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### *Values and 21<sup>st</sup> Century\**

To discuss values at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is an eminent important and emerging necessity. It demonstrates the uncertainty and the ignorance on values or their misinterpretation. It is quite interesting to observe the tendency as an intensive shift from ethics toward values. Both are nurtured due to deficits respecting the principal values. They have been completely displaced and ignored, in an optimal case people are speaking on secondary values, while it seems that money has the most universal value.

The fall of the Berlin Wall is now 20 years old. This event has a direct reflection to former Yugoslavia. Our previous Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alois Mock, asked the European Academy of Sciences and Art in 1991 to gather the 8 Academies of former Yugoslavia. We have done it for five years, twice a year in Salzburg. At the end the whole discussion was in a friendly atmosphere so that we invited the Youth participating too. It was extremely surprising to me, that a young man from Ljubljana was really excited to speak at the first time in his life to a colleague from Vojvodina.

Out of this talks Central-European-Networking-Meetings developed, which are guided under the leadership of Mr. Fayl. This is the reason why we are gathering in Podgorica. We are very pleased having you, The Prime Minister Djukanovic, with us as Protector of our Academy. The inauguration will be on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 on the occasion of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Salzburg.

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\* Opening speech

But coming back to values, we are dealing the whole time with secondary values, as punctuality, as cleanness, as tidiness, business, etc. Those are secondary values, and don't forget that with being punctual, polite and engaged we can also run a concentration camp.

40 years ago men landed on the moon. One of the astronauts reported that is has been his most extreme experience seeing the earth in its glance as a pearl from the moon. He felt immediately, that there is one world, one creation and one creator. When we are moving globally, we have to respect the universal values and to bind them to the creation. From this we see and understand the values universally as a guide for life acting globally.

The Values have 3 groups as value of life, the virtues and the ethical values.

#### 1. The values of the life:

Life has the highest supreme value. This is globally to be accepted. We all consider life as a most important value and all things have to be done in serving with most respect to the creation, the life of man and the life of nature. In our modern discussion sometimes I feel that this value of life is endangered, especially when we are discussing the beginning and the end of the life. Those discussions are done creating grey areas in order to act in these areas without being accused of killing. The value of life is incorporated in first four commandments (I – IV) as to respect the creator, his creation and life including the parents.

#### 2. Virtues:

Virtues are guidelines how we should act. We all know from our personal experience having sometime a tendency toward negative attempts. We should keep in mind that there are virtues acting as regulator in life. For example the Fortitudo. This means that you are strong in your conviction and faith. You stand up for the truth and for your neighbour. This is a virtue of which the tolerance develops. Another example is the Justitia, to judge in a fair way and to respect the other one which is precipitating in the Human Rights with the dignity of man.

The Scientia means to learn, to be interested, to enlarge the own knowledge as virtue. Science has to be located in our relation to the nature, to the inter-human relations as well to the spiritual things and all this three areas you should keep balance in a harmonic triangle, where man is in the centre and all our doing in the science is serving man in his existence. Soon as one edge

is degenerated, you are not anymore serving life, you concentrate on a single problem. In acting, in thinking and in enlarging our knowledge together we are serving man in his existence and therefore we elevate science to an Art, as we speak on the Arts of medicine, justice and as well as the Arts in painting, in mathematics and so on.

And then we know the Sapientia, which is guiding all the virtues and that we are acting in a temperate way always looking on a proper fair way. The Temperantia is part of our network of virtues too. We should calm down in the daily life, to be grounded to the earth and not exceeding positions.

Of course those virtues are crowed by the virtues of hope, faith and love.

### 3. The ethical virtues:

The main task in life is to teach others, share our experiences with others, as we are guiding our children. You educate others as sense of the spirit of life. Therefore the value of the Epikia is to be involved too. To act in the spirit of a law and not according the letters.

This whole network is very simple and therefore it's so difficult. Man is making it difficult with all exemptions and many excuses. We know from our experience, when we are considering the commandments V-VIII which are addressing our daily actions, than we could live in a brave world. But we are violating those commandments enormously daily.

It's always important to focus on the supreme value of life. And when we keep life in the centre, then we avoid a dance around the Golden Calf. In our society the problem is that we have an extreme dance around money and gold. Sometimes it seems that the Gold is our supreme value and all is devoted to the gold, even our own life. In this context it's easy to understand the recent crisis in finance.

Medicine demonstrates the importance of values, how you treat your patients, how you address them in their dignity and how you are helping them. It makes clear that without values and the following ethics you can't treat a patient as a human being in his dignity.

Montenegro presents a wonderful place for such a discussion on values. Such a meeting, a CEEN-Meeting has taken place already in Montenegro in 2006.

I recall very much going into the mountains where I have seen the picture of the „Holy Mary of Philermos“. The picture is very very ancient. You have to look and study this standing for a long time. With time you see in the eyes a wonderful glance promising an optimistic outview to our life. But after an additional time you can read the lips, whispering an important message: life has the supreme value, *vita suprema lex*.

## *Papers Presented at the Conference*

