

UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA

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Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena The Historical EU Context

by Edoardo Russo

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Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena

The Historical EU Context

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UAPs are not just an American phenomenon. It's always been a global phenomenon, with sightings and testimonies from all over the world. Europe has always been in a central position as of sighting reports, even before the American public discovered "flying saucers" in the summer of 1947. The first post-war wave of unidentified aerial sightings were the "ghost rockets" over Scandinavia (but also Italy and Greece) in 1946.

And there are a lot of European witnesses: we are talking of millions of people. Opinion polls asking "do you think you saw a UFO" in different European countries obtained an average of 6.5% answering "yes", which amounts to as many as 29 millions for just the European Union.

Not all witnesses are reporting their sightings: our estimates are that less than 1 witness in 100 is stepping forth and reporting his/her sighting, since the databases of case histories collected by civilian UAP organizations are presently comprising about 170,000 reports (which is a higher total than similar data collections in the USA), from Portugal to Ukraine, from Norway to Malta. Unidentified aerial phenomena are not regular in their apparitions: sighting reports are coming in waves, with rich and poor years. The first large wave of sightings was in the spring of 1950 and was a really European one, hitting several countries (Belgium, Italy, Spain, UK). An even greater "UAP panic" took place in the autumn of 1954, with thousands of cases centered mainly over France and an unprecedented media hype. In 1967 it was the UK, in 1968 Spain, in 1973 Italy, in 1974 France, and so on: important waves of UAP sightings took place in most European countries along the last 75 years. My own country, Italy, suffered such a strong "UAP wave" in late 1978 that fishermen refused to go out fishing, police patrols were sent photographing strange lights, Parliamentary questions were asked and the government charged the Italian Air Force to begin a formal collection of testimonies from the public. Even if 90-95% of all those UAP phenomena are later identified and explained with known natural phenomena and man-made objects (which is precisely the grassroots activity of us "UAP investigators"), we are left with a small (yet not negligible) residue of anomalous cases, totalling thousands of UAPs in a strict sense on a European scale.

What are people seeing? The largest part of sightings are either of distant lights in the night sky (75%) or of distant daylight flying objects (15%), and these are the easiest ones to identify with known causes. But we also have got higher strangeness and higher credibility reports as close encounters (10%); sightings by military, civilian or private pilots in flight (1%); temporary physical effects or ground traces (2%); radar trackings.

And there are social side-effects, which have been the object of academic studies by psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists. Even if can't talk here and now of some real panic situations, we are left with a great number of people wondering what they saw, who have a right to an answer (if there is one) but cannot find anybody officially charged to give one to them, and are crushed between those telling them "you were drunk" and those believing it's extraterrestrial visitors. It's only the private organizations that take charge of those people and their testimonies, trying to find and offer those answers to witnesses. They are unpaid volunteers who are doing that for passion. There are a few hundreds of serious-minded private researchers who try to apply a scientific approach within the European Union. And there are dozens of rational associations of them, one in nearly every European country, some of them having been active for decades, most of them cooperating within a European UFO network. BTW, the largest existing UAP archives in the world are hosted in a European country: Sweden.

The military have traditionally been collecting UFO/UAP reports within their proper mission of controlling and defending each nation airspace. Most if not all European countries have had its own military archives of (mostly military) reports, just like in the USA. And ten of them declassified or opened their UAP Files in part or in total, which amounted to several thousands of reports now available.

As for non-military yet government organizations collecting and analyzing UAP reports, the only one, not just in Europe but in the world, is in France: the National Space Study Center (CNES) created a Study Group on Unidentified Airspace Phenomena (GEPAN, now GEIPAN) in 1977 and it's not only still active but offering

precisely that service to the French public: collecting their testimonies and trying to identify the causes, offering those answers to the public.

What about politics? It has been involved, of course, since the beginning: Parliamentary questions were asked in most European countries, since at least 1950. And the European Parliament got its own share of them, too. The most extensive involvement here was after an impressive wave of “flying triangles” sightings took place in Belgium, and a deputy from that country (Elio Di Rupo) obtained that an investigation was started within the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology, which charged a famous scientist and MEP, Tullio Regge, to do that work and prepare a proposal, between 1991 and 1993. His proposal for a resolution was to give French GEPAN a European status, but some political objections and too low a political interest took to no action then and no concrete involvement of the European Parliament followed until now.

CONCLUSION

So we are left here and now with some relevant issues to cope with:

- a. Millions of European citizens have seen unidentified anomalous phenomena, are worried about that and have a right for an answer
- b. A relevant part of UAP reports come from credible or trained witnesses
- c. A small but not negligible part of those reports are concerning air safety (eg. aircraft encounters and even air-miss reports) or national security (eg. aerial intrusions, military bases, nuclear plants) which is of military competence, but policy makers should get the proper information and scientists should have access to data.

UAP in the European Parliament

Tullio Regge's Proposal for a Resolution (1993)

by Jochen Ickinger

The UFO (now UAP) subject has recently returned at the European Parliament, but that's not a new fact. Such an interaction has had its ups and downs from more than 30 years.

Apart from parliamentary questions to the EU Commission, the most detailed initiative even led to a comprehensive committee report, which is reported here for the record.

On November 26, 1990, the Belgian MEP Elio Di Rupo (PSE, Belgium) submitted a motion for a resolution on the setting up of a European Observation Center for UFOs, which was referred to the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology as the responsible committee in 1991 in order to draw up a draft resolution. MEP Tullio Regge (PES, Italy) was appointed as rapporteur. At the committee meeting on November 29 - December 1, 1993, the motion for a resolution was adopted unanimously and submitted on December 2, 1993. The report had the following wording:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION on the proposal for the creation of a European Monitoring Center for "UFOs"

The European Parliament, having regard to Mr Di Rupo's resolution on the creation of a European Observation Center for "UFOs" (B3-1990/90)

- having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology (A3-0389/93)

A. whereas for more than half a century there has been public confusion about the constant observation of unidentified flying objects

B. whereas there is a rational explanation for the vast majority of these observations, to which the public is rarely made aware, and whereas there is a need for more reliable and truthful information

C. having regard to the fact that uncontrolled parascientific belief in such phenomena is becoming increasingly widespread among large sections of the public, and especially among educated people

D. whereas the SEPRA (Service d'Expertise des Phénomènes des Retretes Atmosphériques) in France, a department of the CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales de Toulouse), has been in existence for more than ten years; whereas the SEPRA, in close cooperation with the French gendarmerie and air force, has for decades been carrying out systematic research and monitoring activities in the field of the perception of "UFOs" ("Unidentified Flying Objects"),

1. proposes that SEPRA be considered as a permanent interlocutor for UFO issues within the EC and that it be given a status enabling it to carry out investigations throughout the Community territory. The funds for any additional charges arising from SEPRA's expanded role can be raised through agreements between the French government and the other EC Member States or, if necessary and with the agreement of the governments concerned, directly between SEPRA and other research institutes or organizations in the EC;

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Representation of France to the European Communities and the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales de Toulouse.

The text of the motion already points out some key points of the phenomenon, such as "that there is a rational explanation for the vast majority of these observations", or the uncontrolled spread of "parascientific belief", which is still reflected in some circles of the UFO community today. The SEPRA mentioned in the report, as a department of the CNES, is the previous name of today's GEIPAN (*Groupe d'Etudes et d'Information sur les Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés*).

There follows a multi-page justification of the subject, from which it is clear that the author is quite well informed, as various aspects of the UFO topic are specifically addressed. This is not surprising, however, as Tullio Regge has good contacts to the Italian UFO group CISU and was also supplied by them with some information.

Various hypotheses are mentioned in the report and also critically challenged, such as the question of extraterrestrial visitors, super technologies or military secrets.

The role of the mass media, which can have a significant influence on public opinion and cause confusion through their reporting, is also critically discussed.

A significant percentage of the population, even in industrialized countries, believes in the extraterrestrial (ET) theory. The proponents of the ET thesis form a wide spectrum of opinion, ranging from the “contact believers”, i.e. those who consider close encounters of the third kind to be an established fact and a routine matter, to serious UFO researchers who are interested in the phenomenon but approach the question without preconceived ideas. The proponents of the ET thesis associate UFOs with paranormal phenomena and practically form a mystical community that evades any form of scientific scrutiny that is not prepared to accept preconceived theses.

Mention is made in this context on the Voronezh case (Russia), according to which extraterrestrials landed in a park there, and the UMMO story from Spain about a landed UFO, with the latter being counted as “among the worst silliness”. Regge writes in the report:

It is not for Parliament to comment on UFOs. However, it must intervene in good time to ensure that the public is correctly informed. If action is not taken in time, the next century may not be a scientific century at all, but instead herald the beginning of a new Hollywood-style Middle Ages. The real danger is not extraterrestrials, but ill-informed people with overactive imaginations and politicians who are unaware of the problems caused by uncontrollable public opinion caught up in mystical and parascientific ideologies.

The connection between film and TV and subsequent UFO sighting reports and media influences is also discussed. It would also be worth carrying out a historical-sociological investigation into how the public’s imagination is influenced.

The report points out the variety of possible explanations and uncertainties, which can also lead to misinterpretations of conventional objects, and quotes from the results of the French SEPRA. Mention is also made of the Belgian UFO wave, which was still very much present at the time. Regge writes:

In comparison, a series of perceptions made in Belgium from the end of 1989 onwards triggered a considerable response. SOBEPS, the Belgian society that deals with the phenomenon, has analyzed around 1,500 cases to date. Various characteristics of the phenomenon make it appear necessary to exercise the greatest possible caution when attempting to cite these events as evidence for the ET thesis.

There is no universal explanation for UFOs; there can only be a satisfactory solution for certain observations if we realize that these phenomena can have very different causes that have nothing to do with each other, ...

A second conclusion is that the few remaining unexplained observations (approx. 4%) must be taken for UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) in the truest sense of the word, just because an explanation is still missing for the time being or perhaps by chance, we cannot regard the phenomenon as definite proof and also not as an indication of the existence of extraterrestrials, who have considerably higher technical capabilities than we do, but it remains the task of science to continue researching these processes in order to arrive at a satisfactory explanation.

The Belgium Wave is still explicitly mentioned in the report, with some cautious comments regarding the assessment. The author comments:

Since the majority of Belgian UFOs appear to fly at extremely low altitude and low speed, no observations have been made on which a serious discussion could be based; just as little as the observations made from Earth can be linked to radar contacts at high speed ...

From the outset, the probability of contact with extraterrestrials is certainly far less than the explanation by other causes,). It is remarkable that all observations were made within Belgium, with (to my knowledge) one single exception (September 5, 1991) in France, but very close to the Belgian border

At one point or another, Regge mentions the consideration of deliberate deception by individual persons or organizations. However, the report also refers to unexplained observations, especially in connection with luminous objects that are associated with previously unknown atmospheric phenomena. Parallels are also drawn with the ball lightning phenomenon.

Regge then writes about his own efforts to talk to pilots about the extent to which they had made their own observations.

It is interesting to note the paragraph in the report according to which the author wrote to all the air forces of the EU, but only received a detailed reply from Italy:

Incidentally, the rapporteur wrote to all the air forces of the EC Member States and received an exhaustive reply only from the General Staff of the Italian Air Force, together with a list, not subject to military secrecy, of all the apparitions recorded in the last decade, peaking in 1982 with 32 observations. In general, UFO observations seem to be increasing along the Italian coasts. The brochure contains no explanations about the nature of the UFOs and in any case does not report any observations by military personnel; it is more likely to be a list of various testimonies collected by the Italian Air Force.

In a polite letter, the French Air Force asked the reporter to get in touch with SEPRA, with which it has been actively cooperating for a long time.

The other air forces either did not reply or refused the request on the grounds that this data was covered by military secrecy (Spain) and was in any case not particularly relevant, or that the office I had contacted was not competent in this matter (Federal Republic of Germany), but without specifying which service was competent. Recently, the Spanish Air Force lifted military secrecy and published a list of observations, one of which bears some resemblance to the Alitalia case mentioned above. For years, the air forces of all countries have maintained the secrecy of UFO observations because of fears - which subsequently proved to be completely unfounded - that these apparitions were linked to secret weapons of the USSR. The latter, for its part, kept the data in its possession secret for the same reasons.

The conclusions emphasize the usefulness of a central UFO office at European level:

It could (...) be useful to set up a central office to collect and coordinate information on UFOs throughout the EC. First and foremost, it could counter the flood of uncontrolled rumors that unsettle the public and become a focal point for the numerous observations of this kind, as in the recent case of the spectacular crash of a meteorite over the Adriatic or a Russian cosmos in France. Finally, such a center could provide important insights into the existence and nature of rare phenomena, building on existing organizations. As SEPRA has gained remarkable experience in this field, the logical and not costly consequence would be to give it a European role and status, which would allow it to carry out investigations and information actions throughout the EC.

PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION (B3-1990/90)

submitted pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure by N. DI RUPO on the establishment of a European Center for the Observation of "UFOs".

The European Parliament

A. whereas citizens have for many years claimed to have observed unexplained phenomena in the skies over several European countries

B. whereas in recent months, trusted individuals, scientists and military personnel have also witnessed unexplained phenomena which have been equated with "UFOs" (unidentified flying objects)

C. having regard to the large number of witness statements from several European Community countries on the night of November 5-6, 1990

D. whereas a section of the population is concerned about the frequency of these phenomena

1. Calls on the Commission to set up a "European UFO Observation Center" in the short term;

2. Proposes that this European Centre for the Observation of UFOs collect all scattered sightings reported by European citizens and institutions (military and scientific) and that it organizes scientific observation campaigns;

3. proposes that this center be managed by the Commission of the European Communities and a standing committee of experts from the twelve Member States.

Despite the endorsement of the proposal, there was no corresponding resolution in the European Parliament, which also led to discussions about the reasons. Edoardo Russo from the Italian CISU, who knew Tullio Regge personally, provided information during a discussion:

I supplied Tullio Regge's secretary with some documentation and we remained in good relations afterwards, (...) we were both speakers at a UFO conference in Torino Polytechnic, in 2001, and he was a guest speaker at CISU international congress in Saint Vincent, in 2007.

He has repeatedly told (and written) what had happened: he had offered his considered opinion that no EU committee was needed as long as GEIPAN existed and could be given a European status. That conclusion never arrived to the general assembly because the Parliament arrived to an end (in 1994).

His conclusion was opposed by two British deputies but not for political opposition: they were from the Labour Party, i.e. the same Socialist group Tullio Regge was part of. They were doing their own (typically British) battle against new EU expenses. He was adamant and as ironical as ever when he told us that: "they had understood nothing about it".

Tullio Regge was one of Italy's best-known scientists. He was born in Turin in 1931, graduated in physics in 1952 and completed his studies at the University of Rochester (New York) from '54 to '56. He has been a full professor of relativity at the University of Turin since 1962. From 1965 to 1979, he conducted research at the renowned Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton (USA).

His contributions to high-energy physics are of fundamental importance, and he carried out important research on the relativistic theory of collisions, on the phenomena of low atmospheres and on discrete gravitation, which earned him several scientific prizes and awards (Heineman Prize of the American Physical Society in 1964, Einstein Medal in 1979, Powell Medal of the European Physical Society in 1987).

In addition to his teaching and research activities, he wrote numerous articles and books (...) and has been intensively involved in the popularization of science (...), as well as various civic and social commitments, in particular for the benefit of the disabled.

As an independent on the PCI lists, he was elected to the European Parliament in 1990, where he was a member of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology.

Long-standing national UFO organizations exist in several European countries, some of them having been active for decades. Regular exchanges of publications, information and documentation among these have also been the rule for a long time.

With the Internet diffusion in the '90s, such exchanges have found a new, helping tool to be improved. At the same time a new generation of UFO buffs has appeared on the world-wide web, noisily empoisoning the UFO subject presentation in the eyes of both the public and the media. It's not always easy to distinguish which of the thousands of UFO websites is but a smokescreen for just a handful of newbies (if not even a one-man), holding and spreading their own wild beliefs and crazy claims.

In 1998, a dozen national UFO organizations, sharing a scientifically-oriented approach to UFO phenomena, decided to create a common space on the Internet, a joint mailing list (called EuroUfoList) where they might put information of common interest, discussions about ongoing activities, etc.

On the following year, representatives from half a dozen such organizations (from France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ukraine) accepted to have a part in the editorial team of the European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies, a new peer-reviewed journal issued by the Totton College, in the United Kingdom (8 issues of which have been published).

Besides representatives from national organizations, the EuroUfo mailing list was later extended to a few individual researchers, thus totaling more than 40 people, connecting from Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

For the first time ever, six of these long-standing organizations agreed to prepare each a poster about themselves, for a common stand at the European UFO Congress in Chalons-en-Champagne, France, while some 20 EuroUfo researchers took that occasion and held a private meeting (by invitation) in order to discuss how to work together for a concrete, common progress

During that meeting, participants agreed to improve and enlarge cooperation and data exchange among European organizations and individuals who are studying UFO phenomena with a scientifically-oriented approach and accepting to share data, documentation and information.

The EuroUfo.Net portal is the common tool devised to that aim, with a special emphasis on ongoing research activities (who's doing what) and resources inventories (who's got what): catalogues, archives, research, documents, people involved.

EuroUfo.Net is not a federation or an organization, there are no bylaws, membership fees or paperwork. It is just a virtual community of European UFO researchers having the same aims as above.

It was initially promoted by seven national UFO organizations, but it's open to all those individuals and organizations sharing the same objectives.

Beside the web site www.euroufo.net , the backbone of this community is [EuroUfo.net] mailing list, which is presently connecting more than 100 researchers from 20 different countries all over Europe.

Participation is by invitation only, and admission to the list is managed by a steering committee formed by 18 people: representatives for each of the promoting organizations plus some independent researchers.



UAP Check (www.uapcheck.com) is a global initiative aimed at enhancing understanding of Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena, fostering worldwide collaboration, reducing stigma, and providing reliable information.

Structured around six key units – Organizations & Networks, Coordination, Policies & Laws, News & Media, Technology & Science, and Culture & Society – UAP Check seeks to consolidate global efforts, facilitate discussions across various fields, and disseminate reliable UAP information. **On a political viewpoint** we think that many arguments support the necessity to engage on UAPs:

- 1. Peace, Justice, and Population Security.** Recognizing that 6.5% of people are likely to have experienced UAP, their experiences often elicit strong emotions and profound questions – are we alone? Professionals across various sectors, from military to healthcare, face UAPs without the tools or protocols to understand or respond to them, highlighting the need for preparedness and support to ensure public safety and security.
- 2. International Collaboration.** The boundaryless nature of UAP phenomena challenges us to think beyond national jurisdictions and to work together globally. International cooperation is essential not only for pooling resources and sharing insights but also for developing unified approaches to tracking, analyzing, and responding to UAP incidents. This collective effort is crucial for understanding the global implications of UAPs and ensuring a coordinated response.
- 3. Economic, Social and Sustainable Development.** The pursuit of understanding UAP intersects with numerous scientific and technological disciplines, offering potential breakthroughs in materials science, energy, science of complexity, information technologies and more. By encouraging interdisciplinary research, we can drive innovation and economic development, fostering sustainable solutions that benefit society as a whole.
- 4. Education, Right to Know, Fighting Misinformation.** Public interest in UAP is high, but so is misinformation. Educating the public through accessible information, debunking myths, and providing clear, accurate data is crucial. By empowering individuals with knowledge and fostering a culture of curiosity and critical thinking, we can combat stigma and encourage informed discussion about UAP.

These arguments advocate long-term objectives. We strive to create a common framework for UAP investigation and analysis, emphasizing the importance of a standardized approach to overcome the challenges of subjectivity and fragmentation in current research methodologies:

- 1. Support the creation of an International Standardization body ISO-UAP dedicated to investigation.** The variability in UAP research methods across different organizations and countries undermines the reliability and comparability of data. Establishing ISO-UAP would ensure consistent, transparent, and unbiased investigation processes, enabling worldwide institutions and organizations to work with a unified set of standards, methodologies and databases.
- 2. Support the creation of a transdisciplinary “Science of the Unknown”, serving innovation.** The complexity of UAP cannot be adequately addressed by any single scientific discipline nor centralized. Instead, a new, transdisciplinary approach is needed—one that combines expertise from physics, psychology, environmental science, etc. This new field of science would not only deepen our understanding of UAP but also spur innovation by pushing the boundaries of traditional scientific inquiry, encouraging collaborative research that leverages innovation and economy.

Our efforts are driven by the understanding that UAP presents a complex challenge that spans cultural, scientific, and geopolitical domains. By promoting open dialogue, rigorous research, and international cooperation, UAP Check and all its partners aims to demystify UAP and encourage a constructive, global conversation that prepares humanity for potential future discoveries. Our approach emphasizes openness, humility, and collaboration, reflecting our belief that collective effort and understanding are key to navigating the uncertainties of UAP and their implications for humanity.

Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici

The Italian Center for UFO Studies (Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici, or CISU) was founded in 1985. CISU is a private, no-profit organization based on volunteer work of its unpaid members.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES — CISU aims are: 1) promote scientific study of UFO phenomena, 2) let information and documentation circulate among researchers, 3) nationally coordinate activities of data collection, analysis and its diffusion. Main activities include: investigation on UFO sighting reports; filing and cataloguing of collected data and archiving of any useful documentation; promoting analyses and research; information for its members; public education.

INVESTIGATIONS — Field investigations on reported sightings are made by local members, following CISU Field Investigation Methodology Manual, designed so to collect as many information about sighted phenomena and reliability of testimonies. Written investigation reports are the basis for following studies. In 2001 CISU adopted and has since adhered to the same Ufology Code of Ethics developed by UFOIN and BUFORA in the UK.

ARCHIVING — CISU Archives systematically collect all and any Italian documentation and source about UFO phenomena and ufology: investigation reports, newspaper clippings, research articles, specialized books and periodicals, audio and video recordings, digital and magnetic media sources, as well as a wide range of advertising commercials, toys, gadgets, music records, art and other UFO-inspired popular culture items. A huge collection of international UFO books and periodicals is also stored at CISU headquarters in Torino, a 210 sq.mt. loft which is the largest repository of UFO documentation existing in Italy and one of the largest in Europe.

ANALYSIS, CATALOGUES AND RESEARCH — A first analysis work is done on each reported sighting, trying to evaluate information and identify the cause, whenever possible. Comparison of cases and statistical presentations are also produced.

One of CISU major activities has always been the painstaking filing and cataloguing of even fragmentary news of any UFO/IFO sighting ever reported in Italy. More than 35,000 case histories have been filed as yet, amounting to hundreds of thousands of sources archived. This work has been and is being done at a local level, where regional/provincial archives are kept, digital databases built and paper catalogues published. A national archive and a national database also exist. As for scientific research, CISU is only meaning itself as a source of documentation, consultation and infrastructure for active researchers. Research projects and committees are being activated, though, on specific subjects (about 20 ongoing projects).

PUBLICATIONS — CISU main journal, *UFO – Rivista di informazione ufologia* (UFO information review, 46 issues published) is a glossy 48-pages magazine presently published one-two times per year, detailing the state-of-the-art of ufology, with a special emphasis on investigations, analyses and articles by CISU members.

Longer texts, regional or special sightings catalogues (e.g. Italian sightings by pilots, trace-landing cases, USO reports, ball lightning reports), as well as bibliographies or research results are also published as occasional monographs (*Documenti UFO*): as many as 45 as of now.

CISU has its own publishing house (UPIAR Cooperative), which has released 37 low-circulation, high quality books as yet.

INFORMATION TO MEMBERS — Information sharing is the core of CISU philosophy: all members have a right not only to access archives but also to get copies of all archived documentation. Each catalogue or project coordinator is regularly getting copy of all incoming documents pertaining his own activity.

A long-standing book service for CISU members has later evolved into a specialized UFO e-commerce website (*www.upiar.com*).

Our national yearly congress has been held since 1986, as a regular occasion of meeting and discussion, mostly for members (though about half of them was also open to the public). Meetings and workshops on specific subjects have also been organized when needed.

PUBLIC EDUCATION — In 38 years, CISU members have been organizing or taking part at hundreds of public conferences and debates, photo exhibitions, radio/TV emissions, interviews or articles in the general media, though public education have been given secondary importance, as opposed to other activities, in the last decade. Our main goals in doing public education are: 1) to make ourselves known to witnesses; 2) to attract new members; 3) to collect economic resources.

