

Personal Memories on Dr. Rolf Linkohr



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I have known Dr. Rolf Linkohr since my student days as a moderate political activist in the German country side in Baden Wuerttemberg. In May 1979 we were both candidates for the first direct elections to the European Parliament on a list that was headed by a Nobel Peace Laureate. Rolf succeeded and represented his political party for five election periods from 1979-2004.

During his 25 years a Member of the European Parliament he was:

- chair of the delegation for the relations to the countries of Latin America and the Mercosur (07.02.2002-19.07.2004);
- deputy chair of the delegation for the relations to the countries of Central America and the Contadora Group (22.07.1999-14.01.2002);
- deputy chair of the delegation for the relations to the countries of Central America and Mexico (26.07.1989-18.07.1994 and 30.01.1997-13.10.1997 and 14.10.1997-19.7.1999);
- member of the Committee for Energy and Research (20.07.1979-23.07.1984);
- member of the Committee for Energy, Research and Technology (26.07.1984-20.01.1987, 21.01.1987-24.07.1989, 26.07.1989-14.01.1992, 15.01.1992- 18.07. 1994);
- member of the Committee for Research, Technological Development and Energy (21.07.1994-15.01.1997; 16.01.1997-19.07.1999);
- member of the Committee for Industry, Foreign Trade, Research and Energy (21.07.1999-19.07.2004);
- member of the of the delegation for the relations to the countries of Latin America (11.04.1983-23.07.1984, 12.02.1985-09.03.1986, 10.03.1986-20.01.1987);
- member of the conference of delegation chairmen (07.02.2002-19.07.2004).

During his 25 years in the European Parliament he was chairman of the European Energy Foundation (1987-1994). Founder and chair of STOA (Scientific and Technological Options Assessment); since 1994 he chaired the European-Latin American Institute (IRELA) and since 2000 he was a member of the Advisory Council of EnBW.

After he retired from the European Parliament he chaired the [Centre for European Energy Strategy](#) (C.E.R.E.S.) in Brussels (2005-2009) and from 2005-2007 he was a special adviser of the Commissioner for Energy of the European Commission. Rolf Linkohr has served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Peace Research and European Security Studies (1988-2017).

In the latter function we had closely cooperated since the 1980s:

- He funded a study I wrote on: *Perspektiven einer Europäischen Friedensordnung* (Perspectives of a European Peace Order), 1983 to which he wrote a preface.
- He later wrote a Foreword (Geleitwort) to my edited book on: *Energiapolitik - Technische Entwicklung, politische Strategien, Handlungskonzepte zu erneuerbaren Energien and zur rationellen Energienutzung* [Energy Politik: Technical Development, political Strategy, Concepts for Action for renewable Energy and for a rational Energy Use] (Berlin-Heidelberg: Springer, 1997): v-x.
- In 2009 he contributed a chapter on: “Energy Security: Economic, Environmental, and Societal Opportunity for the North – Potential of Renewables to Avoid Conflicts?” that was published in the second volume of our Security Handbook edited by Brauch, Hans Günter; Oswald Spring, Ursula; Grin, John; Mesjasz, Czeslaw; Kameri-Mbote, Patricia; Behera, Navnita Chadha; Chourou, Béchir; Krummenacher, Heinz (Eds.): *Facing Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts*. Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 4 (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2009): 457-468.

After his retirement from CERES in 2009 he repeatedly was a reviewer of the books I published on energy policy and energy security by colleagues from Southeast Asia and China. He invited me to several conferences he organized, e.g. in Greifswald in August 2007, and sent me once to talk with representatives of Frameatome in Paris on possibilities to demilitarise and convert Russian nuclear plutonium as part of a bilateral disarmament measure.

We met for the last time during his 65th birthday in April 2006 in Stuttgart and in June 2007 at my 60th birthday in Mosbach. Rolf was both a political and a personal friend who encouraged and supported me in my professional life that was often not easy to stand against the tide as a critic of policies of rearmament and as a conceptual proponent of alternative foreign, defence, environment and energy policies. Although we did not agree on the prospects of nuclear energy and he was not as optimistic than I was on the potential of renewables, this had not any impact on our friendship based on mutual trust and respect. Rolf was a very fine person who practiced the goal of solidarity to friends and colleagues and he has always been a source of encouragement.