



Global Round Table 2010

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- LIMITS TO SUSTAINABILITY - Sustainability – Values – Responsibility

4th - 5th November 2010
Budapest

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Building Tomorrow Together
A Non-Political Discussion





Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?

Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

T. S. Eliot, *The rock* (1934)

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The “2010 Global Round Table” was organised by:

The Global Round Table,

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,

the World Academy of Art and Science

the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts,

the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and

the European Academy of Sciences.

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The organisers kindly thank the moral and financial support of:

OTP Bank,

Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO,

Public Foundation for the Development of Industry.





2010 GLOBAL ROUND TABLE – Budapest

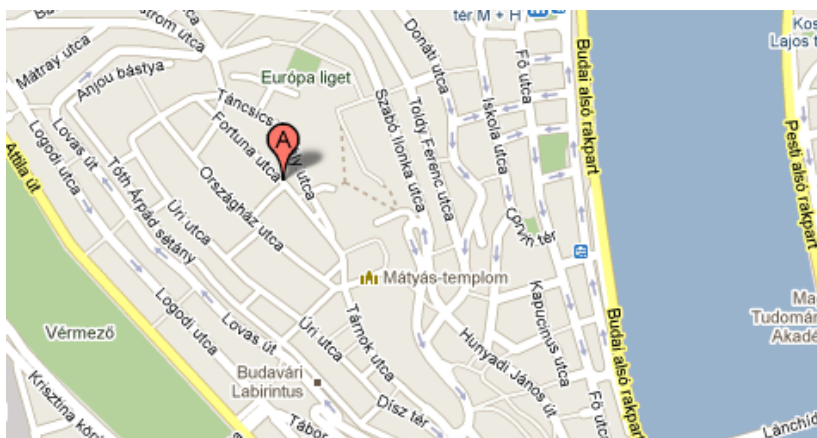
RECEPTION AND OFFICIAL DINNER

Time: 6.30 PM, 4 November (Thursday) 2010.

Place: Hotel St. George Residence - Baroque Lounge
Fortuna utca 4, H-1014, Budapest

In attendance:

- President of the Republic of Hungary, H.E. Pál Schmitt (*tbc*)
- President of the Republic of Hungary (ret.), H.E. Prof. Ferenc Mádl
- Vice President of the European Parliament, H.E. László Tőkés
- Representative of the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Peter Gottfried, chief advisor on European Policy and External Economic Relations



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2010 GLOBAL ROUND TABLE – Budapest

ROUND TABLE

Time: **9 AM – 4 PM, 5th November (Friday) 2010.**

Address: **Hungarian Parliament - Tapestry Room,
Kossuth tér 1-3. H-1055 Budapest.**

Important: Please use entrance VII.

It is a huge building and security is very tight.

Ulric is on-site in case of problems. Mobile: + 32 474 73 47 73





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2010 GLOBAL ROUND TABLE – Budapest

– Limits to Sustainability – Sustainability – Values – Responsibility

A NON-POLITICAL DISCUSSION

- 09:00 – 09:30 *Registration and Coffee and Interviews with the participants*
- 09:30 – 09:40 **Welcome**
- *Vice President of the Hungarian Parliament, H.E. Sándor Lezsák*
 - *Dr. Gilbert Fayl, President, The Global Round Table*
 - *Mr. Hans Kaiser, Director, The Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office Hungary / Minister, Federal Republic of Germany (ret.).*
- 09:40 – 09:50 **Setting the Scene**
- Dr. Andrew Sors, Rector, Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Study*
- 09:50 – 11:15 **Do we understand it ? – Can we understand it?**
- Moderated by Prof. Erich Hoedl, Vice President, European Academy of Sciences and Arts.*
- Is *sustainability* an absolute or is the definition flexible and relative with ambiguities resulting in a hollow buzzword?
- Is the concept of *sustainability* generally understood?
 - Is *sustainability* too broad a concept?
 - Can *sustainability* be applied as a reference point?
- Conclusions by the Moderator*
- 11:15 – 11:30 *Coffee break and Interviews (cont.)*



11:30 – 12:55

How will it change us? – Do we need a new value system?

Moderated by Prof. Momir Djurovic, President, Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts / The Club of Rome member

What if we followed the *sustainability* paradigm to the letter?

- How could the use of *sustainability* lead to new value systems?
- Would such new value systems be equally ambiguous?
- Could we expect divergence (or conflict) between the old and new value systems?

Conclusions by the Moderator

12:55 – 13:40

Refreshments and Sandwiches and Interviews (cont.)

13:40 – 15:05

Can we afford not to? – Can we afford to?

Moderated by Prof. Ivo Slaus, Trustee, The World Academy of Art and Science / The Club of Rome member

Will the application of *sustainability* require profound changes in thinking, societal organisation and consumption- and production patterns?

- How would all nations afford the necessary changes?
- Would it be at the expense of individual and cultural diversity?
- Are there limits to *sustainability*?

Conclusions by the Moderator

15:05 – 15:20

Coffee break and Interviews (cont.)

15:20 – 15:50

Overall Conclusions / Recommendations – ‘Tour-de-table’

Moderated by Prof. Norbert Kroó, Vice President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

15:50 – 15:55

Follow-up: “Global Memorandum” and “Limit to Sustainability” publication

- Mr. David Heilbron Price, Editor, Schuman Project
- Mr. Ulric Fayl v. Hentaller, Director, The Global Round Table

15:55 – 16:00

Closing

- Mr. Hans Kaiser
- Dr. Gilbert Fayl

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16:20 – 17:00

Guided tour of the Hungarian Parliament and Interviews (cont.)



Limits to Sustainability

Two major issues have arrived with full force on the global arena: the financial crisis and climatic challenges. Resulting from this development, “*sustainability*” has become THE political buzzword.

It has become a wide-ranging term used for almost every facet of life as well as human activities, from local- to global scale and over varying time periods.

Sustainability has become a doctrine in its own right. Buzzwords such as *sustainable development*, *sustainable ecology*, *sustainable economy*, *sustainable energy*, *sustainable markets*, *sustainable public finances*, etc. are used at every possible opportunity. One no longer understands or questions the meaning behind the words. They are used almost as items on a checklist that need to be mentioned without delving into the meaning behind them. The result is inflationary.

Goggle makes 111.000 references to the word *sustainability*. The Oxford English Dictionary dates the first usage of *sustainable* to 1965, meaning *capable of being maintained at a certain level*.

According to "Our Common Future (1983)" of the United Nation's Brundtland Commission¹: "*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: i) the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and ii) the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.*"

The 1992 UN Rio Declaration on Environment and Development² states: "*To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies*".

Sustainability is the capacity to endure and survive. With increasing complexity and globalisation of challenges, sustainability has received a broader meaning. For *humans*, it is the potential for long-term safeguarding of well-being that in turn is influenced by the well-being of the natural world. In *ecology*, it is the potential of biological systems to remain diverse and productive over time. In *energy*, energy sources that are not expected to be depleted in a time frame relevant to the human race. In *economy*, it is the potential to maintain healthy and stable economic- and productive systems with optimal employment levels. For *markets*, it is the potential to continuously operate, while meeting current economic-, environmental- and social needs without compromising opportunities for future generations. For *public finances*, it is the potential to provide efficient and socially just public services for the population.

Sustainability is not an absolute value. Its definition is flexible and relative, and its various forms of application may contain ambiguities.

Related recommendations are speculative and subject to debate among experts. Their implementation would necessitate either strong political leadership and possibly draconic decisions by all national leaders, or more idealism and voluntarism by the world richest nations. Probably both will be needed to limit human consumptions below what the Earth can support in the long term.

The above considerations are based on the assumption that the *sustainability debate* relates to man-made activities and not to developments through natural processes.

Almost four decades after the Club of Rome's "Limits to Growth" it is now appropriate to consider "Limits to Sustainability".

1 World Commission on Environment and Development laid the groundwork for the 1992 Rio de Janeiro UN summit and resulting documents: Convention on Biological Diversity; Framework Convention on Climate Change; Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; Agenda 21; and Forest Principles - <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>.

2 <http://sedac.ciesin.org/entri/texts/rio.declaration.1992.html>.



Global Round Table 2010

Participants – Budapest Event



Dr. Miklós Boda was VP of Ericsson Hungary. Was at State Secretary-level President of National Office for Research and Technology. President Barroso appointed him as member of EIT Governing Board Identification Committee. Recently, the new association European Alliance for Innovation elected him as its first Secretary General. (Appointed professor BUTE).



Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre. Member of several organizations' advisory bodies such as: EBRD's Environmental and Social Advisory Council; Environmental Management and Law Association; Agroinnova/Torino University Scientific Committee; CEE Network for Gender Issues; Hungarian Business Leaders Forum. Comprehensive experience from national governmental and international corporate organizations.



Prof. Momir Djurovic, Professor emeritus, electrical engineering, University of Montenegro. Has published 12 books, over 250 papers. Has consulted major electric companies around the world and few governments, conducted many international projects. Member of several national academies. President of Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts. The Club of Rome member.



Ms Katalin Csillag, Officer, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO. Previously she worked at the International Secretariat of the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture. Graduated at Corvinus University of Budapest in 2007 at the faculty of International Relations. Won an Erasmus-scholarship to 'La Sapienza' University of Rome in 2005.



Dr. Gilbert Fayl, President, The Global Round Table. Previously, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, European Academy of Sciences and Arts. Prior, EU Commission: diplomatic service, and member of core team that conceptually developed the EU RTD Framework Programmes and their evaluation. Earlier, represented Denmark in international S/T co-operations.



Dr. Techn. Niels Hansen, Senior Scientist, Risø DTU, National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy. Former Head of Materials Research Department, Risø National Laboratory. Advisory Professor Harbin Institute of Technology, China. Member in various advisory bodies. Foreign Associate US National Academy of Engineering.



Mr. Ulric Fayl v. Hentaller, Director, The Global Round Table. Initiator of various European wide networks. Previously European Commission, Adviser to EASA President, Manager "Big Six", General Manager commodities trading, Adviser to European high-tech and start-up companies. Experienced adviser on European affairs, and EU funding and projects.



Dr. Christopher T. Hill, Professor of Public Policy and Technology, George Mason University, and Principal in Technology Policy International. Was Senior Specialist in Science and Technology Policy, Congressional Research Service, U.S. Congress. Also was with OTA, MIT, RAND, Washington University, Uniroyal Corp., and U.S. National Academies.



Dr. Imre Hronszky, Professor of innovation management, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). Previous positions: head of the Joint Commission of IUHPS; head of the Dept. of Innovation Management at BME. Author/co-author/co-editor of 15 books on history, philosophy of chemistry, technology and on innovation studies.



Dr. Erich Hödl, Professor of Economics. Rector of Universities in Wuppertal (1991-99) and Graz University of Technology (2000-2003); Honorary Doctorate (Moscow); Member of Austrian Council for Accreditation; Vice President of European Academy for Sciences and Arts. Numerous consulting for Governments, EU, UN. Many publications on Economic Policy, Environment, Technological Policies.



Dr. Jan Hrušák, Senior researcher in chemical physics (90 scientific papers, over 1500 citations, Hirsh Index - 31). Advisor to the Academy President and former member of the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic. Acting as advisor and expert in several national and European bodies.



Ms. Katarina Jagic, Member of the Board, World Union of Small Enterprises (WUSME) & Chair WUSME Commission for Social Questions; Board Member of European Small Business Alliance (ESBA); President of Croatian SME Association (SMEA); President Croatian Union of Small Enterprises (CROSBU); National coordinator of the Global Entrepreneurship Week (2007-2012).



Mr. Hans Kaiser, Head, The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Hungary. He has previously been Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Vice-President of the European Union Committee of the Regions, Member of the German Bundesrat, State Secretary, and Member of various national Radio and TV Councils in Germany.



Prof. Dr. Alajos Kálmán, Member: Hungarian Academy of Sciences, European Academy of Sciences. Immediate Past President of Hungarian Chemical Society, Past Vice-President of International Union of Crystallography. Research fields: X-ray crystallography of organic molecules, supramolecular chemistry: polymorphism, isostructurality and their relationship via morphotropism. Published 410 scientific papers, Hirsch index: 28.



Dr. Tamás Kemény, Director of External Affairs, Public Foundation for the Progress of Industry, Hungary. Was Secretary General of IMEKO, the International Measurement Confederation. Founding Secretary General of KÖVET, the Society for Sustainable Economy. Author of 6 books, over 100 publications.



Dr. Leif Kjaergaard, President for LIFE and FOOD SCIENCE, a small Danish consultancy company and former CEO of a larger Danish company, as well as member of a number of private boards and public advising bodies. He is deputy chair of the European Research Area Board, ERAB.



Dr. Gernot Klotz, Executive Director for Research and Innovation, European Chemical Industry Council, Cefic. Coordinates innovation-related activities incl. societal acceptance of new technologies and products, emerging science/policy issues, Cefic Long-range Research Initiative. Responsible for EU Technology Platform for Sustainable Chemistry. Member in various advisory/steering committees. Prior, held various research/business positions.



Ms. Biró Ágnes Kovácsné, Secretary-General, Hungarian National Commission for UNESCO. Prior, worked at UNESCO Headquarter participating in international conferences. Also worked at different cultural institutions and cultural state administration. Among others, was responsible for the Hungarian ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Prof. Dr. Norbert Kroó, Vice-President, Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Member of Scientific Council of the European Research Council. Among several memberships he was the President of the European Physical Society. Research fields: laser physics and quantum optics, surface plasmon optics. Published 300 scientific papers, owner of 40 patents.



Ms. Maja Madiraca, Executive Director, URBOS Agency for Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Development Economics. Engaged in national and international projects on integrated planning and environmental protection. Over 20 years experience in development, implementation, evaluation and review of projects on land use planning, environmental protection, impact assessment and town planning.



Ms. Ildikó Polgár Májer- economist, entrepreneur, business angel. Established and managed several industrial and technology parks. Founder of Central-Hungarian Innovation Center, president and managing director of ValDeal Innovations Zrt, the first integrated innovation management company in Hungary. Member of EU Enterprise Policy Group. Devoted to innovations, SMEs, environment and sustainability.



Mr. David Heilbron Price, Editor of Schuman Project, on the origin, purpose and future of the supranational European Community system www.schuman.info Historian, author of books on Robert Schuman, founder of European Community. Journalist, specializing in EU politics, communications, energy and scientific research. Formerly Fleet Street journalist, Commission Press Officer.



Prof. Jeffrey H. Schwartz; President, World Academy of Art and Science; Professor, Anthropology and History and Philosophy of Science, and Resident Fellow, Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA USA; author/co-author/editor 12 books and author/co-author over 200 articles in evolutionary and theoretical biology, paleoanthropology, and bioarchaeology.



Dr. Sándor Sipos, Special Representative to the EU, Belgium, Luxembourg, NATO. Head of World Bank Group Brussels Office. Previously, Sector Manager for Social Protection and Labour; and Country Manager in Croatia. Prior, advised UNICEF on its engagement in operations in Central and Eastern Europe at the Innocenti Center in Florence.



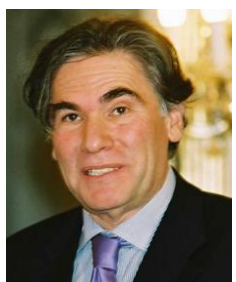
Prof. Ivo Slaus, Fellow of The Board of Trustees of The World Academy of Art and Science and President of its South-East European Division; The Club of Rome member; The Pugwash Council member; European Leadership Network member; Dean of the University College for International Affairs and Diplomacy; professor of physics.



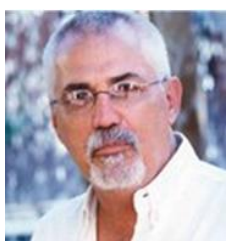
Dr Josephine Anne Stein, Principal Research Fellow in Innovation Studies, University of East London, UK. Was S&T policy analyst/researcher: the US Congress, the European Commission, at the Royal Society (UK). Has directed studies for the European Commission and Parliament, the ESRC (UK) and NSF (USA); written/edited/contributed to 15 books.



Dr Andrew Sors, Rector, Collegium Budapest Institute for Advanced Study since November 2008. Previously at the European Commission, DG Research, latest assignments: Head of Unit, Social Sciences and Humanities Research, then Minister-Counsellor responsible for EU-India S&T cooperation, EC Delegation, New Delhi. Holds a PhD in Materials Science, University of Sussex.



Dr. Peter Vadász, Co-Chairman, Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists. Member of European Economic and Social Committee, Member of Executive Committee BusinessEurope, Former Chairman of HBLF Hungary, Former President Transparency International, Hungary. Author of more than hundred articles, presentations.



Prof. Peter Vale, Faculty Professor in the Humanities at the University of Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Professor Emeritus at Rhodes University, South Africa. He is an Elected Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.



Mr. Bart Van Coppenolle, Entrepreneur – Philosopher. Bart is currently Chairman and CEO at Ribrain, an international Internet television company as well as Chairman at Webplications, a Belgian consumer real estate portal. He founded and developed the international hi-tech company Metris, brought it public and sold it to Nikon Japan.



Prof. Raoul Weiler, Professor emeritus, Leuven University. Executive Committee member of The Club of Rome and Founder-President of its EU-Chapter. Co-authored/edited fifteen books, incl. Ethics of the Kyoto Protocol (2005), and Proceedings of the Joint World Conference on Capacity Building and ICT, by The Club of Rome and UNESCO (2005).



Mr. Kai Zhao, Regional General Director, Hainan Airlines Company Ltd. Working in Chinese airline industry for 23 years, experiencing the complete change of aviation management in China from government aviation agency to separation of government administration and airlines industry. Strong advocate of Chinese traditional culture's value-added for future global sustainability.

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