



**ANNUAL REPORT
2006**

Quaker Council for European Affairs

It is good that from time to time we stop and look at the whole picture. The Kingdom of God is not only beyond our efforts, but it is also beyond our vision.

Throughout our life we do only a very small part of this magnificent enterprise which is God's work.

Nothing that we do is complete, which is another way of saying the Kingdom is far beyond us.

No statement expresses all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings us to perfection.

No pastoral visit brings us fulfilment.

No programme totally fulfils the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

And that is precisely the point: we plant the seeds that will one day grow. We water the seeds that were planted by others, knowing that they hold a promise for the future.

We lay the foundations for what will come after.

We provide the leavening that will have an effect beyond what we alone can do.

Certainly, we cannot do it all, and when we realise that, we feel a certain freedom.

It enables us to do something, but to do it well.

It may not be complete, but it is a start.

One more step, one more opportunity for the Grace of God to enter and do the rest.

Perhaps we shall never see the final result of our work.

But that is the difference between the master of the work and the worker.

We are workers, not the Master of the Work;

We are ministers, but not the Messiah.

We may be prophets, but of a future that does not belong to us.

Bishop Oscar Romero

There is no way to peace along the path of safety, for peace must be dared, it is itself the great venture, and can never be safe. Peace is the opposite of security. To demand guarantees is to mistrust, and this mistrust in turn brings forth war. To look for guarantees is to want to protect oneself. Peace means giving oneself completely to God's commandment.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1934

Commentary on Psalm 85: 9-13



CLERK'S INTRODUCTION

An Annual Report is a good opportunity to reflect on the meaning and significance of the organization you are reporting on. I began with considering that QCEA is one small NGO among so many NGOs in Brussels. But then I reconsidered. Is QCEA small? On the one hand QCEA may represent Quakers, who are not large in numbers in the European Union. But on the other hand QCEA represents a message, which is anything but small. Peace, justice, human rights and freedom of conscience. Moreover, size and impact of an NGO depend on conviction, and Quakers are driven by conviction, here in Brussels and in their Yearly Meetings.

It has been a busy year again and much has been done. Some people left us and others came, in the office as well as in the Council. Robin Bloomfield left in December and in January Joanna Sprackett joined us. Charlotte Wetton left on the first of April and Matthew Taylor took her place. Cheron Constance left in September; she was succeeded by Sarah Barnett. It is good to have these young and enthusiastic people with us. World politics may seem threatening and amazing sometimes, but as long as we can inspire young people such as these, there is hope. The composition of Council also changed a bit. Johan Westra left Council in April, Paul Ingram and Simon Gray left in October, and we welcomed Patricia Cockrell and welcomed back Fritz Renken.

Council met twice as usual, in April and in October. In April the emphasis was on the work programme of Representatives and Programme Assistants. Their reports were amply discussed and appreciated. In October we had also to spend quite some time on our financial prospects. Council's input is important as it reflects Quaker views in and on the Union. Informing Council Members is as important as it is one of the channels of information back to Quakers in their Meetings. You will read more about the work and the finances in other parts of this report.

Bureau also met twice. The relatively small need for meeting of Bureau (e-mail is a good way of communication for many issues) underlines the quality of the organization and the work of and in the office.

Council established a Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Brian Stapleton, our first Representative, who died in the autumn of 2005.

QCEA's work consists broadly of two main areas: the work in Brussels with the EU and other European Institutions, and the feedback to the Quakers. An important aspect is the monitoring of things that go on in the Union. Let me mention some examples: the NGO statement on arms trade and diversion; the consultation on the representativeness of civil society; the Green Paper on Energy; the European Transparency Initiative; the consultation on the

mid-term review of the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Strategy; the White Paper on a European Communication Policy; the Church Leaders' Meeting in Brussels with their letter on Values and Ambitions. All these required attention and received critical Quaker evaluation.



The cooperation with EPLO was again fruitful and the Intergroup for Peace Initiatives established itself as a recognizable body in the Parliament. QCEA's role in these is valuable in both organisations.

The feedback to YMs and to individual supporters took the usual form of *Around Europe* ("Read that paper!") and the biennial Associate Members' conference in the Chant d'Oiseau Centre in October. The theme of the latter was Peacebuilding - what is the role of Europe? It turned out to emphasize the essential question of our Quaker role. How do we implement our Peace Testimony and our refusal of violence nowadays?

A third well known way of outreach of QCEA was again the Study Tour, which is something every Quaker who is interested in Europe should attend once at least.

A major focus this year was the financial position of QCEA, not the immediate situation, but certainly our prospects for the foreseeable future.

In the mean time our beautiful Quaker House is now listed as a monument, a welcome appreciation on the one hand, but also potentially rather expensive.

It is worthwhile to mention QCEA's list of publications, from which interested people might order. A new publication which will be available shortly is an extensive report on the situation of women in prison in many countries of the Council of Europe. And in spring 2007 the proceedings of the AM conference may be expected.

To end with: an easy way to contact QCEA is via our website. There you will find all those things which could not find a place in an Annual Report. There you will find also the Peace Directory which was launched in 2005, and which is updated regularly. With your cooperation, that is. It would be nice to know how often it has been visited, but also to hear the experience of users.

I said in the beginning that 2006 has been a busy year. Let me end with saying that I was again amazed about the energy and unremitting zeal of our Representatives, who were again able to kindle with enthusiasm the whole office, in light times and in dark. Quakers, you know...

Bert Touwen, Clerk



QCEA in 2005 – Representatives' Report

Looking back over 2006, it is hard to believe how fast the year has gone. At the time of writing, we are already well into 2007 and the pace does not slow down. This makes it sometimes a bit difficult to maintain a clear perspective on what actually happened in 2006.

Comings and Goings

As in every year, we have the pleasure of welcoming new Programme Assistants and the sadness of saying good-bye to others. In 2006, we welcomed Joanna Sprackett, who was with us from January to December, Matt Taylor, who was with us from April to December and Sarah Barnett, who joined us in September and will be with us until the summer of 2007. Charlotte Wetton left in April and Cheron Constance left in September. Elsewhere in this report you will find the Programme Assistants' reports from Cheron, Joanna and Matt.

The staff team was otherwise stable with both of us continuing in our 4th full year here, and Xavier Verhaeghe continuing to keep QCEA administratively, financially, and legally on the right side of local bureaucracy and ensuring that we make the most effective use of the wonderful asset which we have in Quaker House Brussels.

We have benefited from a number of volunteers continuing to assist us in various ways. It is right here to acknowledge particularly the contribution which Diane Murray continues to make on a purely voluntary basis. Her knowledge of the Council of Europe, her willingness to chip in and help with just about anything that needs doing, and her dedication to keeping our not insubstantial library in order are all very valuable to us. She has been coming to QCEA five or six times a year for four or five days at a time to help us and we always look forward to her visits.

There has been some change in the composition of our Council during the year. This is reflected in the Clerk's introduction.

From our perspective it is abundantly clear that we would not be able to do all the things we do, and which you will read about later, without the contribution of all the people who work tirelessly for the organization – Council and Committee members, volunteers and staff. We would like to thank all of them for their contribution and for making this contribution with such enthusiasm and commitment. It is and has been a pleasure to work with all of them.

We are also clear that none of this work would be possible without the generous and ongoing financial support from individual Friends, Meetings, Monthly, General, and Quarterly Meetings, Yearly Meetings and a number of Trusts. We want to single out for our particular thanks here our British Committee, our Dutch Support Group (VVQREA) and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.



Programme Activities

Our programme has continued to focus on peace, human rights, and economic justice. Here, we want to pick out some of the highlights under each of these headings. This cannot be exhaustive but is intended to give you a flavour of the work being done at QCEA.

Economic Justice

In the early part of the year, the work on investigating the role of the private sector in conflict – with reference to Cyprus as an example – continued to be the main focus of this element of our programme.

Cheron travelled to Cyprus and interviewed a large number of people there and was able to see for herself the reality of the issues faced by the two communities on this island. The study increasingly focused on the role the European Union is playing there; this has also had an impact on our ability to publish the report Cheron wrote; the situation changes so rapidly that we keep having to update it. It is intended that this will be published in the early part of 2007 and then be used to continue our engagement with key European Union decision-makers in Cyprus to bring our insights, and the views of the people who gave of their time to talk to Cheron, into the debate.

From September onwards, we embarked on several other areas of exploration under the broad heading of economic justice:

We have reconnected with a network of faith-based organisations working on the role of ethical shareholders in bringing about policy change in large companies. This work focuses on the extractives industries and so far has meant some mapping of investments held by faith communities and churches in such industries to establish whether there is scope for joint action. This work continues.

We have embarked on a study of the delivery of development assistance to African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries by the European Union to establish whether the express commitment to mainstream conflict prevention



into development assistance is actually making a difference on the ground. We are undertaking detailed case studies in 9 countries, with information obtained not only from Brussels-based sources and the internet but also from NGOs working in the field – in partnership with member organisations of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). This work continues.

At the interface of economic justice, peace and human rights is our ongoing work on the peace tax; we continue to work slowly for a change in perceptions with regard to this issue at the Council of Europe to lay the foundations for eventual policy change in this area. We updated and added to our briefing papers on this subject. We also supplied the UK-based 'Peace Tax 7' with a translation into French, German, and Dutch of the text of their DVD on the subject.

Human Rights

As in previous years, our major focus in this area has been the Women in Prison project. The three years of research culminated in the production of a detailed report setting out our findings from the government questionnaires (we received 30 replies from 46 countries), from information we received from a number of NGOs, from our own desk-based research, and from a number of prison visits. During 2006, Programme Assistants visited 2 prisons in Denmark, 3 prisons in Estonia, and 1 prison in Italy.

We also continued our work on lobbying the Council of Europe. We drafted a motion for a resolution, got this tabled by a Swedish MP, lobbied for its acceptance by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly for a full report, achieved this, and are now in touch with the Romanian MP charged with drafting the report. We are, of course, making available to her all of our findings so far.

Just at the beginning of 2006, the European Prison Rules were reviewed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and we produced and submitted a 'Gender Critique' of the revised rules which, though much more aware of the issues for women and their children than the 1987 version, still leave much room for improvement.

Less intensive work was done on Conscientious Objection – a field where our report published in 2005 is standing us in good stead. We find this is being read (and quoted) in official documents – for example by UN bodies; we will be undertaking a further update in 2007.

We continue to engage with other NGOs in Brussels on matters relating to

asylum and migration and assist their lobbying where this is possible – it is an area where we recognise others have considerably more expertise and resources than we do and we are glad to lend support when that helps.



We also continue as active members of the Human Rights and Democracy Network of NGOs, a network which monitors human rights issues at the European Union level. EPLO, also a member of this network, and QCEA are instrumental in ensuring that the conflict dimension of human rights issues (or the human rights dimension of conflict issues) are kept on the agenda. We feel that our approach of looking at the connections across our three main themes adds value in such networks.

Peace

We have not changed our focus in this area fundamentally during the year. The three main aspects of our work have been:

European Union Civilian Capabilities and Resources

We work closely with EPLO on this issue. The highlights in 2006 were a number of joint events with the Austrian and Finnish Presidencies of the European Union to discuss and further the role of civil society in civilian crisis intervention by the European Union. QCEA continues to take a high profile role in this work, chairing the EPLO working group on this theme and participating actively in the dialogue with the Presidencies. At the end of the year, and under the Finnish Presidency, the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management in the Council of the European Union, agreed a statement on the interaction with civil society which reflected a number of the points we had been lobbying for, including an ongoing (though informal) dialogue; this area of interaction between the EU and civil society will be reviewed in early 2008 and more progress may then be possible. In the meantime, this document has been adopted by the Political and Security Committee, the highest diplomatic decision-making forum on such matters in the European Union.

Also in this broad context, we were actively engaged in the discussions on the financing of conflict prevention work done by the European Commission from 2007 onwards. We worked with the European Parliament, the European Commission and, to a lesser extent, with the Presidencies on this very difficult and technical issue. We did not gain all the points we aimed for; in part this has become the victim of an inter-institutional dispute between the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. But we have safeguarded some resources for conflict prevention and we have been able to impact the



discussion; both of these will assist in influencing actual programming of financial resources over the next few years.

European Union Responses to Terrorism

We continued to work on this issue; we published a further two briefing papers on what the EU is actually doing in this area and one of our Programme Assistants wrote a deeper analysis of the thinking behind the EU responses to terrorism coupled with some recommendations for alternative approaches. This document will be the basis of further lobbying on this issue in the future. We will also continue to monitor and report on developments in this area.

Intergroup for Peace Initiatives

The Intergroup for Peace Initiatives is a small informal group of MEPs who are interested in and keen to keep on the political agenda of the European Parliament matters of peace, disarmament and related issues. This group began in 2005 and QCEA has been providing a secretariat for the group.

In 2006 we continued with arranging a number of events for the group which included:

- A hearing on the issue of military war resisters and their human right to refuse to carry out orders that they object to on conscientious grounds
- A hearing on the subject of security research being funded by the EU which has significant military overtones
- A hearing on the link between lack of access to resources and conflict. Because we used the example of energy, the issue of climate change was also on the agenda. It became clear that it is not just the competition for resources but also the fact of climate change itself and its consequences that have in them the roots of conflict.
- An action to support the 'Million Faces Against the Arms Trade' – we collected over 1000 photo signatures in the European Parliament in 24 hours. We were able to contribute through this action to the achievement by the 'Million Faces' of their goal to collect one million photographs to present to the UN Arms Control Conference in June 2006.

Engaging with Friends in Europe and Beyond

We see as a very important part of our work to engage with Friends throughout Europe – and beyond. There are a number of reasons for that:

It is important for us to ensure that we hear what the concerns of Friends

are in relation to European politics so that we can reflect this where possible in our programme work and in our policy positions.

We see as part of our role to ensure that Friends can engage with European politics on the basis of good, up-to-date and clear information. Whilst QCEA is not the only source of such information, we are the only Quaker source and we take that role seriously. One example of this in 2006 was a request from Norwich Friends to assist them in bringing their concern about animal welfare to the attention of the relevant decision-makers in the European Commission. We arranged for them and accompanied them to a useful meeting in the Directorate General for Trade where they were able to present their position, to discuss the obstacles the EU sees in ensuring animal welfare in the context of reducing global trade barriers and to make contact with some of the people involved in this issue with whom they can then take the discussion forward.

We need the support of Friends: both in terms of the moral support of knowing that Friends know what we do, support what we do, and hold us and our work in the light; and it would be disingenuous to deny our need for ongoing financial support.

As a result, our interaction with Friends is important and should be reflected here. The following were particular highlights in 2006.

Attendance at Yearly Meetings

- Ireland Yearly Meeting (Liz Scurfield)
- Britain Yearly Meeting (Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch)
- Netherlands Yearly Meeting (Liz Scurfield)
- Nordic Yearly Meetings (Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch)

Attendance at other Quaker and Quaker-related Events

- EMEYF Spring Gathering (Matt Taylor)
- Scotland (South East Scotland MM Learning Partnership –Matt Taylor; with Jude Kirton-Darling, QCEA Assistant Clerk)
- Cumberland General Meeting (Matt Taylor; with Sarah Richards, British Committee)
- Presentation at The Mount School, York (Charlotte Wetton)
- Presentation at Leighton Park School, Reading (Joanna Sprackett)
- EMES Peace and Service Consultation (Sarah Barnett, Liz Scurfield, Martina Weitsch)
- Visit to Friends Committee for National Legislation (Martina Weitsch)
- Quaker International Affairs Representatives' Retreat (Martina Weitsch)





Events organised by QCEA for Friends

- Study Tour (April 2006)
- Conference on the theme of 'The Role of the EU in Peacebuilding – in collaboration with QPSW and QUNO (October 2006)

We are keenly aware of the fact that in an international organisation with supporters in many different countries the diversity of languages is both a joy and a regular challenge. We are grateful to those many Friends who put up with the fact that we are, by and large, Anglophone and that you have to read most of our published material in English. We are grateful to our volunteer student from the Institut Libre de Marie Haps in Brussels for working very hard for 4 weeks in December to translate some of our material into French – now on our website. We are also grateful to our German Support Group who translate *Around Europe* into German each month (also on the website). We thank you all.

Quaker House, Brussels

On the front cover of this report you will find a photograph of our beautiful house. It is owned by Britain Yearly Meeting and QCEA rents it. We are grateful to Britain YM for this significant contribution to our work.

Why is the house so special to us?

First, it is where we work. It is situated in the European quarter of Brussels and allows us very easy access to all the buildings of the European Union institutions. It would be even better if it was also situated in Strasbourg, but that is simply not in the realm of the possible in this world – you can only be in one place at any one time – that is even more so for buildings than for people. The location also allows us to offer our meeting rooms as venues for all manner of other groups. Many NGOs meet here; many NGOs now part of the Brussels scene were founded here. But other groups also use the building extensively and so we can offer a resource and, at the same time, generate some money to pay for the upkeep of the building.

Second, it is where we live. Both the Representatives and the Programme Assistants have apartments in the house. This is important because it means there is a living Quaker presence and it means that we can afford to live on much lower salaries than would otherwise be the case. Of course, living and working in the same house is not always easy, but we seem to be able to manage it with good grace and good humour.

Third, it is where we worship. Brussels Meeting (the largest Meeting in Belgium and Luxembourg MM) meets here every Sunday. Again and again, others who use the building tell us that it has a very special atmosphere – a fact not unrelated to the presence of a Meeting for Worship in the building since 1983. The fact that we live on site also means that Brussels Meeting (and Friends in Europe more generally) have a resource for outreach.



Finally, it is where we have two guest rooms available, where Friends and others associated with our work or that of partner NGOs can find reasonably priced and friendly short-term overnight accommodation. This additional service brings a different type of life into the house which adds to our networks and our sense of connectedness with Friends from Europe and beyond.

The building is now listed as a historical monument – not because of the Quaker presences in it, but because of its Art Nouveau architecture. This brings with it opportunities and challenges – at the moment the challenges prevail. The work to establish the overall scheme for the much needed renovation of the interior has made the interior look a little the worse for wear.

We receive considerable advice and support from Britain Yearly Meeting Finance and Property Department and the Property Policy Group in the ongoing task of managing and maintaining a large old property; we are grateful for this and look forward to the visit of the Property Policy Group of Britain YM in 2007.

Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch
Joint Representatives

PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS' CONCLUDING REPORTS

Cheron Constance

My first weekend at Quaker House, I attended the Border Meeting of Belgium and Luxembourg Monthly Meeting and Netherlands YM. I had the opportunity to spend time with Quakers in this part of Europe and to gain insight on the challenges, frustrations, and delights of their faith journeys.

In April the QCEA Study Tour was attended by 16 people. In what I hope will be a blow to *uninformed* Euro-scepticism, half of our participants were British Friends or had connections with British Friends. We were also very pleased to have Friends from Germany, Sweden, and Latvia, and a teacher from the



Friends School in Ramallah participated as well. The Study Tour was extremely well run and well organised. Though I already had several years of event planning experience and did not acquire this as a new skill, I was reminded of my abilities to communicate with and be attentive to others. I appreciated that my work helped make the experience a positive one for the participants and for QCEA.

I have been researching the conflict on the island of Cyprus and the role of business and civil society in building peace there. In May I travelled to Cyprus to conduct interviews with various stakeholders in government, businesses, NGOs, and intergovernmental organisations. It was an extremely busy time, with almost 30 interviews in 13 days. I am in the process of writing a report of my findings, based on what my interviewees perceive to be the potential for the EU to help bring about peace there. A draft report will be submitted before I leave.

I am interested in various aspects of international development, and this mission to Cyprus exposed me to non-emergency fieldwork in an intense way. Thanks to independent reading I have done on fieldwork in conflict transformation, a personal training course I attended on humanitarian aid and emergency relief, and this experience, I now have an empirical appreciation of the challenges of policy-oriented NGOs working abroad in post-conflict situations. Regrettably, Cyprus is such a *sui generis* situation that studying the situation there provides limited perspective on how international development works on a broader scale.

I had debriefings about my interviews and about writing my report when I returned to Brussels, but in retrospect, I see that it might have been beneficial for me to speak to people in other organisations with field experience about this mission, since this sort of work is new to QCEA. I had no time to examine my feelings and concerns about my fieldwork when I was in Cyprus, and such a discussion could have offered greater discernment on where this experience will fit into my future plans.

This has been a challenging year with many occasions to explore my understanding of myself and how I relate to people and conditions. This did not always happen with great success or ease, but I trust time and perspective will continue to bring clarity. The work I did is not what I expected, but I was able to have some unique experiences, some of which I have shared here. I am privileged to have had this opportunity.

Cheron Constance
Programme Assistant (September 2005 – September 2006)

Joanna Sprackett

The main project that I worked on during my year at QCEA was the Women in Prison project, jointly run with Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva. When I joined, the project was entering its third year so there was already a wealth of information and resources that had been collected. I was very grateful to have a handover of three months before Charlotte Wetton, the PA who had previously been working on the project, left. One of my main tasks over the year was to complete the final Women in Prison report, which had been started by Charlotte. To take on a report which has been partly written by someone else is a difficult job, and made me appreciate the difficulties that QCEA faces in running long-term projects throughout which PAs come and go.



Slightly less conventional as tasks go, and extremely interesting and challenging, were several prison visits that I undertook during the course of the year. I visited the women's section of a prison in Milan and three prisons in Estonia. All of these visits were eye-opening and made me aware of the importance of campaigning for the rights of women in prison. The memories of both the visits themselves and the experience of staying with Quakers in both Milan and Tallinn, who were so welcoming, will remain with me forever.

My organisational skills were cultivated over the course of the year and the organisation of the Peace Conference run by QCEA and held in October 2006 in Brussels required attention to detail and a methodical approach. I was the main contact for the participants, and as they numbered around 100, this was a job that required continuous (although often low-key) attention for much of the year.

Other jobs that I have had include attending the steering committee meetings of the European Parliament Intergroup for Peace Initiatives and the 'Gender, Peacebuilding and Security' working group of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office. Both experiences gave me the valuable opportunity of seeing how other institutions in Brussels work first-hand.

At times, I found the experience of living and working in the same building challenging, but through facing these challenges I feel I have grown a lot over the course of the year. Overall, the experience has been immensely rewarding, in and of itself. In addition, without the experience I have gained at QCEA, I wouldn't have been offered an exciting position in London due to start in 2007. I wish everyone at QCEA the best for the New Year.

Joanna Sprackett
Programme Assistant (January – December 2006)



Matthew Taylor

It has been a pleasure working at QCEA throughout 2006.

My main work area has been QCEA's 'responding to terrorism' project. This will be ready for publication in early 2007. This publication lists a number of recommendations for the EU and its Member States to better ensure our safety, to safeguard our liberties and our way of life. I wish QCEA the best of luck on building coalitions and engaging decision-makers on these critical issues. It is a shame I cannot take a more active role in the process of engagement, but I look forward to viewing progress and offering further help where possible. I hope it leads to some sort of concrete results.

Working within the EPLO (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office) working group on Peacebuilding and Development was also interesting and beneficial. This further strengthened my research, team work and networking skills. I look forward to seeing how the work programme on mainstreaming conflict prevention develops.

Writing for *Around Europe* throughout the year has been a real pleasure; I have enjoyed these philosophical and practical investigations immensely. Receiving positive feedback from readers and Council members was uplifting. I also enjoyed formatting the newsletter. I have used my research for QCEA to publish elsewhere, and I appreciate the Representatives' encouragement and flexibility on this.

I also appreciated opportunities given to attend conferences and seminars of relevant interest. The International Student Young Pugwash seminar on Human Security and the EU conference on energy security were educational and interesting.

I enjoyed fulfilling the EMEYF secretary role. After only two weeks on the job I had the privilege of attending Spring Gathering in Barcelona. This was an excellent initiation into the new and interesting world of European and Middle East Young Friends. It also helped in clarifying the nature of my role, and the structure of the group.

The year has been practically and personally valuable; I have enjoyed it very much. I wish QCEA all the best of luck for the future.

Matt Taylor
Programme Assistant (April – December 2006)

TREASURER'S REPORT




QCEA's financial situation remained satisfactory in 2006, with a balance of income over expenditure at the end of the year that exceeded expectations and testified once more to the careful financial management that has been a regular characteristic of the period since the present Representatives arrived in Brussels.

The budget for 2006 was overoptimistic about subscriptions to *Around Europe* and the potential take-up of associate and supporting membership. In 2007 we must consequently be more realistic about the interest in supporting QCEA in this way and also be prepared to give greater importance to soliciting support from individuals, meetings and other bodies. Fortunately, support from Yearly Meetings and other sources was at least as much as expected and in some cases exceeded the budgeted amounts, thus compensating for these disappointing figures. Friends across Europe demonstrated their attachment to the continuing importance of QCEA's work by their generosity.

The apparent weakness of memberships was all the more surprising when one considers that QCEA held a very successful and well-attended Associate Members' Conference on the subject of peace in 2006. It is to be hoped that the ripples from this event will encourage more sympathizers to become Associate Members in 2007. The conference was also a financial success, inasmuch as it covered its direct costs satisfactorily.

Although the cost of employing staff, of running the office and of maintaining Quaker House all exceeded certain budget headings, economies in related areas produced in the end a positive result. Quaker House merits special attention. The building has now been listed for its special architectural and historical interest. This listing, however agreeable, has some negative consequences. First, it limits the changes that may be made to the building, which can be a problem for the operational headquarters of a lively Quaker organization. In addition it will entail the restoration of the house as far as possible to its original condition. This work, which will take place over several years, will be costly. Although it will attract a public subsidy, it will also give rise to costs. I would like to acknowledge with thanks the very positive support of Britain Yearly Meeting, the owner of the house, which has agreed to make its own contribution, over and above what might be expected from a landlord, to this work. QCEA should not be indifferent to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the city where it is based, a city whose position as capital of the European Union and seat of NATO has had some regrettable consequences for the urban fabric. Notwithstanding, money contributed to QCEA has been

 given in order to promote the concerns that our organization is committed to pursuing, and care will clearly need to be taken to ensure that funds are not diverted unduly to renovation and maintenance.

In summary, this has been a good year for QCEA's finances. Budgetary projections for the next few years suggest that more difficult times may lie ahead if new sources of income are not found, and this year's positive result will help to postpone the moment when this shift of income and expenditure becomes a problem. I recommend the Council to express its satisfaction at this outcome.

Richard Condon, Treasurer



Quaker House in Brussels - The bow window
on the main façade (Picture : M. Berthold)

Annual Accounts

Statement of Income and Expenditure



Income	2006	2005
Around Europe Subscriptions	1,845.49	2,641.50
Sales of Publications	293.11	132.00
Associate Membership	3,830.06	4,171.65
Supporting Membership	2,938.79	3,202.66
Donations		
British Friends	69,365.52	69,337.06
Netherlands Friends	35,196.50	37,341.22
German Friends	26,921.20	18,992.06
Swiss Friends	2,053.53	2,091.25
Belgium & Lux Friends	4,142.00	3,605.80
Irish Friends	5,025.41	4,491.60
French Friends	1,451.09	2,006.71
Swedish Friends	2,397.20	1,328.84
Danish Friends	436.61	620.41
Norwegian Friends	1,179.44	1,346.66
Other Friends (EMEYF, EMES, AFSC)	0.00	1,215.22
Other Donations	2,062.80	1,301.97
Trusts & Foundations	72,559.55	86,916.63
Total Donations	222,790.85	230,595.43
Lettings Meeting & Guest Rooms	19,706.62	20,617.72
Office Reimbursements	5,910.35	1,882.79
Staff Travel Reimbursements	930.17	1,357.39
Staff & Salary funding	4,193.76	960.22
Seminar and Study Tour Income	6,261.98	8,902.07
Projects income	24,041.07	5,497.72
Interests	3,513.78	
Total Income	296,256.03	279,961.15
Expenditure		
Printing & mailing Publications	7,480.64	10,142.99
Quaker House Renovation	5,174.46	9,255.42
Quaker House Costs	27,499.05	19,153.13
Office Costs	37,341.86	32,030.14
Council Meetings	5,197.75	5,814.65
Staff Costs		
Travel	9,504.44	11,813.79
Staff Salaries	81,585.97	57,321.79
Employer's Social Charges	63,331.36	57,816.37
PA Employment Costs	2,371.86	16,862.62
Staff Training & other staff costs	1,895.30	1,606.80
Fees	5,662.18	
Total Staff costs	164,351.07	145,421.37
Seminar & Study Tour Costs	7,068.19	9,775.13
Projects Expenditure	6,606.71	2,142.20
Total Expenditure	260,719.73	233,735.03
Balance of Income and Expenditure	35,536.30	46,226.12



Statement of Assets

Assets at 1 January	<i>2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
Bank	557	1,554
Giro	8,831	2,617
Triodos QCEA Funds	124,660	65,065
Triodos Marmotte Fund	58,622	70,647
Cash	205	34
Total	192,875	139,917

Movements in Funds	<i>2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
Balance of receipts over payments	35,537	52,959
Provision for accrued holiday pay entitlement	-13,807	
Social charges paid after the end of the year	- 477	- 4,163
Computer depreciation	5,546	
'Bilan'	26,799	48,796

Assets at 31 December	<i>2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
Bank	3,156	557
Giro	16,064	8,831
Triodos (QCEA Funds)	161,793	124,660
Triodos (Marmotte Funds)	46,574	58,622
Cash	824	205
Total	228,412	192,875

Notes

Not included in the figures above are the following :

	<i>2006</i>	<i>2005</i>
Funds held by QCEA British Committee at 31 December in sterling	223,196	225,082
Euro equivalent of these funds	331,481	327,049
Funds held by VVQREA at 31 December	696,684	667,228
Funds held by QCEA on behalf of EMEYF	4,399	7,839

Council Members 2006



Clerk	Bert Touwen
Assistant Clerk	Judith Kirton-Darling
Treasurer	Richard Condon
Member of Bureau	Dieter Hartwich
Member of Bureau	Noël Purcell O'Byrne
Belgium and Luxembourg MM	Vivien Flynn
Britain YM	Paul Ingram
Denmark YM	Hans Aaen
France YM	Phillip Spencer
German YM	Helge Moog
Ireland YM	Simon Lamb
Netherlands YM	Peter Spreij
Norway YM	Penny Heymans
Sweden YM	Annika Hollsing
Switzerland YM	Derek Brett
FWCC/EMES	Bronwyn Harwood (to April 2006)
	Fritz Renken (from April 2006)
FWCC/EMEYF	Simon Gray
QCEA British Committee	Patricia Cockrell
VVQREA	Johan Westra (to April 2006)
	Vacant (from April 2006)



Committees

Bureau

Bert Touwen (Clerk)
Judith Kirton-Darling (Assistant Clerk)
Richard Condon (Treasurer)
Dieter Hartwich
Noël Purcell O'Byrne
Hennie Jansen

Publications and Communications Committee

Tom Heydeman
Dennis Tomlin
Aleid Sevenster
Debbie Jenkinson

Finance Committee

Sarah Richards (Clerk)
Richard Condon (ex officio)
John Green
Hennie Jansen
Helge Moog
Tom Heydeman
Neithard Petry
(from September 2006)

Nominations Committee

Fritz Renken (Clerk)
Dennis Tomlin
Hans Aaen
Paul Ingram

House Committee

Elizabeth Baker (Clerk)
(from April 2006)
Donna Donovan
Janna van der Meulen
Jan Peters

Staff Team

Representatives

Liz Scurfield
Martina Weitsch

Office Manager (part-time)

Xavier Verhaeghe

Programme Assistants

Cheron Constance (to September 2006)
Joanna Sprackett (to December 2006)
Matthew Taylor (to December 2006)
Sarah Barnett (from September 2006)

Quaker Council for European Affairs Aisbl

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Association internationale sans but lucratif

Internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk

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