

for people. We have become too arrogant. We think everything belongs to us and we destroy it: 60 thousand species will be destroyed within the next few years. We cannot measure profit only in terms of money in banks, and besides, 50 years from now there may be no healthy human being to go to the bank. Have we gained or have we lost? Are we richer or poorer? It is in our best interest to save life. Maybe we are already too late but we have to give our best shot and try, and the only way is to create a new society, a new mentality through education, international cooperation and through the media. This is basically what Biopolitics stands for'.

### ■ ■ ■ The Birth of Biopolitics

Dr. Agni Vliavianos-Arvanitis, President and founder of the Biopolitics International Organisation, presented for the first time some of her ideas in Biopolitics in 1985 in Athens to the

European Philosophical Society. At the time Dr. Vliavianos-Arvanitis was teaching environmental science.

'There was a strong response by the members of the European Philosophical Society' she says, 'that was very encouraging for me. I was also a member of the United Nations Associations in Athens and was asked to go to East Berlin and give a speech on Biopolitics'. That is where she met most of her friends who supported and worked with her later on. One of them was Prof. Rusen Keles, her colleague and President of the UNA in Turkey, who became the founding member of BIO. 'After I presented Biopolitics in several conferences and got a great response, I realize that this could not remain a matter of a single individual's efforts and that we needed to create an international organization. That is how the Biopolitics International Organisation came to life. To me the main message is: we possess the most precious gift, 'bios' which means 'Life'.'

### ■ ■ ■ Bios - A genuine gain for society

Continuous innovation and development, as well as fluidity in the structure of society due to changing goals, make the identification of perspectives difficult. The emerging global economy determines the future requirements of society. While we are becoming interested in economic growth, there is also an increased awareness of the need for a better quality of life.

The lack of adequate development creates serious environmental problems. The conflict between the industrial countries' ongoing economic growth and the developing countries' undisputed need for growth, on the one hand and, the negative environmental effects on energy and raw material intensive production, cannot be solved within the present framework. Conventional economic development strategies are limited and often cannot respond to the challenges ahead.



A DELEGATION FROM TURKEY ALSO ATTENDED THE AFTERNOON SESSION:  
PROF. ZAFER ERTURK, RECTOR, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY, PROF. ERSI ABATZI KALFOGLU, ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY, PROF. BERNA ALPAGUT, FACULTY OF LETTERS, ANKARA UNIVERSITY, PROF. ILHAMI UNVER, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, ANKARA UNIVERSITY, PROF. UMIT ERDEM, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, AEGEAN UNIVERSITY, IZMIR, FABRI YUCEL, GOVERNOR OF EDIRNE, HASAN CANPOLAT, GOVERNOR OF SIVAS, IRIS SENTURK, MAYOR OF ANTAKYA