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# DEAR BULLETIN,

New Year, no fear

Yes, it is a cold winter, and we miss our bikes here in snowy Berlin, but something that can keep you a little bit warmer is this bulletin you are holding in your hands. There are many possibilities, you can feel happy about the fact that there are so many people around the globe who are trying to make this world a better place, maybe the thought of spring and all the activities that will come with it can put a smile on your face. Or maybe you will just get warmer by using the thin paper to lit a fire, what do I know? Anyway, the point Im trying to make here is that you can read about p I e n t y of stuff in this stuffed magazine, on what happened, what will happen and what we want to happen!

Enjoy, in any way youd like it!

Jasna and Freja





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# GOODBUY! FAREWELL! REBEL!





## the 18th to 21st of March

Time has come to discuss, evaluate, plan and be part of the future of Loesje International. It will all take place in a lovely location in den Bosch, the Netherlands. Thursday night is arrival day, Friday and Saturday the real meeting days and Sunday departure day. You will meet the whole international Loesje office, at least parts of the Dutch Loesje office and many other Loesje's...

The meeting is self financed, so you pay your own travel and a small contribution (max 10 Euro per day) for food and accommodation. Please bring sleeping bag, sleeping mattress & towel. Musical instruments, games, surprises are also welcome!

If you have something you would like to have included in the program, like an idea for a future Loesje activity, or something to evaluate, contact **Rola@loesje.org** 

Information about the location and a map can be found on www.papenhulst. nl

The website is in Dutch but that doesn't matter for the map.

Address: **Papenhulst 24, 5211 LC 's-Hertogenbosch**. Behind St. Johns cathedral. 15 minutes walk from the station.

### loesje QN AN ELECTRICA

**EVENT**: The Road to Copenhagen

**TIME:** 1. December - 16. December 2009

GENERAL AIN: Ride from Den Bosch to Copenhagen with electrical scooters with that raise awareness of alternative mobility, receive lectures about various subjects involving climate and environment and in conclusion write a Manifesto to the world leaders in the Climate Summit in Copenhagen.

**LOESJE AIM**: Being a teaching participant along the way, giving text writing workshops by this contributing for the ideas of the Manifesto, being the critical one, having inspiring conversations with people, recruiting new

In December four brave Loesje's went on their way to the Copenhagen Climate Summit on electrical scooters. Every one of them agrees it was the longest trip of their lives, not because of the duration but because of the intensity, emotions and the fact the act of sleeping was overrated and organized mostly in minimum 6 bed dorms. All together they met approximately 300 people in two weeks. Imagine having small talks with almost a hundred of them, it's not enough to say it was exhausting. But it was still not tiring enough to keep them from partying every night and every morning they got up at seven and ran to breakfast and ran to the bus and to the first lecture. In the mean time they managed to talk to the press and make themselves even more heard. Later they ran to the scooters, then to lunch, lectures and from time to time managed to give a Loesje workshop as part of the evening program. This is almost exactly how the 15 day's of the trip looked like.

But Loesje stood strong apart from being ill occasionally and there was a time they arrived at the hostel and found the sign Loesje hospital on the door. Apart from other things the Loesje's saw the trip as a remarkable opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds all having the same dream to live in a sustainable environment and it was interesting to see how people with different knowledge contributed to the manifesto and worked together and educated each other. The trip was also a time for the babyLoesje's (read volunteers) to give their first workshops. It was amazing how willing and interested people were. Loesje was flattered. And a bunch of good posters came out as well. Furthermore in a way the organization of this trip reflected on how society can sometimes be two faced in many ways, if you take the roadies of the trip and the organization as a small society. For example we rode on electrical scooters to the Summit to show the more environmental friendly ways of mobility, but at the same time the food which was served was not biological.



On the last full day of the seminar, arrived Ruta; she explained her ideas about ways of opening up public debate in city streets, of how to encourage tolerance, and concentrate on important issues like corruption and apathy.

As the participants prepared to go back to their cities, they dreamed, inspired by Ruta, and the contacts they had made with each other. These were however, not just dreams, but plans, ways forward, and methods to express their opinions. Ruta's words were beautiful, enlightening, hardhitting, and conscious: best of all, they belonged to everyone.

Ruta's words are not routine, and if you search the streets of the Ukraine. you find this out quicker than you think; maybe you'll even meet her on vour travels!

Check out the birth video here: http://www.youtube.com/user/SergiyBondarenko

McGill





Background: in 2007 the question was raised within the interna-Background. In 2007 the question was raised within the interna-tional Loesje network what would happen if we would introduce Lionar Loesje network what wourd happen if we would incroduce Loesje in a new country under another name: a name people on Loesje in a new country under another name. a name people on street would perceive as a girl's name. (Since Loesje is a known street would perceive as a gill s name. (Since Loesje is a Known girl's name just in Dutch speaking countries.) The idea was de-

girl's name just in Dutch Speaking countries.) The idea was de-bated during a seminar and on Board meeting in spring 2008 it was agreed to make an experiment during an up and coming project was agreed to make an experiment during an up and coming project in Belarus or Ukraine, if people there found it a good idea to In Belanus on Okraine, If people there found it a good fuea to print "Loesje texts" in the local language, signed by another name. This was what now happened during the training in Ukraine through the project "Who has a public opinion". The experiment unrough the project who has a public opinion . The experiment will be followed up during a trip in spring 2010 and evaluated during the Assemblies in 2010.



#### ongratulations, it's a girl!

On the outskirts of Kiev, emerging from almost two weeks of training, discussion, activity and fun, was Ruta, a tough young girl from the Ukraine who stands up for what she believes in, pushing for others to do the same by spreading her posters throughout the streets of Kiev, Donetsk and countless other Ukrainian cities.

Intense discussion, workshop sessions and activities took place as wandering travelers from Berlin, told assembled young activists from all over the Ukraine, about their experiences of meeting a young Dutch girl called Loesje, about everything that she'd taught them, and of their lives afterwards.

One night, poems were read by candlelight, every person having brought a different text. To make the world beautiful, we must find out what ex- cites our own emotions, and moves us to action.

The social realities and problems of the Ukraine were discussed in detail. How much had really changed since the orange revolution?

What about the East/West divide?

Should it become a member of the EU?

What opportunities are there to become active?

This last question was answered with an expedition to Kiev city centre, during which weary Metro passengers were handed smiles by white clad and masked strangers, a grey and ugly street crossing in the central square was transformed into a spot of beauty with the help of balloons, and members of the group even saw that Loesje herself had visited the city some weeks earlier; her posters still decorating grey walls and street furniture around the city.

Then the joyful anarchy of an open space produced yet more energy and ideas, on how to open up debate, and encourage progress and action

And we also traveled by buses, of course cause some times that was the only option. But as said it was an educating trip for Loesje in many ways and a good way to get close to the politicians participating in the Summit to hopefully inspire them with solutions form young people, after all they experience the effect of climate change directly.

### INPRESSIONS OF THE LOESJE ROADIES:



#### LUDER:

E-scootering is super cool! I am addicted... I only joined the last shift of the tour, and here many participants were very enthusiastic about Loesje and the workshops we gave. The participants had all different background, varying from business economy, engineers, environmentalists, energy companies, marketeers, and us... Loesje. But we all (well, almost all) had the same desire to achieve a sustainable economy with only real green energy from wind, sun and water. Though the organisers were behaving really too authoritary for my way of living and the schedule being impossibly tight, the lectures certainly were interesting.

#### JARON:

In general The Road to Copenhagen was cool. Scooter driving was fun, free food and free beer was like heaven, but the great lectures and 100 youngsters, who want to improve the environment was really cool and inspiring. I really enjoyed spending time with all those people with a different background, people with technical studies, economic studies, art academy and much more. This created a lot of different views on environmental issues. I think I learned a lot from it. I didn't like the tight schedule of the organizing team. I didn't have time to rest or for my self. But luckily it didn't bother me a lot. A lot of people liked Loesje as well. And that's always good as well. So I'm glad I was able to join The Road to Copenhagen.

#### FARAH:

I'm experiencing a strong addiction to electric scootering, going cold turkey now. Talking about turkey's, who knew it would take so much meat to change the planet? That's not really sustainable. But the responses we got on the texts and workshops were great, and people really got some new perspectives and challenged their creativity. So I hope to be greeting them soon again on a sticking action or in a workshop.

### **RUBEN**:

I have some mixed feelings about the R2C and it would be a long subject to discuss about... But the thing that I would really like to share is that in the end I didn't even feel disappointed with the big leaders or the big corporations and their so called green washing plans... I just felt disappointed on us, all of us, especially the citizens of the developed countries. We are just yelling at everything from our living room, so outraged, so ashamed of everybody because nobody is going to save the world when we have the power to start changing things just turning off a switch with one little finger (and so on...). But hey, we don't want that kind of responsibility right? that's why we have politicians to blame about. Hopefully, Loesje found a lot of new great friends during this trip and we all are excited to try to change things together. Still, may Goddess Fortuna help us all... (Awesome Gogol Bordello gig in Copenhagen by the way)

### LIISA:

Scootering addiction is said to be nicer than smoking, I'll go with this. For me the highlights of the trip were the Loesje workshops. I got to give my first ones. Major personal development and fresh positive juices to my productive self esteem, cause according to Jaron, (my mentor they great) I was a natural. Also found some of the lectures and discussions very inspiring. Over and out by Liisa(on the road known as the Speedmouse)





he Belgian Loesjes gave a very nice workshop during an exchange between Jews and Muslims in Brussels. The exchange had 'Antisemitism and Islamophobia in the media' as theme, and about half of the 23 participants from the Netherlands, Belgium, Belarus, Italy, the UK and Azerbaijan were Jew, half were Muslim.

The groups really got along and there was a great atmosphere there, and a lot of enthusiasm for Loesje. The moment the participants entered the workshop room and saw the posters we hung up, the begun to smile, and someone immediately took a picture of a poster to have it as background on her phone.

INTEGRATION A PUZZLE WOULD BE BORING IF EVERY PIECE WAS THE SAME

BEFORE FREEDOM OF SPEECH SHOULD COME

FREEDOM OF

We started out with a warm-up game in which they had to write a newspaper article about an animal that had to solve a problem by using an object, and asked some of them to read out their stories. The last volunteer was an Italian guy with a really amazing story about a crocodile with a toothbrush, that was so good he got spontaneous applause from the entire group.

After a break we wrote about lots of Jewish-Muslim & multicultura topics, with these 6 posters as result.

When we read out the most popular texts in the end, someone was also taping it for a radio programme that would be broadcasted the next day. After the workshop people were rushing towards me to get one of the 1-day books and flyers that I brought (I wish I had brought more), and to ask if we had T-shirts with texts, what the website was, and other enthusiastic reactions.

The organisation that hosted the exchange will probably ask us to give another workshop later this year and someone from a Jewish activity center in the North of England wants to contact Loesje Scotland or Loesje England to give regular workshops in their center. So, if there was a 'workshop of the year' award, this one would have won!



I January Loesje Malmö went to Luleå and held a lecture and a workshop about Loesje which was filmed by the local news. And you can find the links on Loesje Malmös blog:

#### Loesjemalmo.blogspot.com

Freja



Just to share some news about Loesje group in Poland which seems to be most active now in Warsaw thanks to a great come-back given by Karol known also as Kalor that lead him directly from Norway to Warsaw, not to his home town Kielce.

So – as the power is concentrated now – we are going to start a new stage in Loesje's life in Poland. First of all, we are on our way to legalise Loesje as an NGO in Poland (particularly as a foundation) and hope-fully we'll realise the plan by the end of March. As a formal organisation it will be easier for us to look for funds and develop also local groups around the country. So – keep fingers crossed for us!

Moreover, as because of the weather now in Poland no poster action is possible (imagine this -something temperatures, snow, wind, etc., etc.), we wanted to become more visible for people not only thanks to our workshop meeting once a month, but also wanted to have some more virtual visibility – so we started official Loesje's profiles on Myspace.com and Facebook.com well known websites and especially myspace.com is going to be a kind of official information source as it's also possible to have a blog there so we could inform about our actions (however, loesje.pl website still exists but needs some reconstruction that would take some time).

So – become a friend of Loesje Polaska/ Loesje Poland and keep being informed ;)

Take a look at **www.myspace.com/loesjepoland** and add Loesje Polska on Facebook!

greets & keep warm em

## DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE SOME PASSPORT BOOKS? OR HOST

# A COOL EXHBITION ABOUT BORDERS AND BORDER CROSSING?

The latest international Loesje book will soon be out!

The book is the result of the Passport Project, where Loesje's passport went traveling the world collecting stories about borders and border crossing. In it you can find action reports, posters, stories, drawings, articles, photos, diary entries from Loesje and much more...

If you want to receive some copies of it to spread to friends or your local café/library/ club etc send an email to **books@loesje.org** telling us your:

- Name and address
- Phone number
- How many books you like to receive (see description below)

We will send out books in the quantities of approximately 10 books, 25 books or 50 books. If you live in the Netherlands, you will be able to pick up copies of the books at the Dutch Loesje office, so you don't need to order them separately from us. In connection to the exhibition we have made a traveling exhibition. If you are interested in hosting this exhibition, please contact **Freja@loesje.org** for more information. I hope you are as excited about the book as we are here at the international office!



On our very pleasant surprise Cornelia and her friends did already a good job covering Malmö with posters



We managed to put some wheatpasties before an angry person approached from the opposite building and expressed his severely negative attitude on street art.



Climate Summit is an annual meeting where 5 000 people from 192 countries tries to make agreements on how to stop the global heating together. They talk about how to make the amount of green house gasses smaller, how to change rules and laws according to the climate changes and how this will be settled economically with support from the rich countries to the poorer. The next Climate Summit CO16 will take place in Mexico 2010.

What did Loesje do in Malmö?

So, Jasna and me went to Malmö during Climate Summit to through workshops and train the newest Loesje group in Sweden to do the same. We had two workshops at the activist and culture centre Kontrapunkt which just opened last year in Malmö. During the workshop we produced about 20 Swedish posters on the climate topic and tried different warm up games and techniques for the text writing.

### Initiative, Solidarity, Anti-Authoritarian Sexually Free, Decisive, A-Religious and Independent

Solidarity, which has called people to stand together, and fight for their rights and beliefs throughout history, is not perhaps merely a value of Loesje, but rather the most important one that she holds.

Solidarity is what can link all other values together, the common bond which allows us to change something. It's perfectly fine being anti-authoritarian, and independent, but who hears the lone voice? The far cry shouting in the wilderness is seldom heard. Solidarity transforms this into a roar, a scream, a chant or a song. Sometimes too much social activism is based on the premise that those who have already had a head-start in life, can manage to get out clean, to not compromise their own moral standards by living a whiter-than-white life of fair-trade veganism. As someone however once said "there is no right life, in the wrong one".



there were no women in this illustration that goes with the article, so we deceided to make things right... on the next page

For as those with comfortable living conditions raise voices against the authorities in their own countries, sometimes they forget that are those being directly, physically oppressed, by the authorities in others – that their situation, although not just, gives them more opportunity to act, and consider also the plight of others if they so wish. To align our struggle with these people is to recognise that there is fact only one struggle, that we want nothing less than a new world, nothing less than equality. Solidarity is the gateway to joined up thinking, away from selfish individualism and towards real change. It is however, not easy. So much is done to convince us that we are alone, that to sign ourselves up to anything bigger than a small group of concerned individuals is to compromise irrevocably our sacred individuality. Individuality can only exist in fact, in relation to others, as something we use to contribute to a wider society, to inspire others, and attempt to understand them. It involves being open, and having arguments with people, and recognising that the world exists in a series of clashes between different forces and viewpoints, through which, it is also recreated. Solidarity means to sign ourselves up to this, to recognise the importance of conscious involvement in society, and the realisation of spontaneity in an environment where it can set off a chain reaction, which leads all the way to immediate social justice. Solidarity must remain as a value of Loesje, as it is most importantly, the only value which by its very nature must exist in relation to others, to groups of people all over the world, who expect something more, something better, and will not stay silent any more. Solidarity is the simple expression of a belief in people, and that only together, can we change the world.



Yet it is more than that, in a day to day sense, it is the active realisation of the connections which are possible between us, and others, from whom we are separated from in these times of stark alienation. Solidarity becomes the refusal to laugh at a sexist joke, the outstretched arm offered to the infirm crossing busy streets, the eye contact with minimum wage supermarket workers, and the open ear to problems that are not our own. If Loesje loses solidarity, she loses her connection to those who need her most, those getting a raw deal from society. For them, solidarity is the only weapon left, and if Loesje loses solidarity, she means nothing to them. We can never forget that they are us; this too, lies at the heart of understanding solidarity.

Solidarity is the affirmation of basic human equality, and in these times of neo-liberal assault on feelings of community everywhere, acting in solidarity means positivity, criticism, anger, joy, and hard-work, it means embracing life and the world (and therefore other people), in order to change it for the better.

We do not cry for help, we call for solidarity, for we either stand together, or we die alone.

In (international) solidarity,

From the International Office, Evan





Loesje made it to New York City (NYC) for the first time in the beginning of December !!

She was instantly recognized by a few Dutch on vacation.

In the end of November and the beginning of December I traveled to NYC to visit my family and I brought a big pile of Loesje posters with me.

There I met up with Nina (a Dutch girl who has been living there for 4 years). We sorted the posters, some of which had been lying around the Dutch office others I printed and brought with me. Then we walked out of the door not armed with a bucket and brush but merely a spray can of glue. It is no longer possible to find wheat paste in NYC. I was a bit wary but the quick drying spray glue but it proved to be quick to use and much easier to hide from the police that we had no problems with during our evening stroll. (it was like 10pm). We stuck posters on lamp posts, phone booths, bus stop shelters all over a very student/alternative neighborhood. Garbage cans in America are not something you can stick posters on. We had a great time wandering NYC speaking Dutch and getting our hands sticky. I hope to do so again when I go back.

To transform, expand and communicate ideas for a harmonic 21st century. Curated by luminaries to inform and involve you

in: art, photography,DIY, women, off grid, eating, livery, music, political thinking,drama, events, film, journeys, comics, literature and vintage items.

Building into a guide for DIY living, thinking and teaching, XVI fields of diversity and credibility and a salty approach to the challenges of modern life.

Our web launch was in 2009 and in 2010 divedivedive is published in hard copy, printed using the earth-friendliest

methods.

divedivedive is the contributors forum, a panacea, a gap in the clouds, a view of a far off yet familiar dreamlike reality. Do you remember? Conceived on the forest desert island of Saaremaa(Estonia), under an endless sky,

surrounded by nature, some daring plans...

The absurdity of reality and its fleeting nature requires only one response, creation.

We ask you to ride, to get involved. We want people to join our growing band of Curators and Contributors:

**Curators** - Overseeing a field (art, music, DIY etc) and collect

articles, contributors, news, events and pictures.

- i) Your area?
- ii) Outline for 10 articles
- iii) Launch event ideas

Contributors - Make pictures, words and events for the curators:

- i) 1000 words or more
- ii) 10 pictures (with credits for the original source)
- iii) field section
- iv) Short biography & pic

dive - a leap of faith where your dreams point you to go.

dive - a deeper look when things don't turn out your way to see what 'things are good for'. dive - into the past, present, the ever expanding universe, it's yours and it's mine.

# LOESJE GOES TO THE LOW/ER EAST SIDE

### VIRTUAL TEXT WRITING, THE FUTURE OF LOESJE

When considering leaving the Netherlands to continue traveling I thought back on the problems of text writing in other countries, the problems of low numbers of members in large countries where it is impossible to meet up with other for the purpose of text writing. Thus, it came to me that it might be possible to write virtually, via MSN or Skype with others around the world. That lead the Dutch office EVSers and I to attempt a text writing workshop via the internet, and we sat down to try it, find where the kinks are and find a way around them. Although we sat in one room on our computers, it worked quite well and we are looking forward to trying it again soon, when we are indeed not in the same place. We started with MSN and that kept cutting someone out of the conversation and then we switched to Skype, next time we might try Google Wave.

The disadvantages or just differences in the warm up exercise was not knowing who to pass the information on to and only being able to have one list of association that everyone sees. Too many lists would have been too confusing. One needs to prepare a concept of a circle amongst the writers even if it is a virtual conversation. Although we just copied and pasted our stories into the chat, it might be possible to use sound and actually read them out loud. It is also sometimes hard to tell if all the participants understand everything that is going on. In the text writing itself the disadvantage once again is that you can not adequately write about different subjects at the same time, it is best if you do one topic at a time and then move on.



Loesje rumors: www.loesje.org/member user name: MENBER password: INTNEN#8



The moderator should have an open word document to save everything that is written.

The advantages other than the ability to span distances include one being able to create the writing environment that is most comfortable for them in their own homes, etc or with music on. Everything is already typed up and one does not have to worry about not being able to understand the other person's handwriting. Also, when it comes to selecting topics for writing the internet as a source of information is

right there at your fingertips.



Maaret



In an impulsive vacation decision, Félix discovers the world of Loesje during the Summercamp in the Spanish mountains last year.

Thirsty of discovering different cultures I am now traveling Europe, spreading the Loesje good vibes attitude where the thumb's power let me go. After two rich poster actions in Barcelona and London, Rola connected me to a talented German boy, Lennar, studying in Switzerland and willing to improve Swiss consciousness. He warmly welcomed me in Neuchâtel for imaginative talks about lpods and minarets, which ended in another poster action. We decided then to make a broader intervention. A couple of weeks later, the enthusiastic Lennart told me that the posters were still there (!) and we definitely need to do make a bigger gathering, more people for more impact.

A great weekend by the side of the Loesje volunteer s in Arnhem gave me a bunch of motivation, El Loco Rubén agreed on joining around March/April in Swit-zerland, in a city more politically active than Neuchâtel, like Bern or Genève.

We need now a date, a group of Loesje activist =) and a place to focus our ideas. I you feel concerned by any of those points (a free weekend, a big house or a wonderful workshop project), contact the Loesje office and COME ON! If you got the motivation power, convince a friend to discover Loesje and hitchhike with him to Switzerland!

The conscious world is here, and you are essential for his expansion. Félix

