

Perspectives

The days "between the years" offer a great opportunity to look back, to look ahead and to gather new strengths.

You are warmly invited to come and spend these days of exchange and reflection with participants from all over Europe.

We would like to define our joint responsibilities and to see how we can turn our shared hopes for the future into reality: for a Europe that is at the same time working on its own identity but also manages to look beyond its own borders.

The Initiatives of Change international conference centre in Caux (Switzerland) is an ideal location for such an event.

We look forward to meeting you there!

Initiatives of Change...

... is a network of committed people that actively work towards reconciliation and trust building across the divides of the world.

Based in Caux and with its main office in Geneva, Initiatives of Change International is the umbrella body federating the national legal bodies of Initiatives of Change. It has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

The conference centre

The former hotel "Caux-Palace", where the views stretch all the way across Lake Geneva, can accommodate up to 450 people. In 1946, the building was renovated and turned into a conference centre – thanks to a great number of volunteers who were willing to pour their time, money and skills into this project.

Costs

(Per person per day, full-board and event programme included)
For this meeting, the costs for your stay at Caux are CHF 85 (approx. GBP 42).

A voluntary contribution of CHF 35 (approx. GBP 17) will help to cover maintenance costs for the buildings.

Students (18+) pay CHF 40 (approx. GBP 20).

For families the following fees apply: Adults CHF 65 (approx. GBP 32), children and young people between 5 and 17 CHF 20 (approx. GBP 10); children under 5 years are free.

We kindly ask all participants to contribute the above amounts. If you are unable to do so, please get in touch with the conference secretariat. By giving more than the amounts mentioned above, those who can do so will enable other participants to take part.



Registration

The conference begins on December 26th 2008, 5pm, and ends on January 1st 2009 (after breakfast). Please register by November 25th 2008 by filling out the form on our website www.caux.ch or by writing to the Conference Secretariat.

Caux Conference Secretariat
PO Box 4419
CH 6002 Lucerne
Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0)41 310 12 61
Fax: +41 (0)41 311 22 14
Email: confsec@caux.ch
www.caux.ch
www.iofc.org

EUROPE - Responsibility
- Hope
- Future

Invitation to the Winter Conference
December 26th 2008 to January 1st 2009



Caux Winter Conference

Initiatives of Change

Photos: Heinrich Pick, except discussion group: Altaf Mohammed Abid
Graphics: Sylviane Borel / june 2008





Everybody counts!

The plenary sessions encourage reflection and the discussion groups offer time for personal exchange. By creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and freedom, everyone can contribute the values and ideals that are derived from their culture and innermost conviction. The topics touch the heart of the matter and are often presented in a humorous way; this leads on to interesting group discussions or private conversations. In this way, participants are central to the events. Certain topics will be covered in workshops or short seminars.



Time to listen

We don't only want to listen to each other, but some of us may also wish to enter into dialogue with our Creator. The moments of silence where we listen to our conscience can help us in opening this gateway. The encounters between the self and God's creative force can in this way become a source of inspiration and energy in our everyday lives.



Community living

Together we'll tackle all the tasks that are necessary to make the centre work. In fact, the informal exchanges that take place around the preparation of meals, whilst serving in the dining room or elsewhere, are always much appreciated by the participants. Strong friendships have developed from those moments of conviviality where people get to know each other better. Instructions are simple, so everyone can join in easily. The time spent on these tasks won't interfere with participation in the daily programme of events.

New Year's Eve

The culmination of all cultural activities will be the last evening of the year. Here the creativity of all participants is called for – and inevitably that range of talents will make us laugh; we'll sing and dance and raise our glasses as we welcome the New Year. Of course everyone is welcome to pass this evening in quiet reflection if they wish.



Free time!

Even if we can't promise that there will be snow, there is a good chance that once again the "white gold" of the mountains will delight us, given the season, the altitude (1050 m) and the part of the world we're in! The snowy slopes around Caux are perfect for sledging, winter walks or even some boisterous snowball fights. Inside the house, you can play table tennis and there are a number of rooms for creative activities, e.g. playing music, arts and crafts and many more. In the evenings, films can be viewed in the small cinema.