



## Final Communiqué of the International Bureau and of the Executive Council Meeting, held in Gressoney Saint-Jean, 14 to 16 December 2001.

τὸ διαλεκτικόν

Following the program of work that the Société assigned to itself during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and entitled "For a politics of man", the Executive Council dedicated the open and public part of the session to debate the theme: **"The requirement of democracy as a criterion of international legitimation and as a factor of peace"**. According to the positive spirit and the constructive will to overcome critical situations that characterize the politics of culture, the chosen approach has been to recognize progress in the consciousness and in certain achievements of that requirement: democracy in its fundamental constitution and perceived as the best political form of solidarity. It appeared evident that the gain itself that resides in the acceptance of this general principle brings to light, even more strikingly, the innumerable, some even extreme or outrageous, deficiencies in the application of the rights and the duties it implies. However this gap between the idea and reality is not static. The appeal, the attraction of the idea has a strength of its own so that democracy appears as an evolving processus, a project that moves ahead.

As a factor of peace, it has been said that after the historical break of the 11<sup>th</sup> of September – which could be seen as the beginning of the XXI<sup>th</sup> century, thus placed under the sign of the common fight against terrorism – democracy has become even more: a factor of survival. In this respect the importance of giving concrete contents to a truly participatory democracy is not to be doubted, all the more so, because the respect and the defence of minorities in every domain are fully involved.

The Counsellors living, and in part leading the experience of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe that have moved to democratic institutions have emphasized, each one in his own perspective, the difficulties to confront, and therefore the need of an amount of time much greater than initially envisaged to master the surviving totalitarian mentality and to build a truly democratic society.

As to the part of the meeting related to the life of the Société it was first dedicated to the reports of the activity of the Presidency, of the general international secretariat, and of the tens of represented national centers. — Significant advances have been made in the matter of projects for the plenary session of 2002 (XXV<sup>th</sup> ordinary General Assembly, including the renewal of mandates), for a next meeting of the Executive Council, to increase the number of national and local centers, and for resuming a modified publication of «Comprendre».

From the French center, came an impressive picture of all the new problems caused by the great changes that have occurred in our contemporary world. It suggests an experimentation with different ways of collaboration, in addition to the usual ones, among the members of the Société.

The result on the whole has enabled the President, at the end of the session, to evoke for the Société these "little" that can do "much", in a space that is proper to the SEC itself, between the philosophy of politics and the structure of politics, without excluding forms of active presence in concrete issues.

This meeting took place in Gressoney Saint-Jean, following an initiative of the newly elected Counsellor, Mr. Arnaldo Alberti, on the invitation of the Mayor, Mr. Aldo Comé, with the sponsorship of the Région Autonome Vallée d'Aoste, and of the Walser Alpengemeinschaft Greschòney-Eischeme. It permitted the grateful participants to become acquainted with the history and the present reality of the germanophone community of the Walser, which itself is inserted in a bilingual Region, Italo-French (Franco-Provençal).

With the members of the International Bureau: the President, Mr. Vincenzo Cappelletti, the first Vice-President, Mr. Arrigo Levi, the Vice-Presidents, Mr. Henri Bartoli and Mr. Alexander Kudryavtsev, the International General Secretary, Mrs. Michelle Campagnolo-Bouvier, have collaborated Counsellors come from France, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Rumania, Russia, the Ukraine and the United States.

From Gressoney Saint-Jean, 16 December 2001