1.- GEOISM AND COSMOISM

In 1960, Dr. in Architecture Antonio Lamela brought up the issue of the need for territorial organisation from a planetary context to supra municipal one. He published a book in the mid-70’s developing these ideas, (Lamela, 1976). He named this idea, which he has been developing ever since, Geoism (Lamela 2003). One can define Geoism as a proposal of discipline and professional practice which intends to contribute towards territorial organisation, firstly from a planetary point of view, providing an answer to global problems, for example by means of worldwide directives and indicators; and secondly, by means of supra-municipal planning which would take into consideration those directives and which would be evaluated in respect of those indicators. In addition, he introduced the idea of Cosmoism (LAMELA, A. 1976), through which he pointed out the need to organise the use of the Cosmos, whose use was even more incipient then than it is now. Thus, as Urbanism is the science of town and metropolitan planning, Geoism could be the science of world planning and Cosmoism that of man’s use of the universe or cosmos. This last concept will not be developed in this paper but it must be said that there are some issues regarding the use of Space that need addressing urgently. Some criteria were previously established by the
United Nations, through the *Treaty On Principles Governing The Activities Of States In The Exploration And Use Of Outer Space, Including The Moon And Other Celestial Bodies* (27 January 1967). Regarding outer space, aspects such as: its use for peaceful purposes; being the province of all mankind and that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development, were regulated. Currently there are some urgent issues regarding planning which are being raised. One is the reduction of dangerous waste in outer space, minimising elements that could be turned into scrap and maximising the prevention of accidental explosions. Another area of concern is the use of the geo-station orbit and the avoidance of the possible saturation of the frequency spectrum occupied by satellite communications. Likewise, greater developments in the search for, classification and study of asteroids with potentially dangerous trajectories for the earth would be advisable, as well as a defence system which could help avoid an eventual collision. In fact, it is estimated that for a person of 25 years of age, the probability of death as a result of the impact of an asteroid of 500 metres diameter is approximately the same as that of death in an aviation accident (Rees, M., 2004, 108).

Geoism, from a global planetary management perspective, proposes territorial planning at different levels: worldwide, continental, national and municipal. It looks for far more reasonable solutions and logical, admissible and harmonious processes to face up to pending essential challenges facing the planetary habitat. It can help achieve sustainable development (WCDE, 1987), as it is a useful instrument in settling some of the key questions (Trzyna, T. C., 1995, 16) that have arisen regarding this issue: How can it be measured? How can a concept be changed into action? and what are the aspects on which we should concentrate?

Geoism should not only be the practice of worldwide territorial planning but an applied discipline. Being in line with urbanism and territorial planning, Geoism is the combination of knowledge on a world wide scale relative to the proposition and coordination of environmental, economic, social and cultural policy, tending to strengthen synergies and avoid dysfunctions, in order to best satisfy human needs of present and future generations, as well as maximising the protection of natural environments which are still relatively untouched by man. The four scientific areas – Urbanism, Territorial Planning, Geoism and Cosmoism – have a common goal; the
organisation of inhabitable space for the well being of mankind, but with different approaches and dimensions. In order to develop Geoism, professionals with great vision are needed, who cover essential elements of many subjects without being specialists in any one of them. These would probably be the most suitable people to preside over and direct the inter-disciplinary teams dealing with territorial planning.

Nowadays, planetary territorial organisation seems to be even more important than in the 60’s, given that there has been increased globalisation of activities, flows and ideas. This has highlighted the seriousness and inadmissibility of numerous world wide problems such as: the extent of malnutrition, sanitary deficiencies and ill health that still affect a scandalously high number of human beings; changes in the Natural Global System, shown by increased global warming, apparently caused, at least in part, by the greenhouse effect with anthropologic origin; the disappearance of tropical rainforests and deterioration of many other habitats; the extinction of important endangered species and the loss of the biodiversity that they represent; the inadequate use of some renewable and non-renewable resources; etc. In some respects, mankind has achieved relevant advances such as the increase in life expectancy but there are still many challenges to be met.

With regards to growing global problems, one has to provide an answer on the same scale: worldwide, but always taking into account local diversity. Geoism should focus on the entire globe in order to later focus on regions and even counties. It proposes that while different parts of the planet should take into account the considerations of the superior order, at the same time global directives should be adapted to their own peculiarities.

Geoism is related, in part, to other contemporary studies, although notable differences can be seen. For example, in the first report of the Club of Rome, published in1972 titled “Limits to growth”, one can read a direct reference to a need for planning, which although not explicitly mentioned, can be understood as on a world wide scale. Its authors talk of the need to take international measures and realise joint planning on a long-term basis and on an unprecedented scale (MEADOWS, D. H. and others, 1972, 242). They mention planning but at no time refer to a territorial perspective.

Two years later, the same institution promoted the publication of a second report titled “Mankind at the turning Point”. In this report an analogy between nature and the
world wide system was established, in which the advantage of a world wide plan is briefly mentioned without going into its territorial aspects. It states that in the wild, organic growth\(^2\) progresses according to a “master plan” and that such a plan is need for the growth process and development of the worldwide system. Unlike what happens in genetic codification, for humanity, the plan is not predetermined and still has to evolve by means of choosing options (MESAROVIC, M. y PESTEL, E., 1975, 28). Later on, they claim that failure to develop a master plan to allow mankind to progress towards organic development would lead to the inevitable need for surgery to control cancerous growth (Idem, 186).

Geoism does not have a rigid idea regarding worldwide planning which should be applied but an open concept of the issue. Its norms and solutions should be made by consensus and should be constructive and pragmatic but at the same time flexible. In this way they can be applied to the diverse geographical realities of the planet and to the evolution of situations without rapidly becoming obsolete with the passing of time. Its flexibility contrasts with the mention of the need for a definitive master plan by M. MESAROVIC and E. PESTEL (1975, 186) an idea, which the authors do not explain.

The aim of this paper is to try to advance the idea of what planetary territorial organisation should and could be. It aims to be more practical than the aforementioned studies, which have identified the need for a worldwide plan without entering into details about how this could be achieved. Likewise, some federal and continental planning advances will be looked at which have already shown some small advances in this issue, always keeping in mind the magnitude of the obstacles which are to be faced.

Planetary Territorial panning is an extraordinarily difficult task, but not an impossible one, which will be shown in these pages. In any case, a formal and rigid plan is not proposed but some flexible territorial directives which could be introduced gradually at first and that a number of nations could adopt by consensus.

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\(^2\) According to the authors, organic growth implies a diversification process, whereby various groups of cells are differentiated in structure and function. They consider this positive, as opposed to undifferentiated growth in which the cells multiply indefinitely and exponentially, each one being a replica of the first, growing only in quantity.
2.- THE ADVANTAGES OF GEOISM.

The planetary territorial planning strategy which geoism proposes could be of great utility, principally for the following reasons:

1) It could lead to a joint perspective, on a worldwide scale of the most relevant territorial problems and opportunities. The analysis required is selective, as a strategy which tried to cover all territorial variables could be very difficult to put into practice. To achieve a panoramic idea of the most important issues could be in itself a considerable breakthrough. Among other advantages, it could serve to prioritise areas of activity and if necessary concentrate them in order to create a minimum efficiency threshold.

2) It could be a useful instrument in reaching territorial objectives on a planetary scale, such as:

- Improve the quality of life of present generations on the planet, keeping in mind the interests of future generations.

- Promote social development and economic growth with fairer distribution between the earth’s nations. For example, a global territorial strategy could select areas of those countries, which are less developed and adequate for investment in endogenous sustainable development projects in exchange for the conservation of their most valuable natural spaces.

- Manage renewable and non-renewable resources in a sustainable way. Amongst many other measures, this implies emphasizing their most rational use, the advantages of saving and re-use, as well as greater research into potential environmentally friendly technologies, for example alternative energy.

- Protect and regenerate flora, fauna, relatively unspoiled areas, the air etc. For example, such relatively unspoiled areas, which from a planetary perspective should be protected, could be identified using worldwide and local criteria. Likewise criteria to identify the principal areas to be concentrated on could be established. The
World Conservation Union –WCU– has already started work on the first issue. Although the competence to protect these relatively unspoiled areas is scarce, just defining them would lobby for their protection and would help the organisations and institutions fighting for this cause. If, in addition, this were combined with a policy of promotion of development, this issue would advance even more.

- Efficient and responsible use of the globe, favouring the best use of land and ensuring that the population and economic activities are distributed in the best way possible.

- Protect humanity from catastrophe and disasters, which are derived from intrinsically human factors, or from societies’ inability to deal with them. For example, a geoistic plan would help to combat the terrible effects of tsunamis like the one registered on 26 of December 2004 in the Indian Ocean, which caused the death of nearly 300,000 people. Before the disaster struck, a planetary territorial strategy should have at least: obtained, coordinated and analysed the fragmented information about seismic risk; identifying danger areas, suggested principles which should have dominated the organisation of areas at greater risk; and highlighted the need for a warning system covering the regions where one was not in place. If all parts of the world had been covered by such a system, we could suppose that tens of thousands of lives could have been saved.

3) It would provide a view of future territorial models, formulated by means of a perspective which inevitably would be uncertain and that should be permanently revised in order to be updated whenever opportune. Having a solid diagnosis of the current situation and of solvent prediction models would be useful in estimating, in advance, the effects of territorial policies with supranational effects on the different states involved.

4) It would provide guidance for the elaboration of planning of smaller areas, with more detail and focus, such as continental, national or sub-national.
Directive and worldwide action could be a voluntary guide for the elaboration of territorial plans, which, at the same time would be evaluated with respect to worldwide indicators, with all the advantages that would bring.

5) Particularly relevant aspects of the global territorial strategy could be approved by means of worldwide agreements. If these agreements were ratified by a sufficient number of nations, they would have greater binding effect than mere voluntary propositions.

6) Geoism should become a meeting point for the diverse agents which have a greater effect on territory in a planetary dimension. In the elaboration process of a worldwide territorial strategy, maximum consensus among the principal players that should actively participate in its design should be obtained.

7) It would serve as a sphere of activity for the coordination of policy with territorial implications by the United Nations and by the different states related to it. Spatial coordination would affect amongst others, economic, environmental, social, health, cultural, infrastructure and equipment policy. It could be supposed that it would lead to beneficial synergies for all concerned.

8) It would help promote a territorial culture with a planetary dimension and would be a worldwide forum for territorial investigation and reflection. Within this forum, issues of worldwide interest would be analysed with the maximum possible objectivity, for example, the evaluation of innovative ideas for territorial organisation, which, might be proposed, or the contrast of divergent studies, which are frequently made of this subject.

3.- GEOISTIC PLANNING

3.1.- Fundamental elements of geoistic planning.

The principal elements of geoistic planning would consist of the drawing up of territorial directives regarding the most effective measures which could be adopted on a
worldwide scale and in the selection of indicators which would lead to the measure of the efficiency of the proposals made. See figure 1.

FIG. 1. Geoistic Planning

The principal phases when the proposals are developed and discussed by experts, administrations, social organisations, associations etc. are highlighted in grey.

The objectives mustn’t only be generic but should be also specific. A good starting point are the *Millenium Development Goals* –MDG–, linked to the United Nations Millenium Declaration, which were agreed in 2000 by the largest group of heads of state in history in (FUKUDA-PARR, S. 2003, 1). Among other things, they deal with the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving primary education on a universal scale, guaranteeing environmental sustainability, implanting a worldwide association for development etc. Eight objectives are addressed and divided into eighteen goals. Table 1

**TABLE 1. Examples of the goals of the Millenium Declaration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have achieved by 2020 a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes: tariff and quota-free access for least-developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous Official Development Assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The MDG would have to be amplified with other guidelines of a more territorial nature, for example, those regarding conservation of spaces with ecological importance, management of natural resources, distribution of urban areas, transport networks, etc. as well as contributing to their attainment by means of a wider and interrelated vision, with a holistic tendency, which seeks synergies and avoids malfunctions.

The directives should ideally be integral, which means, they should cover all territorial aspects, but as this would be too wide and complicated, one could start with the most relevant directives which could be passed independently, which is the case in the following examples. They would be partial advances towards a possibly more complete territorial plan. A. THORNLEY AND Y. RYDIN, (2002, 9-10) have highlighted that in the era of globalisation, planning must include new ways of thinking and dealing with its role and new ways of working. They particularly emphasise that answers must be found quicker, combining the short and long term.

3.2.- Example of a possible directive regarding the price of water.

A possible directive could regard the price of water, which is an issue which numerous authors consider key. For example, L. R. BROWN (2004, 172-173) estimates that mankind is facing an enormous water deficit and that governments will have to adopt measures that would be politically unpopular, in order to resolve the situation, which is to fix a price which reflects its value. He considers that water charges should encourage efficient consumption. A geoistic directive could recommend that authorities which establish water rates should fix tariffs which:

- Cover the total cost of the water cycle\(^3\), from harness, piping, purifying, storage and distribution of drinking water to drainage of used water, collection of residual water, treatment and in the case of countries with water shortage, its re-use. It should also cover any other associated environmental cost.

\(^3\) The European Union has advanced in this direction by contemplating it in article 9 of the Directive 2000/60/CE, of 23 October 2000, of the European Parliament and of the European Council, which establishes a community framework for action in the area of water policy.
• Finance, at least in part, the conservation of forests in water harness areas as they play an important role in maintaining the water level in the area by increasing filtration, reducing silt in reservoirs, contributing to atmospheric evaporation, reducing the possibility of channels, etc.

• Finance, part of the conservation of forests in developing countries using funds from developed countries. This is justified as forest areas help to reduce the greenhouse effect, fundamentally because they absorb CO₂ by means of photosynthesis. Maintenance or expansion of forests would reduce global warming and would lead to lower incidence of water shortage in numerous regions of the world. Although CO₂ is later released in a number of ways, e.g. by the natural falling of trees, felling or fires, there are authors who claim that forests as effective carbon “drains” are very important in reducing climatic change (PONS, X. 2004, 24). For this reason, forestation and reforestation projects are contemplated within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol as types of Clean Development Mechanism (SGPCCC, 2004, 53), although forest maintenance should have been considered because otherwise felling and replanting is incited⁴.

• Should be reduced for basic domestic use, calculated by connection and if possible by person in certain countries, taking into account poorer population sectors or areas.

• Should be reduced for agricultural purposes in underdeveloped regions where a price increase would impede agricultural exploitation.

• Should be progressive, increasing in relation to consumption level, always taking into account relevant factors such as the number of people.

• Rates would have an appreciable initial increase and then a progressive increase over the following years until all costs are covered. Of course, if costs are reduced and fall below income, the rates would be reduced.

⁴ Finance for protection of forests, proposed here, related to water, would be added to by larger quantities from other funds determined in function of its contribution to biodiversity and reduction of global warming.
• They would come into effect after an extensive public information campaign, which, apart from explaining the measures, would promote the need to save water.
• They would be applied to all types of use; agricultural, industrial and urban.
• They would take into consideration local culture and social structures.

These measures are normally unpopular and difficult to introduce, for this reason A. Dinar (2003, 34) recommends that they are implemented at an adequate political moment, usually at the beginning of a parliamentary term. F. Ruijberman (2004, 520-521) points out that at any given moment nearly half the population of developing countries suffer from water related diseases and so treatment should receive at least the same attention and more finance than the supply of drinking water. The directives would be accompanied by indicators, which would allow evaluation of how effective they have been. See table 2.

### TABLE 2. Example of indicators for a directive relating to the recovery of water costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of recovered costs relating to water services.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people with a reduced rate for basic water needs related to the total population and to the needy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate increase related to consumption in relative and absolute terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variation in the evolution over time of the water rate, an initial increase being considered favourable, except when the original rate is close to or superior to the total cost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget dedicated to an extensive public information campaign and agent participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses to which water rates are applied in order to recover costs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution of water consumption by person.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency of water use related to economic activity measured, for example, in water consumed related to the number of jobs in each economic sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of residual water, which is treated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of residual water, which is re-used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water loss in distribution systems. Losses of more that 25% in urban areas, 35% in rural areas and 30% in intermediate areas are considered unfavourable and losses of 15%, 25% and 20% respectively are considered favourable (EEA, 2002, 23).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An initial selection of the possible indicators would have to be made, which would then be continuously revised, incorporating new ones and eliminating old ones, depending on their relevance and their application possibilities. When a suitable indicator system has been found, it would have to be adapted to the characteristics of each area, by not applying certain indicators which are not relevant and creating some specific indicators where necessary. For example, the evolution of water consumption...
per person or re-use of residual water does not have the same importance in areas of abundant precipitation as in areas with water deficit.

3.3. Example of a possible directive referring to population nuclei.

Territorial directives should tend to be integral but it is possible to start by concentrating on those aspects most relevant to world wide territorial planning, although on an individual basis, for example, in the following case.

Supposing that a sufficient number of countries approve directives, which propose strengthening polycentric networks of cities, which have a reasonably high population density, together with abundant open spaces in their surrounding areas and in their interior. The urban centres would be structured externally and internally in function of public transport. Territorial and urban planning would not allow, as a general rule, new residential developments to be built where they are separated from relatively densely populated areas, where a new public transport station, commuter or metropolitan trains or high capacity bus would have to be built. In those municipalities that public transport doesn’t reach, a certain amount of residential growth would be allowed, being determined in function of predicted demographic dynamics. Whenever necessary, measures to reduce traffic congestion would be implemented, such as, introducing urban tolls to access the city centre or (although at the moment relatively ineffective but interesting) the promotion of working from home. In the entire region the tendency would be to limit the number of one family housing.

This directive is justified because a collection of compact cities with dense populations and numerous open spaces both in the surrounding areas and within the city has social benefits, such as, lower service costs and greater accessibility to amenities. In addition, it is a more recommendable organisation, among other reasons because it favours lower water and energy consumption and increased use of public transport. On the contrary, one family housing has a larger environmental cost, fundamentally because of increased water, energy and land use and because they encourage private transport. However, it doesn’t seem logical to concentrate all growth in one city but in a

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5 As in the Brazilian city of Curitiba (RUANO, M 2002: 39; MONTANER, J.P. 1999).
network of cities. This is because of the advantages of economies of scale and because it seems that land is better used, when there is a network of well-distributed nuclei.

In applying the directives, all justifiable exceptions would be contemplated. Thus, for a directive which promotes cities with relatively high population densities, the following areas could be exempt: those close to areas of natural beauty or environmental importance; rural areas; tourist areas which could lose a significant percentage of potential clients; areas with lack of building space; areas where the terrain is not suitable.

There are studies, which argue against this directive. A. DEFFIS (2000, 104) claims that the ideal city has to have a low housing density. Other authors present quite a wide range of numbers of houses per hectare, which they consider acceptable. For example J.A. LÓPEZ (1999, 195) claims that only housing developments with fewer than 70 houses per hectare provide a suitable satisfaction level for their inhabitants. HILDEBRAND, F. (1999, 31) cites two studies that, from the point of view of sustainability, consider that densities of up to 100 houses per hectare could be optimal. One task to be carried out is to define what a reasonably high density is. All these issues are debatable and can be looked at from many different points of view depending on many different circumstances.

3.4.- Example of a possible directive relating to ecologically valuable areas

It wouldn’t be necessary to wait to have an approved general geoistic strategy before promoting world wide territorial directives, which individually are considered favourable. These directives could be applied on a planetary scale, as could be a directive relating to the protection of ecologically valuable areas of the world, in exchange (in areas where it is considered appropriate) for aid programmes, which would favour endogenous development initiatives. The first step is the worldwide classification of areas in need of protection. This is something, which the World Conservation Union –WCU– did in 1978 and which. E. CRESPO DE NOGUEIRA (2002, 36) considers (after some up-dates) a contribution, up to now unsurpassed in variety and

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7 Data supplied as people per hectare. To convert it, an average of 3 people per dwelling has been considered.
precision of categories. In addition the WCU has made a Geographic Information System on a worldwide scale (WDPA, 2005), which can be consulted on the web. Apart from elaborating the issues tackled by the WCU, an evaluation of natural park management in relation to common indicators and integration of various policies relating to protected areas would be recommendable, for example, the aforementioned idea of providing aid for local development in exchange for ecological conservation in certain areas. Regarding this issue J. F. OJEDA (2000, 285) comments that it is easier to programme infra-structural work and patrimony acquisitions than to introduce changes in attitude and education programmes and that the level of sustainable development which an area is able to reach depends fundamentally on its own ability to create a group of productive economic activities that are compatible with conservation.

3.5.- Application to supra-municipal planning

Geoistic directives can also be applied to territorial planning on a supra-national, national and sub-national scale. (See figure 2) They can be implemented in areas of variable geometry and allow discontinuity in cascade systems of planning, that is, they could be applied to region even though they have not yet been developed on larger scale.

FIG 2. Innovation and advantages of Geoism for supra-municipal planning.
Supra-municipal planning would use the directives and indicators as a reference in order to make improvements. In the planning process the indicators would be used prior to the general plan (figure 3) to evaluate the starting point, during the plan to predict the effects of the plan and after, to evaluate the results. The indicators could also be used to analyse the situation where there is no egoistic planning, enabling a comparison to areas where there is.

**FIG.3. Application of geoistic indicators to supra-municipal planning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEFORE</th>
<th>DURING</th>
<th>AFTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the situation before planning</td>
<td>Prediction of the impact of the planning</td>
<td>Evaluation of the results of the planning with respect to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Initial situation 2. The prediction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6.- Evaluation and reformulation

As the geoistic directives and indicators are being applied, the process as a whole would be criticised and evaluated in order to learn as much as possible from mistakes made and to diffuse information regarding successes. K. R. POPPER (1985, 154-155) highlights the importance of criticism in the learning process. He claims that our knowledge grows as a result of practice and elimination of errors and that in scientific knowledge we consciously look for our mistakes, whenever possible by means of contrast. He argues that the key to reason and rationality is to open up to criticism; both being able to accept criticism and being able to criticise oneself. In this way, evaluation of territorial planning with respect to egoistic indicators would be a type of practical contrast that would have to provide the setting for a process in which self criticism and criticism would be undertaken as much as is feasibly possible, with the aim of attaining better results. The evaluation phase would involve re-formulation and up-date of the worldwide territorial strategy. Principally geoistic planning is not directives and fixed indicators at one particular time (that logically will change over time) but fundamentally a permanent way of elaborating them. It is not so much formulation of directives etc. related to each
particular circumstance but above all, the desire to increase the effort made to find an efficient response to planetary territorial planning, increasingly necessary in the face of the unstoppable growth of the globalisation phenomenon.

4.- SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA, EXAMPLES OF TERRITORIAL PLANNING IN FEDERAL COUNTRIES

One might think that territorial planning is impossible in very large areas and even more so in the case of de-centralised political structures. However, in spite of the difficulties, there are cases that show that territorial planning on a large scale in federal countries is possible, Switzerland and Austria being of note.

R. PUJADAS y J. FONT (1998, 196) highlight that Switzerland is a nation that has achieved considerable federal coordination of its regional plans. They explain that each canton has full competence over territorial order and elaborates its own Cantonal Master Plan but as the federal government has needed to reinforce coordination, “conceptions” have been formulated, which can be understood as a normative system of objectives and measures, which in general do not have binding effect but constitute important points of reference when elaborating the cantonal plans. They show that in 1995 the federal government presented a document called *Guidelines for Swiss territorial order*, which provided a guiding framework for making decisions with a territorial impact, for both the public administration and the private sector.

In Switzerland, spatial planning is principally the responsibility of the cantons, although the national government has certain formal competences, which are contained in the Federal Law of Territorial Planning, 1979. The Swiss Association of Planning (VLP-ASPAN, 2004, 3) points out that the principal objective of this law is to economise on the utilisation of its limited space, which is essential because only 30% is fit for human use.

The Swiss system of territorial planning has recently been cited in an OECD report (2002, 12-14 y 86-97). Switzerland is considered the most decentralised country in this organisation, particularly because of the fiscal competence of the cantons. The country works reasonably well because values such as coordination and cooperation
have become common practice for all the administrations, although there is growing
tension between local autonomy, national cohesion and the need for more collaboration
between cantons. The Federal Office of Spatial Planning is responsible for the
coordination and approval of cantonal territorial planning and for establishing regional
and municipal planning objectives. However, fundamentally its tasks are limited to
undertaking studies and establishing general principles as the economic territorial
strategy is outside its competence. However, as aforementioned, the cantons can
develop fiscal and economic policies, for example, to attract economic activity or
population.

In 1996 the above-mentioned *Guidelines for Swiss territorial order* were published.
This document presented a long-term territorial vision to the nation and expounded the
principal goals to be reached in order to achieve more efficient and balanced use of
space. Switzerland has mountainous terrain with an abundance of areas of ecological
importance, landscapes of tourist interest, limited land area, relatively high population
density, notable economic strength and lack of terrain fit for further development.
This is why at all administrative levels great importance is given to territorial order. It
also explains why one of the principal planning concerns is optimisation of spatial
organisation, which leads to intensive use of available land, which among other
measures implies a decentralised network of compact population nuclei of different
sizes, in order to slow the disorganised expansion of single-family housing.

When reflecting on the feasibility of integrated, territorial planning on a national
scale in a decentralised context, another case, which is even more interesting, is that of
Austria because it has achieved this in spite of having a federal government, lacking
formal competence in the subject. This lack of theoretical ability contrasts with the fact
that the State is responsible for the majority of investment with territorial impact. A.
Faludi (1998) describes the workings of the Austrian system and considers it to be
proof that informal agreements can work. Planning is undertaken by the Austrian
Conference on Spatial Planning, created in 1971. It comprises federal, state and
municipal representatives, in addition to receiving stable technical support, which is not
dependant on electoral results. It works well, in spite of being a voluntary cause, as all
members understand the great need for coordination and cooperation. The main limiting
factor of this model is that as decisions are taken unanimously they only represent a
minimum common denominator, which all parties are willing to reach. Even so, the recommendations, which are passed, can be of great value, which is the case of the Austrian Perspectives on Territorial Planning the first of which passed in 1981. This territorial order has been very positive in many ways. Among other achievements, the most notable are: reaching a basic consensus on spatial policy, improving coordination, understanding differences between different administrations, establishing a mutual learning process, creating a spatial culture, showing that voluntary cooperation is possible, etc.

5.- TERRITORIAL PLANNING FOR EUROPE

Possibly, territorial organisation undertaken up to now which has involved the largest number of countries is the European Spatial Development Perspectives (ESDP), subtitled “Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union”. It took ten years to be developed. It started with an informal meeting of the ministers responsible for territorial organisation in Nantes in 1989 and culminated in the passing of the ESDP in a similar meeting in Potsdam in 1999, in which the head of regional policy from the European Commission took part. For the first time, the global situation of European territory was envisaged and the partial perspective, which up to that time had been offered by sectorial policy was improved upon and a vision of the future of territory was offered which would serve as a general framework of reference.

The ESDP proposes three fundamental objectives (EC, 1999, 11): economic and social cohesion; conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage; and more balanced competitiveness of the European territory. It intends to promote sustainable development by means of an equilibrated territorial structure, thus established three policy directives regarding territorial development: development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship; securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge; and sustainable development, prudent management and protection of nature and cultural heritage. Some of the directives are contentious. For
example, equal access to infrastructures seems impossible and possibly establishing a minimum access would be more feasible.

The formulation of governing territorial principles represents a great advance, even though they are just the beginning of the description of what they hope to achieve. They define some positions of interest. For example, they make it very clear that they do not favour a defined hierarchy of cities with a dominant central area, but a multiple system that helps to avoid excessive concentration of riches and population in the central nucleus of the European Union. They don’t sufficiently explain how the polycentric model they propose should be but they do describe some of its elements, such as the creation of several dynamic zones of global economic integration, well distributed throughout the EU territory and comprising a network of internationally accessible metropolitan regions and their linked hinterland (town, cities and rural areas of varying sizes), will play a key role in improving spatial balance in Europe» (EC, 1999, 20).

Andrea A. Faludi (2004a, 20-21; 2004c, 395) criticises the ESDP for not visualising the spatial structure, which they propose for Europe by means of some type of general plan that would serve to conceptualise European space.

The ESDP is not legally binding but in spite of this, has tried to build an adequate framework of orientation and cooperation for sectorial policies with territorial repercussions in the EU, the member states and regional and local authorities (EC, 1999, 12). Measuring its success is open to interpretation. It depends, above all, on whether a lot or a little is expected of it and as such, sometimes the position of the authors could seem contradictory. A. Faludi makes both positive and negative comments, although principally positive. Among his negative comments he mentions that no sooner had the ESDP been printed, the Commission stopped supporting it and put it to one side as planning competence was unclear (Faludi, A., 2004b, 1350 y 1361). In addition, he highlights the fact that that an enormous effort would have to be made to resuscitate the ESDP process (Faludi, A., 2004c, 404) and that the Aquiles heel of European politics, which is territorial organisation, is the lack of continuous coordination between Director Generals (Faludi, A., 2004a, 39). In spite of this, his general evaluation is favourable. He affirms that the member states and the Commission are now applying the ESDP (Faludi, A., 2004a, 23) and in a more detailed study of some specific nations he arrives at the same conclusion (Faludi, A., 2004c, 395). Globally he thinks that the ESDP can be considered
a success as its concepts have been incorporated into various political systems and play a part in planning due to diffusion of the same (Idem, 405).

The European Commission adopts many of the ideas from the ESDP by means of its territorial cohesion policy as the European Constitution gives it competence in this area together with the member states (article I-14.2.c). The most recent European document related to the subject is the third report on economic and social cohesion (EC, 2004).

Although in the title page, territorial cohesion is not expressly mentioned, the document does have a great spatial dimension, even though it doesn’t cover all the aspects of the ESDP, which ideally should be covered.

6.- WORLDWIDE AGREEMENTS WITH TERRITORIAL IMPACT

Territorial planning on a planetary scale does not exist although progressively the number of worldwide treaties and protocols with territorial impact is increasing. Table 3 sums up the most important ones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 3. Principle worldwide treaties with greatest territorial impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on International Civil Aviation, Chicago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), London, Moscow and Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, London.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, Barcelona.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 1979 Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Law of the Sea, Montego Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal, Basel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Helsinki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framework Convention on Climate Change, New York.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, Paris.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone Gothenburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters, Kiev.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The table was made by selecting the most relevant regulations, according to the criteria below:

- When there are various worldwide agreements, treaties or protocols on a subject, preference is given to the oldest and rest are omitted. This means that protocols that serve as examples are not included, except some of the most recent. As such, with regards to the atmosphere, the following protocols, amongst others are not outlined: that of Sofia concerning control of oxide and nitrogen emissions and cross-border flows –1988--; Geneva, on control of emissions of organic volatile compounds and their cross-border flows –1991--; Oslo, referring to the reduction sulphuric emissions –1994--; and Aarhus, dealing with persistent organic contaminants –1988--.

- Regional international agreements – which affect a part of the Planet and which are only subscribed to by the nations affected, they are included if there are other similar ones in other areas implying a tendency towards worldwide cover. In this case, the oldest is mentioned in representation of the rest, even when the name has been changed. As such, the agreement on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution is mentioned –1976-- but not the equivalent agreements regarding the Red Sea and the Aden Golf –1982--, the Caribbean –1983--, East Africa –1985--, the South pacific – 1986--.

- Some agreements, which seem to have a minor territorial planning impact, have been included as they could have relevant implications. For example, the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, in space and under water –1963- led to the treaty on nuclear testing –1996-, which gave rise to the International Vigilance System on a global scale (CTBTO, 2001), which has helped to strengthen networks of seismic study. This could be of great importance, for example, for tsunami warning systems.

- Declarations or non-ratified agreements have not been included. For example, issues dealt with at the United Nations Rio de Janeiro worldwide conference on the environment –1992- are not reflected, in spite of which, apart from the treaties, other important processes have been implemented, for example the 21 local agendas which are derived from Programme 21 which forms part of this conference (DGCEA, 1998). As such, other agreements of great importance have been kept out, for example, those formulated by the World Trade Organization (WTO), dedicated to the establishment of commercial norms regulating trade between countries on a worldwide or almost worldwide scale (OMC, 2003).

The number of treaties and issues covered are evidence to show that we have come a long way. However, a general strategy is still lacking, which coordinates and integrates all the areas dealt with, that is to say, the basic functions of territorial planning are still not in place. There is still no general vision which shows what has already been done and which would allow us to decide what should be done next as a matter of priority. In addition, important territorial aspects are still not covered, such as the regulation of types of urban development, which would be more sustainable⁸.

Logically, the application of worldwide measures would not be uniform. In spite of being of global application, they tend to be applied in certain types of nation, depending on their economic development, their history and their geography. Figure 4

⁸ There have been diverse United Nations conferences on human settlements, with measures of great interest, such as the Habitat Programme and catalogues of good practice.
shows areas, which have been designated World Heritage Sites, including cultural, natural and mixed sites. Their presence can be noted in nearly all the nations of the world with a noticeable concentration in Europe.

**FIG.4. Areas which have been designated World Heritage Sites**

![Map of World Heritage Sites](Image)

Source: Own elaboration with information from UNESCO 2003

Action principally initiated by a determined group of countries doesn’t necessarily mean that it has less worldwide importance or that it leads to unjustified inequality. It is a good thing that some regions are pioneers in the hope that other implicated regions will follow their lead and that they have the necessary conditions to do so.

Partial planetary measures that are being adopted are of merit but are still insufficient. Two examples are:

- The Kyoto Protocol –1997– has still not been ratified by the most contaminating nation, the USA, mostly because of pressure from their own industries. In addition, in the countries, which are trying to comply, there are numerous companies that are threatening to move to other more permissive countries. Apart from the interests of industry, its application also fails because it is not being dealt with on a planetary scale: its objective⁹ and possible achievements are modest compared to the planetary problem; and probably there are better alternatives to which the money implicated in this
protocol could be dedicated, such as the promotion of investigation into solar energy (LOMBORG, B., 2003, 364)\textsuperscript{10}, or the capture and storage in subsoil of gases which cause the greenhouse effect.

- Agenda 21 –1993– is extending very slowly. P. del Riego (2004, 105) comments that in the whole world not even 7,000 Local Agenda 21s have been introduced while the world has more than a million municipalities. He calculates that at the rate of 7,000 Local Agenda 21s a year, we would need 15 centuries to introduce them throughout the whole world. Possibly the rate of creation of Agenda 21s could accelerate but at the moment the tendency is too paused.

7.- IN FAVOUR OF A WORLDWIDE TERRITORIAL PLANNING ORGANISATION

Geoism could be instituted by means of the creation of a Worldwide Territorial Planning Organisation –WTPO- which would bring together those ministers responsible for this issue, from all interested nations. A Secretary would be necessary, who would provide permanent technical advice as well as a Consulting Council at a higher level permitting representation of social agents: unions, ecologist organisations, non-governmental organisations, companies, etc. Being as objective as possible, the WTPO should try to analyse territorial problems, propose measures to improve the situation and advance towards a more rational worldwide form of government, in which different human agents involved have more of a say even though the final decisions could lie with the States. It should aim to reach consensus decisions, which at the least reflect the minimum common denominator that the affected parties could agree upon. In numerous fundamental issues, it would be impossible to reach unanimous decisions, as with the Kyoto Protocol, but even if only some achievements are made, it is always a step forward.

\textsuperscript{9} Reduce emissions of the six green house effect gases in ratifying developed countries by the year 2012 by an average of 5.2% in the period 2008-2012 compared to the level in 1990.

\textsuperscript{10} This author has been seriously criticised for lack of scientific measures in some of his analysis, for example by D. BROCKINGTON (2003, 543-544), P. H. GLEICK (2001:1-10), S. PIMMY J. HARVEY (2001: 149-150), J. RENNIE (2002:1-12), etc. Even so, some of his opinions are still interesting and it is worth looking at them for means of comparison.
forward. As such, it should try to offer a vision of hope of an inspiring future territorial model, which shows the way to better use increased effort.

In order to finance the measures that are to be adopted, a geoist fund could be created, financed, among other sources by developed countries which do not yet give 0.7% of GDP in aid to underdeveloped countries, in function of urban developments which have more than a certain number of inhabitants and which are growing. A threshold would have to be established above which one could consider that they become somewhat more global urban developments and as a result should be more conscious of worldwide issues\textsuperscript{11}. On the other hand, smaller cities could pay more attention to local and rural issues. In addition, medium sized and large cities have greater economies of scale and specialisation, which means that they are more able to compete globally. Resources from the geoist fund could be used to finance key activities from a territorial point of view, such as eco-development projects to protect areas of ecological importance, or the creation of new, reasonably densely populated neighbourhoods with abundant open spaces in cities in developing countries, which would help deal with demographic movement due to liberalisation and modern agriculture techniques. Figure 5 shows cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants and tropical rainforests, highlighting some of the basic elements of this proposal.

\textsuperscript{11} The threshold should be established using detailed study, which considers the result of its application. For example a threshold of 200,000 inhabitants could be established because if it were higher and depending on how it was measured, some poly-nuclear structures of small or medium cities in developed countries could fall outside the calculation. This could happen with all the urban nuclei in Switzerland if, for example the threshold of 500,000 inhabitants were adopted.
The WTPO would try to act as a counter weight to the World Trade Organization –WTO–, whose policies tend to ignore territorial consequences. In areas other than commerce, such as environmental issues, its only task is to study problems arising when environmental policy has an important effect on commerce (OMC, 2003: 65). The de-regulation of agriculture brings with it ecological and social problems to which at the moment no solution is offered. Among the first problems that should be highlighted is that growing liberalization has opened up agricultural opportunities in developing countries and so has brought with it the necessity to plough up natural areas (BARBIER, E.B., 2000; RUDEL, T.K. 2002; HECHT, S.B. 2005). In addition, it has served to promote industrialised agriculture with all the environmental problems that it generates, such as the increase in use of non-renewable energy, deterioration of the land, water pollution, loss of genetic diversity, etc. (HORRIGAN, L., y otros, 2002; EHRENFELD, D., 2005). With respect to social problems, S. AMIN (2004: 131-132) calculates that of the approximately 3,000 million farm labourers in the third world, 20 million could become modernised farmers. The large majority of the rest of them would become even poorer than they are now because even counting on the unlikely
hypothesis that industry will grow by 7% a year this would not be enough to absorb even a third of these workers.

It could be argued that geoism is a utopia, looking to form institutions working by consensus in a world with approximately 200 nations. Of course, it would be very difficult to do but some arguments in favour of success can be noted, the most noteworthy being the following:

- In a way, globalisation paves the way towards consensus as it could mitigate, in part, the growing loss of national sovereignty. Countries would feel obliged to agree amongst themselves because if they didn’t reach a minimum common denominator they could end up with less control over their future.

- Companies combine cooperation and competition, which has been described as a very effective strategy, even the best according to some authors. B. J. NALEBUFF Y A. M. BRANDENBUERGÜER (1997, 259) are pioneers in studying the advantages that companies acquire when they know how to combine the two, on the one hand, adding value by means of cooperation, increasing the shared benefits by means of mutual help and on the other hand, appropriation by means of competition. If this works for commercial entities, one could suppose that it could work even better for nations.

- Austria, a federal country, whose government does not have competence over territorial organisation, has shown that territorial planning on a national basis can be achieved based on voluntary agreements.

- There are institutions with great worldwide influence, which practically always work on consensus. This is the case of the WTO, which currently comprises 148 nations, which represent almost all the commercial world. The WTO can make majority decisions but this option has never been used12. Its decisions are taken by consensus and are ratified by the parliaments of all the member states and are applied in the same way to both rich and poor nations (PEET, R., 2004, 199-200). Logically this way of making decisions doesn’t mean that all the decisions made have been correct, especially when they have gone against the interests of the environment.

12 Its predecessor the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or GATT made majority decisions on very few occasions.
- Even when consensus is not reached, the debate, which arises, is in itself of great importance.

8.- CONCLUSIONS

Geoism proposes the idea that territorial issues should play a more active role in world politics. It could be institutionalised by means of the creation of a Worldwide Territorial Planning Organisation, which would have at its disposal an economic fund to enable it to promote its ideas and formulate directives and indicators, starting with the key elements of planetary territorial organisation. In addition, it proposes to compare supra-municipal planning with respect to objectives and worldwide territorial indicators. A prediction would have to be made of the improvements and objectives of the proposals, quantified in function of the indicators. In this way, a record could be kept of the process and over time, the success of the plan can be evaluated.

At first, it could be thought that a planetary territorial strategy is idealistic and a utopia but possibly very useful because as H. CAPEL y L. URTEAGA (1994, 95) say, maybe the possibility to imagine utopian projects for the future guarantees our survival. This statement is debatable but there is no need to discuss it further as the idea of geoism maybe isn’t utopian, even if it is idealistic, ambitious and difficult. It would be unthinkable if it were based on the idea of a planetary government with competence over territorial organisation and which tried to impose a formal and rigid territorial plan. However, it isn’t if the idea is to promote flexible directives, taking into consideration diverse geographic situations and to principles similar to those of Austria, which has managed to elaborate a national territorial plan in spite of the federal government not having formal competence in this issue. Many would write off as utopian those who propose the idea of continental territorial planning but The European Territorial Strategy is a reality, in spite of the fact that the European Union lacks power over territorial issues, at least for the moment. It mustn’t be forgotten that human activity benefits from having a certain amount of idealism and utopia in order to prevent us from falling into pure pragmatism when it is exaggerated or imprudent. However, geoism can be partially applied, in the same way that numerous worldwide treaties have been
approved, many of which with important territorial impacts, such as treaties on the environment. New United Nations agreements can be proposed, which are even more integral than the present ones, for example, linking forest conservation with aid for the promotion of endogenous growth, or the formation of poly-centric networks of cities of relatively dense populations, with abundant open areas, structured for public transport and with a design which incorporates the latest economically viable developments in urbanism and architecture. Obviously, partial application of geoism increases the possibility of it becoming a viable reality.

Although it is very difficult to advance towards an integral organisation of territorial planning, its a challenge that is worth taking, given the social and ecological benefits its success would generate. There are precedents, which indicate that if gone about in the correct way, it would not be an impossible task. It would be the culmination of a historical process that started with urban planning, then supra-municipal planning, followed by national planning, which is currently continental and in the future could be worldwide, coordinating, amongst other things, numerous existing worldwide treaties. Its logical to consider that as distances become shorter in terms of time and as global issues are being considered ever more important, influencing local issues, the ambit of territorial organisation widens while remaining diverse and allowing each geographical area maintain its own character.

It seems that geoism is viable although there is a high risk of failure, given the difficulties involved in its execution. Nevertheless, we should try to overcome the problems that may come with the elaboration of a planetary territorial strategy – both general and partial – given the enormous advantages that it would bring were it to be successful. Even if the process never became formalised in a legal document, the intention and debate, which would be involved, would in themselves be of great importance. Some territorial planning documents have been a very positive influence, even without being made official. This further increases the interest in trying to achieve geoistic planning, which if successful, would bring great benefit to mankind.
9. BIBLIOGRAPHY:


