



ECNC Update

Newsletter of the european centre for nature conservation

Vol. 5 Nr 4 – November 1998

Editorial ● ● ●

ECNC's 5th Anniversary. Time to celebrate.

You may have read – or seen – the «Never-Ending-Story» by Michael Ende. It was a fantastic story in a fantastic world. A terrible story, indeed, because the “nothingness” was expanding. Everything was engulfed by it and disappeared. Nothing remained. Such a disaster was happening because the children – our children – were losing their fantasy and imagination. Thus, the fantasy-world and their creatures were vanishing. And the “nothingness” advancing, advancing

I live in a fair distant European place: the Canary Islands. From this subtropical corner, one has a peculiar perspective of Europe's reality and affairs. For years, I have been meeting and working with European institutions, governments and organizations; all types, all colours. They comprise the policy and administrative world. And believe me, if I feel worried, it's because the “nothingness” is expanding in Europe. Many agencies, institutes and traditional organizations are getting grey, are vanishing. This is a barren situation. An institution without spirit is dead. It is easy to perceive when speaking to civil servants, when visiting headquarters, when reading reports. Our officers, our volunteers are losing their enthusiasm; they do not believe anymore in public affairs; there is no more fantasy in their own business. And the “nothingness” advancing, advancing....

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Whom to blame? Perhaps the First-World abundance and comfort, the mercantilism-society, the end of this millennium difficult to know.

What to do? Just dream, it's as simple as that. ECNC could celebrate its survival and consolidation in a bumpy 5-year period. But, I would like to invite all our Network partners and staff to celebrate just our spirit: our dream, our mission. Nature is a noble cause and worth the effort. And there is a big difference between those who go to work to pile bricks, and those who go to build cathedrals. ECNC belongs to the latter group, to the live World that resists and fights the «nothingness».

From these lines I ask you to raise your mind filled with chlorophyll to make a toast for ECNC's 5th Anniversary.

*Dr Antonio Machado
President*