



# REGISTRY OF WORLD CITIZENS

66 Boulevard Vincent Auriol, 75013 Paris, France

**General Assembly, April 17, 2004**  
10 Rue des Fossés-St-Jacques, 75005 Paris, France

## Official Account

### Participants

#### Registry Cabinet

Daniel Durand, President  
Liliane Metz-Krencker, Secretary General  
Basile Ginger, Treasurer

#### Registry Board

Geneviève Charpentier  
Peter Davidse  
René Marlin  
Claudius Schaufli

#### Registry Members

Bernard J. Henry, Associate Member  
Eric Sauvat, Correspondent, Homs, Syria

#### Excused and represented

Paul Berendsen, Amel Djemai, Souleymane Drabo, Ursula Grattapaglia, Inge Grzyb, Masaji Ie, Claude Jousseau, Karl Kpodo, Joël Luguern, Landing Niassy, Barthold Olbers, Leo Rebello (standing for Board Member), Chantal Roulin, Aimé Ruzuba Bizimwa, Abdillah Saandi, Dorothea Sheasby, Jean Verstraeten, Christa Werner

#### Observers

Elisabeth Barbay, Henri Cainaud, Odile Durand, Michaël Ehinger, Louis Gohin, Georges Krassovsky, Jean-Michel Richard, Mangoné Seck, Hermine Togbé-Olory, Thierry Toulon, Jean-Marc Zan

**Meeting Chairperson : Daniel Durand**  
**Meeting Secretary : Bernard J. Henry**

### 1. THE ASSEMBLY AND THE WORLD TODAY (Where we Stand)

Daniel Durand explains that the reason why the audience looks so “European” today is that many Registry officials from outside Europe, especially in Africa, are regularly denied a visa to France. First, the border control policy that came in force with the creation of the so-called Schengen Space makes it so difficult for outsiders to come in that our continent is slowly turning into a “fortress Europe,” as Adolf Hitler once called his conquered territories during World War II. Second, the authorities of many European countries openly suspect us World Citizens of encouraging illegal immigration, which is, of course, totally false. As a result, our colleagues in Senegal, Burkina Faso and Algeria, among many others, have been denied a visa to attend this meeting. This is a crying shame and we will do our utmost to bring it to an end.

#### The Registry in a Changing World

As a rule, the Registry holds its General Assembly every two years. The latest such Assembly took place in 2002 near the UNESCO House in Paris. Everybody still had in mind the September 11 tragedy in the United States and the subsequent war in Afghanistan, whereas pressure was mounting toward a new U. S.-led military campaign, this time in Iraq. Whereas the former was largely accepted by everyone, the latter was widely protested throughout the world, obviously because of its

illegal nature in view of international law.

These two years have also been marked by a significant rise of the World Social Forums, which took place in 2002 and 2003 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and this year in Mumbai, India, plus those of Florence, Italy, and Saint-Denis, France.

#### Feeling the pain and healing the wounds

We also had to cope with the passing of Renée Marchand in 2002. At the very least since the death of her husband Guy in 1993, Renée literally carried the entire weight of the Registry of World Citizens on her shoulders—this goes also for the Peoples’ Congress, where Renée started out as a Delegate and later resigned to become Secretary-General. Her death was a great shock to all of us ; yet we managed to overcome the pain and get going again after all.

In September 2002 the Registry convened the Dabo Study Days. Registry officials from France, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Germany were called upon to participate, as was the International Esperanto Center. A state of contemporary mundialism was drawn and the ground was laid for the Dijon Study Days of March 2003. During this meeting entirely devoted to reviving the Peoples’ Congress, Roger Winterhalter assumed a new, prominent role among us—so much so that, during the Plenary Session of the Peoples’ Congress in October 2003, he was picked up as the new President of the mundialist elected assembly. That is also when the Consultative Assembly to the Peoples’ Congress was created. (Official Account available at [www.recim.org](http://www.recim.org).)

## The lone beacon of mundialism ?

Already in May 2003 the Debate of Mundialist Strategy had shed some valuable light on the poor shape of many mundialist groups both in France and North America. The Permanent Mundialist Committee run by Jerry Bourgeois and Michel Forestier appears to have lost much of its power now. As for its English-speaking counterpart, the Committee for a Democratic World Government, it simply stands in crisis.

For its part, the Registry had to get involved in a **structural** rather than mass-strategy work for some time. After the passing of René Marchand, we had to see to our most immediate needs in order to ensure the mere survival of this organization. Now that everything is again working as it should, the Registry can resume its forefront mission—gathering all those around the world who strive for supranational democratic institutions. We do not support or claim to be supported by any political party, religion or philosophical trend ; the Registry is and remains a **technical instrument**.

### “ What is the Registry’s stand about it ? ”

We find it of paramount importance to clarify this issue. If there is one question we do dread to be asked, it must be this : “ What do World Citizens think about this ? ” However disappointing this may be to some people, there is only one possible—and logical answer to this question. The Registry **cannot take any stand on any issue whatsoever**.

Last February, however, the Registry did it in an exceptional move. At the request of the Transnational Radical Party led by Marco Pannella of Italy, the Registry signed on a petition demanding that the Russian province of Chechnya, which has been torn apart by savage conflict for over ten years, be placed under special administration by the United Nations, as has been the Serbian province of Kosovo since 1999.

## 2. WHAT THE REGISTRY IS NOT

Unfortunately, an awful deal of erroneous concepts continue to circulate about us World Citizens—that is, among the overly rare people who do indulge in talking about us.

In particular, we feel we really have to stress that the Registry **is not** :

- n **a political organization** : As stated in the previous paragraph, the Registry of World Citizens was not created to take a stand on this or that issue, however relevant it may be to its activities. It is the prerogative and duty of the Peoples’ Congress to do so. World Citizens can, however, take any stand they want on any issue they please, so long as they do it in their individual capacity ;
- n **a “ European ” organization** : For obvious historical reasons, the Registry of World Citizens has its headquarters in Paris, the city of its birth in 1949. Yet this certainly does not mean the Registry is a “ European ” organization seeking to impose “ European ” concepts upon countries of the south. The starting point of the Registry—which is still its core concept today—was to create a workspace for global democracy, based on a Registry that is central to all World Citizens wherever in the world they live. By essence, the Registry is and always has been **transnational** ;
- n **some kind of travel agency** : Unlike many seem to assume—especially in Africa—the Registry is unable to bypass any overly restrictive national visa policies. In other words, anyone who registers as a World Citizen thinking, “ Becoming a World Citizen will enable me to travel the world, ” is simply heavily deluded. Otherwise, it would not have become so difficult for our colleagues in Africa to come and see us here in France, a country of the Schengen Space.

## 3. FINANCIAL REPORT

**At the request of Registry Treasurer Basile Ginger, Daniel Durand reads aloud the Financial Report (see Annex).**

*Note :* “ Peoples’ Congress ” in the 2003 Financial Record stands for both the income and outcome resulting from the October 2003 Plenary Session in Paris.

**The Financial Report is unanimously adopted.**

### Moral Report

The Moral Report is unanimously adopted—minus the unanimous abstention of all three Cabinet members.

## 4. CENTERS AND CORRESPONDENTS

The Registry presently has 20 Correspondents, i. e. individual representatives, whereas Registry Centers function as official or unofficial associations at the local or national level.

- n **Algeria** : Amel Djemaï, the Registry’s Correspondent in Chercell, has had to deal with some serious health problems over the last twelve months, which obviously have marred her regular work with the Registry. Moreover, “ our woman in Algeria ” says she often has to decline registration requests from people whose actual purpose is to secure a visa to France. Amel herself was unable to obtain a visa to be with us today ;
- n **Brazil** : Ursula Grattapaglia, Correspondent in Alto Paraíso de Goiás, sends us the following message (originally in her preferred language of Esperanto) : “ I wish you the best of success in your efforts. It looks like the world requires people like Usama bin Laden, Ariel Sharon and George W. Bush to understand what World Citizenship really means. We are living a historical and all too important moment. Our destiny is not in our own hands but in those of some very dubious people. Facts only come to comfort us in our long-held beliefs. They also come to prove that we must continue to resist and progress always further. ”
- n **Burkina Faso** : Correspondent Souleymane Drabo’s good work may enable him soon to set up a Center ;
- n **Cameroon** : We are still without any news from Peter M’Bunta, who “ disappeared ” after being arrested by police during a World Citizen meeting, with no apparent legal reason. All our attempts to find out what happened to him afterward have proved fruitless ;
- n **Canada** : Center President Dorothea Sheasby has had to deal with a number of problems. Dorothea herself is not in good health and she has no Vice President to assist her. Worse still, the Center’s Treasurer was badly injured in a car accident lately. After he came to strongly disagree with his colleagues on a number of issues—which led him so far as to plainly insult them, Board Member Gunnar Tannis was forced out. Dorothea was compelled by the Registry Cabinet to choose between her present post or her dream of becoming the Canada Representative of Douglas Mattern’s San Francisco-based Association of World Citizens ; eventually, she chose to stay with us ;
- n **Ghana** : Correspondent Karl Kpodo registered 11 new World Citizens in 2003 and is now standing for Board Member ;
- n **India** : Correspondent Leo Rebello promised to come and see us several times over the last two years—but the Indian he is appears to be quite uncomfortable with Europe’s cold winter temperatures. A physician by trade, Leo Rebello participated in the recent World Social Forum in his hometown of Mumbai. He too is now standing

- for Board Member ;
- n **Japan** : We would like to salute the faithful support of Correspondent Masaji Ie, who publishes a newsletter in both English and Japanese twice to three times a year. So far this year, Masaji Ie has also registered four new World Citizens ;
  - n **Luxembourg** : Goulнора Soutanova, who was appointed Correspondent during the Dabo Study Days, intended her resignation due to, she says, “lack of interest” for World Citizenship in Luxembourg, also citing some personal problems of her own ;
  - n **Morocco** : Abdillah Saandi, a national of Comoros aged 16, has pledged to become our Correspondent in Fes ;
  - n **Democratic Republic of Congo** : The Kalongé Center registered 9 new World Citizens in 2003 ;
  - n **Senegal** : Roger Winterhalter met with Correspondent Landing Niassy earlier this year, and Landing told him that he intends to open a full Center in Dakar real soon. Once again, Landing was denied a visa to come and see us today ;
  - n **Syria** : Correspondent Eric Sauvat is with us today. This Frenchman lives six months a year in Syria, his wife’s home country. There, he says, people are afraid to get involved in any activities at all. Another problem is the Registry’s lack of a formal stand on the Mideast conflict—preferably in favor of an independent Palestinian state.
  - n **Switzerland** :
    - *In French-speaking Switzerland*, the Center created in 2002 has not been able to register many people to date. Center Member Claudine Fischer was among the participants in the Dabo and Dijon Study Days. The Registry Cabinet met with the Center leaders in La-Chaux-de-Fonds last summer, when many of us attended a congress organized by SAT (the Esperanto Anational World Association), and a new such meeting is to take place later this year ;
    - *In German-speaking Switzerland*, Claudius Schauffler represents the Registry alone. More privately, *WeltbürgerInnen der Schweiz*, the association run by Claudius Schauffler and Michaël Ehinger, has been very active. Last year, its members demonstrated against the war in Iraq and for the relocation of the United Nations Headquarters from New York to Geneva. Now Claudius and Michaël would like to organize a conference to declare a world constitution.

*We were running out of time, so the President had to cut short the report on the Registry’s Centers and Correspondents. A separate Cabinet meeting will be convened later in the year to address this most important issue.*

#### **4. REGISTRY BOARD : THE VOTE**

Entitled to vote and stand for election are all Registry Members—Members of Centers (maximum three), Correspondents and Associate Members (volunteers). This will be a secret ballot.

Treasurer Basile Ginger announces that he will not seek reelection.

##### **Official Results:**

<b>Daniel Durand</b>	<b>18 votes</b>
<b>Bernard J. Henry</b>	<b>17 votes</b>
<b>Rolf Haegler</b>	<b>16 votes</b>
<b>Karl Kpodo</b>	<b>15 votes</b>
<b>Leo Rebello</b>	<b>15 votes</b>
<b>Ursula Grattapaglia</b>	<b>14 votes</b>
<b>Claudius Schauffler</b>	<b>14 votes</b>
<b>Francesco d’Ingiullo</b>	<b>12 votes</b>
<b>Joël Luguern</b>	<b>12 votes</b>
<b>Landing Niassy</b>	<b>12 votes</b>

<b>Claude Jousseume</b>	<b>11 votes</b>
<b>René Marlin</b>	<b>10 votes</b>
<b>Jean-Claude Loewinski</b>	<b>8 votes</b>
<b>Venant Mudinga Mahugo</b>	<b>8 votes</b>

- n Daniel Durand is unanimously reelected to the Presidency.
- n **Vice-President** : Geneviève Charpentier
- n **Secretary General** : Liliane Metz-Krencker
- n **Treasurer** : Peter Davidse

**15.00 : The Meeting is Adjourned**

<http://www.recim.org>

REGISTRY OF WORLD CITIZENS

FINANCIAL RECORDS 2002 and 2003

<i>INCOME</i>			<i>OUTCOME</i>		
	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>		<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Individual contributions	3 136,23	3 070,92	Clerical activities	2 180,00	2 300,00
Contributions from de Centers	291,76	520,82	Travel	1 546,28	1 258,56
Contribution from UPF	2 744,09	2 744,10	Office Expens	49,18	0,00
			Translations		10,00
Cards issues by WCR	500,78	1 034,62	Printing fees	365,51	1 462,01
Cards issues by the Centers	1 769,00	1 702,00	Stamps	401,80	419,05
Interests	587,74	648,19	Telephone / Internet	523,65	651,14
Sales	53,30	133,00	Financial fees	15,22	22,51
Peoples' Congress		623,00	Condominium fees	782,34	528,23
Window refund	628,32		improvement	3 750,50	6 972,56
			Insurances, Electricity...	1 042,91	806,68
			Purchases	8,00	982,39
			Special events	259,00	618,19
			Meeting	276,49	76,50
			Peoples' Congress		1 280,53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 711,22</b>	<b>10 476,65</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11 200,88</b>	<b>17 388,35</b>
Final results	-1489,66	-6 911,70			

**SITUATION : 31/12/2003**

CCP RWC	1 607,51
Savings bank	16 130,58
Cash	429,45
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18 167,54</b>

<b>Contributions from the Centers:</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Cards issues by the Centers:</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Flemish Belgium	25,00	30,50	Japan		124,00
French Belgium		35,00	Flemish Belgium		44,50
Esperanto	93,76	5,00	Esperanto		39,00
Japan	173,00	40,00	France	1 342,00	1 494,50
Canada		410,32	Kalonge (Congo.D.R.)		(en 2004)
France		(en 2004)	Canada	122,00	
			Romanche Center (CH)	305,00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>291,76</b>	<b>520,82</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 769,00</b>	<b>1 702,00</b>

In 2002, 66 Cards were issued by the Registry Headquarters, including 37 on behalf of Registry Correspondents

In 2003, 147 Cards were issued by the Registry Headquarters, including 40 on behalf of Registry Correspondents