

Dear Gilles, Dear Madame la Présidente de la communauté de communes, dear Monsieur le maire de Lépine, dear participants,

Thank you for being here, I see many young people and a good gender balance. This is already quite an achievement of this first Rencontre de Noirmoutier.

The Earth – Humanity Coalition, which I chair, led by IUPAP till 2026 and now by the Club of Rome, is at the origin of the International Decade of all Sciences (basic and applied, natural and social and humanities) and all knowledge (including traditional) for Sustainable Development 2024-2033, proclaimed by the United Nations in August 2023, under the auspices of UNESCO. The goal of the Earth – Humanity Coalition is to co-construct, scientists and citizen, an equitable well-being on a healthy and lively planet at all scales: villages, provinces, countries, continents, global, targeting for instance but not only, equitable circular regenerative economy fueled by decarbonated energy (which requires a lot of co-constructed approaches and innovations).

Vent des Savoirs, the host and the co-constructor and co-organizer, of these Rencontres de Noirmoutier, is a member of the Earth – Humanity Coalition, totally aligned with these values and goals, with citizen engagement in sciences, with sharing knowledge activities (the house of knowledge and nature), with co-construction of solutions. You may wonder what these Rencontres de Noirmoutier, have to do with Sustainable Development. They deal with understanding the Universe from infinitely small to infinitely large, what the Universe is made of, what is its history, its future, what are its dark sides (dark matter, dark energy, black holes...) and open questions (still many)? These are curiosity driven investigations. Let me briefly reply to this (what it has to do with a desirable and sustainable future).

- 1. Curiosity is a motor of our life. Better knowing and understanding the fundamental laws which govern the content of our universe helps to re-enchant what is around us and to reenchant our life. We can see that, with the large audience we attract to hear about the history and marvelous content and processes of the Universe**
- 2. Basic sciences are the sources of discoveries that future generations will use to face their problems. These examples are many. Quantum Mechanics, Einstein special and general relativity...**

To illustrate that, let me show you a short video, made by CERN for the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2022 – 2023, my grandniece starring in it (Video)

Thank you all for coming here and contributing to illuminate our lives and making it worth to be sustainable.

Michel Spiro

Chair Earth-Humanity Coalition

Past President International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

Président d'honneur Vent des Savoirs