

GLOBAL CHALLENGE TO CHANGE WAYS OF THINKING AND ACTING

The antagonism between words and deeds appears as a characteristic phenomenon of the present times. Other contradictions and problems in the globalized world: loss of values, weakening conscience; manipulation by mass-media; theory vs. practice; common good (wellbeing) vs. self-interest; limits of freedom and democracy; economics driven by profit; style of life (*Carpe diem*).

Whereas the reason for many decisions is being explained by liberty, democracy and ethics, in fact partial or even very personal interests are being put above any public interest, common good and well-being. Undemocratic and unethical negotiations are often hidden beneath the surface of popular words. Therefore it is important to develop at all levels of decision making processes a common really ethical way of thinking which would be of support in bringing together and uniting the interested persons in their ethically correct decisions in given problems.

Ethics as applied in specialized disciplines (like geoethics) should be based on such principles of a common ethical way of perception and thinking. There is a strong liaison of ethics with decision making processes occurring at various levels which should be considered as a permanent process with partial results achieved. Proper goals, interests and motivation exist at each level. It has to be considered what any singular subject is doing and what he/she has to do in order to adapt the own behaviour to ethical standards. This personal behaviour should be in any case connected with the proper personal responsibility for any decision also for all possible consequences. Concrete examples will be given.

Élite personalities in the society as well as in any given specialized area should be considered as appropriate examples to be followed.

Unfortunately nowadays also quasi-élite is promoted as a product of groups of interest and of financial or other lobbies in spite of lack of personal responsibility and ethical sensibility.

In general: changes in ethical thinking and standpoints become a basic presupposition for a high professionalism in decision making processes in the broadest sense with an adequate application of ethical acting. This is also the best way forward to a better global future.