



## **MO Report 2004**

### **Weltföderalisten der Schwiez**

We kept the organization going on. All the administrative tasks have been done. We published 2 bulletins for our members. The number of members is stable, although some new ones have been recruited. One young member of our committee, Mr. Athit Forrer, has created a website, [www.weltfoederalisten.ch](http://www.weltfoederalisten.ch), on which he publishes interesting documents. Have a look on it. The committee met several times. We hold our general assembly on October 9, 2004.

Our financial situation is acceptable. I was present at Ustinovs funeral ceremonies and signed in the name of the world federalists. We published a short announcement to honor Ustinovs memory in a German and in a French newspaper. After that 7 persons became members. In June, our vice-president and I spoke at the annual meeting of the organizations working for the UN, which is organized by the Swiss UN association. Our minister of external affairs, Mrs. Calmy-Rey, was present. Also in June, I participated at a conference on the UN reform that took place in Germany, at the university of Potsdam, and had the occasion to take contact with some German professors. I met there our friend Mr. Bummel and a member of his staff.

From October 1st to 3, I participated to a very successful meeting organized in Mulhouse by the world citizens on the question of a world parliament. Mr. Durand, secretary of the World citizens' register, in Paris, and Mr. Winterhalter, founder of the House for world citizenship (Maison de la citoyenneté mondiale) in Mulhouse, have done an excellent job. We sent a letter of sympathy to the Spanish embassy in Switzerland after the terrorist attack on Madrid's railway station this spring; the embassy thanked us. No answer was received from the American embassy to a letter we sent asking that the American government should join the International Criminal Court to restore the prestige of the United States after the tortures inflicted by American soldiers to prisoners in Iraq. Five members of Parliament, from which 2 accepted to become honorary members, countersigned the letter.

For our general assembly, on October 9, 2004, we organized a round-table on the following subject: "Switzerland and the International criminal court: What remains to be done?" As you know, Switzerland has recognized the jurisdiction of this court. We could cooperate for that round-table with the organization "TRIAL" (Track impunity always) which coordinates at the Swiss level the work of the non-governmental organizations for the criminal court. Several groups declared that they are interested to cooperate for the criminal court, but many couldn't send delegates. ACAT (Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture), APT ( Action pour la prévention de la torture), TRIAL and we participated to the round-table. As introduction to the round-table, two members of the administration of the Federal Department of foreign affairs, Mr. Lindenmann, and Mr. Cottier delivered speeches concerning the International criminal court. 1998 Mr. Lindenmann has been chief of the Swiss delegation at the conference of Rome on this court and Mr. Cottier was member of that delegation. The first has also participated this year in September as chief of the Swiss delegation to the annual meeting of the member states in The Hague. They strongly insisted on the role of our World Federalist Movement as leader of the non-governmental organizations Coalition for the ICC, said that our secretariat continues to do this job for the entire satisfaction of all and mentioned by name our secretary-general Bill Pace in his function as coordinator. The organizations participating to the round-table convened to cooperate in the work for the Court under the direction of TRIAL, which will continue to act as coordinator on the Swiss level. Our vice-president, Mr. Geiger, has the intention to distribute hundreds of propaganda leaflets to win new members.

The chief of the Federal Department for justice and police, Mr. Blocher, federal councillor (minister), has the intention to propose that the United Nations decide how much refugees each state has to accept; they would be distributed among the countries of the world conforming to quotas fixed by the UN. This is amusing, because Mr. Blocher was the chief of the fierce opposition to the Swiss membership in the UN as he was member of Parliament and he tries to limit the number of refugees in our country. His proposal is the best proof that we, world federalists, are right when we say that no nation-state is now able to deal with the problems it has to solve outside of the framework of world institutions.