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Dear friends!

The XIith World Congress of Sociology is over now. I think we had a tremendous success with our sessions where more than 150 papers were presented. Certainly one of the most productive research committees and also in the history of our RC. We have been - thanks to Antonio Lucas - one of the most privileged RCs as having an air-conditioned room in Madrid where 40ø C have been easily reached. Thanks to him and also to Antonio Colomer-Viadel we enjoyed a most interesting and pleasant excursion to the Mondragón-cooperatives, and our Ibero-American friends had a special pre-congress-seminar from July 4 to 7, 1990.

Although we have been facing most contradictory developments over the last months there is some hope that participation and self-management will be still or better again topics of the nineties and the next century. As Cor Lammers and I did show in the first volume of the International Handbook of Participation in Organizations there is perhaps a stairway trend, i.e. that after a phase of stagnation in the eighties we are facing now a new growth in democracy. The fate of the countries in Eastern Europe where democratic mass-movements have changed in nearly all cases peacefully their regimes is a sign of hope. On the other hand the real difficulties start right now as we see even in the GDR.

In the meantime the proceedings of our Hyderabad-workshop have been published through C. Lakshmana. They may be ordered through the form enclosed in this newsletter. The Sofia-proceedings are going into print in Sofia in the next days, and may hopefully be obtainable at the end of the year. All those of you have participated in the realization of the Concise Encyclopedia of Participation and Co-Management are thanked here. I hope it will resume the main topics of our research, serve many a student and practitioner, and it should be ready early 1991. At the same time the volume on Labour Relations in transition in Eastern Europe which also presents some of our common research findings will appear. I am also inviting those who are interested in the question of the autonomy of the enterprise in East and West to contact me. (You will find a short outline in this newsletter.)

Finally we are in the turn of electing a new board. The list of candidates has been established during our Madrid business-meeting. All members in good standing will receive a voting form early October 1990, so that the new board will be in office in April 1991.

Looking forward to hear from you and remeeting you  
yours sincerely

Osnabrck, August 24, 1990

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