



Annual Report 2007

Quaker Council for European Affairs



QCEA Annual Report 2007

May we look upon our Treasures, and the furniture of our Houses, and the Garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these possessions or not.

John Woolman

If fighting is inconsistent with an ideal society, then fighting will not bring the ideal society. A spiritual result is produced by spiritual means and a material result by material means. If war is evil, as almost everyone admits, then it can not be the right way to produce a good result.

Howard Brinton

We are inclined to call things by the wrong names. We call prosperity 'happiness', and adversity 'misery' even though adversity is the school of wisdom and often the way to eternal happiness.

William Penn



QCEA staff team July 2007 (from left to right): Sophie Miller, Sarah Barnett, Liz Scurfield, Matt Loffman, Xavier Verhaeghe, Martina Weitsch
Photo: Joslin Towler



QCEA Annual Report 2007

Introduction by the Clerk

In 2007 the European Union entered a further stage of its development and obviously this had consequences for QCEA. New Member States entered the Union and the widely discussed Constitutional Treaty was replaced by the Lisbon Treaty the content of which makes clear that our work is far from finished. Especially the paragraphs on military needs, armaments and the environment ask for our close consideration. Peace is a grand word and on many persons' lips. But words often just remain words. One problem, which cannot be called new but which suddenly came strongly to the fore, is the effect of climate change, whatever the causes, with its economic and military consequences.

QCEA has been present to accept the challenge. In the Report of our Representatives you can read what has been done and what is planned. I will not repeat this, but I want to emphasize the composure and the self-reliance, based on a realistic Quaker attitude, which infuses the work that is carried out in and from the office. Our Council meetings are reflections of our confidence in the meaningfulness of this work.

We lost one of our first workers in the field: Elisabeth Baker who died in May. We remember her with gratitude.

Council met twice. We took leave of Patricia Cockrell and Helge Moog as Council members and welcomed Wils 't Hart, William Waddilove and Julian Weinberg.

Bureau also met twice. I repeat what I wrote last year: The low frequency of Bureau meetings reflects the good organization and the diligence of the office.

There were as usual changes in Programme Assistants: Sarah Barnett, Joanna Sprackett and Matthew Taylor left, while Lucas Guttenberg, Matthew Loffman and Sophie Miller joined. Let me say here again how impressed I have been - and am - of the high quality of these young persons, both with regard to their abilities and their dedication to the work. Read their contributions to *Around Europe* and their reports.

Talking of *Around Europe* I would like to compliment our Representatives on both the level and the readability of this periodical. It not merely highlights the important issues that are at stake in the EU, but also gives the Quaker view which tells the reader how he/she can find her/his stand. It is my fixed opinion that each Quaker who wants to know what is going on in the European Union should read it.

We had a few new publications this year: the report of the *Women in Prison* project; the publication resulting from the QCEA/QUNO/QPSW conference in 2006, *Peace and Peacebuilding -Some European Perspectives*; the report on *Effective Counter-Terrorism -A Critical Assessment of European Union Responses*; and on the website you will find Richard Hilken's *Reason, Faith and Experience - An Introduction to 21st century Quakerism*. There is more on the website!

Council considered the question of the representation of the often very small groups of Friends from Eastern and Central Europe countries which have now entered the Union. We hope to find an effective solution to this. Another issue is the growth of Evangelical Friends' Churches in Europe and their relation to QCEA. We nominated an *ad hoc* subcommittee of Council to explore this issue in cooperation with EMES-FWCC. A major decision was the formulation of a project on Energy, Conflict and Climate Change, to start in 2008 and to be led by a new Policy Officer. The title of the Project implies its urgency.

Our financial situation is satisfactory. Still is, I should say, but we have to be careful.

Obviously there were many more interesting things in 2007. You will find them in this Report. Cooperation with other Peace groups in EPLO and the work of and in the Intergroup for Peace Initiatives with members of the European Parliament are merely a few examples. Do you want to



know how QCEA works in Brussels? The best way is to attend the Study Tour, which is organized each year, and which gives a live presentation of the means by which QCEA tries to reach its goals.

This is my last Annual Report. Rapidly increasing hearing problems make it impossible for me to go on with the clerkship. The five years during which I have served have taught me what faith, confidence and Friendliness may do. I agree with Adam Curle, who once said: 'No one has been able to show me any good reason for not believing in the reality of the Inner Light'. So let me end with something I read in a letter written by the poet Dylan Thomas: 'God is the country of the Spirit, and each of us is given a little holding of ground in that country; it is our duty to explore that holding'.

Bert Touwen
Clerk

QCEA in 2007 - Representatives' Report

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 2007, we welcomed Sophie Miller and Matt Loffman who joined us in January and Lucas Guttenberg who joined us in July. We said good-bye to Matt Taylor and Joanna Sprackett who left at the very beginning of the year and to Sarah Barnett whose final report you can read in this Annual Report and who left in the summer to join Phaphama, a South African NGO working on Alternatives to Violence, where Sarah is a one year QPSW Peacemaker (employed through Britain YM).

As in previous years, we have benefited from 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. And although her visits have been a little less frequent in 2007, we benefit greatly from her input when she is here. She also continues to offer hospitality to Liz and other staff members when they are in Strasbourg and she provided a wonderful lunch for the Study Tour participants in July, when they visited the Institutions there.

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 with us and support us - 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 want to pay a special tribute this year to a long-term supporter of QCEA: Elisabeth Baker, one of the Friends who brought QCEA into being and who was a stalwart supporter of QCEA throughout its life, died on 14 May 2007. We miss her enormously.

We are also clear that none of this work would be possible without the generous and ongoing financial support from individual Friends, Local, Monthly, Area, General, Quarterly and 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. We also want to express our thanks for three years' funding from the Polden Puckham Charitable Trust which comes to an end in early 2008.

Programme Activities

Our programme has continued to focus on peace, human rights, and economic justice although in 2007 we were able to undertake some initial scoping work on a new programme area on **Energy, Climate Change and Conflict** which will start up as a project in 2008.

The following account is intended to provide some highlights of our work this year. This cannot be exhaustive but is intended to give you a flavour of the work being carried out at QCEA.



Economic Justice

Our main focus this year has been on the exploration of the question: Is conflict prevention (and conflict sensitivity) mainstreamed in development assistance provided by the EU to African, Pacific and Caribbean countries? To do so was a commitment enshrined in the so-called Cotonou Agreement which governs the relationship between the EU and this group of countries.

This has involved a lot of in depth research of what the EU is actually doing in terms of funding development work aimed at contributing to conflict management and conflict resolution in the 7 case study countries we decided to choose. We also sent questionnaires to NGOs working in those countries and to EU Missions there. We received some very useful feedback and information from these sources which has enabled us to base the recommendations in our report (to be published in early 2008) on many voices from the ground.

We are now moving on to phase 2 of this project which will examine (in a smaller number of case study countries) the conflict sensitivity of larger and more general development projects.

Human Rights

As in previous years, our major focus in this area has been criminal justice. In early 2007 we were able to publish our report on Women in Prison in the member states of the Council of Europe. This report was an extensive document reflecting the results of 3 years' intensive research.

We also engaged actively in advocacy work on this subject including engagement with the Rapporteur at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe who is preparing a report on this subject there; participation in a hearing at the European Parliament on the subject of women in prison; engagement with the Rapporteur in the European Parliament who is preparing an own initiative report on this subject; and responding to several consultation documents on subjects relating to women in prison. Matt Loffman was able to participate in a conference on prisoners' health in Varna in Bulgaria, where he led several round-tables on women prisoners' health issues. Earlier in the year, he also made a presentation to an expert conference in Norway on women in prison. QCEA has established itself as a centre of expertise in this field and we are delighted that our findings are being referred to by others. Given that at the time we began this project, this issue was not really on anyone's agenda internationally, there has been significant progress.

One of the conclusions which came out of the Women in Prison report was that many of the women who end up in prison really should not be there. We therefore decided to investigate the availability and use of alternatives to custodial sentencing in criminal justice systems in the member states of the Council of Europe. This has been the major focus of our research work on criminal justice during 2007 and we expect to publish our findings in early 2008.

With the arrival of Lucas Guttenberg, who is not only a Programme Assistant but is undertaking this placement as his alternative service as a German conscientious objector, we started the review of the situation for conscientious objectors in the member states of the Council of Europe in the summer of 2007. This review continues and we expect to publish an updated Executive Summary and updated country reports for those countries where the situation has changed since 2004 in the first half of 2008.

We continue to engage with other, mainly Christian, 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.

Our work with the Human Rights and Democracy Network of NGOs, a network which monitors human rights issues at the European Union level has taken on a new dimension with Liz Scurfield joining the leadership troika of the network.



Peace

The three main aspects of our work continue to be:

European Union Civilian Capabilities and Resources

We work closely with EPLO on this issue. 2007 was a particularly intensive year with regard to developments in this area. The cooperation with the Committee on Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) in the Council of the European Union (our main focus in this area) became even more intensive as we moved, with the German Presidency, into phase two of a project started with the Finnish Presidency on 'the Role of Civil Society in Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management'; the new dimension of this project was that it included a number of presentations to CIVCOM by NGO experts from the field on specific geographical issues of concern to the Committee. QCEA participated actively in pre-presentation briefings with the NGO experts, thus putting at their disposal our expertise in terms of the role and function of CIVCOM. The result was that the briefings were seen as useful and helpful by both CIVCOM and the NGO experts and the briefings have continued throughout 2007 with the Portuguese Presidency also asking for a briefing on a thematic (rather than just geographic) issue. The issue they chose - in part as a result of direct and continued advocacy on this subject by QCEA - was civilian unarmed peacekeeping. The NGO making the presentation was Nonviolent Peaceforce, a close partner of QCEA and a global organisation with significant Quaker involvement.

We also continued our dialogue with relevant decision-makers in the European Commission about the funding of conflict prevention work, the resources necessary for capacity building in this area and new ways of developing expertise and formulating policy. All this is still in an early stage of development.

We also published the papers from our 2006 Peace Conference under the title: *Peace and Peacebuilding - Some European Perspectives* which has been well-received in NGO and EU circles alike.

European Responses to Terrorism

The publication of our occasional paper: *Effective Counter-Terrorism: A Critical Assessment of European Union Responses* in February 2007 allowed us to undertake some targeted advocacy on the recommendations contained in the report. The report was received with a surprising degree of interest and a number of decision-makers in the European Commission and the European Parliament have asked for discussions with us. Liz Scurfield has been instrumental in leading on this advocacy work which we expect to continue throughout 2008 as this is a topic which is not likely to move into the background in public debate any time soon.

We also published a 12th briefing paper, this time focusing on the work done by the Council of Europe in response to terrorism.

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. The work of the group continued in 2007 with a number of events organised in the European Parliament on subjects as diverse as the situation in Afghanistan and the development of the European Security Research Programme.

European Developments

QCEA has - in addition to the projects under the three main thematic areas of economic justice, human rights and peace - had some focus on the structural and constitutional developments in the EU. In 2007 this was focused on following up on the developments of the new Reform Treaty and a growing interest in the EU Enlargement policy into the Western Balkans. This latter subject will be one of our major elements of project work during 2008.



2007 also saw the launching of the EU budget review. This is a major review of the whole of the budget and all its elements, starting with a public consultation on this. QCEA started its involvement in this process in 2007 by researching a number of briefing papers to be published in January 2008 to enable Friends throughout Europe to contribute to what will eventually be QCEA's response to the public consultation.

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:

1. 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;
2. 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 of such information and we take that role seriously.
3. 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 2007.

Attendance at Yearly Meetings

- Switzerland Yearly Meeting (Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch)
- Britain Yearly Meeting (Martina Weitsch)

Attendance at other Quaker and Quaker-related Events

- Yorkshire General Meeting (Liz Scurfield)
- Dublin Peace Committee Conference in Belfast (Martina Weitsch)
- EMEYF Spring Gathering (Matt Loffman)
- Britain Yearly Meeting Summer Gathering (Matt Loffman)
- FWCC Triennial - Dublin (Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch)
- Presentation at The Sibford Friends School (Sophie Miller)
- EMEYF Annual Meeting (Matt Loffman)
- EMES Peace and Service Consultation (Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch)

In addition, Matt Loffman attended a public meeting on the theme of the 'Response to Terrorism' organised by Danish Friends in Copenhagen and presented our report there which was translated by a Danish Friend into Danish for the occasion. We would like to thank Danish Friends for this engagement and support. The Danish version of the report is accessible on our website.

Information Work with Friends

Study Tour

As every year, we ran a most successful Study Tour in 2007 (this time in July with a field trip to Strasbourg). This provides us with the opportunity to give a small group of Friends and others an in-depth insight into the European Institutions and into our work.

It also allows us to gain some immediate feedback on our work and on our thinking from engaged Friends who share eight days with us.



Around Europe, Publications and Website

Around Europe continues to appear 10 times a year and we value the feedback we receive from subscribers and readers. It is, for us, a useful tool for communicating key aspects of our work. We recognise that at times we may be controversial in what we write, but we believe it is important to hear from a variety of voices and to reflect a variety of views in what are complex political questions.

In 2007, we were able to add to our website a slightly abridged version of Richard Hilken's recent publication: Reason, Faith and Experience. This is a modern introduction to Quakerism and we are most grateful to Richard Hilken for permitting its use in this way and for permitting us to abridge it to make it less specific to Britain. We have had this translated into French and German - both versions to appear on our website in early 2008 - and we hope that Friends elsewhere will provide us with other language versions so we can publish this in as many European languages as possible.

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 wish we could provide more material in languages other than 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 and Dutch - now on our website.

We are also grateful to members of our German Support Group who translate *Around Europe* into German each month (also on the website). We thank you all.

Quaker House, Brussels

This year for the first time we were able to welcome the Property Policy Group of Britain YM (our landlord) to Brussels for one of their regular meetings and to show them the house, present to them our work and to share with them the value we place on Quaker House.

It was an important process for the team here (staff and a number of Council Members) to focus on what the house adds to our work and we were grateful for this opportunity of concentrated thinking about this.

The listing of the house in 2006 as a historic monument continues to occupy both Xavier Verhaeghe and Liz Scurfield in the ongoing preparations of a proposal to the regional authorities for a programme of internal refurbishment work which will deal with the deteriorating decorations and at the same time bring back some of the original features such as period wallpaper. This is a challenging but also interesting and rewarding process which makes us focus on what is important in terms of how the house works.

We hope that 2008 will bring some progress in these matters and will allow us to address some of the more urgent tasks successfully.

Liz Scurfield and Martina Weitsch
Joint Representatives

Programme Assistants' Concluding Reports

Sarah Barnett

I would like to say a warm thank you to Martina and Liz and everyone on the Council and Bureau who contributes to the work of QCEA. Being a Programme Assistant at QCEA is a wonderful opportunity to learn about Quakers, Europe and the workings of an international NGO. I feel I have learned valuable skills working at QCEA and am very much looking forward to working for Quaker Peace and Social Witness next year as a peace worker in South Africa.

My main areas of work at QCEA have been the July 2007 Study Tour and a project researching the European Union's approach to conflict prevention in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.



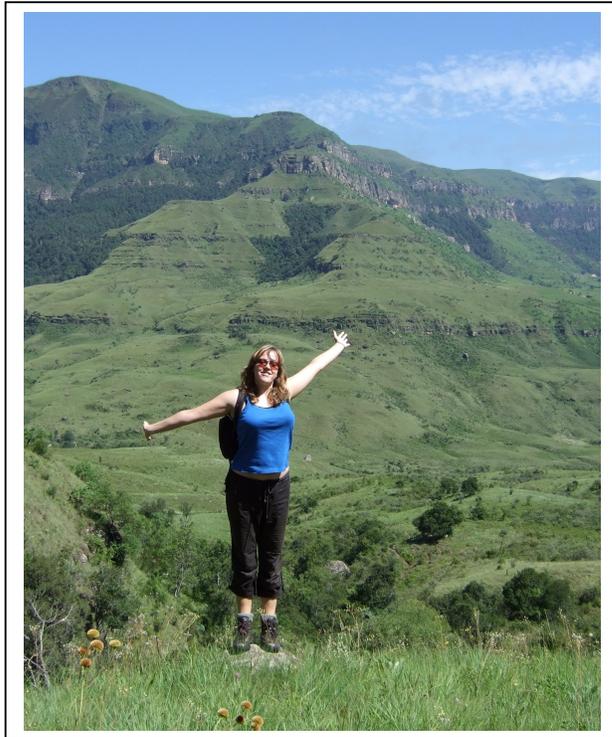
The idea for the 'ACP' project arose out of a concern that by 'mainstreaming' conflict prevention in ACP countries, and thus having no real budget or project areas of its own, it could thereby become a 'forgotten issue'. I think this project comes at a particularly important time as the EU is due to renew its Country Strategy Papers for each ACP country in 2008 and is in the process of finalising a series of controversial new trade agreements. I think it is of central importance for Quakers to learn about what the EU is doing with their euros towards conflict prevention overseas. If there is one thing which I can summarise from this project, it is that this information is not at all easy to find and for that reason I think that the project is a valuable educational tool. The ACP project has been a challenging yet very enjoyable experience. I hope it will be of interest to Friends.

Uniquely, the PAs have all worked together on this project and we have just completed a first draft.

The Study Tour has been another very wonderful experience for me. While I have had experience organising events before, I have not organised anything on such a large and complicated scale. The programme was full of exciting speakers, visits and games which all QCEA staff have worked hard to organise. I think it is very important that QCEA continues to organise Study Tours, offering both Friends and non-Friends from across the globe the chance to learn about Europe and what Quakers do at the European level. The 2007 Study Tour saw participants travel from Moscow, Ramallah, Latvia, Azerbaijan to name only a few countries. It was a very exciting and enjoyable Tour for all concerned and participant reports will be available on the QCEA website.

Once again I would just like to say thank you to everyone for this opportunity. I have had a truly fantastic time and have met some wonderful people at QCEA, EPLO and in the wider Quaker world.

Sarah Barnett
Programme Assistant (September 06- August 07)



Sarah Barnett in South Africa where she is now working for Phaphama as a QPSW placement



Matt Loffman

My year at QCEA has exceeded my expectations in several ways and will prove a valuable experience in my future. I have been involved in a variety of projects during my time in Brussels which has provided real diversity and enabled me to gain a greater understanding in a number of different areas in which QCEA works.

The Women in Prison and Effective Counter-Terrorism projects have both involved more attention than I envisaged at the very beginning. I am grateful for this as both subjects are of great interest to me. Our Women in Prison report was published and distributed to various policy-makers and other relevant people. I also had opportunities to present our work to audiences in Belgium, Bulgaria, Norway and Scotland. Being led around a methadone clinic for Bulgarian offenders and conducting on-the-spot interviews with the various professionals working there was a learning experience! It has been exciting to see this project 'take-off'; both in the European Parliament and at the United Nations. The Effective Counter-Terrorism report was published and I have been able to present it to a Danish audience and support Liz in discussing it with two MEPs.

My main project has been examining the use of alternatives to imprisonment in Europe. This is a crucial topic and I have thoroughly enjoyed doing the research which has led me to this conclusion. So much damage is done and so much money is spent in criminal justice systems which often fail to repair the harm caused by crimes, or to rehabilitate offenders.

Looking at EU peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been a fascinating area of work and I am very glad to have been a part of the 'ACP project'. Presenting the preliminary findings to British Friends in Scotland with Congolese music playing in the background was a real highlight of my year.

Writing and being published in *Around Europe*, The Friend, Among Friends, Young Quaker, and my home Meeting's newsletter have been thoroughly enjoyable and important experiences for me. No doubt I will look back and smile at the articles in the future. Other valuable experiences have included attending conferences (particularly those related to 'terrorism') and committee meetings in the European Parliament. These are great opportunities for QCEA PAs.

One area of work that I will maintain after my year is participating in the EMEYF. I have gained valuable practical skills as EMEYF Secretary - accounting, dealing with banks, organising the Annual Meeting, putting together the Annual Report and 'Quaker outreaching' in Norway. I am now on the Planning Committee for Spring Gathering 2009 and so look forward to further contact with this group of young Friends.

I have met some wonderful and interesting people this year and gained fantastic experiences: speaking, publishing, and learning *some* decision-making processes (to name a few). I wish QCEA the very best for their future and will look back at my time here with great affection.

Matt Loffman
Programme Assistant (January 2007 - January 2008)

Sophie Miller

As I reflect upon my year at QCEA, I'm struck by how very lucky I am to have had this opportunity. To find a small, welcoming organisation working on such a wide range of important issues, willing to really give one a chance to do substantive work on varied areas is an amazing thing to have been a part of. As I start to look for my next job I am aware of being in an extremely different place than I was when I first began with QCEA. I feel I have a solid base for future work in an array of areas, particularly regarding development or conflict prevention at the policy level or on the ground, and that I have acquired or improved several important and useful skills - from being able to maintain a



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website or format the layout of a publication, to organisational skills ranging from getting speakers (and others) to commit to events and logistics planning, to those gained *en route* while managing the Study Tour participants with Sarah, or even just strengthening rather basic skills such as emailing Desk Officers for information or the printer when the correct order does not arrive.

During my first few months with QCEA I was responsible for researching the different areas of the EU's energy and environmental policy as well as developments in the broader debate on energy, environment and conflict, to see what QCEA specifically might be able to contribute. This is a topic I was interested in prior to coming to QCEA, and it was fascinating to be able to explore these issues in depth as the policy was (and still is) developing, and to see a real opportunity for QCEA to add to the discourse. It is extremely exciting that the project has been approved by Council, and I think it has great potential.

The majority of my time spent at QCEA has been working on the 'ACP project'. I think that with this report we will contribute to information sharing on the EU's conflict prevention in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and hopefully it will prove a useful tool both for advocacy work and for civil society, policy-makers and others to see what the EU is and should be doing with regards to conflict prevention in ACP countries. I believe its chief strength is the combination of broad research on the EU level into what the mechanisms for conflict prevention in ACP countries are, what should be happening through development cooperation with those countries and conclusions drawn from there, coupled with reports from organisations and individuals active in the field on what is actually taking place and how that affects people living there. It has been a wonderful project to work on, both in terms of the work itself and in being able to collaborate with both Matt and Sarah on it.

Over the course of the year I also worked with Martina on the Intergroup for Peace Initiatives. It was an interesting experience to see the logistics side of event organising, particularly at the level of the European Parliament. With a lot of work we managed to hold two successful events, and though it was certainly a challenging experience, I was very glad to have been involved in it.

Looking back at the year, the things that stand out the most are the big events, though this is not to say that I enjoyed them more than the more 'regular' parts of my work. Being able to attend conferences on the issues that I was working on - in particular in Berlin on Integrating Environment, Development and Conflict Prevention and the Pugwash conference in Bari, but also smaller meetings in Brussels - was such an exciting and enriching part of working with QCEA. Attending the week-long INCORE (International Conflict Research) summer school in Northern Ireland on 'The Management of Peace Processes' was another particularly exceptional experience, and though I did not initially think it was directly pertinent to my work on the ACP project, looking back, its contribution to my understanding of the process *behind* peace processes in fact did significantly further my understanding of the conflicts in our seven countries as well as conflict prevention, management and resolution in general.

One of the most unique aspects of working for QCEA is, of course, to be working with Quakers for a Quaker organisation, and I especially enjoyed this and gained far more from it than I initially expected. In part this was because the idea of representing a certain group added direction to my work, and because becoming well acquainted with the testimonies and Quaker business method - through regular office interactions as well as through Council meetings and participating in gatherings such as the QPSW-hosted 'Conversation on the Environment' - opened my eyes to a different way of going about things. I found it exciting professionally as a method of conducting affairs, as well as personally - to see so many people living out their beliefs is really an inspiring thing.

All told it has been a pleasure working with QCEA. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity and I look forward to applying the skills and experiences I've gained in Brussels in my next position.

Sophie Miller
Programme Assistant (January 2007 - January 2008)



Treasurer's Report

It is with relief and pleasure that I can report on another generally satisfactory year for QCEA's finances.

Receipts were greater than expected, in particular because of an increase in lettings of Quaker House. This will contribute to the designated reserve established for the renovation of Quaker House Brussels. However, this welcome income should not be regarded as a reliable source of revenue, since the users of the house who showed such enthusiasm in 2007 may equally decide to use Quaker House less in future. The planned renovation of the house may reduce scope for letting rooms while work is in progress. It is clearly desirable for QCEA to derive the major part of its income from the Religious Society of Friends, whether from individual Quakers, Friends' Meetings at various levels or related bodies such as trusts and foundations linked to or sympathetic to the Society. A financial commitment is the surest proof that Friends and Quaker bodies acknowledge that QCEA is performing the role for which it was created and that this role is valued. Anyone who follows the activities of FWCC's Europe and Middle East Section will be aware of the growing interest in Quakerism in eastern and central Europe and it is to be hoped that as these young Quaker groups mature they will be able to play a part in QCEA, including financial support, although their resources may not permit this for some time to come.

Some of the European Yearly and Monthly Meetings that support QCEA were unable to contribute as much to receipts in 2007 as they and QCEA had expected, although it would be unfair not to salute the efforts of smaller Quaker bodies to support QCEA financially, if only by funding the participation of their representatives at Council meetings. The smaller constituent meetings have their own financial constraints and do not always find it easy to give QCEA as much as they would wish. Thus their inability to make the budgeted contribution does not reflect a lack of support for QCEA's objectives. I hope that in 2008 all supporting Yearly and Monthly Meetings will be in a position to meet their commitments. Funding bodies that support QCEA's objectives are more likely to be generous if they see that QCEA's own constituency is willing to give financial support. Friends who read this report are encouraged to ask themselves whether they as individuals, as well as the meetings and other Quaker bodies with which they are connected could not give greater financial support to the organization that ensures that the Quaker voice is heard at the European level and that Friends are kept aware of European questions that should concern them.

So far as expenditure is concerned, QCEA has continued to demonstrate a commitment to running its activities very economically. The joint Representatives do not hesitate to spend QCEA's money when the purpose justifies it, but they have continued their policy of prudent stewardship and have kept expenditure at an impressively modest level without jeopardizing the impact of their activities. They have also taken care to consult the Treasurer and the Finance Committee whenever unbudgeted expenditure seemed desirable. QCEA's supporters should be grateful that the Council's day-to-day operations are in such financially skilful hands. Changes in the way that staffing is organized and remunerated, as well as the imminent recruitment of an additional member of staff, bring additional complications to the management of QCEA's finances, but I am confident that the Representatives will continue to carry out this task as carefully as they have done since their appointment. Finally, I should add that the auditor who has examined QCEA's accounts not only gave an entirely satisfactory report but also made it clear that she is very favourably impressed by the way that QCEA's books are kept.

Richard Condon



Annual Accounts

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income	2007	2006
Sales of Publications	153	293
Seminar & Study Tour	9,748	6,262
Projects related income	20,199	24,041
Lettings Meeting Rooms & Guest Rooms	32,143	19,707
Subscriptions Around Europe	2,151	1,845
Associate Membership	3,360	3,830
Supporting Membership	3,368	2,939
Donations British Friends	69,336	69,366
Donations Netherlands Friends	35,506	35,197
Donations German Friends	21,560	26,921
Donations Swiss Friends	1,823	2,054
Donations Belgium & Luxembourg Friends	3,613	4,142
Donations Irish Friends	2,626	5,025
Donations French Friends	2,116	1,451
Donations Swedish Friends	309	2,397
Donations Danish Friends	569	437
Donations Norwegian Friends	2,025	1,179
Donations Other Friends (EMEYF, EMES, AFSC...)	1,093	0
Other Donations	648	2,063
Trusts & Foundations	52,193	72,560
Donations for Quaker House from BYM	6,919	0
Donations for Quaker House from Region Brussels	4,027	0
Office Reimbursements	3,949	5,910
Staff Travel Reimbursements	1,411	930
Staff Salary Funding	0	4,194
Interest	3,338	3,514
Total Income	284,174	296,256
Expenditure	2007	2006
Projects Expenditure	12,968	6,607
Printing & Mailing Publications	8,151	7,481
Quaker House Renovation	13,235	5,174
Quaker House Costs	20,567	27,499
Office Costs	28,997	32,692
Council Meetings	4,189	5,198
Staff Costs		
Travel Costs	8,609	9,504
Staff Salaries & Social Charges	120,094	147,289
Other Staff Costs, Training Costs & Fees	22,811	14,626
Taxes	3,862	4,470
Financial charges	114	180
Total Expenditure	251,379	260,720
Balance of Income and Expenditure	32,795	35,536



Statement of Assets

	2007	2006
Assets at 1 january		
Fortis 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
Balance of Income over Expenditure	2007	2006
'Compte de résultats'	35,691	35,537
Dotation/Provision Pecule de vacances	(5,630)	(13,807)
Social charges/salaries balance	583	(477)
Computers depreciation	2,151	5,546
'Bilan'	32,795	26,799
Assets at 31 december	2007	2006
Fortis Bank	11,989	3,156
Giro	15,038	16,064
Triodos General reserve part 1	15,789	161,793
Cash flow Reserve	65,000	
Triodos fixed term account :		
General reserve part 2	50,468	
Marmotte Funds	34,573	46,574
Reserve for Quaker House	70,375	
Cash	871	824
Total	264,103	228,412

Not included in the figures above are the following :

	2007	2006
Funds held by QCEA British Committee at 31*		
December in sterling	76,872	223,196
Euro equivalent of these funds	104,321	331,481
H.V. Wiles Fund	222,164	
Funds held by VVQREA at 31 December in euros	672,247	696,684
Funds held by QCEA on behalf of EMEYF	3,363	4,399

* The figures for British committee for 2006 include the H.V. Wiles fund



QCEA People in 2007

Council Members 2007

Clerk	Bert Touwen
Assistant Clerk	Jude Kirton-Darling
Treasurer	Richard Condon
Member of Bureau	Dieter Hartwich
Member of Bureau	Noël Purcell O'Byrne
Belgium and Luxembourg MM	Vivien Flynn
Britain Yearly Meeting	Tom Heydeman
Denmark Yearly Meeting	Hans Aaen
France Yearly Meeting	Phillip Spencer
German Yearly Meeting	Helge Moog
Ireland Yearly Meeting	Simon Lamb
Netherlands Yearly Meeting	Peter Spreij
Norway Yearly Meeting	Penny Heymans
Sweden Yearly Meeting	Annika Hollsing
Switzerland Yearly Meeting	Derek Brett
FWCC/EMES	Fritz Renken
FWCC/EMEYF	Julian Weinberg
QCEA British Committee	William Waddilove
VVQREA	Vacant

Committees

Bureau

Bert Touwen, Clerk
Jude Kirton-Darling, Assistant Clerk
Richard Condon, Treasurer
Dieter Hartwich
Hennie Jansen
Noël Purcell O'Byrne

Nominations Committee

Fritz Renken, Clerk
Dennis Tomlin, to April 2007
Paul Ingram, to April 2007
Hans Aaen
Lucinda Martin, from April 2007
Julian Weinberg, from October 2007
Anita Wuyts, from October 2007

Finance Committee

Sarah Richards, Clerk to Sept 2007
Neithard Petry, Clerk from Sept 2007
Richard Condon, ex officio
John Green, to April 2007
Marilyn Miles, from April 2007
Hennie Jansen
Tom Heydeman
Helge Moog

House Committee

Elisabeth Baker, Clerk, to May 2007
Donna Donovan
Janna van der Meulen
Jan Peeters

Staff Team (as at 31 December 2007)

Lucas Guttenberg, Programme Assistant
Matt Loffman, Programme Assistant
Sophie Miller, Programme Assistant
Liz Scurfield, Representative
Xavier Verhaeghe, Office Manager
Martina Weitsch, Representative



Quaker Council for European Affairs Aisbl
Square Ambiorix 50
B - 1000 Bruxelles
Phone: +32 2 230 49 35
Fax: +32 2 230 63 70
E-mail: info@qcea.org
Website: www.quaker.org/qcea

Association internationale sans but lucratif
Internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk
Moniteur Belge no. 11 732/80
N° d'entreprise: 0420.346.728
Bank: Giro 000-1499848-34
IBAN: BE 68 0001 4998 4834
BIC: BPOTBEB1