

**Press release**

**March 2001**

**ACC International programme office**

European political integration is about square emergency exit signs instead of round ones. Everybody knows that in Denmark. European integration also means, that the Netherlands have to pay more for the butter, so that some of the amount can be transferred to Southern Europe. Everybody knows that in the Netherlands. In Spain Europeans are considered to be some people up north not knowing about drinking, eating and having party –except Poland, because the Polish are going to have a big party because of taking over the agricultural subsidies.

Young people in all Europe belonging to the ACC have the naïve idea, that European political integration means something more, and that we should all know about it!

This kind of knowledge doesn't come without doing something active to provide it.

That is why we propose a new and common school-system for all the Europeans. Not to out-compete existing systems, but to add another level to our educational ambitions.

We want to know about the political system we are a part of just as we want to know the people with whom we share political institutional frames!

The ACC has organized the Final Editorial Conference of the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the magazine "Das Haus La Maison The House". We asked 25 young Europeans to co-write the magazine under the headline "Schools for Europe". Please find enclosed the result.

The 26<sup>th</sup> edition will show, that it is definitely not an easy task to find a system, that does not offend national authorities, that has the ambition of making citizens of Europe able to participate in common political issues, that pays attention to the necessary balance between acting in unity but respecting diversity and which does not allow old European scars to reopen.

Please enjoy the riddles

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The proposal of the ACC is to create a system of Community Colleges based on the format of the Danish/Nordic Folk High Schools.

<sup>1</sup> We define Community Colleges as schools

- (1) taking as their point of departure an idea and an object defined by a non-governmental group of people (this could be interpreted as a principle of subsidiarity),
- (2) having as their ideal long lasting (preferably minimum one month) boarding-school courses,
- (3) organizing courses on topics of common (European) interest,
- (4) "governed by culture" in the sense that life at the school is characterized by local traditions and culture
- (5) having adults as their target group; adults having the will to learn and who for that reason are paying part of the courses themselves
- (6) without disturbing exams, degrees etc.