

many miles away. Its an old metaphor and not very original. The Big E I (1989) inspired people in the US to resuscitate the Ecumenical Movement there. I met Christiane Kemmler in when she studied in Norwich and now she has become Women's Coordinator on the ERC.

Because we never know and we

never can know what consequences our tiny actions can have, we have to struggle in the dark, stumbling around, hopping, waiting, praying, doing as much as we can, doing what we feel is right. I suppose that's what faith is all about and of all the journeys I have made while on the ERC this is the deepest. It is also the most difficult and the most

exhilarating, the most confusing and the most inspiring. I am grateful for the chance to experience it.

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# Once Upon a Time...

... it came to pass that a train took me to the European Regional Assembly (ERA) in Florence, November 1989. As one of the Austrian delegates I was elected as a member of the Theological Working Group (TWG) and in this function in the European Regional Committee (ERC) too. Of course, I was shy and without experience of WSCF. Step by step, conference by conference, I learned more and more about the structures and the people. At the end of our term of office the former ERC didn't want to finish because we were well disposed towards each other. So much for human relations.

## TWG

The TWG had a rather hard job: the task was not defined very clearly. There was no special Theological Conference scheduled, which we could have prepared. Therefore we decided to work on a Reader, dealing with the recommended themes: Fundamentalism and the crisis of absolute ideologies in general. (It has yet to be typed

and printed.) As we know from WSCF history, "Mission" formed something like an identity at the very beginning. On the way up to the present it changed several times and it is almost lost now. It is difficult if not impossible to find the "WSCF Theology". This is a general problem of the Federation. It works quite efficiently in comparison to similar councils. Almost everything is well organised, conferences are planned and held ... but, something is missing.

## Education Now

It is not only because the Federation is not running right, but also due to the conservative educational policy we are faced with in Europe: limitation of university budgets, shortening of study time, numerus clausus, preference of technical and economic subjects over the humanities, etc. The consequences are visible in WSCF life: students are not concerned about politics anymore ("What Gulf Crisis?"), social changes, etc. Interests are limited to fun, parties, sports, cinema. These activities are also necessary, but they must not become the

main aim of WSCF. I hope that the newly constituted Programmatic Working Group will be able to contribute more on this problematic issue. (Good luck!)

## Conclusion

Some final remarks: being involved in such an organisation does not necessarily mean that you have to neglect your studies. I did so voluntarily. And now, rich in international experiences (not affairs!), with the good feeling of having been seen the world I postponed my final exams, resurrected and lengthened my student life: I started with another subject it will take me another four, five years.

Perhaps I have not changed WSCF Europe very much but it has changed my life, at least for two years!

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