Miguel Angel Martínez (Spain) and Ms Birgit Schnieber-Jastram (Germany) as its two

representatives and Mr Charles Goerens (Luxembourg) and Ms Gabriele Zimmer (Germany) as its two substitute representatives in the Executive Council.

Following the re-election of Mr José Manuel Barroso as President of the **European Commission** on 16 September, the Chair of the Executive Council made the following declaration:

“As Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, I am delighted by the decision taken by the European Parliament on 16 September to re-elect José Manuel Barroso as President of the European Commission. I take this opportunity to congratulate him and thank him for the support he has given to the North-South Centre during the 20 years of its existence, in the different posts he has occupied. Indeed, as Secretary of State for Co-operation of Portugal, Mr Barroso was one of the key people involved in the creation of the Centre in 1989, and its subsequent installation in Lisbon in 1990. While he was Prime Minister of Portugal, he contributed significantly to the reinforcement of the Centre by granting, among other things, new premises in 2004. Over the past number of years, he has personally participated, as President of the European Commission, in several important activities of the Centre, and he has supported the elaboration of two joint programmes between the North-South Centre and the European Commission on the promotion of development education in the new member States of the European Union, and on the reinforcement of Euro-African youth work.”

On 16 November, the date marking the 20th Anniversary of decision taken by the Committee of Ministers to create the North-South Centre, President Barroso made a declaration of congratulations and support to the North-South Centre (see appendix 3).

2.5 NON-MEMBER STATES

On the occasion of the first part session of the PACE (Strasbourg, 26-30 January), the previous Chair of the Executive Council, Mr Claude Frey, met the parliamentary delegations of **Tunisia** and **Algeria**, who confirmed their countries' interest in strengthening their co-operation with the CoE in general and the NSC in particular. It was felt that there was clearly a “window of opportunity” for the Maghreb countries to establish closer links with the CoE and that their accession to the NSC would be a logical step in this respect.

Following this, the Executive Director used the opportunity of his participation at the International Conference on the dialogue of civilisations and cultural diversity in **Tunisia** on 2-4 June (see page 21) to have official contacts with the Tunisian authorities.

During an official visit by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly to **Algeria** on 22-23 May 2009, the main topic of discussion was the future statute of “partner for democracy” to the Parliamentary Assembly. In this context, the President underlined the importance of Algeria's participation to some partial / enlarged agreements of the Council of Europe and mentioned, in particular during the discussions with the President of the Council to the Nation Mr Bensalah, the opportunity to join the North-South Centre.

Following this, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre participated in the international symposium on “The relations between the Constitutional Courts and the Parliaments”, organised on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Algerian Constitutional Council on 31 October. He also participated, on 1 November, in the ceremonies commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the November 1954 Revolution which led to the independence of Algeria. He used this opportunity to

have contacts with the Algerian authorities and discuss prospects for reinforced co-operation between the North-South Centre and Algeria.

On the occasion of the general elections in **Kuwait** on 17 May 2009, the Chair of the Executive Council made the following declaration:

“It is with great satisfaction that I have taken note of the official results of the general elections which took place in Kuwait on Saturday 17 May 2009. This vote marks indeed an historical advance as, for the first time, four women have been elected to the Kuwaiti Parliament. First of all, I would like to congratulate the people of Kuwait, and particularly the women, who represent 54.3% of the electorate and who have made good use of their right to vote, which they only enjoy since 2005. My best wishes also go to the four elected members: Massuma al-Mubarak (who also was, in 2005, the first woman to become Minister in Kuwait), Aseel al-Awadhi, Salwa al-Jamar and Rula Dashti. I shall make mine the words expressed yesterday by Massuma al-Mubarak : "This is the proof that nothing is impossible. It is a victory for the Kuwaitis and for their will for change". I would like to add that it is a victory for humanity as a whole, which has to learn to lean on both its halves as each one of us walks on both his or her feet.”

Following the urgent debate held by the Parliamentary Assembly on 25 June on the situation in **Iran**, the Chair of the Executive Council made the following statement:

"Like all my colleagues of the Parliamentary Assembly, I am deeply concerned about the situation in Iran. The non-violent protests and massive peaceful demonstrations which have been taking place in Iran since 13 June 2009, constitute a legitimate political action inscribed in the democratic principle of freedom of expression. The use of violence against peaceful demonstrators is a serious infringement of human rights and the basic principles of democracy.

Like the Assembly, I deplore the recent actions of the state police and the Basij, which resulted in the death of at least 18 people, according to the official sources, and many more according to the independent sources, as well as numerous other casualties. And I regret the excessive use of force and brutality of the police, as well as the fact that over 400 demonstrators have been placed in detention.

I am firmly convinced, like all my colleagues, that the only way to find a peaceful and sustainable solution to the present situation in Iran, as well as stability and peace in the region, is through democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. I support all the efforts which may be made so that the people of Iran can decide its own destiny freely and sovereignly and I stand ready to give my contribution, as appropriate.”

On 5 August, the Chair made the following declaration following the adoption of the law criminalizing domestic violence in **Pakistan**:

“As Chair of the North-South Centre and co-ordinator for Italy of the Council of Europe’s campaign against domestic violence, I would like to congratulate the National Assembly of Pakistan which, on 4 August, adopted the “Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill” to prevent violence against women and towards children within families, to protect victims of violence and punish perpetrators. I note with satisfaction that this new law not only prohibits domestic violence and foresees fines and prison sentences for men who hit their wives or their children, but also requires provincial governments to establish welfare committees to help victims to obtain medical or legal assistance and to transfer them if necessary to a safer place.

The adoption of this new law is a very important step in the fight against a curse that has been ignored - or even tolerated - for too long. The North-South Centre has, among others, attracted world attention on this issue by giving the North-South Prize 2006 to Mukhtaran Bibi (more known as Mukhtar Mai), sentenced in 2002 by the jirga (tribal court) of her village to a gang rape and finally got justice before the judicial authorities, following the mobilisation of international public opinion. I appeal now to the Senate and the President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari to take the necessary measures for this law to come into effect as soon as possible.

For my part, I will continue to be involved in the fight to combat violence against women and children, because I am convinced that domestic violence is the matrix on which all other forms of violence thrive. The Conference on the role which the different forms of media can play to prevent and combat violence against women, which will be held in Venice on 9 September in the framework of the 66th International Film Festival, will be a new opportunity to raise European and world public awareness on the fight against this curse that we must eradicate.”

The Executive Director used the opportunity of his presence in Sarajevo on 8-9 October for the Alliance of Civilisations regional strategy preparatory meeting (see page 17), to have official contacts with authorities of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** to discuss the possibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina joining the North-South Centre.

The official request of **Cape Verde** to become a member of the North-South Centre was received, through a letter dated 11 November addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr José Brito. Its presentation by the Minister for Education, Vera Duarte, during the 52nd meeting of the Executive Council, was highly symbolic as she, together with Peter Gabriel, was the first winner of the North-South Prize in 1995. This request was based on the existing strategic partnership between Cape Verde and the European Union and on a long-standing co-operation with the North-South Centre. This co-operation has been strengthened over the past two years with the “Conference on Education and Inter-cultural Dialogue - Educating for diversity and global citizenship” (October 2008) and the launch of the 1st African University on Youth and Development (Tarrafal, June 2009). With the assistance and support of the Centre, Cape Verde had been able to make progress with its work on human rights issues with a specific focus on youth, and the Minister very much looked forward to further developing this co-operation and fully integrating her country into the Centre’s work.

Following the formal approval of this accession request by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the authorities of Cape Verde have been invited to confirm the accession date which is expected in early 2010. With this accession request, the North-South Centre takes a very important political step as it opens the perspective of welcoming – after Morocco – a second African country, and also and above all, the first member State from Sub-Saharan Africa. It also reinforces the role of the North-South Centre as a facilitator of dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring regions.

On 18 December, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre participated in the Closing Ceremony of the year “Baku-Islamic Culture Capital- 2009” in Baku, **Azerbaijan**. He used this opportunity to have contacts with the Azeri authorities and discuss reinforced co-operation prospects through the accession of Azerbaijan to the North-South Centre, which is expected to take place in early 2010.

In addition, during 2009, the North-South Centre organised activities in **Bulgaria** (see page 19), **Cape Verde** (see page 23), **Estonia** (see page 19), **Ethiopia** (see page 24) **Hungary** (see page 18),

the **Ivory Coast** (see page 24), **Latvia** (see page 19), **Slovenia** (see page 19) and **Poland** (see page 19) and attended conferences in **Algeria** (see page 14), **Azerbaijan** (see page 16), **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (see page 17), **Egypt** (see page 26), **Kuwait** (see page 21), **Lebanon** (see page 17), **Morocco** (see page 18), **Tunisia** (see page 27), **Turkey** (see page 17), **Saudi Arabia** (see page 26), **South Africa** (see page 27) and **Uruguay** (see page 22).

2.6 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

During 2009, the North-South Centre intensified its co-operation with one of its key partners, the UN Alliance of Civilisations. On the one hand, the North-South Centre contributed to the Alliance's "Restore trust, rebuild bridges" initiative and its Regional Strategy on the Balkans, and on the other, the Alliance strengthened its partnership with the North-South Centre in the organisation of its annual Lisbon Forum (see page 29).

With regard to the "Restore trust, rebuild bridges" initiative, the Executive Director participated in a series of meetings including the initial "**brainstorming**" **meeting on the consequences of the Gaza crisis**, convened in Paris at the joint initiative of the Alliance of Civilisations (AoC) and the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) on 3 February and the subsequent official **launch of the "Restore trust, rebuild bridges" initiative** which took place in Istanbul on 6-7 April 2009 during the 2nd Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations, under the auspices of the Prime Ministers of Turkey and Spain and the Secretary General of the United Nations. This was followed by a working meeting in Lisbon on 5 June. The aim of the initiative is to overcome the trauma created by the Gaza crisis through the joint action of international organisations and major non-state players working in the Mediterranean and Middle-East region and the North-South Centre was entrusted with a co-ordinating role of the various projects.

In September, the Acting Secretary General, Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio and the UN High Representative, Mr Jorge Sampaio, had an exchange of letters, confirming and strengthening co-operation between the two institutions. The Council of Europe accepted the Alliance's offer to contribute to its **regional strategies for the Balkans** (developed in 2009) **and the Mediterranean** (to be developed in 2010). In this context, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre represented the Council of Europe at the preparatory meetings on the regional strategy for the Balkans held in Sarajevo on 8-9 October and in Rabat on 10-11 November with a view to the Sarajevo Ministerial meeting on 13-14 December where the strategy was adopted

On 16 November, the High Representative, Jorge Sampaio, issued a statement paying tribute to the North-South Centre on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of its creation (see Appendix 3).

On 26-30 May, the North-South Centre participated in the workshop organised by **Anna Lindh Foundation**, in Beirut, in co-operation with the **Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO**, for educational practitioners from the Euro-Mediterranean region to tackle the challenges of religious diversity at school. The newly published ALF pedagogical resource "How to Cope with Diversity at School: Teaching and Learning about Religious Diversity" was also presented and tested during the workshop. In parallel, a meeting for partner organisations and heads of ALF national network was also organised to share ideas on follow-up mechanisms for the dissemination of the ALF resource and explore future possible synergies for co-operation between partners in the field of religious diversity education.

On the occasion of the **International Conference on the dialogue of civilisations and cultural diversity** which took place in Tunis/Kairouan on 2-4 June, the Executive Director had contacts with OIF and ISESCO (see page 27).

Finally, at the end of 2009, the North-South Centre was given a special role in the framework of the Co-operation Agreement signed between the Council of Europe and the **MBI Al Jaber Foundation** on 30 November. The Agreement, aimed at strengthening Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Arab regional co-operation and promoting education for human rights, rule of law, democratic citizenship and intercultural understanding amounts to a contribution from the Al Jaber Foundation to the Council of Europe of 1 million euros over a four year period (2010-2013). Following a visit of Dr Mir Asghar Husain, Advisor to the President of the MBI Al Jaber Foundation to the North-South Centre on 6 November, the Centre was given the role of one of the major implementing partners of the Agreement and will receive a share of 75,000 euros per year, in the framework of this agreement.

With regard to the NSC, one of the key initiatives foreseen in the framework of this Agreement is the creation of a Think-Tank on the Centre's key areas of work, education, youth and intercultural dialogue, composed of a group of experts, who could advise and suggest ideas to the North-South Centre on the latest projects and priorities in international relations relevant to its mandate and expertise⁵. In the framework of this Agreement, the Centre will also reinforce its work on the history teaching initiative launched in 2009 in Istanbul under the framework of the Alliance of Civilisations and its contribution to the Euro-Mediterranean dimension of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

3 PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITES

3.1 GLOBAL EDUCATION

During 2009, one of the Centre's key priority in the field of global education was to launch and first year implementation of the three year **Joint Management Agreement** signed with the European Commission in November 2008 (see page 12).

On 23-24 March 2009, the **launch event** of the global education programme, in particular the activities related to strengthening global education policies in the new EU member States, financed by the Joint Management Agreement, took place in Budapest. The event was organised by the North-South Centre, in close collaboration with the Hungarian Association of NGO's for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND) and CONCORD's Development Education Exchange in Europe Project (DEEEP). Approximately 75 participants were present, representing national NGDO platforms (member organisations of CONCORD), national coordinators of the Global Education Week, a member of the EU Committee of the Regions (Commission on Education) and other local authorities, Ministries of Education, Environment and Foreign Affairs and Agencies for Development Cooperation/ Aid, several international organisations as well as the European Commission/DGAIDCO.

The objective was to bring together all relevant stakeholders in a consultation process that would lead to the organisation of national and regional seminars in the new EU member states in 2009-10.

⁵ The modalities and composition of the proposed Think-Tank were approved by the Bureau of the Executive Council at its meeting of 29 January 2010.

As a result, a series of **national seminars**, the aim of which is to strategically contribute to the policy development of global development education at national level, took place in Bulgaria (25-26 September), Latvia (6 November), Estonia (6-7 November), Slovenia (17 November) and Poland (9-10 December). These events allowed the participants to work on a common approach to developing and reinforcing national multi-stakeholder processes for global education, increasing the participation of the States involved in the Global Education Week and the European Development Days and giving input to the drafting of a Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on global education, including how it answers to the existing realities of the new EU member States.

The purpose of these seminars was to assess the state of global/development education in each of the countries and to raise public awareness, on the basis of the EU strategy "European Consensus on Development Education", as well as the Council of Europe's current process aimed at the adoption of a recommendation on global education. The meetings also aimed at preparing, on the basis of this assessment, a national global/development education strategy and respective plan of action. In Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia there was clear recognition that a national strategy for global education was needed, which was further elaborated within the different workshops. In Poland, the main outcome of the seminar consisted of establishing a plan of action for 2010 in view of securing a follow-up of this enlarged multistakeholder process.

The different meetings brought together participants from ministries, governmental agencies, representatives from non-governmental organisations dealing with global/development education at national, regional and local level, local authorities as well as foreign experts. In 2010, national seminars are foreseen in Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech republic and Cyprus.

The **Global Education Week** (GEW) evaluation seminar was organised on 21-22 March 2009, prior to the launching event of the global education programme, in order to engage GEW national co-ordinators from new EU member States in this programme. This strategy is in line with the objectives of the GEW evaluation seminar focusing, in 2009, on the role of the GEW network in the activities of the NSC, taking stock of the fruitful experience developed during the drafting of the Global Education Guidelines. Similar consultative processes will take place for future activities, such as the Global Education on-line training. Besides the evaluation of the GEW itself and the evaluation of the networking strategies developed for the promotion of global education at national level, there were concrete outcomes from the workshops for the improvement and optimisation of working methodologies and tools between the NSC GE programme and the GEW network, namely the GEW evaluation process, the GEW webpage and newsletter and the follow-up mechanisms for the dissemination and translation of the Global Education Guidelines.

As a pedagogical complement to the Centre's Global Education Guidelines (published on 17 July and available electronically on its website), the North-South Centre launched a **pilot Global Education on-line training course** in July. This four week training course was attended by 35 participants, mostly educators, youth leaders or representatives from civil society organisations from Europe and Africa. Through their evaluation of the course, most participants underlined how stimulating and challenging it was for them to tackle global education related values and competences through this interactive approach, gathering participants from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds. Additional courses also took place on 13-20 September (attended by 28 participants) and 12 October to 6 November (attended by 35 participants) and these were carried out based on the results of the evaluation of the pilot course which took place in Amsterdam on 23-24 August. With this on-line training-course, the North-South Centre is reinforcing its capacity-

building dimension within its Global Education programme and reinforcing its international networking strategy for more and better global education in Europe and beyond and therefore contributing to the Council of Europe intercultural dialogue policy.

The **11th annual European Global Education Week (GEW)** took place from 14-22 November 2009, at the initiative of the North-South Centre. During this Week educators and practitioners were invited to organise awareness-raising activities tackling world citizenship issues, in particular food safety and poverty eradication, the theme for the 2009 Global Education Week (also known in some countries as One World Week) supports teachers, youth leaders, young people and other formal and non-formal educational constituencies to engage in education for global citizenship; and enhances the effectiveness of this endeavour nationally and throughout Europe, through co-ordination of initiatives and sharing of best practices. All schools and youth organisations in the Council of Europe's member States, as well as all interested educational practitioners, were invited to take part in this event which should be seen as a kick-off event for a year round process.

The Ceremony for the 2008 **World Aware Education Awards (WAEA)** (postponed from 2008) also took place in the framework of the GEW evaluation seminar on 21-22 March in Budapest. This allowed the WAEA prize winners to share information on their work with the GEW network. The winners of the 2008 World Aware Education Award, which has been supported by Irish Aid, were:

1. DFID Global School Partnerships – UK
2. Global High Schools – Denmark
3. Tales of Disasters, by No Strings International & Trocaire – Ireland

The call for nominations for the 2009 WAEA was launched in July 2009 and 18 projects were pre-selected among applications received from Austria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lebanon, Netherland, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo and the UK. The 2009 Award Ceremony took place in Stockholm (Sweden) during the European Development Days. The winners were:

1. "Youth and active citizenship" (Brazil)
2. "Forgotten Diaries" (Italy)
3. "One World in the schools" (The Czech Republic).

The 2009 Award Ceremony took place on 23 October during the European Development Days event in Stockholm (see page 23). The Conference of INGOS of the Council of Europe has been associated with the Prize Ceremony since 2008.

Another key priority for the global education team in 2009 was to continue its work on the process which should lead to the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a **recommendation supporting global education in the member States of the Council of Europe**. Following the formal decision to launch this process taken by the Steering Committee on Education (CDED) in March 2008, a working group was set up, consisting of a wide range of relevant stakeholders, and a first draft was presented to the CDED Bureau meeting at the end of that year. The CDED Bureau decided to consult the various ad-hoc advisory groups in the field of education (citizenship education, history teaching, intercultural education) for a collective feedback on the draft recommendation in 2009.

The first consultation on the draft Recommendation took place on 5-6 February 2009 at the Ad-hoc advisory group on ED-EDCHR meeting. At the meeting, the group expressed its support to the work of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and its willingness to co-operate with the Centre and suggested that the extensive work carried out by the Council of Europe in the field of democratic citizenship and human rights education be carefully considered and areas of co-operation identified before taking further any proposal for a recommendation on global education. An update of the process was presented at the CDED meeting on 19-20 March in Strasbourg and it was agreed that two experts would be appointed to prepare a consolidated version of the draft recommendation. This was done during the summer⁶, and a first drafting meeting took place in Lisbon on 5 October. A second drafting meeting took place on 16-17 November in Strasbourg, prior to the CDED Bureau meeting on 9 December. The draft recommendation will be examined by the CDED at its plenary meeting in February 2010, with a view to completing the final stages before its adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

On 10-11 March the Centre participated in an **Expert Workshop & Open Forum on Higher Education in Kuwait City** in the context of the European Union and Gulf Co-operation Council states (GCC) Partnership organised by the German Bertelsmann Foundation and the Kuwait University. The target of the two-day initiative was to encourage dialogue and to formulate recommendations for actors involved in educational reform processes – experts, politicians and students: what the European institutions and the GCC can do to improve educational systems, to strengthen exchange of experiences between both regions and how can institutions of both regions set up common initiatives. The meeting took place in the context of the Al-Jisr (The Bridge) project that seeks to bring together a broad network of government officials, business leaders, academics and specialists, media personalities, civil society leaders, students and other engaged individuals to make sure that the project results would be disseminated among a wide group of people in order to allow the recommendations to be implemented.

On 28-29 April, the North-South Centre hosted the meeting of the **United Nations Millennium Campaign Europe** in its premises. The meeting was attended by Ms Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator of the Millennium Development Goals Campaign, the European coordination team based in Rome, including the European Coordinator, Ms Marina Ponti and representatives of the national Campaigns in Italy, Germany, Spain and Portugal. The Centre also received the visit of the Portuguese Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Mr João Gomes Cravinho, on this occasion.

On 6 May, the North-South Centre participated in the **Conference “Global Education: benefits and challenges – what’s in it for us?”**, organised by the Fredskorpset (FK) organisation, a Norwegian governmental agency under the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Conference, attended by international and Norwegian participants, allowed a sharing of experience between experts dealing with global education and partners involved in FK peer learning projects. It allowed a comprehensive presentation of the Centre’s activities in the field of Global Education and Youth, which lead to a clear interest in following up the work of NSC, namely in the area of its training activities and in the Mollina University on Youth & Development.

⁶The two appointed experts are Cesar Birzea (Romania) and Valentina Demetriadou-Saltet (Cyprus).

Following fruitful discussions in the early part of 2009 with the **GENE network**, a constructive agreement was reached in June in the form of a “Common Understanding between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and GENE – Global Education Network Europe regarding: 1. Who we are and who we work with; 2. Main areas of work ; 3. Areas of co-operation”.

Finally, the North-South Centre and its international partners in development and education used the opportunity of the 2009 **European Development Days** in Stockholm on 21-23 October to organise a side event on “Citizens and Development”. The objective was to put the issues of development education, awareness and citizen commitment to development at the top of the political agenda. It was attended, among others, by Benjamin Mkapa, former President of Tanzania, Therese Olena Kalonda, Minister of Education of the RDC, Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission, Eva Joly, President of the Development Committee of the European Parliament, Justin Kilkullen, President of CONCORD and Denis Huber, Executive Director of the North-South Centre. The side event was held in the context of World Development Information Day (24 October). A stand on "Development Education in Europe" was facilitated by members of the Forum for Development Education from CONCORD and from the Global Education Week (co-ordinated by the NSC). The European Development Days event attracted more than 5,000 people from Europe and beyond.

3.2 YOUTH

2009 saw the launch and first year of implementation of the **Africa Europe Youth Co-operation Programme**. The new programme is a follow-up to the **Africa Europe Youth Summit** organised in Lisbon in December 2007 on the initiative of the North-South Centre and foresees a number of activities to be held during the period 2009-2011 in the framework of both the Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission and the new Euro African dimension of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission (see page 12). A large number of activities were implemented in the framework of these Agreements throughout 2009 and are detailed below in chronological order.

The official **launch** took place through the first meeting of the Monitoring Group in the North-South Centre premises in Lisbon on 4 February. The monitoring group is composed of the Pan African Youth Union, the European Youth Forum, the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the African Union Commission, the European Commission and is facilitated by the North-South Centre.

Following this, an **institutional follow-up meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit** took place on 28-29 April in Lisbon. This meeting brought together all the partners and stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the new Euro-Africa Co-operation Programme. The second meeting of the monitoring group took place on 30-31 October in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) to monitor the implementation progress in 2009 and discuss the activities foreseen in 2010.

In the framework of the University on Participation and Citizenship, a meeting of the promoting partners of the **University on Youth and Development** was organised on 9-10 February in Montevideo (Uruguay).

The presence of the NSC in **Uruguay** was also used to play an active part in the programme of the University on Participation and Citizenship that was held for the 6th time on 10-14 February. The University on Participation and Citizenship is an annual initiative that was launched as a spin-off and, is inspired by, the North-South Centre’s annual University on Youth and Development, being

the Ibero-American version of this global activity. It uses the same methodology and it is based on the same network of partners.

On 22-23 April, the North-South Centre participated in the **Second Round Table** "Youth Policy Cooperation in the Broader Euro-Mediterranean Context" which took place in the European Youth Centre in Budapest. This followed the active role it played in the first Round Table held in Cairo in May 2006. This latest Round Table was held in the framework of the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Union, and was co-organised with the League of Arab States. It brought together major intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental partners in the fields of youth research and youth policy within the Euro-Mediterranean region, with the aim of exchanging experiences and information and extending cooperation in the region. All the partners acknowledged the need of continuing this cooperation and of associating researchers in the policy-making process. For the North-South Centre, it was an important occasion to reaffirm the importance of its involvement in the Euro-Med/Euro Arab Youth Cooperation and to present its Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation Programme, to further co-operate with partners in this region.

On 27 April, the North-South Centre received a visit of a delegation of 22 youth leaders from the **Swedish National Youth Council** (LSU). The visit was an opportunity for the Centre to present its work to the LSU, particularly in the field of youth, global education and Africa-Europe co-operation.

On 2-6 June, the North-South Centre participated in the International Co-ordination meeting of Youth Organisations in Strasbourg. During the meeting, the North-South Centre gave an introductory keynote speech on the recent, past and future challenges of global youth work. The Centre discussed the possibilities of working together and partnership with the programme of the North-South Centre for 2009 and onwards with the members of ICMYO. There was a particular interest shown in the annual University on Youth and Development and the Global Youth Work Training Course. It was agreed with the members of ICMYO that the Global Youth Work Training Course, presently co-funded by the JMA, will be implemented with ICMYO and its members during the period 2009-2013.

On 15 June, the North-South Centre participated in and supported the **workshop on the trafficking of Young Athletes** organised in Lisbon by the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of European Sport (EPAS). Around ten experts discussed the problem of the premature transfer of young athletes originating from the African and South American continents to European countries, with a view to the preparation of a draft recommendation by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The North-South Centre was invited to use its large network to ensure that the concerns of southern countries already involved in the work were voiced, and to develop the sport dimension in its activities.

On 12-19 June, the North-South Centre, in partnership with the National Youth Council of Portugal, the Cape Verde Federation of Youth, the European Youth Forum and the Pan-African Youth Union, held the **First Edition of the African University on Youth and Development** in Tarrafal, Cape Verde. The University was supported by the European Commission, the Government of Cape Verde and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) and brought together approximately 100 youth leaders from Africa and Europe to Tarrafal. Over the course of a week, they lived and learned together to co-develop training activities and political participation of youth in the context of Euro-African co-operation.

This first edition of the African University was inspired by and was modelled on the annual University on Youth and Development (in its 10th edition this year), organised by the North-South Centre and its partners in Spain (since 2000) and at the University of Participation and Citizenship in Latin America (since 2004). A second edition is foreseen to take place in Cape Verde in 2010.

Within the African University, the Centre implemented the **6th edition of the Africa-Europe Training Course for youth organisations**, and the **West Africa Sub-regional Seminar on youth policies and the African Youth Charter**, activities carried out in the framework of the aforementioned NSC/EC Joint Management Agreement.

In the framework of the Youth Partnership, and following the 2007 Africa-Europe Youth Summit, the North-South Centre launched a **long term training course on Africa-Europe youth co-operation**. A first seminar took place in Grand Bassam (Ivory Coast) on 12-19 July, with the objective of building a learning framework for thirty trainers from Africa and Europe. A second seminar will be organised in 2010.

The **10th University on Youth and Development** took place between 13-20 September, under the theme "Celebrating global youth work". The North-South Centre organised the University in co-operation with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organisations. Around 300 participants from a variety of 85 countries attended the university, which was also held in the context of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre.

At the end of the event, the participants adopted the "Final Declaration of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the University" which highlights the University's motivating and reflective role on global issues and offers, as proof of the success of this initiative, the launch of the University on Participation and Global Citizenship (Uruguay, 2004) and the African University on Youth and Development (Cape Verde, 2009). For participants, the University highlights the commitment of young people towards a better world and demonstrates that youth organizations are key actors for development. The final statement welcomed the development of international legal instruments for the protection of the rights of young people and the World Conference on Youth which will take place in Mexico City in 2010.

On 1-3 November, the North-South Centre organised a **sub-regional (East Africa) seminar on Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation** in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). The aims of the seminar, which was a follow-up to the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, were to bring together state actors and youth organisations to reflect on the developments of national and local youth policies in Africa; to promote the African Youth Charter and its ratification and implementation; to strengthen the capacity of state and non-state actors to develop integrated youth policies using co-management principles; and to strengthen the regional integration of youth organisations and networks in the five building blocks of the African Union. Sub-regional seminars for South and Central Africa will be held in 2010.

The North-South Centre was a partner of the Spanish Ministry of Equality/INJUVE in the organisation of the **First International Forum on youth and gender based violence** which took place in Madrid on 23-24 November. This was a very large youth event, gathering close to 1000 youth representatives and experts in the field of gender issues. The contribution of the NSC to the event was mainly to support the participation and representation of young women from Africa, Latin America and the Diaspora. The Forum launched an international campaign on "Zero violence

against young Women" and the idea of the creation of an European/ international observatory on violence against women.

Finally, on 6-12 December 2009, the North-South Centre organised, in the framework of the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, a **Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe**, in Almada, Portugal. The training course offered the participants the opportunity to learn about the existence of different youth organizations involving African Diaspora in their strategies in different countries. The course was held together with other training activities organised by Portuguese National Youth Council. More than 60 representatives of youth organisations and youth groups from the African Diaspora living in Europe shared their common vision of Africa and Europe before discussing the challenges the Diaspora is facing and developing intercultural learning and inter-regional experiences. The training course was linked to the Europe-Africa Youth Leaders Training Project, organised by the Portuguese National Youth Council. In the final declaration, the participants realised that there is a lack of information of different projects available for immigrants at national and international levels and suggested to create an official network.

3.3 INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

The aim of the North-South Centre's intercultural dialogue programme is to use dialogue to contribute to the development of familiarity, mutual understanding and ties between the different players in European and southern Mediterranean societies. As far as possible, this dialogue is extended to the African continent for which special activities are also implemented.

Through its goals and priorities, the Centre's programme is a privileged framework for debates, exchanges and consolidation of the dialogue between the two sides of the Mediterranean and between Europe and Africa. In order to mitigate ignorance, rejection, "shutting off" and extremisms the programme gives pride of place to dialogue based on intercultural understanding and a common commitment to the universal values that are intrinsic in human beings, whatever their ethnic origin, political convictions or religious beliefs.

On 5 April, the Executive Director participated in the **Informal Meeting of Historians – Intercultural Dialogue, History and History teaching in the context of Globalisation**, jointly organised by the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in Istanbul. Through this meeting, a new process was initiated aimed at promoting dialogue on history research and teaching at global level, in the framework of the Alliance of Civilisations. A follow-up meeting took place on 28-29 October in Strasbourg.

On 21 May, the official launch of the **Portuguese version of the White Paper on intercultural dialogue** of the Council of Europe, took place in Lisbon, in the framework of the celebrations of the International Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The North-South Centre arranged and oversaw the translation of this key document. It was launched during an official Ceremony at the Portuguese Parliament, with interventions by Mr Jorge Sampaio, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilisations, Mrs Manuela Melo, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the NSC Executive Council, Mr Pedro Silvo Pereira, Portuguese Minister for the Presidency, Mr Jose Vera Jardim, Chair of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mrs Rosario Farmhouse, High Commissioner for immigration and intercultural dialogue, and the Executive Director of the North-South Centre.

On 9 July, the **“Speak Out Anti-discrimination” Campaign** was launched in Lisbon in co-operation with the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue of Portugal (ACIDI), the Portuguese authorities and with the support of the North-South Centre and the Directorate of Communication of the Council of Europe.

3.3.1 TRANSMEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMME

On 12-13 January 2009, the previous Chair of the Executive Council, Mr Claude Frey, participated at the **General Assembly of the Arab States Broadcasting Union**. His participation followed the contacts established at the “Euro-Arab days for mutual understanding” co-organised by the Council of Europe (with a strong participation of the NSC) and ALECSO in Tunis in October 2008. It opened new prospects for co-operation between the NSC and the main media in the Arab world, which are all represented in ASBU. This cooperation is of particular relevance for the follow-up of the North-South Prize Ceremony, where Queen Rania of Jordan was one of the two 2008 Prize winners, and for the NSC’s contribution to the CoE Campaign against discrimination.

The conference **“Status and political participation: women as actors of change in the Euro-Mediterranean region”**, organised by the North-South Centre and the PACE Sub-Committee on Equal Participation Women and Men in Decision-Making, was held in Lisbon on 2-3 April 2009. The conference took place within the framework of the process initiated by the NSC several years ago, addressing the rights of women in the Euromed region and their role as agents of change in their societies. It brought together some 50 participants from all around the Mediterranean, parliamentarians, representatives of governments, local and regional authorities and NGOs and academics from the Euro-Mediterranean region. It was supported by the Spanish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Luso-American Foundation.

The participants debated the progress of women’s rights and personal status and their participation at a political, economic and social level. Considerable attention was also devoted to synergies to be developed between the action of the quadrilogue members (governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and NGOs) to further equality between men and women. A declaration on behalf of the two Chairs, of the North-South Centre and the PACE Sub-Committee on Equal Participation Women and Men in Decision-Making, Mrs Deborah Bergamini and Mrs Lydie Err, was presented. The declaration underlined the value of the exchanges and contributions of the conference and presented a number of conclusions and recommendations for the NSC and PACE to implement as a follow-up to the conference which is planned for 2010.

On 16-19 April, the North-South Centre participated at the **Annual Conference, General Assembly and Steering Committee of COPEAM (Permanent Conference of the Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators)** in Cairo. The meetings were hosted by the Egyptian government and the President of the Egyptian TV. The annual Conference was held in the framework of the “relaunch” of the Union for the Mediterranean with the “Union for the Mediterranean: the action of Medias for a union of projects”. The Conference brought together around 250 participants, representatives of European and South Mediterranean Governments, International Institutions (Arab League, European Commission, CNS, FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, EUB, ASBU, etc), as well as Heads of European and south Mediterranean audiovisual and Medias.

On 12-13 May, the North-South Centre organised in Lisbon, in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network, a **workshop: “Building a didactic manual on Mediterranean history”**. This event was supported by the Spanish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. The workshop was attended by a group of around twenty historians and experts from Europe and the

southern shores of the Mediterranean. Meeting for the first time after the "Etats généraux culturels méditerranéens" organised in Marseille in November 2008, it provided an opportunity to make progress on the collective work required to produce supplementary history teaching materials for the Mediterranean and prepare an action plan for future work.

The **Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean** was officially installed in Paris on 14 May. Its mandate is to federate both public and private initiatives, aimed at generating a mediterranean cultural identity and at mobilising mediterranean cultural actors about the project of the Union for the Mediterranean. The strategic Committee of this authority is composed of a range of figures from the economic and political world, literary world, arts and medias from both sides of the Mediterranean. Under its aegis is a "Think Tank" composed of three colleges: one college of individual experts, one college of companies and one college of institutionnal actors gathering great institutions involved in the cultural area in the Mediterranean. The North-South Centre was invited to be a member of this last college in view of its expertise in the themes of reflection that the Council wishes to develop and its work in favour of co-operation between Europe and the South, in particular in the fields of youth and intercultural dialogue.

On 26-30 May, the NSC participated in the **workshop** organised by **Anna Lindh Foundation**, in Beirut, in cooperation with the **Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO** (see page 19).

On 2-4 June, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre represented the Council of Europe at the **Conference** entitled "**Dialogue of civilisations and cultural diversity**", organised jointly by the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO). Held at the invitation of the Tunisian government in Tunis and Kairouan (2009 Capital of Islamic culture), this Conference brought together a panel of high-level political personalities and experts active in the fields of culture, education and media. Besides the participation of Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, Mr Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the Francophonie and Mr Abdelaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO, the conference of Tunis/Kairouan brought together around twenty international organisations including the Council of Europe, the UN, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Union for the Arab Maghreb, UNESCO, ALESCO, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Gulf Co-operation Council, as well as NGOs and specialised Forums. It provided the opportunity for numerous contacts and constituted an excellent platform for promoting the work of the Council of Europe (in particular the North-South Centre) in the development of the intercultural dialogue within both European societies and between Europe and its neighbouring regions.

On 15 December, the North-South Centre participated in the launch of the **GEEMA** Project (Grupo de Estudos Euro-Med-Atlântico), a new initiative of the Luso-American Foundation in Lisbon. GEEMA is a Think Tank dedicated to the analysis of socio-cultural and geostrategic issues in the Mediterranean and its euro-atlantic neighbouring region.

3.3.2 EURO-AFRICAN DIALOGUE

On 22-24 January, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre participated at the **1st World Congress on constitutional justice** (Cape Town, 22-24 January 2009), organised by the Venice Commission and the Constitutional Court of South-Africa. This was an impressive event, where almost 100 countries were represented, mostly by the Presidents of their Constitutional Courts. The objectives were, on the one hand, to identify the common basis of constitutional principles which can be considered as universal (an objective which is fully in line with the work on the universality of human rights launched at the 2008 Lisbon Forum) and, on the other hand, to create a permanent process for

dialogue and cooperation between constitutional courts at global level. The NSC made a specific contribution to the Congress by ensuring participation of the African lusophone countries and the Executive Director was invited to address the closing session. As a follow-up, the NSC has continued to support co-operation among CPLP countries in the field of constitutional justice, in the framework of the global process which has been formally set up in Cape Town.

On 24 March, the North-South Centre co-organised a **seminar on "Children Orphaned and made Vulnerable by HIV and AIDS: A call to parliamentary action"** with the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal and UNICEF. The seminar was held in the Portuguese Parliament and was attended by Portuguese, European and African parliamentarians, some of which are members of AWEPA, as well as specialised agencies and NGOs in the field of OVC and HIV and AIDS. It was held in the context of the follow-up to UNICEF's Global "Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS" Campaign. The participants focused on the role of parliamentarians to combat HIV and AIDS and protect Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Africa and were updated on the current situation in Africa and assessed the progress made and action to be taken in this respect. A final statement highlighting the importance of parliamentary action regarding these issues was published.

The seminar was carried out in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the North-South Centre and AWEPA that foresees close co-operation in promoting parliamentary action for Africa's Development and strengthening Euro-African parliamentary dialogue.

Concerning the Centre's activities in the field of **Euro-African Youth Co-operation**, see pages 22-26.

4. PERMANENT PROCESSES

4.1 NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE

The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe has been awarded annually since 1995 to two public figures who are recognised for their deep commitment, outstanding achievements and/or the hope they have generated in the field of individual rights protection, the defence of pluralist democracy and North-South solidarity and partnership. The Jury of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe awarded the 2008 North-South Prize to **Jorge Sampaio** (Portugal) and **HM Queen Rania Al-Abdullah** (Jordan). The Prize Ceremony took place on 16 March in Lisbon in the Portuguese Parliament, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Portugal, Mr Cavaco Silva, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mrs Maud De Boer-Buquicchio, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, and the President of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic, Mr Jaime Gama. The Ceremony received huge media coverage, on television and radio and in the press across Europe. Of course, this coverage provided high visibility for the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre.

The call for nominations for the **2009 North-South Prize** was launched in February with a deadline of 31 May 2009. A total of 58 nominations were received, 26 of which were presented by NSC stakeholders or institutional partners. The Jury of the Prize, which is made up of the members of the Bureau of the Executive Council and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, met in Strasbourg on 26 June and 1 October 2009. The Jury decided to award the 2009 Prize to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev (the Russian Federation) and Ms Rola Dashti (Kuwait). The Prize Ceremony will take place in Lisbon in May 2010 during the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre.

4.2 LISBON FORUM

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the countries on the south side of the Mediterranean. The Forum has been held by the North-South Centre since 1994 on an annual basis. It focuses on issues at the heart of the mandate and actions of the Council of Europe: human rights, democratic governance and the rule of law. It has been enriched since 2006 by partnerships with the Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe (the Venice Commission) and with the Alliance of Civilisations, operating under the aegis of the United Nations.

During the 2008 session, a new process was launched devoted to a particularly topical issue, **the principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level**. On 10-11 November 2008, the participants carried out a general analysis of the situation, 60 years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948. On the basis of this analysis, a work programme was adopted for the upcoming years, focussing on rights that are most discussed or raise particularly important difficulties, differences or divergences. The following themes were retained:

- the impact of globalisation on human rights
- the principle of equality between women and men
- freedom of expression, conscience and religion
- human rights as a basis for the integration of cultural diversity
- security and freedom
- creating a culture of human rights through education
- the abolition of the death penalty.

During their spring meetings, the Executive Council and Committee of Representatives of Members decided that “**Creating a culture of human rights through education**” would be the theme for the 2009 Lisbon Forum. The event was organised in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network and the Alliance of Civilisations, whose High Representative, Mr Jorge Sampaio, was appointed Chair of the Lisbon Forum for a period of two years (2009-2010) by the NSC Bureau in June 2009.

The Forum attracted around 150 participants from a variety of 44 countries and representatives of international organisations including OHCHR, ODHIR, UNESCO, ALECSO, OIC, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. Speakers included the Deputy Secretary General, Mrs Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, the Secretary of State for European Affairs of Portugal, Mr Pedro Lourtie, the President of the Lisbon Forum, the Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr Thomas Hammarberg, the Minister for Education of Cape Verde, Mrs Vera Duarte, the Chair of the North-South Centre, Mrs Deborah Bergamini and, of course, the Chair of the Lisbon Forum, Mr Jorge Sampaio. This event benefited from the financial support of the European Commission and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The overall aim of the Lisbon Forum 2009 was to promote the creation of a culture of human rights, through “quadrilogue” action, i.e. governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society. The objectives were to promote dialogue on human rights education and explore different understandings of human rights education; reinforce co-operation between international and regional organisations on the issue of human rights education; sharing of experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents and identifying challenges that human

rights education faces and elaborate joint action on how to meet these challenges; to explore ways to promote human rights education with young people and through youth organisations and to discuss strategies and approaches to human rights education in youth work; and contribute to the ongoing consultation process that should lead to the adoption of a Recommendation by the Committee of Ministers supporting global education in the member States of the Council of Europe.

The conclusions identified subjects where there appears to be an underlying consensus, and others which require further thought. Pathes for future actions were identified for both the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Alliance of the Civilizations of the United Nations, as well as other agencies and actors represented at the Forum.

4.3 CONTRIBUTION OF THE NSC TO INTERNATIONAL DAYS

On the occasion of **International Women’s Day** (8 March 2009), the previous Chair of the Executive Council, Mr Claude Frey, issued the following declaration:

“*Fu Nu Neng Ting Ban Dan Tian*” which means “women are capable of holding up half the sky on their heads”. These words, by now famous, are attributed to Mao Tse Toung at Yanan at the height of the war against Japan when many women had just joined its troops to fight the enemy. Still today, we need to be reminded that women are equal to men. In too many countries this fact is not recognised and women do not enjoy equal rights and dignity, which should be the minimum. And in most of the countries where equality is ensured by law, inequality still exists as the reality. There are very few places on our planet where humanity really walks on its two legs!

The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre promote equality between men and women as a key priority. It is in particular to highlight its action in this field that Queen Rania of Jordan will receive the North-South Prize, together with Jorge Sampaio, on 16 March in Lisbon. An important conference on “women, actors of change in the Mediterranean region” will also take place early April in Lisbon. We wish to prove wrong those who indeed believe that women hold up half the world, but its inferior half. An inferior half does not exist, neither on earth nor in heaven.”

On the occasion of the **International Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** (21 May), the North-South Centre launched the Portuguese version of the White Paper on intercultural dialogue (see page 25).

On the occasion of the **International Youth Day** on 12 August, the Chair of the Executive Council, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, made the following statement:

“Young people who constitute the majority of the world’s population are often those more affected by the series of unprecedented and interconnected crises that humanity is facing. But they are also the most important recourse to shift towards a positive transformation of our planet and a lasting positive relation among our societies. Today, while celebrating the International Youth Day, the North-South Centre wants to honor the work of young people making our planet a better place. Particularly, the anonymous work of the thousands of youth leaders and youth workers that, in the youth organisations, in the communities, in collective spaces, engage every day in positive change.

Within the activities of the North-South Centre young people have proven themselves to be a undeniable partner in Global Development. They are involved in the different areas of action of the Centre and co-managing a programme that aims at improving the political participation of their peers in North-South cooperation and providing capacity building to youth organisations and youth

groups. In 2009 the North-South Centre is giving priority to global and Euro-African youth cooperation through an intense inter-regional and global programme co-financed by the European Commission. This year the University on Youth and Development will hold its 10th edition in Mollina (Spain) on 13-20 September, and the North-South Centre will enter into the celebration period of its 20th Anniversary, from November 2009 to May 2010. ”

On the occasion of **World Development Information Day** (24 October), the North-South Centre and its international partners in development and education organised a side event on “Citizens and Development” in the framework the 2009 **European Development Days** in Stockholm on 21-23 October (see page 22).

On the occasion of the **International Day for the elimination of violence against women** (25 November), the Chair of the Executive Council, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, issued the following declaration:

“On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, I wish to remind you that this violence is, unfortunately, far from eliminated, in Europe and elsewhere. I reaffirm the North-South Centre’s will to work so that all the women in the world may have the right to live in security and safe from all threats. I call for the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the withdrawal of the reservations expressed by certain States and the elaboration of preventative strategies and the adoption of all measures aimed at improving the protection and achievement of women.

The North-South Centre has, since its creation, placed the promotion of women’s rights at the heart of its action. With the awarding of its North-South Prize, it has attracted the attention of the world, on several occasions, on the violence against women. More recently, it was invited as a partner of the International Forum on “Youth and Gender Violence” (Madrid, 23 – 24 November 2009). Its role as a facilitator of dialogue is recognized by the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly as was demonstrated by the adoption of Recommendation 1891 on 20 November 2009 on “Migrant women: at particular risk of domestic violence” which asks the Committee of Ministers to encourage the NSC to strengthen its programmes of co-operation and to fight against gender based violence.

Finally, in the context of the 60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe and the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre, I have launched, in my capacity as Co-ordinator for Italy of the Council of Europe campaign against domestic violence, and in partnership with Google/You Tube, an international contest “Action for Women” aimed at young directors who will be able to submit a short clip on the fight against violence against women.”

The International Day for Tolerance (16 November) coincided with the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the North-South Centre. On that occasion, a reception was organised by the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe and several high level messages were issued (see page 32).

5. 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

The celebrations to mark the North-South Centre's 20th Anniversary started in **November 2009** (20th Anniversary of the creation of the Centre by decision of the Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg) and will end in **May 2010** (20th Anniversary of the setting up of the Centre in Lisbon).

In conformity with the strategic document adopted in spring 2008 by the Centre's statutory bodies, the main project for the 20th Anniversary is the preparation of a **new statutory resolution**, to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, confirming the relevance and the role of the North-South Centre as the main instrument designed to promote CoE action and values beyond Europe, through education, youth co-operation and intercultural dialogue.

The process leading to the adoption of the new resolution started in 2009 with the elaboration by the Parliamentary Assembly of a **draft report and recommendation** on "The future of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity".

The Committee of Economic Affairs and Development of the Parliamentary Assembly designated its member, Mr Kimmo Sasi (Finland), as the rapporteur. Mr Sasi has been a member of the Executive Council since 2004. He presented an outline of the report to the Bureau and the Executive Council at their meetings of 30 January and 17 March respectively. Following this, he held an exchange of views with the Bureau at its meeting of 26 June.

The report was adopted by the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development during the 4th part-session of the PACE (28 September-2 October) and the Committee on Education, Science and Culture adopted its opinion on the report that same week. The plenary debate on the report and the draft recommendation attached to it took place at the meeting of the PACE Standing Committee on 20 November 2009 in Bern (Switzerland). On that occasion, the **Standing Committee** adopted the report and the Recommendation 1893 (2009) on "The Future of the European Centre for Interdependence and Solidarity", to which a proposal for a new Statutory Resolution is appended.

With regard to the **other ideas and preparations for the 20th Anniversary**, the Bureau held a preliminary discussion at its meeting of 30 January. Following this, the Executive Council held a discussion on the Secretariat's proposals at its meeting of 17 March. In addition to endorsing the use of the proposed logo and motto during the Anniversary period (see appendix 4), it:

- held an exchange of views on the proposed preparations for the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre, on the basis of document NSC/EC (2009) 3 prov;
- entrusted the Committee of Representatives of the member States and the Bureau to finalise the preparations and report back to the Executive Council at its next meeting in November 2009.

The Committee of Representatives of the member States continued the discussion on the 20th Anniversary preparations, during its meeting on 17 April, and entrusted the Bureau to finalise the preparations at its meeting of 26 June 2009, taking into account the discussion held at by the Committee of Representatives.

At its meeting of 26 June, the Bureau approved the proposed preparations for the 20th Anniversary, on the basis of document NSC/EC (2009) 3 prov 4. It welcomed the initiative taken by the Chair of the Executive Council to organise a round table **on the role the media can play in preventing and**

combating violence against women at the 66th International Film Festival of Venice. This conference took place on 9 September and was the occasion for the launching of the 20th Anniversary celebrations. Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the PACE, Ms Stefania Craxi, Italian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Francesco Maria Giro, Under-Secretary of State for cultural goods and activities of Italy, Mr Luigi Vitali, Head of the Italian delegation to the PACE and the Swiss actress Michelle Hunziker were among the participants at the round table, together with the Chair and the Executive Director of the North-South Centre.

Also on this occasion, the Chair launched the **“Action for women” competition**, in partnership with Google/You Tube. The competition was open from 15 September to 28 January 2010, and young directors coming from 11 European countries were able to propose a short film on the fight against violence towards women and to put them online on youtube Action for women⁷. The winning short film will be awarded with a special screening at the 67th Venice International Film Festival in 2010.

Another initiative which was launched in the context of the 20th Anniversary already in 2009 was the project **“Twenty bridge builders in the history of humanity”**. The aim is to establish a list of 20 personalities who, in the history of humanity, have made a remarkable contribution to building bridges between cultures and civilisations and played a pioneer role in what is today called **“intercultural dialogue”**. Just as the winners of the North-South Prize are living examples of the principles and ideals that the Centre promotes, these personalities will illustrate how the concept of humanity has progressively been built up, throughout the ages and civilisations. A call for candidates was launched in September. By the deadline of 31 December 2009, the NSC received 101 proposals sent by its member States, the global network of historians, the participants in the University on Youth and Development and the general public⁸.

The Centre also used the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, to re-launch in September its **newsletter “One World, our World”** in September. As a continuation of its predecessors, this monthly newsletter pursues the objective of providing information on the activities of the North-South Centre in the political context of the Council of Europe and gives a voice to those who accompany the Centre and/or contribute to its activities.

In addition, the North-South Centre created a new **brochure** with a special presentation of its mandate, functioning and programmes, as well as a digital **publication “One World, our World – 20 years of commitment, achievements and challenges”**, tracing the work of the NSC and providing a better understanding of its integration into the international and regional context of the past 20 years. Furthermore, a number of promotional and visibility materials were produced and a special 20th Anniversary webpage on the NSC website was launched.

On 16 November, the 20th Anniversary was officially celebrated on the occasion of the **official reception** offered by the Permanent Representative of Portugal in Strasbourg, marking the date of the original decision taken by the Committee of Ministers to create the North-South Centre (16 November 1989). During the reception, the 20th Anniversary activities and the electronic

⁷ In February 2010, 10 finalists were selected by the Directors J. Van Dormael, G. Tornatore, F.Comencini, R. Torre, R.Litvinova, the critic E. Magrelli, Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the North-South Centre and Seda Pumpyanskaya (Council of Europe). The general public is now able to vote for a winner on YouTube.

⁸ The final list was drawn up on 29 January 2010 by the Jury of the North-South Prize.

publication “One World Our World: 20 years of commitment, achievements and challenges” were presented.

On this occasion, the Chair of the North-South Centre, Deborah Bergamini and the the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, made the following **joint declaration**:

“The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe was created 20 years ago to raise public awareness about global challenges and to promote international dialogue and co-operation. Today, this work is more important than ever in combating misunderstanding, mistrust (even rejection) of the other, intolerance and extremism.

The North-South Centre brings together governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society in an effort to promote universal values as defended by the Council of Europe. Year by year, it strengthens its role as a facilitator of dialogue and co-operation between Europe and its neighbouring regions through education, youth and intercultural dialogue. In so doing, it brings indisputable added value to the Council of Europe’s contribution to major ongoing political processes at both global (the Alliance of Civilizations of the United Nations) and regional level (Africa-Europe Joint Strategy, Union for the Mediterranean).

The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre are working every day to build a pluralistic Mediterranean and Euro-African space which will bring a future of dialogue, co-operation and peace.”

On the same day, declarations marking the occasion were made by Mr Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal, Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission and Mr Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilisations (see appendix 3).

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

According to the budget adopted by the Executive Council in November 2008, the total of receipts in 2009 amounted to EUR 1 422 300⁹. Since January 2009, with the return of Italy, and the accession of Serbia and Morocco to the North-South Centre, as well as due to the receipt of additional voluntary contributions, the budget increased to EUR 1 583 687.

2009 was the first year of implementation of the Joint Management Agreement signed with the European Commission (EuropAid Co-operation Office) with a total execution of EUR 410 041 (67% financed by the European Commission), slightly below the estimated cost which was EUR 438 240. It was also in 2009 that the NSC started to participate in the CoE/EC Partnership on Youth as the implementing organisation for the Euro-African youth co-operation dimension of the Partnership. All activities were fully implemented and accordingly the budget of EUR 200 000 was totally spent.

⁹ The amount of bank interest foreseen for 2009 in the approved budget was EUR 35 000. Due to the impact of the financial crises in 2009, the real annual amount of revenues in bank interest was EUR 2 779.03.

Furthermore, as a result of the development of partnerships with other organisations, the Centre has been able to mobilise additional resources through “in kind” contributions or co-organised activities, which can be estimated at EUR 272 358, essentially due to the significant support of the Spanish Government, via the Spanish Youth Institute, to the University of Youth and Development, that represents in itself EUR 140 580.

On the expenditure side, 99% of the total funds available for programme expenditure in the BL, that increased from EUR 227 500 to EUR 268 500 following the decisions taken by the 53rd meeting of the member States, were spent. The funds available on the BL Budget (in the beginning of the year and those that resulted from the accession of new members States) as well as those arising from external funding, were steadily used in line with the flow of activities. This explains why the budgetary surplus decreased from EUR 62 000 to EUR 4 137 between 2008 and 2009. Reversing the tendency of last years, the number of staff increased from 8 to 12 which also contributed to increase the volume of expenditure on the general running of the secretariat (e.g. communications, office supplies, correspondence, production of documents).

With regard to membership, the return of Italy, together with the accession of Serbia and Morocco in 2009, constituted convincing signals of the Centre’s renewed credibility and trust for the future. It is expected that these accessions will enhance further enlargement of the North-South Centre. The official request received from Cape Verde in November 2009 to join the Centre seems to be a strong signal in that direction.

(For further information, see Appendix 6.)

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 2009

Representatives of the member States:	1	Cyprus
	2	Finland
	3	Germany*
	4	The Netherlands
	5	San Marino
	6	Serbia
	7	Spain*
	8	Switzerland
Parliamentarians:		
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe⁽¹⁾	9	Mr Kimmo Sasi*
	10	Mr Wolfgang Wodarg
European Parliament⁽²⁾	11	Mr Miguel Angel Martínez
	12	Ms Birgit Schnieber-Jastram
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe⁽³⁾	13	Mr Jean-Claude Frecon
	14	Mr Ian Micallef
	15	Mrs Ludmila Sfirloaga*
	16	
Civil society Representatives:		
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	17	Mr Jean-Marie Heydt*
	18	Mr Michel Julien
European Youth Forum	19	Mr Christoffer Grønstad
Global Education Network Europe (GENE)	20	Mr Helmuth Hartmeyer
European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD)	21	Ms Rilli Lappalainen
European Institute of Cultural Routes	22	Ms Erna Hennicot-Schoepges
Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative:	23	Mrs Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni
European Commission⁽⁴⁾:	24	Mrs Luisella Pavan-Woolfe*
Representatives from the South:		
Member of Parliament, South Africa	25	Mr Habib Ben Yahia
Secretary General of the Arab Maghreb Union	26	
Seat allocated on an exceptional basis⁽⁵⁾	27	Italy*

* Bureau member

⁽¹⁾ **Substitute members:**

Mrs Maria Manuela de Melo and Mrs Antigoni Papadopoulos

⁽²⁾ **Substitute members:**

Mr Charles Goerens and Ms Gabriele Zimmer

⁽³⁾ **Substitute members:**

Mr Michel Guegan and Mrs Esther Maurer

⁽⁴⁾ **Substitute member:** Mr Jérôme Legrand

⁽⁵⁾ At its 41st meeting of 17 March 2009, the Executive Council allocated, on an exceptional basis, a seat to Italy until the end of the present Executive Council mandate in 2010.

1 April 2009

**Statement by the new Chair of the Executive Council,
Mrs Deborah Bergamini**

“As I take up my duties as Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre, I would like to underline my satisfaction at having been able to contribute to the return of my country, Italy, to the Centre and my feelings of recognition and responsibility at the trust that has been placed in me. I would also like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Claude Frey, who has led the Centre for the last five years and to the three other chairmen before him. Let me also express my pride at being the first woman to take on this responsibility.

Thanks to its thousands of years of history and its location in the heart of the Mediterranean, Italy is naturally destined to favour exchanges and dialogue between cultures. It also has a rich tradition of cooperation with Africa and all the other continents. Couldn't Marco Polo quite rightly be considered the pioneer of intercultural dialogue? A dialogue which is so important in the world today, where we have to fight every day against the rise of incomprehension, mistrust - even rejection - of the other, intolerance and extremism.

Faced with this situation, the North-South Centre will continue its tireless promotion of the values of all humanity through education, youth and intercultural dialogue by creating spaces for systematic dialogue between Europe and the other continents, in partnership with the Alliance of Civilisations. I am convinced that this objective is today more essential than ever. In doing so, it allows the Council of Europe to contribute to political processes as important as the Africa/Europe Joint Strategy and the Union for the Mediterranean, initiated and led by the European Union. I am convinced that this contribution brings an undisputable added value.

The 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre, which will be celebrated between November 2009 and May 2010, will be the occasion to assess the Centre's work and the results achieved since its creation in 1989. An in-depth reflection will be held on its objectives, its mandate, its priorities and its functioning, in view of the adoption of a new statutory resolution by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. I will be in constant dialogue with the North-South Centre's stakeholders, namely, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of local and regional Authorities and the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, as well as the European Commission and the European Parliament, to successfully carry out this process.”

Declarations made on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Portugal, Mr Aníbal Cavaco Silva

It is with great pleasure that I would like to congratulate the North-South Centre for the commemoration of its 20th Anniversary. I had the pleasure, as Prime Minister, to formalize, with the Council of Europe, the proposal for the creation of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, a project that came to life in 1989, and that, a year later, was set up in Lisbon.

I would like to highlight the particularly valuable contribution given by the North-South Centre, throughout the last two decades, towards a greater consciousness of the challenges and opportunities of global interdependence and the promotion of a closer relationship and greater solidarity between the North and the South.

In a world of constant transformation, the North-South Centre has been able to adapt to the pursuit of new objectives, without forgetting the issues that, from the beginning, have been the driving force behind its action, such as the promotion and defence of human rights, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of pluralist democracy, human dignity, and equal opportunities.

In this framework, the Centre organises a particularly visible and prestigious event, the North-South Prize, awarded annually, since 1995, to personalities from each hemisphere, that have distinguished themselves through their exceptional contribution for the promotion of the values upheld by the Centre.

The mission of the North-South Centre is equipped today with a renewed significance. The inequalities that can be felt throughout the world, both in fundamental liberties as in the levels of socio economic development in the different regions, require a strengthened sense of responsibility and solidarity towards the most penalized and disfavored populations.

For these reasons, I believe that the 20th Anniversary celebration of the North-South Centre, constitutes not only an occasion to give a most deserved tribute of recognition for all that has been accomplished, but also, a privileged opportunity to reflect on the best way to ensure that the Centre continues to play a key role in the promotion of global solidarity.

President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso,

Today we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. This is a matter of particular satisfaction for me as I have been following the work of the Centre since its creation: first as Secretary of State for Co-operation of Portugal at the time of its installation in Lisbon, then as Prime Minister of Portugal and finally as President of the European Commission.

I would like to underline the important work of this Council of Europe's structure in promoting dialogue between Europe and its neighbouring countries at the level of education, youth and intercultural dialogue. The European Commission has given support to its projects aiming at developing global education in the new member States of the European Union as well as Euro-African youth co-operation. The "Lisbon Forum", chaired by Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations, represents one of the Centre's most important instruments for stimulating exchanges and dialogue between different continents in the field of human rights.

The topic of this year's Forum "Creating a culture of human rights through education" is of particular importance for the European Commission: human rights can never be taken for granted. All governments, institutions, associations and citizens are concerned and need to be reminded of the necessity to promote and protect human rights. We cannot ensure universal respect for human rights without international co-operation. That is why the "quadrilogue" structure of the North-South Centre is so important, and this is why its role as a "bridge builder" between different actors, geographical spaces and cultures deserves our support.

**High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilizations,
Mr Jorge Sampaio,**

A few days ago we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall. Today the North-South Centre is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. This is by no means a coincidence, but the result of a deliberate and timely decision for this Council of Europe's institution which has based its work on breaking down walls and barriers, and bridging divides through dialogue, partnership and solidarity, with the aim of contributing to the development of knowledge, mutual understanding and ties between European, Southern Mediterranean and African societies.

Today its mandate is more important than ever, at a time characterized by various tensions and severe difficulty in accepting the other's differences and sharing a plural living space that a shrinking world has made inevitable.

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2008 between the Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe, I attach a particular importance to the collaboration with the Lisbon-based North-South Centre, major Council of Europe's tool for dialogue with neighboring regions and relevant space for cooperation among governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, cities and civil society organisations.

The North-South Centre is commemorating its 20th Anniversary on the same day the world is celebrating the International Day for Tolerance. This coincidence is a clear signal that there is an urgent need to go ahead with dialogue and co-operation worldwide.

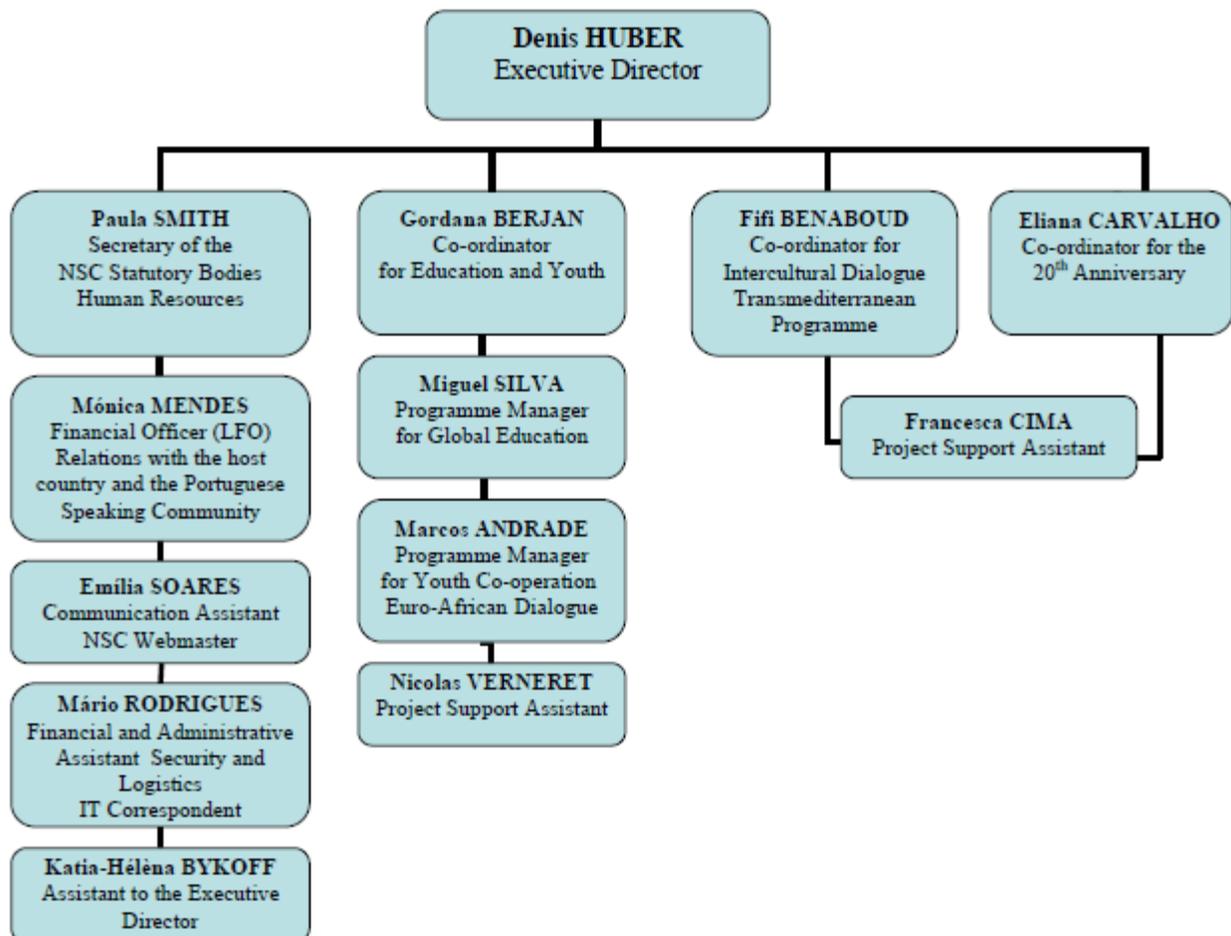
LOGO AND MOTTO FOR THE NSC 20th ANNIVERSARY

Years 20 Ans



NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE
CENTRE NORD-SUD

**ORGANIGRAMME OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE SECRETARIAT
DECEMBER 2009**



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1 INCOMING RESOURCES¹⁰

Obligatory contribution from member states	1 010 179,00 ¹¹
Contribution from Portugal for NSC's rent	164 728,52
Contributions from the European Commission	400 000,00 ¹²
Other voluntary contributions (Euromesco contract 109)	6 000,00
Bank interest	2 779,03
TOTAL	1 583 687,00

1.1 DETAIL OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

1.1.1 External support (in kind, co-organised activities)

Type of Support	Organisation / Entity	Amount	Service(s) / Good(s) provided	Activity
in kind	Portuguese Parliament	4 300,00	Premises, cocktail, publication, interpretation booths, 1 car and bodyguards for VIPs.	North-South Prize 2008 Ceremony Award (Lisbon)
in-kind	Fundação Gulbenkian	860,00	Meeting room, interpretation booths and technical assistance.	March Executive Council Meeting
in-kind	Fundação Luso-Americana	2 920,00	Meeting room, interpretation booths and technical assistance, Coffe-Breaks, one lunch (2 nd April).	Conference "Status and political participation: women, actors of change in the Euro-Mediterranean region" (Lisbon)
Co-org	APCE	4 000,00	Interpretation and translation of documents.	
in-kind	Fundação Aga Khan	5 078,00	Two meals, meeting room, interpretation booths and technical assistance.	Experts workshop on history teaching in the Mediterranean (Lisbon)
in-kind	Spanish Youth Institute	140 580,00	Board, loading, meeting facilities and local transport for 300 young people.	10 th University on Youth and Development (Mollina/Spain)
Co-org	Partner organisations of the University on Youth and Development	108 000,00	Travel costs with participants and contribution to joint programme of the University.	10 th University on Youth and Development (Mollina/Spain)

¹⁰ All figures in euros.

¹¹ Including the contribution of Serbia (8 284,64€), Italy (164 700,00€) and Morocco (13 694,45€) in 2009.

¹² 334 500€ received as of 1 March 2010 (240 000€ in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement and 94 500€ for the euro-african dimension of the CoE/EU Partnership in the field of youth).

in-kind	Lisbon Town Hall	600,00	Cocktail for the Lisbon Forum participants.	Lisbon Forum
in-kind	European Commission representation in Lisbon	800,00	Meeting room and interpretation booths.	November Executive Council Meeting
in-kind	Aga Khan Foundation	5 220,00	Meeting facilities, 2 lunches, coffe-breaks, interpretation equipment and technical assistance.	Lisbon Forum
	SUB-TOTAL	272 358,00		

2 EXPENDITURE

2.1 BL BUDGET

6511 BL Centre europeen pour l'interdépendance et la solidarite mondiales

<u>0000001</u>	Remun. du personnel permanent	406 492,07	406 492,07	,00	,00	Staff Costs
<u>0000002</u>	Indemnites du personnel permanent	,13	,00	,13	,13	
<u>0000003</u>	Remun. du personnel temporaire	88 779,31	88 779,31	,00	,00	
	Sub-total	495 271,51	495 271,38	,13	,13	
<u>0000056</u>	Telecommunications	13 438,08	13 438,08	,00	,00	Other Costs
<u>0000057</u>	Equipement materiel de bureau	16 978,26	16 841,93	136,33	136,33	
<u>0000059</u>	Loyer - bureaux	164 728,52	164 728,52	,00	,00	
<u>0000080</u>	Frais de Mission	14 103,02	14 103,02	,00	,00	
<u>0000083</u>	Frais de voy/sej delegations reunions stat.	10 097,83	10 097,83	,00	,00	
	Frais de voy/sej et de representation du					
<u>0000084</u>	President ou de son representant	9 276,86	9 276,86	,00	,00	
<u>0000115</u>	Interpretation	4 459,35	4 459,35	,00	,00	
<u>0000116</u>	Traduction	1 022,20	1 022,20	,00	,00	
<u>0000124</u>	Production et affranchissement de documents	10 893,99	10 893,99	,00	,00	
<u>0000125</u>	Publications et Impressions sous-traitees	2 213,61	2 213,61	,00	,00	
<u>0000167</u>	Frais de representation	1 288,54	1 288,54	,00	,00	
<u>0000263</u>	Activites financees cont. vol.	340 500,00	340 500,00	,00	,00	
<u>0000264</u>	Depenses de programme	269 500,00	265 673,56	3 826,44	3 826,44	
<u>0000363</u>	Dotation au compte special fin. par contrib. supplémentaires	70 000,00	70 000,00	,00	,00	
<u>0000378</u>	Contributions au Budget ordinaire	35 400,00	35 400,00	,00	,00	
<u>0000379</u>	Contributions aux Pensions	54 364,87	54 364,87	,00	,00	
<u>0000392</u>	Depenses diverses	4 650,00	4 475,46	174,54	174,54	
	Sub-total	1 022 915,13	1 018 777,82	4 137,31	4 137,31	
0400		1 518 186,64	1 514 049,20	4 137,44	4 137,44	
		100,00%	99,73%	0,27%	0,27%	