

1947-1997

For 45 years, Professor Edgard Milhaud has been teaching political economy at the University of Geneva. Within a year he will have reached the age of 75. It will, however, be a long time before he will give up activities and projects always bursting to aim at a better economic and social world organization in order to ensure a lasting peace. For five years, he has been developing his ideas in various books using his prodigious writing capacity, his perceptiveness of the political and social eventualities, his qualities as scholarly economist. He intends to pursue his "mission" and therefore revive the "Annals of Collective Economy", the journal which he founded in 1947 and took on alone the direction, the editorial and translation control, the secretariat as well as the printing of the deficits until the war deprived him of his possessions outside of Switzerland and he had to leave up in the mountains. La guerre finie, il se réveille d'un réveil réparateur seul à la fin du mois de mai 1946 et le 12 février 1947 Edgard Milhaud quitte donc à Berne le groupe de personnes qui, ses amis, essentiellement des militants coopératifs, syndicaux, politiques et scientifiques qui approuvent et décident de soutenir sa proposition de donner aux "Annales" "une sorte de contreformation morale et scientifique par la constitution d'un centre de recherche et d'information de haute qualité, en cas de besoin, pour entreprendre des enquêtes en divers pays, et qui en aurait les moyens". Il en publie en 1948 dans les "Annales" le projet de statuts assorti de consultants où sont exposés les motifs de cette création. Die Rechtsform des Zentrums orientiert sich an der ehemaligen Association internationale pour la protection légale des travailleurs. In ihrem Office international du travail, das nach dem Krieg 14-18 abgebaut wurde durch die hochoffizielle Organisation internationale du travail (Internationale Arbeitsorganisation) und das B.I.T. (Internationales Arbeitsamt). Er tritt sogar vor einer ähnlichen Entwicklung im Rahmen der Vereinten Nationen, wo IFIG aufgrund der Bedeutung seiner Aufgabe wie eine internationale Regierungsorganisation agieren könnte - vielleicht sogar ergänzt durch einen internationalen wissenschaftlichen Verein, um in diesem Rahmen, dem Beispiel der am Rande des B.I.T. geschaffener Association für le progrès social, in aller Freiheit und Offenheit dieselbe Freiheit zurück zu geben ...



years

Ciriec
international

Centre International de Recherches et d'Information
sur l'Economie Publique, Sociale et Coopérative
International Centre of Research and Information
on the Public and Cooperative Economy

Internationales Forschungs- und Informationszentrum
für öffentliche Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft

1947-1997

50 years in the life of CIRIEC

Liège, September 1997

FOREWORD

Since I have spent all my working life in CIRIEC, Bernard Thiry, our Director, thought I was the right person to write its history. At first sight this appeared easy, since my activities had followed the regular pace of the publication of CIRIEC's quarterly review and the congresses held every other year. Having, however, toiled among scholars, I also know that writing is inconceivable without being based on sound sources, not simply memories. This revealed the scale of the task because, if CIRIEC was 50 years old, its review was nearly 90; it holds a mirror up to the economic and social development of the century. It also bears witness to its founder's unflagging fight to create awareness and uphold both the public sector economy and the cooperative and social economy in their various forms and structures.

Founded and managed by a scientist but also a man of spirit with deep social and humane convictions, the "Annals" was not a straightforward specialized review like many others; it has been a weapon conceived by Professor Edgard Milhaud to contradict falsehoods published elsewhere. It was first a platform for the major protagonists and managers of the public sector economy, and later, the cooperative movement, and other forms of action in the service of the general interest.

CIRIEC's history cannot therefore be described without paying tribute to its founder and without mentioning the eventful heritage of the review which he bequeathed to us. To draw his portrait, the best I can do is to quote the fine words spoken or written on numerous occasions by his friends, colleagues and followers.

Finally I chose to describe CIRIEC's progress over the years by attempting to confine myself to what appears decisive for its future, separating from each other the particular aspects of the "Annals", the Congresses and National Sections. Neither must the memory of Paul Lambert be left unmentioned; he was Edgard Milhaud's heir and his worthy successor for twenty years.

CIRIEC has always had the good fortune to be assisted by men and women of high intellectual and human stature. In the following pages I shall mention a number of them but there are many others. I ask to be forgiven for having sacrificed some of them to the readability of a text which already risks resembling a report rather than an account of an adventure.

Yvonne GELARD

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TRIBUTE TO EDGARD MILHAUD *

1873 – 1964

He was a frail man, with a sparkling intelligence and an attentive air, revealing boundless enthusiasm and an urge to communicate.

Licencié ès Lettres, then brilliant Agrégé de philosophie at Paris-Sorbonne in 1895, his lectures, contacts and friendships first of all directed him towards the study of socialism, economics and social movements.

In 1899 he became Economic Advisor to the French Ministry of Trade and Industry. He had already published a large number of articles in left-wing publications, cooperated with Jean Jaurès and frequented the Internationale congresses. Among his friends were Albert Thomas, Léon Blum, Vincent Auriol and Georges Fauquet to mention just a few among those who through their convictions or action exerted an influence on their era.

In 1902 he was called to the Chair of Political Economy at the University of Geneva. It was the beginning of a long and famous academic career. In Geneva in 1915 he was one of the founders of the Faculty of Economic and Social Science and was its first dean. Academic eminence however never separated him from the fight for social justice and peaceful progress. Certainly he was a militant, a visionary and an idealist but he always remained perfectly aware of underlying realities at any given moment. For instance as early as 1914 he opened his course of lectures with a discourse on "The World Economy and the League of Nations", culminating in 1948 with a farewell address with the title "Summary of Social Conquests in the Twentieth Century".

* The sources which have largely inspired this pen portrait of Edgard Milhaud are the contributions of Charles-Henri Barbier and André Baeyens on "Second Miscellanies of Social and Political Economy produced for Edgard Milhaud: The Collective Economy" - "Seconds mélanges d'économle politique et sociale offerts à Edgard Milhaud: L'économie collective", CIRIEC 1960 and also: "Tribute to Edgard Milhaud", booklet published by CJRIEC in 1964 at the time of his death.

Edgard Milhaud also wrote as easily as he spoke. His review "Annals of the Collective Economy" alone bears abundant witness. But nowadays we tend to ignore to too great an extent the large number of works – more than 20 – which, as a forerunner, he devoted mainly to the organization of peace (since "Du droit de la force à la force du droit" – "From Might is Right to 'Right is Might' " in 1915 up to "L'alternative de fer: paix totale ou guerre" – "The Iron Alternative: Total Peace or War" in 1946). His subjects included international trade restoration and world economic and monetary organization based on clearing i.e. the Milhaud Plan (1933) which Paul Lambert found followed up in the 1943 Keynes Plan, later in the Triffin Plan and subsequently in the European Payments Union.

Nor should one forget his role in the International Labour Organization. He directed its Economic Section until 1933, after, between 1920 and 1925, having successfully completed a monumental "Enquiry into Production" (nine volumes) covering 13 European countries and analyzing the economic circumstances responsible for the depression.

His written works in 1949 won him the Prize of the French Academy for Moral and Political Science.

Paul Lambert saw in him the founder of the public economy concept in political science. Bernard Lavergne also acknowledged that he had been inspired by his book "La marche au socialisme" ("The March to Socialism") (1920) in his own writing on cooperative societies and cooperative public agencies.

He was a member of the Committee of Honour of the International Cooperative Alliance from 1913. Among the large number of tasks he undertook between the two world wars it is curious to note his term of office as President of the Belgo-Luxembourg Mixed Arbitration Tribunal (1926-1929), conferred on him by the League of Nations.

In order that the "Annals" should survive him, his international fervour led him to found CIRIEC in 1947 but, at the same time, he also convened the 1951 Geneva Inaugural Assembly of the European Council of Municipalities and again in 1953 he instigated the formation of a European Community for Municipal Credit.

His was the long and full life of a scholar while persistently struggling for a better world.

50 YEARS IN THE LIFE OF CIRIEC

BIRTH – BERNE 1947

For 45 years Professor Edgard Milhaud had been teaching political economy at the University of Geneva. In a year he was due to retire at the age of 75. However he was not ready to abandon the action and projects which still flowed from him for the achievement of better economic and social organization in the world, as a way of ensuring lasting peace. For five years, in various works, he had revealed the amazing power of his writing, his foresight into political and social occurrences and his qualities as a sound economist.

He firmly intended to continue this task and consequently he re-launched the "Annals of the Collective Economy", the review which he had founded on his own in 1908. Single-handed he had taken on its management, editing, supervision of translations, secretariat and ... the coverage of deficits until the war deprived him of all subscribers outside Switzerland and forced him to give it up in 1943.

When the war came to an end, it appeared unrealistic to hope to start alone from scratch again. On 9 December 1946, and 12 February 1947, Edgard Milhaud therefore brought to Berne a group of Swiss friends, mainly from the cooperative movement, trade unions, politics and universities. They approved and decided to support his proposal to make the "Annals" "a kind of moral and intellectual fortress for the institution of a research and information centre which would be capable, if need be, of undertaking surveys in various countries and which would be provided with the means to do so". In 1948 he published in the "Annals" the draft statutes accompanied by a preamble in which the reasons for starting the movement were described.

The legal structure of the Centre was based on the former International Association for the Legal Protection of Workers and its International Labour Office, an association replaced after the 1st World War by the more official Organisation Internationale du Travail and the ILO. He even dreamed of the possibility of a similar development

where, as part of the United Nations for example, given the importance of the task, CIRIEC would form an international governmental organization. It could perhaps even be accompanied by a non-governmental international association where the same questions could be freely discussed, like the International Association for Social Progress formed on the fringes of the ILO. This would then be a new CIRIEC! But let's come back to earth ...

Very soon Edgard Milhaud obtained support for his project from important people in the circles concerned in various countries, above all in Europe. The majority had already cooperated in the "Annals" before the war. They went on to form the first General Board of the International Centre for Research and Information on the Collective Economy (CIRIEC). The name closely corresponded to the objective and terminology of the "Annals".

Some Terminology

"The object of the Centre is to initiate and promote by all means at its disposal all forms of research and dissemination of information on collective economy existing throughout the world in its various forms and their relationships: public utility agencies, co-operative societies, co-operative public agencies, other forms of undertakings of general interest, organised economy, plan systems etc." (Article 2 of the original statutes).

The substance of the clear and broad object has never varied but its wording has had to be adjusted on several occasions to match the concerns and the economic and social language, even the political sensitivities, in the various countries. For instance "public utility agencies" and "cooperative public agencies" became "municipalism", "inter-communal", "national regional or local public authority enterprises". "Planning systems", then "interventionism" and "public sector economic initiative" in their turn caused reservations in one or other of the countries. The "trade unions' economic role" appeared at a later stage to develop into narrower versions such as "co-management", "self management" and "participation", no less subject to controversy.

Even the expression "collective economy" (and its French translation "économie collective") raised difficulties through its deliberate or unconscious connotation with the "collectivist" economy of communist regimes. Forty years after its use by Edgard Milhaud in

the "Annals", it had not really penetrated into economic language. After many and long discussions between French-speaking members, between public sector or cooperative scholars and managers, the expression was finally abandoned both in the title of the "Annals" and in CIRIEC's name. The alternative "the economy of general interest" also being subject to reservations, this time from political scientists, the 1974 General Assembly finally adopted for the French denomination the current more cumbersome but more explicit wording "public, social and cooperative economy". The Belgian Section immediately followed the change but the French Section for a long time maintained the original wording.

The English title had already been adjusted to "public and co-operative economy" in 1964. As far as the English title "Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy" was concerned, in 1988 it was corrected by English-speaking economists familiar with the "Annals" editorship and became "Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics" to assert its scientific character.

The expression "social economy" was also the subject of numerous discussions as years went by, from the time of the ILO up to the European Economic and Social Committee. The present version, i.e. the part of the economy which neither belongs to the public sector nor motivated entirely by financial profit, does not correspond to the meaning it previously had in the history of economic thought. Apart from associations, foundations and similar institutions conducting non-profit making economic activities, it obviously also includes mutual societies and cooperatives. If the latter term is expressly included in the new name, it is partially in order to stress its importance, but also, more prosaically, to preserve some meaning for the final C in the CIRIEC initials which no one wanted to meddle with.

Every international organization or association has terminology problems with the various languages it uses. The German translation of CIRIEC's name was no exception. The wording "Kollektivwirtschaft" was only used by a very few authors or translators. On the other hand the expression "Gemeinwirtschaft", which Edgard Milhaud had used from 1925 onwards for the German edition of the "Annals", seemed better known in German economic language and literature, although its precise contents were also controversial. In Greitz in 1923 a review with the title "Die Gemeinwirtschaft" had already appeared; its editor had, moreover, in 1925 published a book under the title "Die Gemeinwirtschaft als gesellschaftliches Verfassungssystem" (The Collective Economy as a Fundamental

Social System). During the fifties there still existed an "Akademie für Gemeinwirtschaft" at the University of Hamburg.

From 1953 onwards, at the 1st International Collective Economy Conference, a Terminology Committee was formed under the direction of Professor Gerhard Weisser, of the University of Cologne. Its task was to produce terminology as uniform as possible for the collective economy. After four years of meetings and reports, however, it had to be admitted that the discussions were becoming increasingly bogged down without any hope of reaching a clear and universally accepted concept, so divergent were the national structures and usages on the subject. Controversy persists. The founding society of the future German Section in Berlin was already working on a definition in 1954. As far as the Austrian Section was concerned, it was founded in 1952 as the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der österreichischen Gemeinwirtschaft (AdöG)", this being the term which in Austria at that time covered all the non-private sector of the economy (the public sector, cooperatives etc.). Owing to translation difficulties with this term in French and English but also taking into account the terminology within CIRIEC, the Section's name was amended in 1990. From then on it was called "Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft" now describing the social economy as it is understood in its usual French definition, also adopted by CIRIEC (i.e. cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations).

THE FIRST STEPS — GENEVA 1947 – 1957

Two Swiss organizations (l'Union Suisse des Coopératives de Consommation and l'Union Syndicale Suisse) provided Edgard Milhaud with the means for re-launching the "Annals" from **1948** onwards. The first issue opened with a summary of the review's past, a programme and an appeal to ensure its future, followed by the presentation of the CIRIEC statutes. The first Swiss promoters – above all including Charles-Henri Barbier, Jean Möri and Jean Treina – virtually constituted the first Board.

In the first General Board, comprising eminent Swiss and foreigners who had supported Edgard Milhaud's plan, notable are the names of statesmen such as Edouard Herriot, Léon Blum and Paul Ramadier for France, Louis de Brouckère, Camille Huysmans and

Joseph Merlot for Belgium, the General Secretary of the International Union of Towns and Local Authorities, the President of the United States' Cooperative League, senior managers of British, Belgian, French and even Chinese and Indian cooperative movements, and scientists such as Ernest Labrousse, Bernard Lavergne, Georges Fauquet, Jean Marchal, François Perroux, Georges Laserre and Angelos Angelopoulos, etc.

For 10 years it was mainly with the support of Swiss organizations well disposed towards Edgard Milhaud that the publication and re-launch of the "Annals", first of all in French and English and three years later in German, were ensured. It was necessary to rebuild the subscription list as fast as possible. To do this he travelled through Switzerland, France, Belgium, Germany and Austria. He wrote to his large number of correspondents throughout the world and to numerous national and international organizations of a "social" nature with which he had been in touch for a long time. In 1951, for example, he took advantage of the Geneva meeting of the Inaugural Assembly of the Council of the Municipalities of Europe to draw the large number of municipal representatives' attention to CIRIEC.

He established the amount of the regular contribution to CIRIEC at the level of the subscription price for the "Annals", i.e. 25 Swiss Francs (8 Dollars, 250 Belgian Francs at the time); this was the pre-war price with furthermore all kinds of reductions for individual members, group subscriptions etc. Fortunately he could also count on people of goodwill to collect additional supporting contributions.

As early as the second 1948 number the headline appeared "Belgium has heard our appeal. A Research and Information Centre on the Collective Economy in the Province of Liège" (statutes published in the "Moniteur Belge" in 1952 however already covered a *de facto* Belgian Section).

In Lausanne in **1949**, Jean Treina, Secretary of State in the Canton of Geneva and a friend of Edgard Milhaud, with representatives of various interested movements formed a French-speaking Swiss Section of CIRIEC. As was the case in Belgium it soon became the Swiss Association of CIRIEC.

In Paris in January **1950**, at the instigation of Léon Jouhaux, President of the Force Ouvrière (FO) Union and President of the Economic Council, an inaugural meeting of the French Section of

CIRIEC took place. Senior managers of nationalized companies, representatives of municipal organizations, cooperatives, trade unions, scholars, and ... Guy Mollet, General Secretary of the SFIO (French Section of the Internationale), attended.

From **1951** onwards, the "Annals" appeared regularly in three editions with a total of nearly 400 pages per year. Reorganization of international exchange, housing, and nationalization occupied a large part of the space. As previously, Edgard Milhaud made numerous personal contributions. He collected and reproduced the most interesting passages on the collective economy in publications from international bodies such as the UNO, ILO and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

In **1952** in the "Annals" he announced the institution of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der österreichischen Gemeinwirtschaft (AdöG)", resulting from a survey carried out at the instigation of the Österreichischer Städtebund (Austrian Association of Cities and Local Authorities). The latter enabled the aspirations and problems of the Gemeinwirtschaft (collective/nonprofit economy) sector to be aired for the first time. Professor Hans Bayer of the University of Innsbruck emphasized the economic importance and role of the enterprises in the non-profit sector as instruments of economic policy. He also demonstrated their common foundations despite their sectoral diversity. The link between theory and practice was therefore decisive, from the very outset when it was decided to establish the Austrian Section. Similarly reference had already been made to CIRIEC founded in Geneva in 1947 and its supranational perspectives. There followed the institution of AdöG with 52 members, among them 15 industrial companies, 15 consumer cooperatives, 3 mutual insurance societies, 1 energy sector company and 17 eminent people from various scientific, business and administration domains. Returning to his dream, Edgard Milhaud saw in this new association the emergence of a need for an international organization on the collective economy, going beyond the research and information remit. The new Austrian national association foresaw the building of relations with foreign institutes which pursued similar aims.

In **1953** Edgard Milhaud convened the 1st International Collective Economy Conference in Geneva; it was an open congress and not confined to members of CIRIEC. Alongside it he organized the first General Assembly of the association. He arranged the Congress dates for 28-31 May, i.e. just before an International Labour

Conference which was going to bring to Geneva numerous representatives of workers', cooperative and governmental organizations, including some who would be interested in the collective economy.

He reported to the General Assembly on the first six years: the difficult, costly but successful re-launch of the "Annals", the existence of national sections in Switzerland, France, Belgium, Luxembourg (October 1951) and Austria, a section in the process of being formed in Italy and the direct accession of major national organizations in Great Britain, the United States and Germany.

He proposed that the General Assembly examine the first adjustments to the statutes which would take into account the existence of national sections. The latter would henceforth be represented on a Board (where initially the members had to be close to the association's headquarters). The Board would apply the decisions of the General Assembly and the General Board, the rules of procedure for the permanent office and appoint the director. An Executive Committee was entrusted with day-to-day management. This was indeed a complicated structure for an association which in fact still rested entirely on the shoulders of a single man!

In **1954** Edgard Milhaud finally allowed himself the luxury of help from a permanent secretariat. On several occasions he had already used the services of Germaine Calame for typing. She became his regular assistant – theoretically part-time. Very soon she took over the accounts. In fact it was from that moment that the CIRIEC accountancy was started. Apart from income from subscription and Swiss aid, the Centre was at the time receiving contributions from national sections and several direct member organizations in various countries.

A national Section was formed in Yugoslavia which was based on the Union of Yugoslav Economists' Associations, which former students of Edgard Milhaud belonged to. In Germany, two institutes of the University of Cologne acceded to CIRIEC (Forschungsstätte für öffentliche Unternehmen and Institut für Selbsthilfe). They were managed by Professor Gerhard Weisser already entrusted by the 1953 General Assembly with managing the proceedings of the Terminology Committee. With his colleagues, and above all his assistant Theo Thiemeyer, he was to play a major role in what would later become the Theory Commission, then the Scientific Commission.

In June **1955** Edgard Milhaud organized in Geneva a CIRIEC conference on the condition of workers in collective economy undertakings. Several articles had already appeared on the subject in the "Annals", notably relating to cooperatives. A survey had cleared the ground, the results of which the "Annals" published in the same year, as well as various conference contributions.

In autumn the Belgian Section organized the IInd Congress in Liège. There, a name appeared for the first time in CIRIEC proceedings: Paul Lambert, Professor of the Law Faculty of Liège. At the suggestion of Professor Maurice Delbouille, founding member of the Belgian Section, he was entrusted with presenting the Congress with a "report on the collective economy in the world".

Edgard Milhaud still kept the reins of day-to-day management firmly in his hands but he nonetheless was concerned with the future of CIRIEC and ... the "Annals". Among Swiss friends, whom he had contacted on the subject, no one was prepared to commit themselves. He therefore turned to Professor Maurice Delbouille and the national Section in his view most suitable to undertake this task. Maurice Delbouille was in fact a Senator, mayor of a municipality in the Liège district and General Manager of the Liège Electricity Association. He was however principally a Professor of Romance philology and not an economist. According to him CIRIEC needed an economist to lead it, involved in the same areas of research and holding the same convictions. Edgard Milhaud at the Liège Congress then met Paul Lambert who at the same time had been appointed General Secretary of the Belgian Section and was to manage a completely new secretariat.

The revision of the statutes proposed in 1953 was adopted by the Liège General Assembly. Edgard Milhaud was at the time President of CIRIEC and Director of its permanent office.

In **1956** new national sections emerged. At the start of the year an Italian Section was founded in Milan at the instigation of Dott. Alberto Mortara with the support of the Confederation of Municipalities (Confederazione delle municipalizzazione). It was particularly interested in the public sector economy and immediately armed itself with a scientific committee comprising eminent university scholars.

In Greece at the same time Professor Angelos Angelopoulos of the University of Athens, founded a Greek Section of CIRIEC which had as objectives the study of the public and cooperative sectors.

In May **1957**, the IIIrd Congress was held in Puteaux, near Paris, organized by the French Section. At the Congress emerged the names of the Section's main activists in the coming years: Albert Gazier, Maurice Montel, Gabriel Ventejol and Gabriel Rouanet. On Edgard Milhaud's proposal, the General Assembly subsequently decided on the transfer to Belgium, in Liège precisely, of the CIRIEC Headquarters and its Permanent Office, where Paul Lambert became Director assisted by Yvonne Gélard, the Belgian Section's management secretary since 1956. Edgard Milhaud remained President of the Association and kept the management of the "Annals". Professor Maurice Delbouille was appointed Executive Vice-President. He held a delicate position during the forthcoming period in the relationship between two strong personalities.

At the end of 1957, Edgard Milhaud came to Liège to baptise at a Board meeting the new premises that the Société Mutuelle des Administrations Publiques (SMAP) had made available to CIRIEC at 45 quai de Rome.

The same year, the "Annals" at the Puteaux Congress had published an issue devoted to the collective economy in France. The **1958** World Fair in Brussels gave Edgard Milhaud the idea of devoting a similar issue to the collective economy in Belgium. The volume had more than 300 pages and was to be entirely carried out and financed in Belgium, with a large separate offprint to be used as publicity for CIRIEC. Edgard Milhaud, always the enthusiast, wanted the same procedure to be followed at each congress.

In **1959** the IVth Congress was held in Belgrade at the prompting of Aser Deleon, Secretary of the Yugoslav Trades Unions Central Council and a former student of Edgard Milhaud. The reports presented at the Congress on a very ambitious theme "Collective Economy and Economic Development" were of exceptional quality; at the time it was impossible to predict the difficulties with which the Yugoslav Section would be confronted. After the hard work of the publication of the proceedings in Yugoslavia itself, the national Section was suddenly dismantled only to be re-born after a quarter of a century later in Ljubljana.

PROGRESS UNDER PAUL LAMBERT

1957 - 1977

As soon as he arrived at the head of the Belgian Section in 1956 Paul Lambert launched a periodical "Expériences". Edgard Milhaud, who above all expected help from the national Sections to feed and circulate the "Annals" saw a danger of internal competition. Following his insistence, Paul Lambert first committed himself from then on only to publish articles of particular interest to Belgium. In exchange he became co-manager of the "Annals" from 1960 onwards. In a second stage, Paul Lambert agreed to give up "Expériences"; Edgard Milhaud decided to entrust him with the complete management of the "Annals" and also gave up the Presidency of CIRIEC.

He convened an extraordinary General Assembly in Geneva in May 1960 to formalise these decisions. The meeting in accordance with his wishes, elected Professor Maurice Delbouille President of CIRIEC; he himself became Honorary President of the Association.

The same evening, during a friendly ceremony, he was formally presented with the "Second Miscellanies of Political and Social Economy" edited in his honour by CIRIEC. The first "Miscellanies" was produced for him in 1933 by his colleagues in the University of Geneva.)

Only from **1960** onwards did the "Annals" appear with the express mention on its cover: "Publication of the International Centre of Research and Information on Collective Economy".

In Liège Paul Lambert occupied the important Chair of Political Economy. As a result of having political scientists available to him through the university and following the efforts of CIRIEC's secretariat he was able to conduct a large number of research projects on collective economy themes. Since the 1958 publication of his book "The Cooperative Doctrine" he himself had become well known as a theoretician of the cooperative movement.

Through purchases, subscriptions and exchanges a documentation centre had been developed by the Belgian Section, notably to feed the bibliography of recent books and articles on the collective economy published in "Expériences" and continued in the "Annals" from 1960 onwards. For three years it was also used as a

basis for the publication in the "Annals" of a regular column on the collective economy, a kind of broad press survey, to which Edgard Milhaud had already been attached for some time between the two wars. He was delighted to see the response to it.

Also from February 1958 onwards and up to 1968 the Permanent Office in Liège had undertaken the publication of an internal information bulletin "News of the C.I.R.I.E.C." to be used as a link with the sections and between them. In addition to a quick round-up of information shortly after the congresses and a summary of decisions taken by the Board or the General Assembly, it spread information on the activity of national sections, the proceedings of the Scientific Commission and provided documentary notes. A supplement for Belgian members included information previously published in "Expériences" on the collective economy in Belgium.

In this way the beginnings of the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation (CEEP) were stated with a conference on the importance of the public sector in EEC countries, organized in Berlin in November 1964 at the instigation of the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft, in fact the German Section of CIRIEC. Paul Lambert was part of the working group entrusted with preparing the first conference (Brussels, 1961) while his main collaborator, Edmond Langer, was in the secretariat with Wolfgang Zetzschke, of Berlin, Mr. Lorenzotti, representative of IRI and Henri Gironella, the future General Secretary of CEEP. The second conference (Rome, 1962) laid the foundations of an association which was formally instituted in Brussels in 1963. The draft statutes produced by the GÖW prescribed moreover a link with CIRIEC. This, however, was not followed up and the respective objectives of CEEP and CIRIEC were, at the time, difficult to reconcile.

The Golden Sixties

The sixties were for CIRIEC – as was the case for the Western World at large – years of growth. In Belgium Paul Lambert obtained financing from various sources: for CIRIEC itself, as an international organization with its registered office in Belgium, for its researches and, as has been seen, for the "Annals".

Here again reading through the "Annals" is an almost sufficient reminder of CIRIEC activities:

- First of all the congresses, which set the pace, with the abortive attempt to publish reports in advance and, as soon as possible afterwards, the complete proceedings;
- The work of the Theory Commission over which Professor Gerhard Weisser presided on price formation in public sector undertakings and later on the financing of public sector undertakings and cooperatives, with the dedicated cooperation of Theo Thiemeyer and Professor Giorgio Stefani of the University of Ferrara;
- The publications of Paul Lambert himself on the subject of the cooperative movement notably on the principles of cooperation; those of Edmond Langer, his principal collaborator at the university, including a work on nationalization in Austria, which has become an obligatory work of reference both in French and German.
- The various projects conferred upon young researchers in Liège, including a huge study on the collective economy in the various countries and regions of the world.

Among the existing national sections some marked time but others developed fast. The intervals between congresses and their growing prestige bore witness: Vienna **1961**, Rome **1963**, Berlin **1965**.

In Austria AdöG, the association whose protagonist was Karl Pröbsting, Director of one of the undertakings of the city of Vienna, played an important role in the official representation ("Interessenvertretung") of public sector undertakings. The association, by means of a range of media actions, informed the public of the activities of public sector and cooperative undertakings with a host of instructive and popularizing actions.

In Italy the national Section located in Milan was already making intense publication and research efforts, particularly concentrating on the economy and public sector undertakings. Its Vice-President, Alberto Mortara, was able to achieve cooperation from various universities, so that the research contracts he issued were successfully carried out. He enabled CIRIEC to take advantage of the wide network of the correspondents which he maintained throughout the world.

In Germany, the inauguration of a true CIRIEC national Section was decided upon in Berlin in May 1960 by the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft with which Professor Gerhard Weisser's Institutes in Cologne already closely cooperated.

The Belgian Section – becoming the Belgo-Luxembourg Section – like the Swiss Section in the past, devoted most of its human and material resources to supporting international activity.

In France the national Section, it seemed, did not have the time to take advantage for its expansion of the high-level links which Edgard Milhaud maintained in the country. The arrival of the Fifth Republic and the movements of people heading nationalized companies aggravated difficulties already encountered, despite the active support of the Force Ouvrière trade union and the consumer cooperative movement.

The Swiss Association remained faithful but did not manage to extend beyond the cooperatives and unions.

On the other hand the Greek Section, at the behest of Stratis D. Someritis and Professor Epaminondas Spiliotopoulos was in the process of finalizing the organization of the VIIIth Congress in 1967 when the Colonels' coup d'état broke out. The Board of CIRIEC under the circumstances refused to hold the Congress in Athens and took action to reimburse the advance made by the deposed Greek government. The Belgian Section offered to organize the missed Congress in Liège in the autumn of 1968.

Edgard Milhaud still took an active part in the Vienna Congress then the one in Rome in 1963, where the Italian Section celebrated his 90th anniversary. He died shortly afterwards in Barcelona in 1964. Many other pioneers of CIRIEC or its sections also passed away around this time: Paul Ramadier, Karl Honay, Joseph Leclercq and others.

In 1965 on a proposal from Professor Maurice Delbouille, who was always considered a transitional President, the General Assembly in Berlin made Paul Lambert President of the Association, thereby combining the functions of President and General Manager, and elected Maurice Delbouille Honorary President.

The Congresses in Vienna, Rome, Berlin and then Liège in 1968 brought together a large number of delegations. Their budget frightened the poorer sections whose finances or range did not allow them to plan for so extensive an organization.

In **1970** therefore the Swiss Section invited not a congress but an international Symposium to Montreux where attendance was to be limited to about 300 people, without the costly prestige-generating events. Noticeable among the Rapporteurs was Professor Arthur Lerner, of the Sir George Williams University of Montreal who had just formed a CIRIEC national Section in Canada. This success was due to Alberto Mortara's contacts which were at the same time led to the formation of an ephemeral Indian Section managed by Dr. Satish C. Seth of New Delhi, also invited to Montreux.

Even more ephemeral than the Indian was the Iranian Section started by a Professor of the University of Teheran who had translated and published Paul Lambert's "The Cooperative Doctrine" into Persian.

Numerous other attempts to found new national sections were made by Paul Lambert himself. Having become representative of the Belgian Cooperative Movement in the Central Committee and subsequently the Executive of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), he found numerous opportunities in their meetings which were likely to lead to positive results.

Other Board members also attempted to make CIRIEC well known. This was the case for Karl Pröbsting who regularly frequented the congresses of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA). The same applied to Anton Rauter who represented the Austrian Cooperative Movement in the ICA. Each one of them reported to the Board on the steps they had taken and the prospects in view. The failure of repeated attempts during the sixties and seventies in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and Great Britain appeared inexplicable since on numerous occasions, rapporteurs from these countries had featured in congress programmes. It was necessary to wait until the end of the eighties and the nineties for permanent contacts to be established in Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Nonetheless there could be seen in Scandinavia firstly, in the International Public Transport Union, and secondly, spontaneous projects aimed at making enquiries among circles or persons concerned in the appropriateness of forming a Scandinavian Section and arranging collective accession. It seemed that in CIRIEC there

was both a lack of time and eagerness necessary to make a convincing case.

André Hirschfeld, Vice-President of the French Section and Professor at the Cooperative College, however, had many contacts in developing countries in French-speaking Africa but, clearly, in this case it is only possible to speak of contacts since they were soon lost.

In **1972** the Austrian Section renewed with the prestigious congresses by organizing the IXth Congress in Vienna. Bearing in mind the pivotal position of Austria between East and West, AdöG had obtained the agreement of the CIRIEC Board to invite some scientific personalities from Eastern countries as observers. Among the speakers at the Congress, discussing "The future tasks of public and co-operative economy", noticeable are the names of the Indian President Satish C. Seth, invited by the organizers, Professor Abraham Daniel from the University of Tel Aviv, President of the Israeli Section, and Dr. Arturo Vainstok, President of the Agricultural Cooperative Movement and President of the Argentine Section.

In **1974** the German Section organized the Xth Congress in Hamburg. Originally mainly confined to the public sector economy, the German Section has now widened its activities to include *de facto* a branch of the collective economy, which at the time in Germany was currently designated as the "Gemeinwirtschaft", embracing consumer cooperatives as well as unions and their undertakings. Taking this into account, as far back as 1970 the German Section renamed itself the "Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft", the name which it kept up to the collapse of the union's collectivist economy in Germany, before reverting to its original name "Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft" in 1988. The organization of the Hamburg Congress nonetheless benefitted from substantial support from unions undertakings. With Professor John Kenneth Galbraith, the eminent economist, the organizers obtained a speaker of world-wide fame for the Congress who, however, because of a translation problem spoke, under the general theme of "Public and Co-operative Economy and the Quality of life", on "Corporations in the Eighties" instead of on "The Future of Society". Confusion arose over the word "society" translated from the German "Gesellschaft" (company) !

The General Assembly which followed examined a draft revision of the statutes which had been discussed for several years in order accurately to define the role of the President and to provide for the

election of one or two Vice-Presidents. Times had changed since Edgard Milhaud. The national Sections wanted to be more closely associated with the running of the International Centre, notably, if there happened to be a sudden or temporary vacancy in the presidency.

The Crisis of the Seventies

Financing international activities had always caused problems despite the efforts to make a considerable increase in national sections' contributions, among which however considerable differences remain. The Belgian Section continued to bear the deficit without complaining too much so long as the Section itself did not have problems of this kind; it was the price to be paid for CIRIEC's being located in Belgium.

CIRIEC and the "Annals" changed their names. Paul Lambert explained this under the heading of the 1964 English edition and the 1974 French edition of the review, but the adjustment of terminology was also one of the phases of the struggle taking place both inside and outside the organization.

European public sector undertakings were increasingly adopting the forms of private sector management, more successful in financial matters if not in social terms. It gave advantage to international contacts within CEEP, which was their spokesman and lobby in relations with the European Commission. Also the European consumer cooperative movement was finding it difficult to compete with the large private sector distribution groups. The French, Belgian and Swiss national Sections lost several of their members as a result.

In **1976**, with the assistance of Maurice Konopnicki, a former supporter of CIRIEC in Liège, later Professor at the University of Haïfa, the Israeli Section, which relied upon Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, the union's holding company, organized the XIth Congress in Tel Aviv. It was the first time that CIRIEC had departed from Europe. It was also the first congress which had dealt with the economic crisis. Once more thanks to Alberto Mortara, Guiseppe Petrilli, the head of the Italian public sector's oil holding company ENI, presented one of the three main reports.

The General Assembly which followed was tense. Paul Lambert's health had already deteriorated.

In the beginning of **1977** Paul Lambert still had the strength to go to Argentina at the invitation of the members of the cooperatives and the national Section but in September he succumbed to the cancer which had been threatening him. Several months before he had asked his former collaborator, Joseph Stassart, who in turn had become Professor at the University of Liège, to take over some of his tasks, but no arrangements had been made for CIRIEC.

Invited by the Bureau of the Belgian Section, meeting in the Brussels Town Hall, by its President Hervé Brouhon, Joseph Stassart himself declined the succession but suggested the name of Guy Quaden, a young associate professor at the University of Liège. André Hirschfeld, Vice-President of CIRIEC, on his side, very quickly convened the Board in Paris. As prescribed in the statutes it was up to him to take on the Presidency of the Association until the next General Assembly. Maintaining its point of view, the Belgian delegation led by Hervé Brouhon and Roger Ramaekers, General Secretary of FEBECOOP and good friend of Paul Lambert and CIRIEC, proposed the candidature of Guy Quaden to the Board for the management of CIRIEC.

In the meantime the Greek colonels' regime had fallen. Stratis D. Someritis had returned from exile and made it a point of honour to organize in Athens in 1978 the Congress which had been disrupted in 1967.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL LAMBERT

1912 – 1977

Paul Lambert shared with Edgard Milhaud, with equally deep commitment, the same moral values, political convictions and aspirations and the same combative spirit. It was not, however, by keeping company with philosophers that he came to socialism and the social struggle; son of a workers' family who lived in an inner city development, he was immersed in the movement from an early age. Tall, fair and impressive, at first sight somewhat distant, he revealed far-reaching intelligence. His measured and strong voice and fluent eloquence would have made him a major political figure if circumstances and the Second World War had not diverted his career in a different direction.

He received his doctor's degree in Law and his master's in Economics and Social Sciences from the University of Liège, and in 1939, the aggregation for higher education in political economy. He was an enthusiastic follower of John-Maynard Keynes' theories, himself a brilliant analyst of monetary questions. He began his mainly academic career after the war where he had endured five years of harsh captivity. Appointed to the University of Liège in 1946, at the end of the fifties he was given the Chair of Political Economy at the Law Faculty.

If in all respects he appeared as the ideal person to continue Edgard Milhaud's work in CIRIEC, it was because alongside his purely academic teaching and research, he had never failed to uphold his doctrinal convictions at workers' education conferences, in a large number of press articles and in the cooperative and trade union movements. It is in this light that he is seen in Belgium, firstly member of the Management Committee and Board of the Société Nationale de Crédit à l'Industrie, and secondly President of FEBECOOP (Belgian Federation of Cooperatives), a movement which he represented at the Central Committee and Executive of the International Cooperative Alliance.

A great debater on cooperative principles and economic democracy, expert in the history of economic thought, he gained international fame through his work "The Cooperative Doctrine", still a compulsory work of reference for all researchers in the field, translated and published throughout the world.

Like Edgard Milhaud in Geneva he was intensely involved in university activity in Liège where he developed a substantial research service. In particular he led the reform and updating of studies in Business Administration.

Paul Lambert knew the value of hard work. Both in his university service and for CIRIEC and even in his league of former prisoners of war, he mastered practical and financial constraints linked to his projects. And in his permanent quest for the necessary financing he was never discouraged. Rather than a visionary, he was above all a consolidator.

His patience, ability to listen, occasional bursts of humour and also his authority in the conduct of the most difficult meetings always enabled him to reach a consensus, at first sight inconceivable.

Without doubt it is those who had the good fortune to read his account of captivity "Men Lost in the East" ("Hommes perdus à l'Est") who can best grasp his gift of generosity and human warmth.

THE RELAUNCH 1978 – 1988

The Athens General Assembly decided on the separation of the functions of President and General Manager. It confirmed Guy Quaden's appointment as General Manager, elected André Hirschfeld Honorary President and made Joseph Stassart President. As was formerly the case for Maurice Delbouille, the latter considered his role as transitory.

Guy Quaden was 33 years old, enjoyed the confidence of the Belgian Section which appointed him General Secretary. Very soon he made his mark in CIRIEC.

From **1978** onwards, the "Annals" received a distinctly academic impulse, with issues on special themes, mainly carried out under the management of qualified colleagues and attracting high-level contributors. Owing to costs and other reasons, translations were no longer a matter of course, but articles were summarized in the three languages. The English language publication gradually began to dominate.

After becoming Professor at the University of Liège, Guy Quaden mainly devoted his teaching and publications to the political economy. In the study of the public sector economy he had the advantage of the help of his colleague Pierre Pestieau, an internationally known theoretician. Also his assistant Jacques Defourny concentrated on the study of self management and the social economy.

His university contacts in Portugal enabled him to start the formation of a new national Section. In **1980** he organized the XIIIth Congress in Lisbon on "Public and Co-operative Enterprises: Autonomy – Controls – Participation".

At the following General Assembly Professor Ali Sait Yüksel of the University of Istanbul, announced the official formation of a Turkish national Section and issued an invitation for the next congress to be held in Turkey. Cautious, the meeting considered this step into the unknown to be premature and insisted that the new Section first of all prove its worth.

The 1980 General Assembly was due to elect a new President to replace Joseph Stassart. Initially it had been foreseen that the presidency would be taken in turn, at the same intervals as the congresses. On a proposal from German-speaking Sections, Anton E. Rauter, senior manager of the Austrian Cooperative Movement and Professor at the Wirtschaftsuniversität of Vienna, was elected for the first time. He was dynamic, accustomed to international meetings, with perfect command of English and able to assist CIRIEC in its international relations. He was a member of the Central Committee of the ICA. For 14 years he firmly conducted discussions in various instances.

Asked on several occasions, Alberto Mortara, remained faithful to the opinion that the presidency of CIRIEC needed a person with high international standing. He always refused to offer himself as a candidate, nonetheless he continued to work for the expansion of CIRIEC.

In May **1981**, the secretariat left the quai de Rome in Liège to move with the Law and Economics Faculty of the University of Liège in the new buildings built for it on the Sart Tilman campus, on the outskirts of the city. Apart from being more convenient for the General Manager's work, the new locality enabled the secretariat and researchers to be placed under one roof and made students' access to CIRIEC's documentation centre easier.

With the participation of Theo Thiemeyer, already Professor at the University of Bochum for many years and with the cooperation of Pierre Pestieau and the faithful Professor Giorgio Stefani, of the University of Ferrara, Guy Ouaden re-launched the Scientific Commission; its first President was Professor Theo Thiemeyer. The Sections continued to contribute to the formation of a new international team entrusted with studying the privatization of public sector undertakings which, after the Thatcherite experience, was spreading through one European country after another. The French Section thereby obtained the valuable assistance of Lionel Monnier, young Professor at the University of Rouen; CIRIEC had already been able to appreciate his major academic qualities at the time of a symposium on electricity pricing held in Liège in 1978. After taking his place at the head of the Scientific Working Party on Public Enterprises, in parallel with the one devoted to the Social and Cooperative Economy chaired by Jacques Defourny, he succeeded Theo Thiemeyer, who died suddenly at the end of 1991, at the head of the Scientific Council.

In **1982**, for the third time the international Congress was held in Vienna with the same impeccable organization and celebrations. For Karl Pröbsting then aged 70 it was the summit of his career before retirement. For nearly 30 years he had played a very active part in all meetings. Demanding, often critical, but always friendly he was one of the most loyal and reliable of CIRIEC's people. His successor Herbert Tieber, took on his offices until his own premature death in 1990. As Representative for Tyrol in the Austrian Parliament from 1984 to 1987, Herbert Tieber for the first time emphasized the harmful economic consequences of the ideological thinking, as propounded by conservatives, in the first big campaign for the privatization of public sector undertakings.

The French Section's situation fluctuated in step with the support and backing of bodies such as the Force Ouvrière, which had for sometime cooled down after the death of Gabriel Ventejol. It survived mainly in the social economy sector thanks to François Soulage, the inter-ministerial delegate for the social economy, and Jacques Vattier, President of the Post and Telephones Mutual Fund (Mutuelle des PTT).

The Greek Section once more went to sleep after the Athens Congress and the death of Stratis D. Someritis. Only Professor Constantin Delis, of the University of Athens continued personally to take part in the proceedings of the International Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises.

Guy Ouaden resumed contact with the Canadians for whom the CIRIEC initials meant the Centre Interuniversitaire de Recherches et d'Information sur l'Economie Coopérative. Links were re-established but the Section had become French-speaking and a Quebec one. In this case also the social economy provided a reconciling issue.

In Spain liberated from the Franco regime, CIRIEC's action in the field of social economy aroused the interest of the Director of the Department for Cooperation in the Ministry of Labour, Sebastián Reyna. A contact meeting was organized in Segovia in **1984**. Luis Alberto Carello, from the Argentine Section, was on the spot to provide evidence and encourage the project. Another contact meeting took place somewhat later in Seville in connection with a meeting of CIRIEC's Praesidium. CIRIEC's Spanish Section's inaugural assembly was held in Torremolinos (Málaga) in 1986. Professor José Luis Monzón Campos of the University of Valencia was elected President and it was due to him that CIRIEC was

effectively launched in Spain. José Luis Monzón Campos and his colleague Manuel Sánchez Ayuso had already had contacts with CIRIEC in 1981-1982 over the formation of a Section. Well structured, based mainly on the cooperative movement, the new national Section took part in force in the Congresses in Brussels, Bordeaux and Portorož, before itself issuing an invitation to hold the 1992 Congress in Valencia.

The decline of the consumer cooperative movement also affected Switzerland. For many years, Werner Bleile, Director of the Central Cooperative Bank in Bâle had presided over CIRIEC's Swiss Association. His successor Peter Buser, another CIRIEC faithful friend, had to admit the departure of traditional members, the absence of other prospects and the lack of interest in Switzerland for the academic tendency taken by CIRIEC. During a meeting of the International Board, invited to Bâle in 1986, the Swiss Section announced its intention to wind itself down.

The German Section experienced the repercussions of the unions' collectivist economy collapse in the country and once more concentrated its activities on the public economy.

Guy Quaden on the other hand re-launched various research projects in Belgium which affected both his Center for political economics at the University and CIRIEC. He obtained the confidence of social economy institutions and moreover succeeded Joseph Stassart at the Presidency of the Central Council of the Economy, the Belgian Economic and Social Committee.

As part of the productive cooperation which had arisen with his colleague Pierre Pestieau, he associated CIRIEC in the organization of an important international Symposium on the study of the performance criteria of public sector undertakings. Jacques Defourny in 1985 organized an international Conference in Liège on the social economy, attended by the majority of the discipline's theoreticians. The "Annals" published a number of their contributions in 1986.

In 1984 the Italian Section issued an invitation to the XVth International Congress in Florence on the theme "Growth or Stagnation: Public and Cooperative Intervention Domestic and International". It was a celebrated Congress for which Alberto Mortara, as in 1963, obtained the participation of high level rapporteurs: the Ministers Michel Rocard and Benjamino Andreatta,

Professor Lester Thurox (USA) and Edward Heath, the former British Prime Minister.

In its turn the Belgian Section invited the XVIth Congress to Brussels in **1986** on the theme "The Financing of Public and Co-operative Economy". It was able to obtain exceptional sponsorship and financing for the project. The King by his presence enhanced the formal opening session before having the rapporteurs and the main CIRIEC managers introduced to him.

In **1988**, thirty years after the Puteaux Congress, the French Section becoming dynamic again under its new President Jacques Vattier was in a position to organize the XVIIth Congress in Bordeaux on "Mixed Economy Systems in Modern Economies". The mutual society movement formed the hard core of French participation. The Belgian and Austrian delegates again largely dominated but attendance at the meetings ill-rewarded the organizers' efforts. The young CIRIEC-Spain however proved its effectiveness.

In January **1990** the Austrian Section's General Secretary, Herbert Tieber died after a painful illness. He was only 47 years of age. His successor is Gerhard Greiner, already active in the Section from 1971. He had made a decisive contribution to the organization of CIRIEC's Congresses in Vienna in 1972 and 1982.

In February 1990 the Italian Section was suddenly orphaned. Alberto Mortara, who had personally created and managed it so many years, died, having never seriously thought about a successor. Three of his friends, Massimo Pinchera, Giuseppe Bognetti and Dante Così, helped by the loyal Marisa Gipso assured the survival of what was his dearest work. In the case of the International Centre which he had helped more than anyone, it was the disappearance of the last pioneer from the Edgard Milhaud lineage and the loss of its most effective ambassador. His final success was the formation of a national Section in Japan, a section which started to show its quality at each congress from 1986 onwards and, despite the distance, at meetings of the International Board and Scientific Commissions.

In 1990, showing confidence in the new Yugoslav Section based in Ljubljana (Slovenia) and directed by Rado Bohinc, CIRIEC held its XVIIIth Congress at Portorož on the Adriatic shore a few kilometres from Trieste. The country wanted to integrate its economy into the European market and, to do this, studied the ways of reforming its self-management system. It only just managed to avoid an aborted

congress as had happened in Greece: a year afterwards the dramatic events broke out which, however, to a great extent spared Slovenia.

THE RUN-UP TO THE YEAR 2000

Shortly before the 1988 Congress Guy Quaden was appointed to the Board of the National Bank of Belgium. It was therefore necessary for him to hand over CIRIEC. Consequently at the General Assembly in Bordeaux, he proposed the candidature of his university colleague Bernard Thiry. The proposal was accepted. Loyal to CIRIEC, however, he remained Vice-President of the Belgian Section and Vice-President of the International Centre.

At the time Bernard Thiry was 34 years of age. He was a specialist in both labour and transport economy. A little later succeeding Joseph Stassart in the Chair of Political Economy at the University of Liège, he also followed in the footsteps in of Paul Lambert. The excellent contacts which he had been able to maintain in Belgium's academic, political and socio-economic circles, the ease with which he easily adapted to CIRIEC and his determination soon bore fruit.

It must also be said that Guy Quaden had left a fine "inheritance". Taking up his job in CIRIEC Bernard Thiry found a well run, well staffed, well equipped secretariat and which he already well knew. Suzy Lhonneux, Marilyn Garcia and Christine Dussart were shortly to be joined by Helen Lopez, Carmela De Cicco and Gunther Vranken. Surrounded by an outstanding research team, working in harmony with other Liège University services both in Belgium and abroad, notably as a result of the expansion of the Scientific Commissions' work, he brought fresh dynamism to CIRIEC.

He began by collecting around the "Annals" a broad circle of academic colleagues and supporters. He restructured its editing around its scientific tasks and rid it of practical and management restraints by concluding contracts with specialized publishers, first of all, the Editions De Boeck in Brussels and then Blackwell Publishers in Oxford.

From the start he made himself familiar with the social economy in order to be able to act as CIRIEC's advocate in the sector. In particular he presided over the formation of the Consultative Committee on Cooperatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations of the European Union. With Barbara Sak, his valuable right hand, he shared the work connected with research contracts, international relations, the preparation of congresses and meetings and proceedings of the Scientific Commissions. Between his courses at the university, Bernard Thiry acted as ambassador, travelling extensively, providing a fresh outlook for the expansion of CIRIEC.

Professor Lionel Monnier, of the University of Rouen, presided over the International Scientific Council supervising the work realized in the two main Scientific Commissions managed by Professor Helmut Cox, of the University of Duisburg, for public sector enterprises and by Professor José Luis Monzón Campos, of the University of Valencia, for the social and cooperative economy. Fully supported by Bernard Thiry, these managers of the scientific instances induced a publication dynamics inside CIRIEC basing on their respective work. Hence since 1992, about ten books have been published, not to mention possible publication in other languages.

After Slovenia, CIRIEC-Spain in **1992** invited the XIXth Congress to Valencia. The events' prestige and attendance were by no means overshadowed by the grandest of previous congresses. The proceedings on the general theme "Public enterprises, cooperatives, mutuals and non-profit organizations in the new Europe. Competition, public missions and solidarity" were shared between parallel meetings, one for the public sector economy and the other for the social economy, where discussions were particularly lively. As was the case in Brussels in 1986, where a collection of the works of the Scientific Commission on the Privatization of Public Sector Undertakings was distributed, in Valencia those taking part received a book containing the result of the Social and Cooperative Economy Scientific Commission's work on the "The Third Sector – Cooperative, Mutual and Nonprofit Organizations".

At the Valencia General Assembly a Swedish delegation formally announced the formation of a national Section in Sweden. It was based on the Swedish Cooperative Development and Research Institute (KOOPI) and the Swedish Society for Cooperative Studies. It immediately entered into the scientific work in progress and from that moment onwards played an active part in meetings. As in Spain, its structure and dynamism soon raised it to the level of the most active

and reliable national sections. In **1994** for the first time the Board of CIRIEC was able to meet in Stockholm. The same year it also met in Montreal testifying to the consolidation of links with CIRIEC-Canada, notably at the instigation of Marie-Claire Malo, Benoît Lévesque and Carol Saucier.

In 1994 the Austrian Section, the Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft, invited the XXth Congress to Graz around the theme "Cooperation instead of confrontation. Strategies for the future mixed economy". Despite circumstances which made the existence and legitimacy of the public and social economy increasingly difficult, the Austrian Section managed to find speakers such as the Head of State and the Minister directly concerned by the question, Viktor Klima, Member of the Board of the Austrian Section and the International Centre and Austrian Chancellor since November 1996, and also outstanding national and foreign personalities.

At the General Assembly which was held alongside the Graz Congress, Anton Rauter handed on CIRIEC's Presidency to Fritz Gautier. President-General Manager (Sprecher des Vorstandes der Gas-, Elektrizitäts- und Wasserwerke Köln AG) and Vice-President of the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft, Fritz Gautier, one of the outstanding upholders of the public economy in Europe, thus became CIRIEC's sixth President.

In **1996** CIRIEC held its Congress in Lisbon for the second time. As a result of the personal involvement of Herlândere Estrela, Madalena Santos Ferreira and Manuel Canaveira de Campos, the XXIst Congress was a great success. The highest officials in the land, led by the President and Prime Minister and the former President, Dr. Mario Soares, took part.

History now joins the present. It will therefore be in the activity reports and "CIRIEC-News", which has just been re-launched, that it will be possible to follow CIRIEC's progress from now on.

This provides the opportunity of repeating Edgard Milhaud's last words without false modesty, to CIRIEC at the time of the closure of the 1963 General Assembly in Rome " ... I have followed your work. In the discussions you have maintained a high standard of scientific value throughout, well worthy of the great heights to which the "Annals" have risen ... Our organization is an admirable one ... CIRIEC is a living, growing institution. I am convinced that it will achieve the aims it has set out to achieve. "

50 is a fine age for any association whatever it may be. After its founder Edgard Milhaud, on its journey our association has had the good fortune to encounter Paul Lambert, Guy Quaden and lastly Bernard Thiry, all men of great scientific value, brilliant writers and speakers and, each one in his own way, a humane person with firm convictions.

The celebration of the **50th Anniversary** will culminate in the organization in Brussels on 26 September 1997 of a symposium on the theme "The Public, Social and Cooperative Economy and the General Interest. Which roles in the XXIst Century?. It will attract, apart from all of CIRIEC's friends, a large number of personalities in the political, economic and academic world but also from the administration and unions as well as representatives of all the sectors falling within CIRIEC's scope.

THE "ANNALS"

I. The "Annales de la Régie directe"

Alone against a bridled press, Edgard Milhaud in 1908 decided to start a campaign against the private railway companies in France, which he accused of sacrificing safety for profitability. He demanded their take-over by the State – following the example of other countries such as the German States, Switzerland, Belgium and Austria and also, moreover, the nationalization of a number of economic services. The creation of the "Annales de la Régie directe" (Annals of Direct State and Municipal Services) was a bold move, as he described it himself in 1948; with neither capital nor editor, for the young French Professor at the University of Geneva it represented "a sacred social duty". Paul Lambert recognized in him the father of the public economy.

Railways and the municipalization of public services formed the subject matter of the review up to the First World War. Apart from a large number of articles, generally short, each number contained a regular news column and a specialized bibliography. Edgard Milhaud himself was an active contributor. Albert Thomas and Jean Jaurès delved into it for ammunition for their political battles. Noticeable among the first authors are Edouard Herriot, Emile Vandervelde and Alessandro Schiavi.

The 1914-18 war did not interrupt the publication of the "Annals" but the annual number of pages decreased from 400 to 200. Municipal efforts for bringing in fresh supplies took up a good deal of space and in 1915 one could notice, under the name of Ernest Poisson, a first article on cooperative and municipal combination for the sale of meat in Paris. As early as 1918 an account from the German Ministry of the Economy on the Construction of the Collective Economy (Gemeinwirtschaft) appeared. In 1919 and 1920 articles from Jules Seeliger, giving the Belgian point of view on the organization of municipal and intercommunal insurance, the future SMAP, were published. These were the first signs of the broadening of the "Annals' " scope which in 1925 was reflected in the change in its title to "Annals of the Collective Economy".

II. The "Annals of Collective Economy"

From 1925 onwards Edgard Milhaud added three others to the French edition ("Annales de l'Economie collective"): one German "Annalen der Gemeinwirtschaft", an English version "Annals of Collective Economy" and a Spanish edition "Anales de la economía colectiva". The usual themes were the nationalization and socialization of companies, collective action on housing, the organization of the economy to achieve peace, cooperation between cooperatives and municipalities, the public economy, workers' participation in civil services, public sector undertakings and cooperatives and information on the cooperative movement. In passing we can already mention "Private industrial companies in the Reich and German States" and in 1928 "A Decade of Collective Economy in Austria".

During the first years, articles published most often concerned West European countries and fairly regularly the United States. In 1930 Edgard Milhaud produced a number devoted to the USSR, but on the whole the "Annals" were not particularly interested in countries with a communist regime.

The crisis of the thirties was reflected in the "Annals" by a series of articles dealing with the settlement of debt (Plan Milhaud), the organization of production and exchange, the stabilization of currency and organized international clearing, all themes dear to Edgard Milhaud. At his insistence the cooperative movement carved itself a choice-slice in the "Annals".

During the Second World War, after a number devoted to the collective economy in Mexico and another on the cooperative movement in Switzerland, in 1943 Edgard Milhaud was compelled to interrupt publication with a final number containing the French translation of the Beveridge Plan.

In a 1967 article on the founder of CIRIEC, Professor George Davidovic (Canada) reported that during this period, Edgard Milhaud had started – and won – a court case against one of his pro-Nazi colleagues who had claimed that "the Jew Milhaud, under cover of idealism had made money with his 'Annals' ". It emerged that to keep his review alive Edgard Milhaud had sacrificed almost all his resources.

As already commented, thanks to the generosity of his Swiss friends and the creation of CIRIEC, the "Annals" started again in 1948 with a very broad variety of themes including nationalization, planning, housing, municipal trading, the cooperative movement and, from 1954 onwards the CIRIEC Congresses.

Paul Lambert did not noticeably change the "Annals' " contents. He took over regular publication of Edgard Milhaud's news column, which he had succeeded in keeping alive up to 1932 and the selected bibliography which was centred on Liège from 1957 onwards. More theoretical articles again gradually began to appear in it while all internal CIRIEC information, such as minutes of General Assemblies, was left out.

Since the launch of the "Annals" in 1908 up to 1960, when he handed over management to Paul Lambert, Edgard Milhaud alone had contributed nearly 3,000 pages of text. There was hardly a number in which his name did not appear in the contents. Paul Lambert was not on his own; he was surrounded by a team. Between 1960 and 1978, among the names of authors, the majority of his Liège University colleagues, members of the national Sections and CIRIEC's Scientific Commissions are to be found.

New themes also appeared such as European integration, multinationals, developing countries and environment.

III. The "Annals of Public, Social and Cooperative Economics"

"By any other name ..." stated Paul Lambert in the 35th annual volume where he explained 1964 that the review's title changed name in the English edition. The French title was only adapted ten years later (1974). However the "Annals" were marking time. Apart from the congresses, and the contributions of colleagues just mentioned, it must be recognized that the quality and selection of articles were sometimes open to question.

After Paul Lambert's death in 1977, the new Director concentrated the review once more on subjects which had always marked its originality. He strengthened its connection with political science by the choice of subjects and selection of articles. The 1980-1990 period thereby included a large number of issues on special themes for which Guy Quaden had obtained very high-level contributors. For instance, electricity pricing – policy for local

authorities' management of public services – the State and steel in Europe – crisis control – prices and renewal of planning – government tenders and economic policy – the privatization of public sector companies – measurement of the performance of public sector transport undertakings and the financing of workers' cooperatives and self-managed companies.

Circulation of the "Annals"

Over 80 years the review gradually lost its monopoly as a source of information on public sector undertakings and cooperatives. A large number of other reviews of a more sectoral nature (e.g. those of ILO, ICA and emanating from a large number of national institutes for the study of the cooperative and municipal movements) and even companies' news sheets circulated information of particular interest among a well-targeted readership.

Edgard Milhaud greeted this development and even featured it in the "Annals" but within CIRIEC he immediately tried to avoid a profusion of publications. Although the Belgian Section agreed to give up its journal "Expériences", the same did not apply to other national Sections.

First of all in Italy, where it was more a question of language preventing broad circulation of the "Annals", the Italian Section from 1971 onwards produced its own scientific review "Economia pubblica".

In Germany and Austria, publications belonging to the national Sections harmed the circulation of the German edition of the "Annals", especially since it mainly contained translations of articles from abroad. These Sections' attempts to increase the circulation of the German edition of the "Annals", even revising the translations in Berlin, did not change matters. Even if the German edition however always provided a welcome addition to the two Sections' own reviews, from the Austrian point of view, it increasingly lost its attraction and effectiveness both in the subjects dealt with and in its presentation.

From the Austrian review started again in 1962 two distinct publications emerged in 1983: the "ÖW-aktuell" information sheet, intended primarily for members and the scientific periodical, "Zeitschrift für Gemeinwirtschaft", which from 1994 has been publishing reports presented to CIRIEC Congresses.

In Germany from 1978 onwards several German members of CIRIEC's Scientific Commission cooperated closely with the review started by Professor Peter Eichhorn, "Zeitschrift für öffentliche und gemeinwirtschaftliche Unternehmen – ZögU". This distinctly scientific specialized review was published by Nomos Verlag in close editorial cooperation with the German Section, the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft.

In Canada and Spain as well as in Argentina, national Sections organized the publication of their own scientific journals: "Économie et Solidarités" (former called "Coopératives et Développement") in Canada; "Revista de debate sobre economía pública, social y cooperativa" in Spain; and "Cuadernos de Economía Social" in Argentina. Lastly in France although the Section never produced a competitive review, through personal connections, it was very close to the "Revue des études coopératives" which subsequently became "Revue des Etudes Coopératives, Mutualistes et Associatives – RECMA". On the other hand, like the Belgian and Swiss Sections, the French Section provided a fair number of subscriptions to the "Annals" for its own members.

It must also be recognized that scholars preferred publication of their work in well-known economic reviews and sometimes even in those reviews which were able to pay the authors.

By all the means within his power Edgard Milhaud sought to broaden the circulation of the "Annals". In 1925, he created English, German and Spanish editions to spread beyond the French-speaking area. The Spanish edition was abandoned after several years owing to insufficient subscriptions; the readership of the German edition has always remained too small.

On the eve of the Second World War, subscriptions to the "Annals" numbered 165 in the United States alone and there were 1,000 subscribers for all the three editions together; financial balance was almost achieved. The figure was once more reached in 1960 but at a much greater cost. Though Edgard Milhaud spent a fortune on the "Annals", (he quoted the figure of 120,000 Swiss Francs for the period from 1925 to 1933), continuation was only possible as a result of additional income deriving from his cooperation over several years with the ILO.

Swiss support for the re-launch of the "Annals", then the birth of the main CIRIEC national Sections one after the other, were reflected in the "Annals" by substantial subscriptions to the French and German editions. Arriving on the scene, Paul Lambert, after modernizing the review's presentation, particularly by a splash of colour on the cover and more up-to-date graphics, also undertook a series of publicity campaigns". Mailing lists were drawn up which were also used for sending invitations to the congresses. At a time without computers keeping these mailing lists up-to-date was obviously a problem.

Print-runs largely calculated on the past had to be used for publicity and to promote the sale of single numbers and series. However the stocks accumulated from 1908 onwards by the successive printers and then all brought together in Geneva became cumbersome. Germaine Calame, the incomparable assistant of Edgard Milhaud, then of CIRIEC in Geneva, jealously guarded them.

From the tiny office arranged in her own apartment for years she remained the only person in charge of the management of subscriptions (mailing lists, billing, accounts, etc.), the correction of proofs – where she excelled –, relations with translators and the printer of the English edition and with sales and dispatch of single numbers and series, stored in a huge barn rented on the outskirts of the city.

Although Germaine Calame was overjoyed by each order for a series, on each occasion this required a tremendous upheaval among piles of dusty packages which she alone was able to sort out. Only age made her succumb to the blandishments of the Liège Secretariat, first of all to reduce stocks to a reasonable level and then ultimately destroy them after making sure that the three editions had been captured on microfilm. Aged 70, at the General Assembly in Brussels in 1986, Germaine Calame finally resigned herself to a well-deserved retirement.

For years the part of the "Annals" accounting kept in Geneva, made a distinction between the sales of series "after 1947" from those previous to the creation of CIRIEC. They were the subject of donations made by Edgard Milhaud, prescribing that the income from their sales be allocated as a priority to the re-printing, as had happened on some occasions, of missing or excessively frayed numbers. Income from these sales was not insignificant. Moreover for the English edition, a contract was subsequently concluded with Swets and Zeitlinger Publishing House in the Netherlands for the

necessary sales and reprinting, for a commission to be paid to CIRIEC.

Restructuring

From 1981 onwards, with the exception of congress reports, the proceedings of the Public Enterprises Scientific Commission on privatization published in 1986 and a few special articles, translations – costly and often criticized – were discontinued. From then on the articles appeared in their original language with a summary in the "Annals" in other languages. The three editions were maintained and only the covers, contents and summaries differed.

The 1986 Brussels Congress on "The financing of public and cooperative economy" was the last to have its proceedings published in the "Annals".

The disappearance of the Swiss Section in 1989 meant the loss of group subscriptions which it had taken out for the French and German editions. After vainly suggesting to the Nomos Verlag to take over the German edition together with their "Zeitschrift für öffentliche und gemeinwirtschaftliche Unternehmen", the International Board decided that it should be stopped. The French and English editions merged under a double title. After the formation of a Spanish Section, articles were summarized in French, English, German and Spanish.

Despite all these measures and printings' technical development, the production of each number, managing subscriptions and the "Annals" circulation continued to weigh heavily on CIRIEC's organization both in financial and staff terms. When in 1989 Bernard Thiry took over the "Annals", to remove the burden on CIRIEC, his first task was to negotiate a contract with a publishing house. He was then able to devote himself entirely to the editorship in the strict sense of the term.

A new editorial structure was immediately organized, a number of well-informed people in one or other field of CIRIEC research were involved in the drafting, without necessarily or directly belonging to the organization. The manuscripts received were subject to selection by competent "referees". The annual meetings of the Editorial and Management Board laid down the programme for future publications and the contributions to be commissioned.

A preliminary decision was taken at the request of English-speaking contributors: the correction of the English title, which became "Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics".

The English editions' volume 60 (1989) was the first to use the new formula. It did not mean, however, the abandonment of major subjects of concern which preoccupied CIRIEC members confronted with current developments in the cooperative movement and also among undertakings in the public services; on the contrary it showed the desire to tackle these subjects more calmly, from a point of view more detached from the pressures of current economic policy.

The "Annals" were firmly and confidently set upon a new course, after for 80 years having faithfully reflected the events and developments of the century.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

These are CIRIEC's "big events"! The first Congresses in Geneva (1953), Liège (1955), Puteaux (1957) and even Belgrade (1959) were organized by and for the friends and contacts of Edgard Milhaud and the nascent CIRIEC. The format proved rewarding as a way of promoting CIRIEC and ... its ideas. It is now inconceivable that they be discontinued or have the intervals between them prolonged. On each occasion 500 to 1,000 people expectantly await the announcement of the next congress. To make them more striking, give them more resonance in the press and public opinion, and to ensure their organizers large national support, the strongest sections, or those closest to the media, sought eminent sponsors.

Like the "Annals" the Congresses aimed to make the voice of practioners and decision-makers heard among scholars; in return the former were exposed to the reasoning and ideas of scholars on the real nature of the objectives and management methods in the public, social and cooperative economic sectors. Again, like the "Annals", they sought to make each one of these sectors aware of their common basic objective: the service of the general interest.

It would be tiresome to list the general themes of the last 20 Congresses. Once more like the "Annals", they reflected current topics. An example is provided by the XXIst Congress in Portugal in 1996: "Towards what economic and social cohesion? – The contribution of public enterprises, cooperatives and social economy enterprises", – an undeniably topical subject and terminology.

Alongside the question of financing CIRIEC, regular Board meetings always devoted a large part of their discussions to Congress preparation:

- Choice of a date, taking into account ICA, the Union of Towns and CEEP congresses ... and also the inevitable elections in one or other of the countries.
- Choice of a theme, in keeping with current economic, political and social issues, acceptable to the organizing section, which has to find the financing, and which as far as possible rouses

the interest of the various sectors concerned in a maximum of countries.

- The subject of the various reports. In this respect matters become complicated, since it is necessary in each one of the sectors to keep a balance between the chosen subjects' political science aspects and practical aspects.
- Lastly, the choice of rapporteurs. In the first Congresses there were not many reports, but as national Sections were founded, CIRIEC was not able to avoid the well-known difficulty in every international organization of sharing reports among the various languages (sometimes 4 when the congress took place in a country where one or other of the languages did not correspond to those used by CIRIEC, – i.e. for example in Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal) and among a constantly increasing number of countries. Hence, the increasing number of reports.

Once all this was settled with the help of national Sections, began contacts with promising people to act as rapporteurs. Obviously well-known international people who would attract an audience were required. But the better-known they were the less certain one could be about their actual presence at the last moment. This was one of the major reasons why it was almost immediately necessary to abandon publishing reports in the "Annals" before the congresses.

Furthermore, the increasing number of reports made the publication of the proceedings in the "Annals" take a long time; the effort was both too cumbersome and too costly despite the financial contribution made by some congress organizers. The decision to abandon the practise certainly did not displease the CIRIEC team entrusted with the minutes. Recordings of the proceedings sometimes sprung surprises: tape recorders which revolved but recorded nothing, transcription onto cassettes which cancelled out one tape while copying another, recording which started an hour late, etc.

Many experiments were carried out in congress after congress:

- During the first big congresses payment was provided for the rapporteurs, the German Section had to pay a high price to have John Kenneth Galbraith at the 1974 Hamburg Congress.

- As he himself had done in Italy, Alberto Mortara arranged that the organizer's budget should cover invitations to scholars from developing countries. One or two abuses called for caution on this point.
- In discussions on the various reports a series of prepared speeches were included, which, added to the growing number of reports, annoyingly reduced the time available for spontaneous debate.
- The drafting for international circulation of one or several resolutions which involved long committee discussions during the congress, discussions further complicated by the terminology used in each language and by national sensitivity.
- The publication in the "Annals" of a complete and corrected version of the entire list of participants and organizations represented in the congresses also ended up by being abandoned, partly because it above all interested travel agencies and other congress organizers.
- Lastly, the most recent point: the controversial holding of parallel meetings according to whether the themes belonged to the public economy or the social economy. The positive aspect is the opportunity provided for more thorough discussions in smaller or more specialized groups. The drawbacks derive from splitting the congress; Separate treatment widened the gulf between the two topics and caused organizational difficulties and additional costs.

Fortunately the congresses remained opportunities for encounters and renewal of old friendships between delegates, for scholars away from their normal habitat, for newcomers lost among the familiars or simply for CIRIEC's friends and cooperators.

Organizers made these contacts easier by including social events in the programmes: boat excursions on the Danube, the Elbe and on the Havel Lakes in Berlin and on the Meuse; reception and ball in the large Gothic room of the Vienna Town Hall; opera in Vienna and Hamburg; mime in Florence; fados in the Estoril Casino; a dinner entertained by clowns in a Saint-Emilion cellar; a splendid fireworks display in front of the Monastery of Saint Mary of Puig near Valencia; an organ concert in Piran in Slovenia; a reception in the baths of

Diocletian in Rome; visiting a kibbutz on the shores of Lake Tiberias, Cape Sounion, ...

Many therefore are the memories of the few now somewhat elderly faithful who have attended the majority of the last 21 Congresses, even if the list above would seem to confirm the saying that at congresses people "come to play".

THE NATIONAL SECTIONS

It is inevitable that the national Sections should have been mentioned in the history of CIRIEC down through the years. Alive or defunct, they will now be reviewed in alphabetical order.

The first modification of the Statutes concerned precisely the national Sections (1957). Not provided for in the first version, they were now expressly mentioned together with other collective members and in the various bodies of the Association. Neither the Statutes nor any other set of rules fix their legal status, their structure, their theatre of activities or their choice of officers and delegates in the international bodies. They have in common only the aims of information and research in one or more areas of CIRIEC. Their sole obligations are, as for all group or individual members, the annual payment of the fixed membership fee and the undertaking to engage actively in CIRIEC activities.

A further amendment to the Statutes even gave them a monopoly over membership in their home countries: "In a country where a national section exists, that section alone shall be the member of CIRIEC." To mitigate the potential harm to CIRIEC of such a privilege in the case of a national section interested in only one area of CIRIEC activity or in only one region of the country or, again, a section failing to attain a satisfactory degree of representativity, a cautious rewording was made: "as a general rule, that section alone shall be ..."

Argentina

The first contacts date back to the early sixties, with the initiative of Dr. Enrique Corona Martínez to create a national Section of CIRIEC in Argentina. Then Dr. Erico Emir Panzoni, Director of the Institute of Co-operative Studies, Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of La Plata, returned from the Vth International Congress on Collective Economy (Vienna, 23-25 May, 1961) with the solid support of CIRIEC's Director, Professor Paul Lambert. The Spanish publication of his book "The Cooperative Doctrine" by INTERCOOP was in this respect decisive and opportune.

Dr. Arturo Vainstok, successor to Dr. Enrique Corona Martínez as the President of the Argentine Confederation of Co-operatives, believed in the idea of creating a national Section of CIRIEC in Argentina as a pilot experiment in South America, since this would be the first national section on that continent. He formalized the creation of the Argentine Section with the support of Paul Lambert and in 1966 he was appointed first President of the new institute.

Dr. Luis Alberto Carello, who undertook a sustained correspondence with the international secretariat, obtained from CIRIEC the right to translate and publish articles from the "Annals", of interest to readers in Latin America, in the scientific review "Economía cooperativa"; by doing so he made CIRIEC known on the continent.

The Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de Economía Social (IAIES) regularly publishes the review "Cuadernos de Economía Social" devoted to articles on topical issues in relation with the activities and services offered by cooperatives and mutual societies.

Language and distance inevitably limited contacts with the International Centre and the presence of an Argentine representative at a meeting often depended upon the proximity of an ICA meeting or a social economy event. However, under the dynamic management of Arturo Ravina, President, and Néstor Sarriá, General Secretary, CIRIEC-Argentina has gained fresh impetus and a substantial delegation attended the XXIst Congress of CIRIEC in Lisbon.

Likewise IAIES has constituted three regional delegations in Bahía Blanca, Córdoba and Mendoza. The actual aim is to develop contacts with sister organizations in the Mercosur area (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay). IAIES as a CIRIEC representative on the American continent carries out its annual activity programme with executive meetings, publications, investigations and research in its fields of interest.

The IAIES Executive faithfully pays homage to the work developed by Dr. Arturo Vainstok, President of the Argentine Section for many years (1966-1988), prestigious cooperativist of outstanding international renown, who died recently (in early December 1996).

Austria

The leading CIRIEC contact in Austria is the "Österreichische Forschungsstelle für Gemeinwirtschaft (Austrian Research Centre for the Public/Social/Co-operative Economy) headed by Secretary of State Franz Rauscher; its activities were limited to documentation and statistics. This contact held firm even after the creation of the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft der österreichischen Gemeinwirtschaft – AdöG" in 1952, marking the beginning of the real integration of Austria into the international activities of CIRIEC. AdöG gradually came to take over on its own account the activities of the former research centre; it appointed the Secretary-General, Karl Pröbsting, as the first Austrian member of the International Board of CIRIEC. Like the other national sections, Austria is represented at the International Board as well as being involved in the work of the Scientific Council. Austria is also actively engaged in the International Scientific Commissions – currently, these include six permanent Austrian members (Walter Fremuth, Peter Ulrich Lehner, Gabriel Obermann, Stephan Orbán, Reinbert Schauer and Robert Schediwy).

In Austria, the Section publishes the two periodicals already mentioned ("ÖW aktuell" and "Zeitschrift für Gemeinwirtschaft") and produces annually 3 television and 42 radio broadcasts; it also has a Press Department. Each year, it organizes a specific seminar for business journalists, holds a scientific symposium (in Rust, near the Neusiedlersee) and stages numerous events, conferences and discussion days that together form an integral part of its work programme.

For over 20 years, collaboration and regular contacts have been upheld with the Universities of Vienna, Linz and Innsbruck. By way of an example, the Institut für Betriebswirtschaftslehre der gemeinwirtschaftlichen Unternehmen (Institute of Management Studies for Social Economy Enterprises) was set up in Linz, 1971, on the initiative of the Austrian Section under the leadership of Professor Theo Thiemeyer and later of Professor Reinbert Schauer. This was a first at university level in Austria.

Since its establishment in 1973, the Scientific Council of the Austrian Section has been placed under the guidance of Professor Walter Fremuth. It brings together a number of eminent scholars, researchers and experts from Austria but also from other countries. This Council has initiated and supervised several research and publication projects, including the ten-yearly publication of the

"Handbuch der österreichischen Gemeinwirtschaft" (Handbook of the Social Economy in Austria), the most recent edition of which dates back to 1992. Mention might also be made here of the research project currently under way, aimed at evaluating the limits of the State in the fulfilment of its missions – taking into the equation both its action and its non-interventions. On the basis of this critical investigation of possible shortcomings or blind spots in the public economy, an attempt will be made on the one hand to provide the political decision-makers with scientifically grounded tools for decision-making, and to counter on the other hand the arbitrary and undifferentiated condemnations of that sector of activity. This research is being conducted on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of CIRIEC.

With the organization of four International Congresses (Vienna 1961, 1972, 1982, Graz 1994) and record attendances at other congresses, with its loyal, constructive presence at all CIRIEC meetings, with Anton Rauter at the helm of CIRIEC International for 14 years, AdöG, renamed "Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft" in 1990, has always been – and continues to be – one of the mainstays of CIRIEC.

Belgium-Luxembourg

9 May 1949, Joseph Leclercq, Gouvernor of the Province of Liège, brought together various local public figures from the main political streams with a view to founding, in Belgium, a body with responsibility for systematic research into the public sector of the economy "in the manner that exists for the private sector" that would develop as in Switzerland to become a national Section of CIRIEC. To gain time, a Provincial Section was first created for Liège but – in 1952 – the Statutes published in the Belgian "Moniteur" were those of the Belgian Section, a non-profit-making association.

Its prime objective is the support of the "Annals" in which all CIRIEC work appears. The members of the provisional Bureau include such names as Maurice Delbouille, future CIRIEC President, and the Director of the Liège Co-operative Studies Centre who, answering from the first the call from Edgard Milhaud, had 32 of his members subscribe to the "Annals". As during the 1949 Liège meeting, the first Board of Directors reflected the traditional political trends and the miscellaneous components of the public and social economy in the country. Things were to stay that way.

The 1955 Liège Congress witnessed the real beginnings of the national Section to which Paul Lambert had just been elected Secretary-General. The fate of "Expériences", the fortnightly bulletin launched in 1956 and spanning 4 years, is a matter of record. The widespread support met with in Belgium helped that national Section to become the headquarters of the International Centre and of its Secretariat (Permanent Office) during the 1957 International General Assembly. From 1965 until the death of Paul Lambert in 1977, the President of CIRIEC, the Director of its Permanent Office, the Treasurer and even the auditors are all from Liège. This rootedness of the Section in Liège is, now as before, very strong – thanks to the human, financial and logistical services furnished by the University of Liège and by the Société Mutuelle des Administrations Publiques (SMAP).

The Presidency, originally occupied by rotation, has been held for numerous years now by Mrs. Leona Detiège, former Minister of the Flemish Region and Mayor of the City of Antwerp.

It should come as no surprise to learn that the activities of the Belgian Section hinge mainly upon the International Centre, to which it devotes the lion's share of its human, material and financial resources. Riding the ups and downs of political and economic life, the Belgian Section has seen its resources become more and more tied to research contracts obtained either directly or via sub-contracting to different official authorities. This has led it to accentuate and, in parallel, affirm its scientific character, thereby avoiding any overly drastic consequences of the structural disappearance of some members through closures, privatization or reorganization of enterprises.

In addition to research contracts, the Belgian Section, alone or jointly, holds symposiums on subjects of topical interest in Belgium. Based on the library and on the documentation compiled since the start, and thanks to the commitment of the extra staff taken on under successive employment programmes, it has managed to develop a very rich computerized centre of documentation on the social economy. It has held three of the CIRIEC Congresses, the last of which (Brussels, 1986) was honoured by the presence of King Baudouin at the official inauguration session. Finally, the Belgian Section awards, initially every two years then, since 1996, every three years, the Joseph Merlot/Joseph Leclercq Prize co-founded by a group of public enterprises and the Province of Liège to honour the memory of two pioneers of the public economy and of CIRIEC.

Announcing the merger of the Belgian review "Expériences" in the "Annals" in 1960, Edgard Milhaud listed the national Sections existing at the time and, among them, a Luxembourg Section whose creation appears to date to around 1950-1952. This is its only recorded mention. The Belgian General Assembly of 1958 for its part seemed unaware of the Section's existence when it decided to extend the activities of the Belgian Section into the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg and to style itself the "Belgo-Luxembourg Section" of CIRIEC. A Luxembourg trade union representative was elected Member of the Administration Board on these grounds.

Canada

In February 1964, CIRIEC announced in one of its internal bulletins plans for the creation of a Canadian Section on the initiative of Professor Arthur Lerner of Sir George Williams University, Montreal, who was in contact with Alberto Mortara. Paul Lambert had been invited to a symposium on development aid and had had the opportunity to present CIRIEC there in a press conference, and then before the Economic Steering Committee of the Province of Quebec.

With the aid of his colleague, Balbir S. Sahni, and Professor George Davidovic for co-operation, the Canadian Section came into being in 1966. A journal was soon launched: "Revue du CIRIEC canadien/Canadian CIRIEC Review", edited by George Davidovic, then Director of Research with the Co-operative Union of Canada. The occasion of the World Fair in Montreal in 1967 inspired plans to hold a congress there. During the 1970's, CIRIEC-Canada was regularly represented at international congresses and meetings. It also collected some subscriptions to the "Annals". The review and the association lived on after the departure from Canada of Professor Arthur Lerner and the death of George Davidovic, but contacts with CIRIEC International became less frequent.

Jean-Guy Desforges of the Centre de gestion des coopératives de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (Montreal) – restarted the review of CIRIEC-Canada in 1978, concentrating it exclusively on the study of the cooperatives and on production in the French language, relying on the network of French-speaking universities throughout Quebec and elsewhere in Canada. The review changed its name in 1983 to "Coopératives et Développement". The CIRIEC initials were now interpreted as "Centre interuniversitaire de recherche, d'information et d'enseignement sur les coopératives".

During this period, at least one representative of CIRIEC-Canada attended the international congresses.

From the late 1980's on, contacts with CIRIEC International again intensified, this time in the International Scientific Commissions and the Editorial Board of the "Annals". Under the Presidency of Benoît Lévesque, CIRIEC-Canada negotiated a sharp bend by opening up to the social economy enterprises and to public economics. Under "Social economy" its means "the set of structures and components of the associative, community, cooperative, mutualist, para-public and trade union economies, all of which pursue the more or less explicit objective of public – or general – interest" (Art. 1.3 of the General Rules of CIRIEC-Canada).

In May 1996, CIRIEC-Canada decided to style itself the "Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche et d'information sur les entreprises collectives" (the term "collective enterprises" embracing both social-economy and public-economy enterprises). During the same period, the review "Coopératives et Développement" became "Economie et Solidarités", and work began on the plan to organize the XXIIIrd CIRIEC Congress for the year 2000 in Canada.

France

It was at the request of Edgard Milhaud that Léon Jouhaux called numerous representatives of nationalized enterprises, municipal organizations, cooperatives and trade unions – and economic experts – to his Paris offices in 1950. Edgard Milhaud saw for himself the strength of conviction behind the objectives of CIRIEC and the role expected of the national Sections.

By group subscriptions to the "Annals" that it distributed to its members, and by active involvement in the first congresses, the French Section devoted itself for some years to following through on the work of Edgard Milhaud. In 1957, it held the IIIrd Congress on the Public Economy at Puteaux, after which it suffered perceptibly from the changes during the Fifth Republic, especially as regards the big nationalized enterprises and the emergence of new currents within the French Left.

It could only really count on the consumer cooperative movement (FNCC) and the trade union Force Ouvrière (FO), and more particularly its Secretary-General Gabriel Ventejol, who served

as President of the Economic and Social Committee. For a long time, the same small group of faithful – Maurice Montel, René G. Orsini, André Hirschfeld and Gabriel Rouanet – ran the Section and maintained contacts with the International Centre.

The fees the Section collected from its members hardly covered the subscriptions to the "Annals" and its fee to the International Centre. The technical assistance of the FO enabled the Section to publish an internal bulletin for news coverage of, *inter alia*, congresses or symposiums it organized from time to time. The decline of the consumer cooperative movement was to deprive the French Section of all secretarial services by the late 1970's.

Fortunately, the grouping of various areas of the social economy within the Comité National de Liaison des Activités Mutualistes, Coopératives et Associatives (CNLAMCA), then directed by its Delegate-General, Jean-Bernard Gins, obtained the support of the Crédit Coopératif to ensure the transition and lead the Section out of its isolation and thereby cast its nets wider and seek members from the mutualist movement. The arrival to the Presidency of Jacques Vattier, the dynamic President of the Mutuelle des PTT, was to enable the French Section to settle payment of the fixed membership fee to the International Centre and to organize, with success, the 1988 Congress in Bordeaux. Then, François Soulage, young rocardian Professor at the University of Nanterre, accepted the Presidency of CIRIEC-France. This was a man of the social economy, but CIRIEC is beholden to him for his having found the resources to ensure the regular involvement of Professor Lionel Monnier in the work of the International Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises.

Finally, after succeeding to enlist the involvement of Jacques Fournier, President of the SNCF and of CEEP, in his capacity as rapporteur for the Portorož Congress (1990), the French Section found in him – on his retirement from the above two functions – a new President of remarkable energy who, with Lionel Monnier and Lysiane Cartelier, had only recently signed a book edited by CIRIEC-France at Economica entitled: "Critique de la Raison Communautaire – Utilité publique et concurrence dans l'Union Européenne".

Germany

Created in 1960 in Berlin, the German Section of CIRIEC has, in fact, a sole member: the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft (GÖW). Its activities are also those of the German Section of CIRIEC, and the President of GÖW is also President of the German Section of CIRIEC.

The decisive preliminary meeting before joining CIRIEC was convened in Cologne, in May 1960, GÖW President Dr. Julius Brecht, Director of the Cologne Gesamtverband gemeinnütziger Wohnungsunternehmen (Union of Social Housing Associations), Professor Otto Blume of the Institut für Selbsthilfe, University of Cologne, a representative of the German Union of Cities, Karl Osterkamp, member of the board of the ÖTV trade union (public services, transport and communications), Dr. Theo Thiemeyer and Professor Gerhard Weisser, as well as Wolfgang Zetzschke, then Executive Secretary of GÖW, participated in this meeting.

The Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft has existed since 1951 and was originally chiefly made up of municipal enterprises from West Berlin, and later from all over the Federal Republic of Germany. The local-authority economy thus represented the main thrust of its activities from the outset. During the early years of its existence, the scientific work of GÖW was organized in close co-operation with the institutes of Professor Gerhard Weisser at the University of Cologne, the Akademie für Gemeinwirtschaft in Hamburg and the Free University of Berlin.

In the course of time, GÖW widened its circle of members to take in national and regional enterprises in the context, *inter alia*, of organizing the public sector economy at European level. From the creation of the European Centre for Public Enterprises (CEEP) in 1961 to the establishment of an own German Section, GÖW represented the German public economy within the CEEP. Until 1989, the GÖW Secretariat in Berlin doubled as the office of the German Section of the CEEP. The two associations now have their own secretarial services, still however under the same directorate.

Since the very beginning, the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Federation of Trade Unions) and its enterprises, as well as a number of non-affiliated trade unions, have been part of the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft. Their growing importance within GÖW induced the Gesellschaft to change its name in 1970 to

the "Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft". This name survived until the collapse of the trade union (nonprofit) economy during the 1980's. In 1988, GÖW reverted to its original name of "Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft". It still includes as members trade unions linked with public enterprises.

Until 1984, GÖW published its own journal, mainly addressing the practical aspects and concrete problems of the public and social economy. This review started life as "Die öffentliche Wirtschaft" and, subsequently, "ÖWG – öffentliche Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft". Since 1985, the official organ of GÖW is the "Zeitschrift für öffentliche Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft – ZögU", founded in 1978 by Professor Peter Eichhorn. This review is considerably more scientific than its internal precursor, published by GÖW itself.

The Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft has at all times deployed intense scientific activity. To that end, a Scientific Advisory Council (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat) composed of eminent professors and of representatives of the world of public enterprises interested in scientific analysis offers GÖW its expert advice. Its first President was Professor Gert von Eynern. He was succeeded by Professor Hans Ritschl, Professor Karl Oettle, Dr. Paul Münch and – until his death in 1991 – Professor Theo Thiemeyer. Since then Professor Peter Eichhorn has been President of this scientific advisory body of GÖW.

Scientific work is carried out in plenary session or, equally, in various working groups. In addition to closely tracking current developments in German economic policy, research also concerns basic public economy issues, and current problems in individual sectors of the economy in which public, mixed-economy and other types of enterprises supply general-interest services. The findings of the work of the Scientific Advisory Council are published in one of the two series of GÖW publications, or in the scientific journal "ZögU". Depending on the case, they are also addressed in the form of opinions to concerned representatives of political, economic and academic circles and administrative authorities.

The German Section has at all times been actively involved in CIRIEC, its International Scientific Council and its Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises. Professor Theo Thiemeyer of the University of Bochum devoted many years to promoting scientific work within CIRIEC. He served as President of the International Scientific Commission, revived in 1978, then of the International Scientific

Council. His death in 1991 left a hole in the heart of the German Section and of CIRIEC International. Since 1992, the Vice-President of the Scientific Advisory Council of GÖW, Professor Helmut Cox (University of Duisburg), has headed CIRIEC's International Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises.

The German Section organized two brilliant international Congresses, the first in 1965 in Berlin, the second in Hamburg in 1974. It is currently preparing to organize the XXIIInd Congress in Cologne (4 and 5 May 1998) around the theme "Management of Human Resources in Public, Social and Cooperative Enterprises". Moreover, for many years the German Section has provided verified translations of the German version of the "Annals".

After Dr. Julius Brecht, who had assumed these functions since the German Section began, the Presidency of the Gesellschaft für öffentliche Wirtschaft and, simultaneously, of the German Section of CIRIEC, passed successively to: Dr. Bernhard Heun, Dr. Paul Bleib, Dr. Walter Kliemt and Hans-Georg von Koester. Since 1990, Felix Zimmermann is at the head of the Association.

After Wolfgang Zetzschke, in the days of the foundation of the German Section of CIRIEC, the post of Secretary General passed to Folkmar Kath, Dr. Rolf Seeland and Wolf Leetz.

Finally, through its constructive presence at international meetings and, more particularly, through the commitment shown by Fritz Gautier in his duties as President of CIRIEC, the German Section has always shown itself to be a reliable partner of CIRIEC.

Greece

Professor Angelos Angelopoulos, yet another friend of Edgard Milhaud, who shared his time between Geneva and Athens, aroused interest during the mid-50's in creating a Hellenic Section with certain colleagues from Athens and Salonika, some associates and the lawyer Stratis D. Someritis. Once again, this was practically a fellowship of persons sharing the beliefs of Edgard Milhaud and an interest in the public or cooperative sectors of the economy.

Stratis D. Someritis and Professor Epaminondas Spiliotopoulos, internationally famous legal expert, started up the plan to hold the VIIIth International Congress in Athens, a plan thwarted by the coup

d'état of the Colonels; it did not see completion until 10 years later in 1978. Professor Angelos Angelopoulos, by this time Governor of the Bank of Greece, substantially supported this project and received the Board of CIRIEC in his residence.

After 1981, during the first period of Socialist government, public enterprises and cooperative unions ceased financial aid to the Hellenic Section, whose activities were *ipso facto* reduced. The Section could not organize more than a handful of symposiums (with the help of representatives of CIRIEC International). Contacts between CIRIEC International and the Hellenic Section became rare beyond the attendance of its President, Professor Epaminondas Spiliotopoulos, at an international congress or two and, for some years now, beyond the involvement of its Secretary General, Professor Constantin Delis, in the Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises.

Recently, the telecommunications authority and the National Bank have lent the Section their support and several projects are in the development stage.

India

The "section" in question is not in fact a national section. The Indian organizers, that is, Satish C. Seth, his wife and a number of experts, had always spoken of an "Indian Group of CIRIEC", the only activity of which known to Liège in the 1970's was the edition of a bulletin, "Indian Review of Public and Cooperative Economy", purporting to be a medium of information on public enterprises in various countries and publishing the occasional article from the "Annals". To finance publication, the Indian Group invited group subscriptions from the national sections of CIRIEC. In 1993, the International Board put an end to this "section", which had existed on paper only.

Israel

Not much has ever been discovered regarding the activities of the Israeli Section of CIRIEC. From Yair Levi to Professor Abraham Daniel, the regular correspondent – if "regular" is the word – has changed many times without cease, contacts starting each time from zero from a chance meeting or a congress. Under the Presidency of

Professor Abraham Daniel of the University of Tel Aviv the XIth International Congress was held in Tel Aviv in 1976, thanks to the services of the enterprises of Hevrat Ha'Ovdim, the holding company of the trade union Histadrut. The address of Histadrut was also the office of the Israeli Section, officially dissolved in 1993. Another instance of the organization of a congress being the swan song of a national section.

Italy

The story of the Centro Italiano di ricerche e d'informazione sull'economia pubblica e sulle imprese di pubblico interesse is rather unusual. Like CIRIEC and Edgard Milhaud, this Section is above all the work of one man, Dott. Alberto Mortara, who succeeded in mobilizing for his plan the friendships he maintained in all circles. Unlike other national sections, limited *de facto* to an association of persons whose main careers left little time for CIRIEC, Alberto Mortara devoted himself almost exclusively to the Centre that he created in 1956 with the co-operation of the municipal movement.

The names of the first delegates from the Italian Section to the International Board include Senator Alessandro Schiavi, one of the very first authors of the "Annales de la régie directe", and Roberto Tremelloni, future Minister, its President for many years. Members of the Italian Centre very soon included big national enterprises, public banks, municipal enterprises and regional or local authorities.

The Italian Section set course towards research: library of Italian public economy, increasingly numerous research contracts, for which it recruited researchers working from its base in Milan or sought the help of top specialists in universities throughout Italy. The Italian Section, then, has always been very actively engaged in the successive Scientific Commissions of CIRIEC. The name of Professor Giorgio Stefani, of the University of Ferrara, is – like Theo Thiemeyer and now Lionel Monnier – inseparably bound with the international scientific activities of CIRIEC.

The Italian Section soon created its own review, "Economia Pubblica" which, with its high scientific standards, is still required reading for researchers in the public economy. For many years, it awarded incentive prizes for the best public enterprise balance sheet and the best doctoral thesis on the public economy.

The Italian Section held two prestigious Congresses (Rome 1963, Florence 1984) at the cost – in the 1963 Congress in any case – of incurring an obstinate debt. Besides the sometimes enormous volume of research work conducted in Milan – one thinks of the census of foundations – the Italian Section has organized numerous symposiums with attendances as impressive as those for the congresses. Finally, it publishes regular monographs and studies in collections reserved for members or distributed through the Publishing House Angeli.

For a long time the activity of the Italian Section has been heavily oriented towards the world of public enterprise, particularly that of large management bodies such as ENI and IRI, and municipalized enterprises. This is due to the importance and the role played by public enterprise in the post-WWII Italian economy. CIRIEC-Italia has, however, also devoted attention to the major problems of the social economy, in particular in association with the most important Italian cooperative movement, la Lega. This joint effort finds expression in, for instance, involvement in certain research work on co-operation within CIRIEC International, one of which was co-ordinated by Professor Alberto Zevi.

On the death of Alberto Mortara, three friends and disciples, Giuseppe Bognetti, Massimo Pinchera and Dante Cosi, took up his baton with efficiency and dynamism. CIRIEC-Italia is now among the most active and most representative of the national sections of CIRIEC. The Presidency of CIRIEC-Italia now includes Sergio Siglienti (President) – President of the INA; Luciano Cafagna (Vice-President) – Anti-Trust Council Member; Dante Cosi (Vice-President) – Director of General Affairs and Personnel of the Constitutional Court and Enrico Testa (Vice-President) – President of ENEL. Massimo Pinchera has served as Secretary General and Giuseppe Bognetti as the Editor-in-Chief of the review "Economia Pubblica" for the past four years.

Japan

It was through an Italian visiting professor at Kyoto University that Alberto Mortara in 1984 made contact with Professor Hisao Onoe. Starting from a small group of university people, CIRIEC-Japan came into existence, and despite the distance, a Japanese delegate frequently attends meetings of the International Board and Scientific Commissions. Neither has the Japanese delegation at

congresses, since the one held in Brussels in 1986, passed unnoticed.

CIRIEC-Japan produces various publications and organizes seminars and symposia in cooperation with the companies concerned, unions and ministries. In 1991, Professors Bernard Thiry and Helmut Cox were invited to Japan for a series of conferences in various circles close to the Section. In 1995, Barbara Sak and Bernard Thiry took part in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of CIRIEC-Japan in Tokyo.

Lastly, unlike many other closer and longer-standing national sections, the Japanese Section from the start made the effort to come up in every respect to the International Centre's expectations and its President, Professor Shunzo Nitta, plays an active part in the scientific work of CIRIEC International.

Portugal

In his capacity as Professor of Economic Policy, Guy Quaden was in contact in 1978 with a colleague from the University of Lisbon, Manuela Silva. With her, and with Julio Neves, President of the IPE (Instituto das Participações do Estado) – the public holding company for the Portuguese State industrial shareholdings from the nationalizations after the "Carnation Revolution" – the XIIIth International Congress of CIRIEC was held in Lisbon in 1980. It resulted in the creation of a Portuguese national Section, the Centro de Estudos de Economia Pública e Social (CEEPS).

Interested at first in studying the public economy, given that Portugal had not escaped the recent wave of denationalization, the CEEPS gradually evolved towards the social economy sector in an initial phase under the Presidency of Vítor Melicias.

The personal involvement of the members of the Directorate of the CEEPS – Herlânder Estrela, President, Manuel Canaveira de Campos, Vice-President, and Madalena Santos Ferreira – enabled the CEEPS to organize in Lisbon the XXIst International Congress of CIRIEC (1996), which was an all-round success.

Scotland

As attempts to create a British national Section ran one after the other aground, Paul Lambert obtained the constitution of a Scottish Section at the University of Strathclyde, where he had contacts with certain colleagues. This short-lived Scottish Section, which never had representatives at the International Board and pursued no known activities, has no connection with Professor David Heald, currently at the University of Aberdeen, who regularly contributes to the management of the "Annals" and the work of the CIRIEC Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises.

Slovenia

It will be remembered that a first Yugoslav Section of CIRIEC was founded in Belgrade in 1954 at the instigation of Aser Deleon, Edgard Milhaud's former pupil, in the offices of the Union of Yugoslav Economists' Associations. Apart from a few articles published in the "Annals" on the workers' self-management system, at the time recently introduced in Yugoslavia, the only other activity attributed to the Section was the IVth Congress in Belgrade in 1959 under the patronage of the Central Council of the Yugoslav Trades Unions.

In 1985 Alberto Mortara, him once again, made contact with Anton Vratuša, former Ambassador and honorary President of the International Center for Public Enterprises in developing countries (ICPE) in Ljubljana. Together with a meeting of the International Board of CIRIEC, a first contact meeting took place in the Economic Chamber of Slovenia in the presence of Guy Quaden and Rado Bohinc.

In 1990 the young Yugoslav Section, which had been instituted by Rado Bohinc, invited CIRIEC to hold its XVIIIth Congress in Slovenia, where he had the support of the Presidency. Apart from communication difficulties in reaching Portorož, the Congress was a success.

Shortly afterwards, however, Slovenia and Croatia proclaimed their independence. The Yugoslav Section was dissolved and Rado Bohinc, who became Minister of Science and Technology, informed CIRIEC of the creation of a Slovene Section. The Slovene Section remains today under the management of Marko Bulc and Rado Bohinc.

Spain

In 1981 and 1982, Manuel Sánchez Ayuso and José Luis Monzón Campos – both Professors at the University of Valencia – struck up the first contacts with CIRIEC International with a view to creating a Spanish national Section.

In 1985, the Directorate of Cooperatives of the Ministry of Labour under Sebastián Reyna organized a symposium in Segovia on the social economy in Spain, attended by numerous representatives of various cooperative movements and interested researchers. One of them was familiar with the work pursued by CIRIEC and Jacques Defourny in the matter, and went to Liège shortly beforehand to obtain information about CIRIEC and the national Sections.

Regarding this symposium, Sebastián Reyna had reserved a session for the presentation of CIRIEC. Dr. Luis Alberto Carello, the usual CIRIEC correspondent in Argentina, was likewise invited and was thus able to explain, in Spanish, the objectives and activities of CIRIEC, while Yvonne Gélard, representing Director Guy Quaden, spoke on the nature and activities of the national Sections and on the ideal conditions for success in the creation and development of a well structured, active national section. Some months later, the Praesidium of CIRIEC was invited to a contact meeting with local celebrities of Sevilla. However, it was in Torremolinos (Málaga) that the initiative finally took and produced the Spanish Section of CIRIEC that appointed Professor José Luis Monzón Campos as its President. CIRIEC-España is based in the University of Valencia.

Although most of its members either belong to the cooperative movement or are Spanish university professors specializing in the social economy, the Spanish Section made a special point from the outset of allying itself with the activities of the International Centre – not only for work on the social and cooperative economy, but also on the public economy. Professor José Barea Tejeiro (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), High Commissioner of State, with responsibility for supervising respect by Spain of the criteria permitting its entry into the European Monetary Union as Director of the Budget to the President of the Spanish Council, then co-operated faithfully in the work of the Scientific Commission on Public Enterprises. For his part, Professor José Luis Monzón Campos exercised the Presidency of the Scientific Commission on the Social and Cooperative Economy.

The importance of the Spanish delegation to the Congresses of 1986, 1988 and 1990 attested to the dynamism of CIRIEC-España. The international Congress it convened in Valencia (1992) gave dazzling proof, attended by the high dignitaries of national and regional governments and Valencian local government. At present, it is one of the foremost sections of CIRIEC.

During ten years of existence, CIRIEC-España has consolidated a scientific review of which 27 numbers have been published; numerous publications on the social and cooperative economy were also brought out under its aegis.

Sweden

The announcement made at the 1992 General Assembly in Valencia on the formation of a new national Section in Sweden was followed up by a series of contacts arising from CIRIEC's work on social economy.

After many vain attempts in the past, Bernard Thiry succeeded in interesting the managers of the Swedish Cooperative Development and Research Institute (KOOPI) in charge of training, research and cooperative promotion and also the members of the Swedish Society for Cooperative Studies. Based on these two previously existing structures, now completed with the Association of Cooperative Development Agencies (FKU) and combined in Swedcoop (Swedish cooperative network) and under the Presidency of Per-Olof Jönsson, participation in CIRIEC's proceedings, notably in the meetings of the International Board and in scientific work, was immediate and constructive. CIRIEC-Sweden is henceforth one of CIRIEC's main sections; among its most active members mention must be made of Jan Olsson, member of CIRIEC's Praesidium.

Switzerland

The first of the national Sections, the section Edgard Milhaud supported in Switzerland over the years, was essentially founded on consumer cooperatives, trade unions and certain local authorities.

Despite the personal dedication of certain men like Charles-Henri Barbier, Director of the Swiss Consumer Cooperatives Union (USC), Jean Treina, Counsellor of State, Werner Bleile, Director of the

Central Co-operative Bank, and his successor, Peter Buser, the Swiss Association of CIRIEC has thus far been unable to free itself from its framework to stretch out towards the public sector or to scientific circles. Apart from organizing an international CIRIEC symposium in Montreux (1970), it has not developed its activities at national level. However, it has always faithfully honoured its financial obligations to the "Annals" and to CIRIEC.

The reorganization of the cooperative movement coupled with the disinterest of the associates and other members in the more scientific line of progress recently followed by CIRIEC induced the Swiss Section to cease all activities in 1987.

Turkey

The chronological account has already mentioned the surprise of the 1980 General Assembly in Lisbon at hearing Professor Ali Sait Yüksel from the University of Istanbul announce the creation of a Turkish Section whose first undertaking would be to host the next congress. He also attended the Vienna Congress in 1982.

More recent contacts with the Directors of the Association of Turkish Co-operatives look set to culminate in the realization, some twenty years later, of this once rapidly abandoned plan.

United Kingdom

During the 1970's, after numerous fruitless contacts with the United Kingdom at the regular invitation of British rapporteurs to the international congresses, a small group of specialists interested in research in public enterprises came forward as the British Section of CIRIEC. This Public Enterprise Group (PEG) included, *inter alia*, Professor Richard Pryke from the University of Liverpool, John Chessire and Donald Roy, attached to the research department of the national power production enterprise, the Electricity Board. The last-named is an excellent specialist in British public enterprises. He makes pertinent and noteworthy observations at each of the CIRIEC Congresses he attends. The Group publishes a bulletin entitled "Public Enterprise" which is no less interesting for consisting of only a few pages.

Beyond attending various congresses and contributing some articles to the "Annals", the Group never had firm relations with the International Centre and, since the late 1980's, CIRIEC International has turned to the British cooperatives – to the heads of cooperatives and specialist university researchers alike, such as Alan Thomas and Roger Spear of the Open University in Milton Keynes – to build up solid contacts that promise one day to bring forth a British Section.

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Ciriec International

Université de Liège au Sart-Tilman - Bât. B33, bte 6 - B-4000 Liège - Belgium

Tél. 32/4/366 27 46 - Fax 32/4/366 29 58 - e-mail : ciriec@ulg.ac.be - <http://www.ulg.ac.be/ciriec/ciriec.htm>