

Global Marshall Plan Report in AIESEC Köln Annual Report 2005/2006

The state of the poor, the gap between north and south, cultural conflicts, security and environmental issues; these are all problems which ask for an improved and binding global framework that brings the global economy into harmony with environment, society and culture. The Global Marshall Plan is a pragmatic concept of financing and implementing the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations (goals are e.g. eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, ensure environmental sustainability, achieve universal primary education) along with the long-term perspective of an eco-social market economy as a global political framework. Such a „design of globalisation“ is counting on the willingness of the richer countries to co-finance the development and would thus lead to a new ‚economic miracle‘.

Angela Merkel in her speech at the World Economic Forum 2006 in Davos said: “We need to coordinate environmental protection and social measures with the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. We have to pull together. Just as in the context of the social market economy social and economic justice was always part of a worthwhile society - at least, that is our experience - I believe this should also be the case in any future world order.”

2007 will be an important year for the Initiative. Important anniversaries are on this year, the 15th anniversary of the Rio Conference for Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, the 50th anniversary of the „Treaties of Rome“ and it also marks the 60th year of the historic speech made by US Secretary of State George C. Marshall at Harvard University. Furthermore Germany will hold the EU presidency in 2007 and in June of the same year the G8 summit will be hosted by Germany. Out of gratitude, out of appreciation of the historic achievements made by the US, but also because of self-interest we should place the concept of something like a global Marshall Plan on the order of business in the EU and G8 proceedings and fight for its implementation.

AIESEC has been an official supporter of the Global Marshall Plan Initiative since 2004 and I'm delighted to be the National Coordinator for the year 2006. With a national Drive Team we want to make the Global Marshall Plan Initiative, the UN Millennium Development Goals and the idea of an eco-social market economy known among students and AIESECers. We are in an exciting phase of this great Initiative. I personally look forward to the challenges in the next years and am looking optimistically towards the future.

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