



Quaker
Council for
European
Affairs

Annual Report 2015



**“We bring a Quaker vision
of just relationships to
European institutions”**

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Introduction from the Clerk

What is the ‘Quaker vision of Europe’? The answer, which can be found in QCEA’s booklet of the same name, is a continent that is peaceful, just and sustainable. A harder question is how can we get there, and events in 2015 show just how hard this can be. Many of the trends in the past year - economic uncertainty, the rise in Euroscepticism across the continent, the migration/refugee crisis - are pushing the EU away from where QCEA would like it to be.

Perhaps for this reason, it is more important than ever that QCEA is present, is effective in its work and is able to help the European institutions be as good as they can be. As you will see in these pages, we have done much to review what we do and how we work, so that we can make best use of the trust and support that Quakers across Europe have given us. This process has involved the whole of the organisation, and is bearing fruit as this report goes to press.

During this time, we have continued the advocacy work that has been ongoing for over thirty-five years. We have looked at neglected aspects of the big issues, such as the militarisation of the Mediterranean that is part of EU attempts to limit migration. One of the most valuable parts of this work is helping people to see a situation differently: Operation Sophia may be about destroying boats used for people smuggling, but it is also using the military to prevent people from leaving dangerous and war-torn countries such as Libya.

QCEA has also continued to build and share expertise in less high-profile, but no less important, issues such as rules on reusing and recycling materials. The proposals for the ‘circular economy’ are one of many little-known but profound impacts that European institutions have on our lives, and by working to improve them now, QCEA can influence the lives of millions of citizens in the future.

These are just two examples - more can be found in the rest of this annual report - but they highlight an important aspect of the Quaker approach: working on things because they reflect Quaker beliefs and values, not because they are popular. Another key element is a continued recognition of the humanity of all involved, including the politicians and officials who are struggling with the current situation. They are in positions we are not, have pressures we do not and we need to uphold them as well as challenge and hold them to account.

Great difficulties provide great opportunities for improvement and transformation, and our role should be to help make the best of every chance we are given. It may take time to turn around such a large and complex creature as the EU, but we will achieve little by doing nothing, and may achieve much by doing what we can.

Oliver Robertson
Clerk



Oliver Robertson and Rorie Nazareth at Quaker House

Vision for the Future

In 1979, QCEA was born out of the concern of a small group of Quakers, known as Friends, who had come to Brussels to work at European institutions, and who saw a need for political, Quaker work. These Friends from 9 countries (Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the UK) considered that it was the responsibility of Friends to assist decision makers to adequately address the urgent needs of a rapidly evolving society, including but not limited to, the unequal distribution of wealth and capital, discrimination in the application of justice, the waste of resources and energy, and actions in favour of deprived regions and people.

Almost 40 years later this Quaker concern remains the same, but as Europe has grown in size so have its governing institutions, their mandates, and challenges. Alongside these changes, QCEA has evolved organically over this time, but not in a deliberate and thoughtful way, which is what is needed now in order for this organization to remain faithful to its founding ideals of promoting the values of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the European context.

In light of the mounting challenges to Europe: refugee and migration, economic crises, growing militarisation, climate degradation and others, as well as the primary challenge for a faith-based civil society organisation like QCEA - limited resources - it became clear that a shift is required.

In early 2015 an organisational review was undertaken, recommending that QCEA take steps to become more effective and more professional; by addressing our strategy for what we want QCEA to be, and also to assess our governance mechanisms, organisation, staffing and how we better engage Quakers across Europe. The findings were supported by the QCEA Council, and QCEA's Executive Committee are overseeing a process of organisational change, managed by a dedicated Transition Manager. In 2016 QCEA Council will make some key decisions that will enable it to grow into an organization that helps us all work together towards a more just Europe.

Rorie Nazareth
Assistant Clerk

Programme Work 2015

In 2015 QCEA worked to bring a Quaker vision of just relationships to the European institutions. This included speaking out for human rights and economic justice, but with a particular focus on promoting peace and sustainability.

European institutions provide an arena for cooperation between peoples and governments. However, European-level policies can be used to increase inequality, injustice, violent conflict and environmental damage - or to counter them by addressing their root causes.

During 2015, QCEA engaged with European policy-makers and empowered supporters to do the same. Specifically, our efforts have focused on:

- Building an advocacy network against armed drones in the EU
- Proposing that peacebuilding and restorative tools be used to address insecurity and hate, including advocating against military responses to migration
- Building a circular economy, in right relationship with creation, and
- Opposing the TTIP trade deal that threatens social and environmental legislation.

Peace and EU Militarism

QCEA started the year as one of few voices questioning the development of armed drones by the EU's Defence Agency. We proposed and convened the European Forum on Armed Drones which grew throughout the year, with 10-15 organisations represented at the later meetings. A common position has

been developed and the network is engaging European parliamentarians.

In March QCEA initiated the first European statement for the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS). The statement was signed by 18 European peace groups, almost all of whom do not work on EU-level policy and were speaking out on these issues for the first time. We built on our work with a specific briefing and 'action alert' for the EU heads of government summit that was due to confirm the direction of EU militarism. This also formed the basis of our submission to a UK House of Lords committee inquiry into EU foreign policy, that was quoted in their final report.

During the first quarter of 2015, QCEA played a vital role in ensuring stability at the leading European-level peacebuilding network, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office. After the Executive Director and Chair both stood aside from their roles at short notice, a QCEA staff member chaired the steering committee on an interim basis for three months and provided six weeks full-time management capacity in EPLO's office. As a result EPLO was quickly able to recruit a new Executive Director and meet its commitments, which included hosting EU consultations on Security Sector Reform, Peacebuilding in Myanmar and the UN peacebuilding architecture review.

QCEA produced a range of other peace-related publications and consultation responses, including an examination of what the EU can do to help facilitate long-awaited peace in Palestine and Israel, and a briefing on the peace implications of the UK leaving the EU.



Military responses to migration and refugees

Our supporters were deeply sympathetic to the trauma experienced by refugees travelling to Europe. QCEA had not been focused on this issue, but was fortunate to have maintained our involvement with Christian Group on Migration and had an agreed policy proposals for safe and legal ways for refugees to travel to Europe, and on unaccompanied minors. In late 2015, we began to research the EU's new naval operation in the Mediterranean which has formed the basis of advocacy begun undertaken in 2016. This issue dominated the QCEA-QPSW conference in December 2015. 110 people attended from 23 countries.



Sustainability

During 2015 QCEA's sustainability programme has focused on promoting the Circular Economy, including designing and sharing sample consultation responses with our supporters. Our publications included: Walking the circle: the four guiding principles of the Circular Economy, Guide to replying to the European Commission public consultation on the circular economy, and With or without you: The EU referendum and trade.

In addition, QCEA joined 11 other groups, such as Friends of the Earth, to create a joint policy position. As the only faith group to

participate in the Waste network, we encourage other faith-based groups to support EU-level advocacy. We produced briefing documents and met with EU Member States and MEPs. Our Sustainability Project Officer presented this work in various fora, including through a speaking tour in Sweden. During 2015, QCEA has continued to monitor the development of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Human rights

In 2015, QCEA published Hate Crime in the EU: prevention and restoration. This report examined the extent of hate crime in Europe, compared national responses and made recommendations on EU-level action that could be taken to prevent hate crime, and to find restorative solutions when it occurs. QCEA's work on human rights involved engagement with the Council of Europe, including participation in the International NGO forum in January and June. QCEA participated in joint work through the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), particularly supporting communications activity.

Quaker House

Quaker House has also got busier during 2015 with an increase in its use by faith, peace and human rights groups. QCEA are no longer the only organisation in the office, now joined by the European Network Against the Arms Trade who have appointed Laetitia Sedou as their first member of staff.

Overall, 2015 was another year of drift toward neo-liberal and militarised European policy. However, we hope QCEA's presence was a small contribution to the transformation of a continent damaged by a long history of patriarchy, colonialism and violence.

Andrew Lane
Representative

Treasurer's Report

In April of 2015 I took over the role of treasurer of QCEA and, in my first report, must look back on a year of considerable change for the organisation. As described elsewhere in this report, we have successfully managed changes to staffing and initiated a transition programme to provide strategic direction to the changes that started last year. However, significant challenges remain that require some hard decisions and significant resources, particularly finance, if we are to overcome them.

By the middle of 2015, when the application for future funding by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) was being prepared, it was clear that the original 2015 budget (which forecast a deficit of just under €45k) approved in October 2014, was no longer relevant or accurate. Accordingly, a revised budget was drawn up to reflect the anticipated reduction in staff costs and which forecast a shortfall of just under €30k.

QCEA is grateful to the trusts, Yearly Meetings and individual donors who have supported our work over the past year. With 2015 being the final year of the current grant from JRCT, we are particularly appreciative of their continued support with a €75k grant for 18 months from January 2016, specifically to fund our transition programme.

In 2015 QCEA also received a bequest from a late supporter, Irene Jacoby, of over £44k (€60k at the time of receipt of the funds). To comply with the terms of the legacy a specific project, which uses the funds in the specified time-frame and is aligned to our benefactor's concerns, will be proposed later in 2016. The receipt of Irene Jacoby's bequest was primarily responsible for turning our revised forecast deficit for 2015 to a surplus of just over €45k.

On a less positive note, our "general reserves" during 2015 have fallen from €207k to just under €193k. While we have a cash flow reserve of €65k and the Irene Jacoby bequest of €60k, continuing to use the general reserves is not sustainable, particularly if QCEA wishes to manage a programme with more than a minimum number of staff. As well as looking for new or additional sources of funding, the QCEA budget for 2016 has been targeted to break even.

As part of the transition programme we are undertaking a cost-benefit analysis of Quaker House and reviewing how to make best use what has been an under-used asset. We are grateful to Britain Yearly Meeting for their continued support of the house and the way they have aided our cash flow for some significant unexpected repairs in 2015. In 2016 we will also commence tracking income and expenditure by projects, to address the requirements of some of our funders.

Given the level of reserves and the challenges of addressing Quaker concerns in Europe, we need to maintain existing lines of funding and develop or increase others. As demonstrated by the Irene Jacoby bequest, funding through bequests in wills, while long term, can provide an investment in QCEA's future.

I would like to thank the staff of QCEA for their hard work to ensure QCEA continued to function effectively to the demands of a difficult period.

Phillip Spencer
Treasurer



Financial Statements (EUR)

Income

Description	2015	2014
Sale of publications	12	189
Study Tour	10,362	7,322
Project-related income	5,480	4,937
Associate Members Conference	20,432	217
Hirings (rooms)	16,994	21,691
Lettings (flats)	12,113	12,490
Funding from VVQREA for Search Costs	0	0
Subscriptions to <i>Around Europe</i>	1,318	863
Associate Members	4,689	4,413
Supporting Members	4,107	2,890
Donations - British Friends	67,784	65,732
Donations – British Committee for QHB rent	6,114	5,913
Donations - Netherlands Friends	37,850	37,847
Donations - German/Austrian Friends	5,195	5,422
Donations - Swiss Friends	3,654	3,248
Donations - Belgium and Luxembourg Friends	3,600	2,506
Donations - French Friends	1,000	3,500
Donations - Swedish Friends	1,714	8,590
Donations - Irish Friends	1,563	8,188
Donations - Danish Friends	268	134
Donations - Norwegian Friends	1,158	4,178
Donations - other Friends	0	217
Trusts and Foundations	76,147	16,314
JRCT	50,000	50,000
Other Donations	122	37
Donations for Quaker House Brussels from Britain YM	0	0
Donations for Quaker House Brussels from Brussels Capital Region	0	0
Insurance Claims ~received	0	0
Office Reimbursements	25	3,780
Travel Reimbursements	188	543
Reimbursement of landlord's costs from BYM	19,828	9,397
Advance payment made by insurance company	412	0
Reimbursement of other expenses	1,568	0
Bank interest	1,550	18
Total Income	355,265	277,428

Expenditure Description	2015	2014
Project Expenditure – Direct Costs (Travel, etc.)	31,376	12,943
Printing and Mailing Publications	6,980	5,961
Quaker House Renovations	17,853	5,736
Quaker House Costs	15,237.13	16,212
Office Costs	43,600.60	32,663
Council Meetings	6,630.33	5,680
Staff Costs: Salaries	134,095	119,699
Staff Costs: Social Charges and Contributions	32,813	37,245
Other Staff Costs: Training, Fees and Other Costs	6,623	7,788
Travel Costs	2,359	1,941
Search for New Reps	7,621.36	277
Taxes (excluding employment-related taxes)	4,165	4,210
Financial Charges	271	153
Depreciation	217	217
Total Expenditure	309,841	250,724
Balance of Income over Expenditure	45,424	26,704



Study Tour 2015

In April 2015, QCEA led 22 participants on an 8-day study tour of the European Union and Council of Europe. We heard from civil society organisations, officials, a Judge of the European Court of Human Rights and local Quakers working in the institutions.

Balance Sheet		2015		2014		2015		2014	
ACTIF (Assets)									
ACTIF Immobilisés (Fixed Assets)									
Matériel Informatique (Computers)		0		0					
Équipement de bureau (office equipment)		0		217					
ACTIF Circulants (Current Assets)									
Créances (Claims)		3,616		2,089					
Placements de Trésorerie (Balances in Bank Accounts and as cash)									
Fortis		96,929		31,102					
Triodos		241,045		259,449					
BE58 2100 5598 1479 SEK		104		1,090					
Triodos Cpte terme		6,091		7,929					
Caisse (Petty Cash)		760		327					
Total Placements de Trésorerie		344,929		299,897					
Comptes de régularisation (prepayments and accrued income)		1,349		1,158					
Facture à recevoir (Suppliers)						2,230		648	
Percompte Professionnel (income tax)						4,667		12,702	
ONSS (employer's social charges)						0		-584	
Remuneration									
Provision Pécules de vacances (reserve for holiday bonus)						25,192		18,215	
Comptes de régulation (produit a reporter)						0		0	
Total Actif		349,894		303,361		349,894		303,361	
PASSIF (Liabilities)									
Patrimoine de départ						272,380		245,676	
Résultat Période en cours						45,425		26,704	
Patrimoine total (au 31.12.)						317,805		272,380	
Allocated to following reserves:									
General Reserve						192,805		207,380	
Designated Reserves									
Irene Jacoby bequest						60,000		-	
Cash Flow Reserve						65,000		65,000	
Total Designated Reserves						125,000		65,000	
Total Reserves (=Patrimoine Total)						317,805		272,380	
Dettes (liabilities)									
Facture à recevoir (Suppliers)									
Percompte Professionnel (income tax)									
ONSS (employer's social charges)									
Remuneration									
Provision Pécules de vacances (reserve for holiday bonus)									
Comptes de régulation (produit a reporter)									
Total Passif						349,894		303,361	

Not included in the figures above are funds held by support groups. As at 31.12.2015 the QCEA British Committee held £17,335 (2014: £21,103) and WQREA held €528,728 (2014: €535,340); both these sums are for the benefit of QCEA but managed by independent charities in the UK and the Netherlands respectively.

Funds held by QCEA on behalf of EMEYF as at 31.12.2015 were €15,873 (2014 €11,568).

QCEA People in 2015

Executive Committee

Oliver Robertson (Clerk)
 Rorie Nazareth (Assistant Clerk from April 2015)
 Jethro Zevenbergen (Assistant Clerk until April 2015)
 Phillip Spencer (Treasurer from April 2015)
 Tom Heydeman (Treasurer until April 2015)
 Judith Kirton-Darling MEP (until March 2015)
 Sally Sadler
 Hans Weening
 Jeremy Lester (Shadow Treasurer from October 2015)

Other Members of the Council

Michele Calandrino (Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting)
 Sarah Coote (Britain Yearly Meeting)
 Hans Aaen (Denmark Yearly Meeting)
 Gretchen Ellis (France Yearly Meeting)
 Miriam Krämer and Ludger Mangels (Germany Yearly Meeting)
 Margrit Grey and Seán McCrum (Ireland Yearly Meeting)
 Corien van Dorp and Peter van Leeuwen (Netherlands Yearly Meeting and Dutch Friends of QCEA)
 Turi-Therese Seljen Schoder (Norway Yearly Meeting)
 Anita Dahlberg and Margareta McKenna (Sweden Yearly Meeting)
 Joan Lambert (Switzerland Yearly Meeting)
 Marisa Johnson (Secretary, European and Middle East Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation)
 Hannah Slater (European and Middle East Young Friends)
 Peter Reid (QCEA British Committee)

Alternate Council Members

Phil Gaskell (Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting)
 Richard Seebohm (Britain Yearly Meeting and QCEA British Committee)
 Nino Brodin (Denmark Yearly Meeting)
 Gerard van den Dool (Netherlands Yearly Meeting)
 Roger Cassidy (Norway Yearly Meeting)
 Renke Meuwese (Europe and Middle East Young Friends)
 Kris Misselbrook (France Yearly Meeting)
 Davorka Lovrekovic (Germany Yearly Meeting)

Finance Committee

Martin Touwen (Clerk), Simon Bond (Treasurer, QCEA British Committee), Margrit Grey, Tom Heydeman, Hennie Jansen (Treasurer, Dutch Friends of QCEA), Phillip Spencer and Jeremy Lester.

Nominations Committee

Peter Spreij (Clerk), Davorka Lovreković, Felicity McCartney, Judith Roads, Joe Thwaites, and Kristin Skarsholt.

QCEA British Committee

Peter Reid (Clerk), Richard Seebohm (Assistant Clerk), Ali Freeman, Simon Bond (Treasurer), Chris Venables, Angela Sansam, Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick, Lina Jordan, Peter Allen-Williams, Sarah Coote, Phil Laurence and Ian Beeson.

Dutch Friends of QCEA (VVQREA)

Peter van Leeuwen (Clerk), Corien van Dorp, Hennie Jansen (Treasurer), Peter Spreij, Renke Meuwese and Peter Ketner.

Ireland QCEA Support Committee

Seán McCrum (Clerk), Loretta O'Brien, Margrit Grey, Rachel Cave, and Martin Leavy.

Project Advisory Group

Kathy Bergen, Eugenie Bosch, Roger Cassidy, Kristin Eskeland, Christopher Hatton, Marisa Johnson and John Nicholls.

Volunteers and Staff in Brussels

Andreas Schultze, George Thurley, Tim Harman, Elizabeth Payne (from July 2015), Alexandra Bosbeer (until September 2015), Paul Musiol (from September 2015), Dianne Murray, Gordon Matthews (until July 2015), Xavier Verhaeghe (from July 2015), Peter van Leeuwen, Seema Pandey (July to September), Wolfgang Rassek, Dora Heath (until July 2015) and Cornelius Ambiah (from November 2015), Thomas Kaye (June to August 2015), Andrew Lane and Sevi Christoforou.