

A LETTER
TO FELLOW TEACHERS TO JOIN US TO TAKE ACTION FOR OUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT
DECEMBER 3RD 2007

We are a group of teachers from different European countries. Today we launch the **I ACT** action and we call upon all teachers in Europe and beyond who share our belief in our responsibility as teachers for the future of young people to join it.

I ACT is launched on this very date to coincide with the opening of the United Nation Climate Change Conference in Bali. It is done to tell governments and other decision-makers that we as teachers are ready to act on climate change and other important issues for future living environment of young people and that they will have to do this as well.

The members of this group are just like any other teacher. We go to a school or college every day and there we do our best to use our pedagogical skills to bring opportunities for our pupils to acquire knowledge. We are dedicated to our vocation and we do our best to meet our responsibilities.

Our sense of responsibility has encouraged us to set up or to become involved in many social and environmental projects – often these have been European-wide – to open up new horizons for our students. Now we have decided to join hands and set up a framework for teachers who would like to work together to take action on climate change and other critical issues for the future of our societies.

There is a strong consensus among leading scientists and researchers as reflected in the recent reports and conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that man is responsible for at least some of the main factors leading to climate change and many go further and see action by people as the main factor behind this.

There is also a strong consensus that climate change if it happens will have far-reaching impact on our living environment and on the economic, social and cultural dimensions of our lives. And we are not talking about changes in the perspective of millions of years but changes that are likely to happen within a generation or two.

The notice we are being served by the facts gathered by IPCC and others must not be neglected. We should look at it as a 'call to arms' similar to the one issued by the Brundtland Commission 20 years ago when it said: "The time has come to take the decisions needed to secure the resources to sustain this and further generations."

The IPCC has concluded that there is still time to act. This is foremost a message to the world's governments and decision-makers but it is also a signal to each and every one of us living on this planet. It is a call to face the changes that might happen, to understand what can be done to minimize them and within our limits to take action to deal with the risks and challenges in front of us.

As teachers, we have dedicated our professional lives to helping young people prepare for their working and social lives so that they can be equipped to be active

citizens in society. We have done this because we strongly believe that “young people are our future” but with climate change and other developments affecting our living environment our focus is more and more also on “the future of young people”.

It is this concern for future generations – for the children of our children - that has made us set up the **I ACT** action. We strongly believe that this teacher-driven action to encourage and help teachers to bring in key environmental and social issues into their teaching can make a difference and we urge you all to join us to take action to secure “a common future” for current and future generations of young people

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