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The conservation of Nature and natural resources has a prime place in the work of the Council of Europe, where it has already a long tradition of well-deserved successes. Since 1962 there has been a European Committee to provide the essential coordination to tackle, in the framework of a European 'strategy', the Nature conservation problems which have become increasingly numerous and acute. The result of these efforts is marked, *inter alia*, by the many resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the European information campaigns for the general public, and the high-quality scientific publications in the 'Nature and Environment' series. Even in this brief overview it is impossible to forget the Committee's major achievement: the preparation of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (widely known as the Bern Convention), which has been in force since 1982.

The problems of protecting freshwater bodies and freshwater fishes could not be ignored by the European Committee, which is seeking to protect Nature from overwhelming economic development. So in 1968 there appeared the Water Charter and a brochure on fresh

† In addition we can now cite Portugal: Mr Luis Miguel Vieira, Vice-President, Liga Para a Protecção da Natureza, Estrada do Calhariz de Benfica No. 187, P-1500 Lisbon, Portugal. — Ed.

water, followed in 1980 by a publication specifically on endangered freshwater fishes in Europe and, in 1981, the Committee of Ministers' recommendations on freshwater fishes. These activities were a prelude to including endangered species in the annexes of the Bern Convention.

The Campaign which the Council of Europe is launching in 1990, with issue No 90 of *Naturopa Newsletter*, is an ideal follow-up to the activities mentioned above and also one response to the increasingly serious threats affecting the biotopes of fish species throughout Europe and also jeopardizing conservation of their biological diversity. Deplorably, the very nature of freshwater lakes and watercourses is being distorted by the building of hard embankments and the use of hydraulic force, by the pressure of tourism and leisure activities, and by the addition of chemical products from agriculture or rainfall and/or dust. Energetic countermeasures are needed urgently, and for that public opinion must be aroused and won over to the 'freshwater fishes cause'.

The European Committee thanks the Centre Naturopa and all the National Agencies attached to it for their welcome initiative, and wishes the Campaign the entire success that it truly needs.

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The European Environmental Campus Scheme

This initiative has been set up to run for the first time this year, with funding from the European Commission's Directorate General for the Environment. The aim of the European Environmental Campus scheme is to foster cooperation throughout Europe, amongst academics, students, and practitioners, who have a common concern for the environment.

In the short term this cooperation takes the form of concurrent research projects which are run by each of the nine 'Campuses' that are participating in the scheme this summer. These projects are to be conducted by teams of between 10 and 15 students each, with different academic backgrounds and cultural values, drawn from all over Europe. There will thus be a unique opportunity for students to compare the undergraduate curricula of a number of subjects in a number of different countries.

The projects have been devised, and are to be run, by professional staff from the universities and colleges involved. For example in Portugal, students are to participate in a large ethnographic and environmental study of the High Algarve that is being conducted by Faro Polytechnic, by developing an inventory of environmental resources in the region.

At Roskilde University in Denmark there is a project to investigate the environmental impacts of intensive agriculture, whilst at Nantes University, in France, the environmental protection of large river estuaries is the principal concern. In Italy, at Florence University, and in Greece and Great Britain, the projects all focus on the interface between tourism and the environment. They are

concerned to develop strategies for tourism that are environmentally sustainable. In Belgium and Spain the central interest lies in the development of rural communities in an environmentally sensitive way.

When this year's programmes have been evaluated, it is the intention of the Campuses in the medium-term that individual research projects, such as the ones that are being run this year, can be formalized into free-standing modules that will fit into the undergraduate environmental degree programmes of each of the Campuses. In this way, students will be able to pursue degrees in their own countries but with specific modules on these programmes available in other parts of Europe.

In the longer-term there is the aspiration of a pan-European degree in Environmental Sciences. This would be made up largely of modules offered by the Campuses, and would belong to them all collectively. It would be a degree that should be validated in all European countries and would have a uniquely European perspective on environmental problems while involving a multinational community of students.

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