



INTERNATIONAL
HELLENIC
UNIVERSITY

CEREMONY OF CONFERMENT

Friday, 8 November 2013

THESSALONIKI

**Presentation by
PROFESSOR NICOLAS MOUSSIOPOULOS
of**

PROFESSOR FRANZ JOSEF RADERMACHER

**for the title of
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE *HONORIS CAUSA***

The International Hellenic University is honouring today Professor Franz Josef Radermacher for his scientific and academic work, as well as for his tireless efforts towards a more fair-minded version of globalization. For me personally it is also a great honour to present the achievements of a world famous expert of such high repute, but it is also a real pleasure for me, as I have had the privilege of collaborating with Professor Radermacher and his co-workers in the context of international research programmes since the mid 90s. So I have been able to witness myself his steps to becoming a key figure in the field of global sustainable development.

I would like to start with some prominent milestones in Professor Radermacher's career. Born in 1950, he received a PhD in Mathematics in 1974 from RWTH Aachen, and completed his 'Habilitation' in Mathematics at the same University in 1982. In between, he gained in 1976 a second PhD in Economics from the University of Karlsruhe. From 1983 until 1987, Franz Josef Radermacher was Professor for Applied

Computer Science at the University of Passau. Since 1987 he has been Professor for Artificial Intelligence and Databases at the University of Ulm and at the same time Chairman of the Research Institute for Applied Knowledge Processing (or FAW/n as it is known in short).

Headed by Professor Radermacher, FAW/n scientists have conducted over the last 25 years high level research on information and knowledge processing. Among other things, they explained how companies can be seen to behave as complex organisms and the importance of knowledge processing to ensure their correct functioning. Also, they presented in great detail how innovation and new technologies are shaping globalization and how this is affecting the way we live and the way companies do business around the world.

Over the years, Professor Radermacher's own interests gradually focused on the fields of globalization, innovation, economics, overpopulation and global sustainable development. Central to his work is, precisely, the issue of sustainability as the common parameter of politics, economics and civil society that may lead to a balanced development in the world. In this context, he has been one of the initiators of the Global Marshall Plan initiative that aims for the establishment of an eco-social market economy. The fundamental principles of this integrative organisational platform are the further development and implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, fair taxation on global value-added processes as well as fair global partnerships and the effective appropriation of funds.

Professor Radermacher's contributions to the scientific literature and public debate around global politics and economics, human rights and ecology shine in their rigorous theoretical and empirical quality, as he supports his engaging presentations with a wealth of examples from his detailed studies and research. To illustrate this, I would like to quote him regarding selected topics that dominate in his analyses and forecasts for the future.

To begin with, Radermacher advocates a re-orientation of economic growth, adopting a balanced approach to ensure higher growth rates for the poor to gradually reduce inequalities. Following this scenario, and in order to make this growth sustainable, over the next decades a stabilization of resource needs should be aimed at, based on dematerialization and other innovative actions. Radermacher notes that innovations in technology historically always opened up opportunities for a better world, in particular they reduced the specific use of resources in the creation of value. He also stresses, however, the importance of avoiding a "rebound" effect that might easily counteract the benefits of innovation if the increase in the number of units of value created exceeds the environmental burden reduction per unit.

The aforementioned re-orientation constitutes a new economic model; for Radermacher a suitable recipe for the latter is a combination of market economy and sustainability. His vision is that of a better global governance and a value-based world economic system, of a type of a global eco-social market economy. Pessimistically, however, he predicts a likelihood of 35% that the latter will be achieved, as opposed to a 65% likelihood of the disastrous alternatives of neo-feudalism or ecological collapse. With respect to the need for improvements in global governance, Radermacher points at incoherencies between the three parts of the current global governance system, i.e., the United Nations, the WTO and the global financial system. In spite of the fact that these three systems have been implemented by the same system of states, very often the underlying rules are in conflict with each other. Radermacher postulates that these conflicts make it more or less impossible to deal forcefully with the major global deficiencies concerning sustainable development.

In this context, and in accordance also with Dani Rodrik's ideas, Radermacher is concerned at the present uncontrolled globalization without a strong democratic legitimation. The supranational structure of the global financial system "levers" national democracy in favour of the powerful financial institutions. The recent images from Athens and Madrid show the helplessness of the citizens in this situation. Politicians in their own country can do little to change this, while at the same time they are unjustly assigned the blame for the situation. In contrast to the past, when policy used to implement to a large extent what the large majority wanted, now, as a consequence of the current global power interrelations following the recent economic and financial crisis, they must implement programmes unacceptable to the vast majority of the population. Regardless of whether politicians admit their powerlessness or deny being subject to supranational constraints, the voters are frustrated and this corresponds to a major risk for national democracy. In the face of this danger, Radermacher appeals that ways be found to move towards a transition to a world domestic policy combined with appropriate global governance. He believes that this is a prerequisite for the effective regulation of the global financial sector, especially at times of crisis. Among other benefits, an efficient tax haven control mechanism could be implemented, which could be a source of additional taxes for countries desperately needing to reduce their debt problems. I do not need to stress how significant and highly topical such analyses are for Greece and other countries suffering in the wake of the current crisis.

The importance and impact of Professor Radermacher's work is evidenced by his membership in a number of prestigious organisations and committees. He is a member of the Club of Rome and of several national and international advisory boards as well as President of the Senat der Wirtschaft (Senate of the Economy) in Bonn,

President of the Global Economic Network and Vice President of the Ecosocial Forum Europe. Professor Radermacher is also a member of the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development - German Section and a member of the German National Committee of the UNESCO for the World Decade "Education for Sustainable Development" (2005 – 2014). From 1988 until 1992 he was the President of the Society for Mathematics, Economics and Operations Research and from 2005 until 2009 President of the Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (BWA).

Through his visionary work he has earned many honours and awards. Let me mention among them, in 1997, the Scientific Award of the German Society for Mathematics, Economics and Operations Research. He then became in 2005 Laureate of the Salzburg Award for Future Research, in 2007 "Vision Award" Laureate of the Global Economic Network (for the Global Marshall Plan Initiative) and Karl-Werner-Kieffer Award holder. Recently, in 2012, he received the Environmental Award "Golden Tree" by the Foundation for Ecology and Democracy and he was nominated Fellow to the World Academy of Art and Science.

In addition to teaching, research and consulting expertise, Professor Radermacher has authored or co-authored several books attracting wide international interest. His earlier monographs dealt with individual scientific areas within his fields of specialization, such as Operations Research, Electronic Commerce, Environmental Informatics and Decision Support for Management. More recently, he has concentrated on global sustainability issues, with best sellers such as "Global Marshall Plan: A Planetary Contract", "Promoting a Global Society Dialogue", "World with Future: The Ecosocial Perspective". Professor Radermacher's willingness to investigate new areas and develop them is the hallmark of his work overall and made his books very successful worldwide.

At the same time, Radermacher is admired as a superb speaker and so he is invited to give seminars, keynotes and other speeches all over the world. Every year he delivers around two hundred speeches dealing primarily with globalization and sustainability. His clear language, his sense of humour and the importance of the messages he transmits deeply impress his audience.

The above remarks on your lifetime work, Professor Radermacher, demonstrate that you are a polymath and pioneering spirit. As a creative and insightful scientist you have succeeded in combining the highest standards in teaching, research and consulting. However, what distinguishes you from most outstanding economists and natural scientists are your efforts to link your work with notions from major representatives of humanities. Let me mention a few examples: Agreeing with the

famous theologian Hans Kueng, you stress that values and a global ethos have a major role to play in guiding society and in particular our economic activities. And with Amartya Sen you share the idea that freedom, as an essential concept, requires education for everybody as well as the taking of responsibility for problems caused, e.g., in climate change. You can imagine, Professor Radermacher, that these links are extremely important from the Greek perspective, given the important contributions of our country in ancient times to both philosophy and natural sciences.

For all these reasons, and speaking on behalf of my colleagues at the International Hellenic University and in particular the School of Economics, Business Administration and Legal Studies, I would like to welcome you into our academic community. I am of the firm belief that with you on our side in these difficult times of crisis, we will have even better prospects of meeting our educational and research targets, especially in economic planning and sustainable development.