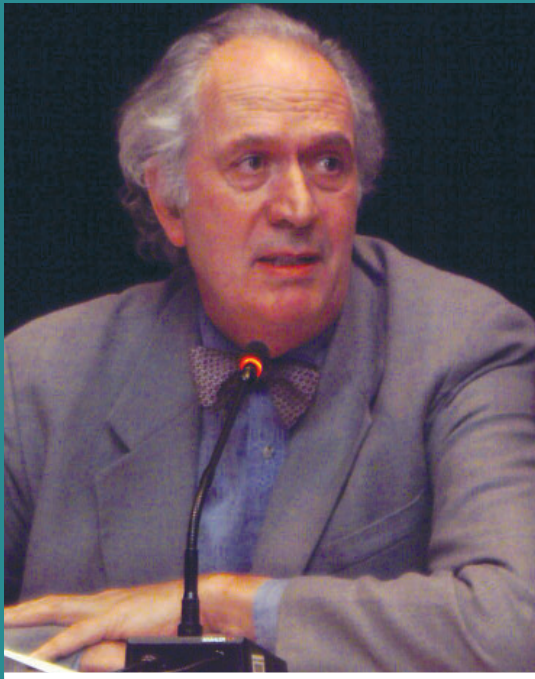


Remembering a Friend; Remembering a Visionary



Konrad von Moltke, 1941–2005

It's been a year since Konrad left us. At IISD, we miss his gentle intellectual leadership, his friendship and his wit. The passage of time has not—and will not—diminish the impact of his absence.

In Konrad's memory, we have assembled this collection of comments and tributes from a few of the people who had the pleasure of working closely with him. It's a modest volume (he would have disliked anything grand), but its contents illustrate the degree of respect Konrad so rightfully earned.

While we continue to feel a profound sense of loss, we also move forward in our work motivated by Konrad's passion and his rich, intellectual legacy.

*The IISD Team
May 2006*

Cover photo courtesy IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

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*"...his lack of interest in honours, in recognition
and in the normal trappings of success
was sobering."*

*Mark Halle, Director, Trade and Investment Program
International Institute for Sustainable Development*

There is a well-known, if possibly apocryphal story about the painter James Whistler and Oscar Wilde. Following a particularly witty comment by the former, Wilde remarked: "I wish I had said that." "You will, Oscar, you will," replied Whistler.

Never in my private or professional life have I felt more like Wilde than in my relations with Konrad. How many times did I say to myself that I wished I had been the one to offer some brilliant insight, some witty and surprising perspective or some pithy replique? And how many times did I go on to use them in my own speeches and interventions, usually with due attribution, but not always. Konrad's ability to cast aside structure and form and move straight to the core of the issue always left me awestruck.

Heroes are people we not only admire, but whom in many ways we use as models. In that sense, Konrad was a hero. I not only admired him, but studiously sought to imitate his fine balance between professional rigour and outward casualness; his propensity to surprise and delight; his attempt to look behind what everyone was saying to find a more interesting and ultimately more useful perspective on an issue. "Thinking out of the box" has become a cliché, but surprisingly few people are really able to do it. Konrad did it as a way of life, as a game, as a source of fun.

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"I not only admired him, but studiously sought to imitate his fine balance between professional rigour and outward casualness."

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It was easy to look up to Konrad—physically of course, but also in terms of what he was. For someone as wise and worldly, his lack of interest in honours, in recognition and in the normal trappings of success was sobering. His patrician background and his cosmopolitan sophistication might have predisposed him to a more classical academic itinerary. Instead, he sought one thing only in his professional life—the luxury to think and to work on the issues that he found fascinating. No title, no swollen income, no guarantee of comfort could replace this priority, at least in his professional life.

It was always a source of embarrassment to me that I was, technically speaking, Konrad's hierarchical superior. It never bothered Konrad in the slightest. He far preferred the loose team dynamic that characterized our work. He liked the fact that we could bounce around ideas in a spirit of respect and trust, that we could critique one another's work without a hint of threat and emerge with a far better product. He liked the dialectic process whereby we would all help him sift, from the mass of ideas that he generated, the ones that were truly valuable and worth developing.

Konrad's departure leaves a big hole in our midst. We will never again have the easy benefit of his genius, nor the thrill of his iconoclastic perspective, nor the companionship of many travels together. I miss everything about him—his facial expressions, his quirks of speech ("I always say..."), his nervous spit curl, his broad back disappearing down the hall, pulling the ubiquitous suitcase on wheels.

My life and my work have been immeasurably enriched by Konrad's passage through them.

*"To expect the unexpected was wise,
and usually a pleasure."*

*David Baldock, Director
Institute for European Environmental Policy*

It may not have been Konrad's original intention to found an Institute for European Environmental Policy, but he had an almost uncanny supply of qualities fitting him for the task. He had an acute sense of history and of timing, keenly aware of how the European community would coalesce and unfold. And of how the voice of civil society would be crucial, especially in new avenues such as the environment. Wary of the vagaries of nationalism, he was able to diminish frontiers and connect different national dialogues without locking himself or the institute in a federalist mould. Europe was for and of its constituent countries, not just the machinery of the centre.

His ease and fluency in several languages enabled him to attract a range of nationalities to the institute and begin multilingual activities from the very start. More strikingly still, he could immerse himself in the culture of the tongue in question, bringing to life four or five national perspectives in a single speech. It was no coincidence that he aimed for a web of institutes in different EU cities rather than a set of spokes from a single central hub. This fitted both the environmental and the cultural message.

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*"Konrad led from the front with an infectious passion
and a readiness to debate."*

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High priority was given to communication, to travel, to face-to-face meetings, to being there. Konrad led from the front with an infectious passion and a readiness to debate. In later years when we have occasionally become bogged down in projects for their own sake, I have recalled with admiration the rapidity with which he emerged with a new idea, identified the audience and conveyed the message. An environmental film festival in France was not out of place in the new institute.

New ideas, fresh quests came naturally to Konrad, ensuring that the institute rarely stood still. Yet he was often diffident as the Director; as a new recruit, I was instructed on the skeletons in the institute's cupboard with as much attention to detail as on other procedures or achievements.

To expect the unexpected was wise, and usually a pleasure.

Konrad was excellent company as well as a thought-provoking leader, pioneer and internationalist, contributing zest and courage to many organizations above and beyond the institute. All of those at IEEP and the successors to the original Institute will join me in expressing our appreciation of what he achieved and sense of loss at his departure.



“...an incessant font of jarringly new ways of thinking about any issue he tackled.”

*Aaron Cosbey, Associate and Senior Advisor
International Institute for Sustainable Development*

One vignette explains as well as any why I loved Konrad so dearly, as a friend and colleague, and why his memory is still so strongly with me. It was a fleeting meeting, in 1992 at the Rio Summit. I was manning the IISD booth at the NGO Forum, and Konrad happened to come by. At the end of our encounter he confided: “I have figured it out. The real issue in trade and environment is commodities.” He said it with a quiet fervour and a lecturer’s confidence.

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*“Why was he sharing this conviction with me,
a punk just out of school...?”*

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Why was he sharing this conviction with me, a punk just out of school manning a booth for a fledgling Canadian institute? Because he was a natural teacher; he cared not only about the pillars of his profession, with whom he regularly rubbed shoulders, but also about those still wet behind the ears. Because new ideas like this one (which was Greek to me at the time, but about which he was dead right) delighted him—a delight that was infectious. Because he was an incessant font of jarringly new ways of thinking about any issue he tackled, and so had learned the need to repeat his messages tirelessly, to a broad audience, until finally people understood what he was saying. As monumentally unyielding as he was in his promotion of new insights for the public good, he was always patient enough to wait until we could catch up to him.

“Konrad was happy to see that... a young generation was engaged in clearing the way towards sustainable development.”

*Claire Weill, Chargée de mission
Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (Iddri).*

At the beginning of the 1980s, Konrad von Moltke created a network of environmental policy institutes in Europe. He was a man of rich experience. Konrad actively participated in the reflexions that took place before the creation in France of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (Iddri). I met Konrad for the first time in the spring of 2002 at Iddri, where I am in charge of risk and precaution issues.

Precaution has been one of the major issues of collaboration between Konrad and Iddri, where he worked as senior advisor; Konrad and I organized two workshops on this issue in Paris. The first one in December 2002 dealt with European precautionary practices in Member States, and focused more specifically on the relationship between science, decision-making and policy-making. The second one, in June 2005, focused on the European proposal for chemicals regulation, REACH.¹ Konrad and I were to edit the proceedings of this workshop, as we already had for the previous one. Several European experts who contributed to the workshop “REACH and Beyond” were close colleagues of Konrad. Their collaboration, and then their presence in Paris after Konrad’s untimely death, have been extremely precious for me.

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“To have known Konrad as a friend and as a professional colleague is one of the happiest experiences of my life.”

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To have known Konrad as a friend and as a professional colleague is one of the happiest experiences of my life. The initiation to new issues on which I started at Iddri largely took place with him. I thus benefited from his knowledge about the perception, treatment and management of risks in Europe and North America during the last 30 years. More widely, I also benefited from his very accurate perception of the moving actors (civil society...) and of the braking actors (institutions...) active in the development of precaution as they are in other major challenges for sustainable development. His perception of the pertinent scales for action (it was European Union Member States—and not European institutions—that initiated precautionary policies), and finally his very sure feeling of the issues and places where effort has to be made (as the access to investment in Southern countries) were very beneficial to me and I remain in debt to him.

¹ Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the registration, authorization and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European chemicals agency and amending Directive 1999/45/EC and Regulation (EC) on persistent organic pollutants, COM(2003)644.

Konrad's ongoing focus was that key element that influences *all* societies, today more than ever, and with which one has to come to terms: the institution. Institutions—their history and inertia, unable to be by-passed, but able to be altered, the dynamic governors of investment and trade, powerful but amenable to fundamental change, a vision simultaneously structural and dynamic of the arena of international action—were Konrad's passion. At the same time, he highlighted how it is important to find international solutions compatible with local, national and regional preferences and specificities. As such, in order to allow transatlantic oppositions on precaution to evolve, he liked to underline that the goal for all countries should be to avoid “precautionary failures,” whatever could be the terms used to designate the political framework allowing the elaboration of the instruments—legislative and economic—used for that purpose: “Precautionary approach” or “Precautionary measures” (United States) *versus* “Application of the precautionary principle” (European Union).

Highlighting, but also—not the least of Konrad's contributions—*formulating* the crucial questions of sustainable development as universal challenges, the answers to which require research at all levels of our planet, could not help but captivate me, physicist that I am and familiar with the need, when in search of understanding, to go beyond the specific properties of a phenomenon to mechanisms and structures with a universal character.

My association with Konrad was very strong from a political and intellectual point of view. It was very immediate as well, as Konrad liked to focus directly on the core of things—a quality that I greatly appreciated. His culture, his capacity to speak several languages and his modesty, coupled with a very strong willingness to put forward his actions and ideas, his love of the challenge but also of the game, his obvious pleasure in meeting new people and discovering new issues, made Konrad easy to befriend. One evening in my home, in the company of Konrad, his wife Annabelle Winograd, one of my friends Clarisse Herrenschildt, one of the major French intellectuals and my family, will stay inscribed in my memory as an outstanding moment. It allowed the meeting of three extremely quick intellectuals, involved with passion in clearing the way and pursuing new intellectual and political paths. Konrad greatly appreciated this exchange.

Konrad was happy to see that at Iddri, as elsewhere, a young generation was engaged in clearing the way towards sustainable development. In that regard, one of the principal elements for him was the preservation of peace. He directly inherited his “radical pacifist” sensitivity from his father, the lawyer Helmuth James von Moltke. He was in fact one of the leaders of a major group of pacifist resistance against Hitler's regime: in Prussia, the Kreisau's circle elaborated projects of constitution and government for Germany after Hitler's fall (a period that Helmuth James von Moltke never lived to see, as he was executed in 1945). This federalist and pacifist mind obviously persisted in Konrad's spirit as in his accomplishments. However, Konrad stayed silent on his family history—an influence that has been also very important for me, because my family on the father's side suffered Nazism.

The disappearance of Konrad overwhelmed me. I can easily imagine how much this feeling is shared.

Then, progressively, I remembered irruptions of Konrad in my office or at a street corner of a European capital, his smile I contemplated every time I raised my eyes. At the same time, I told my four-year-old daughter one episode of “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (Lewis Carroll was a mathematician, as Konrad): Alice contemplates the cat of the Cheshire, hanging out on the branch of a tree. As a game, he disappeared and appeared very quickly, and Alice was very unhappy with that. Giving in to Alice’s demand, he begins to disappear very progressively, but his smile persists, on the top of the tree. As Konrad’s smile does.

In some years, perhaps, my daughter will also discover the work of Konrad, as the work of the Earl Helmuth James von Moltke. Both are works of resistance coupled with creativity with an inestimable impact for future generations. But this is another story...



*"Konrad demanded the very best of me,
both intellectually and morally."*

*David W. Reed, Director
WWF Macroeconomics Programme Office*

Konrad squared me up right smartly in 1992 as I bemoaned the troubles I was having in starting the first draft of the book on structural adjustment and the environment. "Well!" he snapped impatiently, "Even Alice in Wonderland knew that you have to begin at the beginning!"

Having learned my lesson, I'll begin at the beginning—an interview Konrad scheduled with me in the fall of 1988 as I sought the job that I've now held with WWF for 17 years. Two memories remain from that encounter. The first is the inscription on the waste can in his otherwise barren office.

"Whosoever removes this trash can will suffer the indignities and blasphemies of an eternal hell!"

"A punishment clearly corresponding to the severity of the crime," I thought. No normal mortal, this von Moltke.

The second memory is of the interview itself. With barely a word of personal introduction, Konrad opened the interview with the following offering. "I just wanted to see if the person really corresponds to the cover letter and CV. Thanks for coming in. Do you have any questions?" To this day, I can still feel the lump swelling in my throat and my cerebral circuitry melting down as I struggled to find some seemingly intelligent questions to mask my absolute ignorance of both WWF and the particulars of the job that I was ultimately offered.

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*"Konrad, as I now understand, sought us out
as companions in what he considered
a shared struggle..."*

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Of course, I could not understand at that time that I was to become one of the many beneficiaries of Konrad's commitment to supporting often untested, but dedicated professionals who were willing to take risks in exploring new paths to protect the environment. He consistently offered guidance and, could I say, protection to other colleagues and me as we explored new intellectual perspectives on a multitude of environmental issues. Konrad, as I now understand, sought us out as companions in what he considered a shared struggle and he remained committed to us for as long as we, in turn, remained faithful to the common cause.

Over the subsequent 17 years, I came to benefit many times from Konrad's audacity in raising some of the most complex issues linking the environment to economic and social policy. In the course of those years, we worked together on debt-for-nature swaps, investment policy, trade regimes, environmental governance and macroeconomic policy, to mention but a few themes. In so many ways, Konrad helped shape the terms of debate and guide WWF's Macroeconomics Program Office (MPO) as we engaged the World Bank and the broader international development community.

Another dimension of Konrad's approach from which I have benefited enormously was his ability to work with, create and manipulate institutions to meet the new needs rising before the environmental community. At times he saw WWF, Dartmouth, IISD and other institutions as springboards to test and launch new initiatives; at other times, he would use his own success and stature to strengthen those institutions' reputations. He did not hesitate to move away from those institutions when they ceased being vehicles for responding to new environmental challenges. Nor did he hesitate to use his status and experience to help emerging organizations—be they in Latin America, China or Europe—that were willing to step to the forefront of the environmental movement. In that regard, Konrad remained an active, invaluable member of the MPO's Board, guiding us as we tried to respond to uncertainties and new opportunities.

Throughout those ever-changing professional engagements, we wove the threads of our personal lives, discussing the travails of marriages, the challenges of raising our sons, the uncertainties of our professional endeavours and the hopes of bringing home stories of success and accomplishment. I do regret that the geographic dispersion of Konrad's professional commitments made more sustained interaction, be it personal or professional, quite difficult. Perhaps Konrad preferred it that way.

As with Alice on concluding her extraordinary sojourn, I am left with a kaleidoscope of memories that seem to defy simple ordering. My memories form an inchoate amalgam of punctual moments as Konrad would deftly enter, then suddenly withdraw from my life. What remains of this collection of interactions is that throughout that journey Konrad demanded the very best of me, both intellectually and morally. He set extremely high standards and I felt that I never had a choice but to rise to meet him at that level. I am a fuller, wiser person for having had the privilege of wrestling with him over these many years. It is to this marvellous man that I pay tribute.

"...he was an advisor, someone who challenged my imagination and commitments."

*Marianne Lais Ginsburg
Formerly of the German Marshall Fund*

It's 1974 or 1975. Konrad plans for the future, visits the barely two-year-old German Marshall Fund of the United States in Washington, D.C. He counsels GMF on the growing importance of nurturing non-traditional exchanges and true transatlantic cooperation. Konrad, always practical, offers to stay in touch while GMF defines its programs and allocates its funds. That first meeting, I recall, is mostly about American Studies; for the next 30 years, our relationship is dominated by the environment.

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"Konrad's enthusiasm and commitment to help fellows grasp the importance of different cultures and political traditions were enlivening and contagious."

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In 1979, under the aegis of the Institute for European Environmental Policy, Konrad and GMF launch the first transatlantic fellows program for policy experts and practitioners, all young and eager to learn. Clearly, a niche needing to be filled and a network that needed to be created. Konrad's enthusiasm and commitment to help fellows grasp the importance of different cultures and political traditions were enlivening and contagious. "To explore how another country approaches problems you face at home opens your eyes to unexpected solutions," Konrad would say. He takes obvious pleasure in creating just the right itinerary for a fellow, first in Europe and then in the United States, and in showing others how it is done. When these efforts bear fruit he radiates satisfaction. Hundreds of fellows on both sides of the Atlantic benefit directly or indirectly from Konrad's early vision. Whenever I meet one of them, they talk about him, his wisdom and kindness, his patience and caring.

As the years go by, Konrad, ever more the global environmental thinker and advocate, tests out on us his ingenious ideas for sustainable and cost effective concepts. They range from debt-for-nature swaps and environmental safeguards in the charter of the newly founded European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to primers for transatlantic discussions on public policy for chemicals and for the American policy-maker on the European Union's institutions and how they function; or the Banana trade and the US-EU-Banana producing countries' triangle; or lessons from earlier international treaties for ongoing climate change negotiations and, finally, the precautionary principle.

These brainstorming sessions always provide opportunities to learn and grow. A few days before we'd meet, Konrad would send me his customary two-three-page backgrounder, succinctly worded and always conscious of GMF's niche role in the environmental field. Often our discussions result in cooperation and support. Occasionally, as I remember, we'd regret inaction.

Thus GMF's cooperation with Konrad continued as a grantee but more importantly, to me, he was an advisor, someone who challenged my imagination and commitments. Mostly we spoke in English, but sometimes we switched into German, when we spoke about family, friends, what moved us. Konrad, you have been a vital presence in my working life at GMF and I'm deeply grateful. And you have been a trusted friend.



*“Not a day goes by that I do not think of Konrad
and of our glory days at Dartmouth
in pushing the envelope...”*

*Oran R. Young, Professor and Co-director of the Program on
Governance for Sustainable Development
Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
University of California (Santa Barbara)*

Konrad’s death—following the death several years back of Dana Meadows—is an occurrence that is somehow incomprehensible. Born in the same year, the three of us shared many things during our years at Dartmouth College. Not only were we committed to bringing scientific knowledge to bear on policy-making regarding large-scale environmental issues; we were also prepared cheerfully to take drastic steps, such as resigning tenured faculty positions, to gain the freedom needed to pursue this goal vigorously. We lived by our wits, an exhilarating albeit occasionally anxiety-producing situation that made it imperative to stay on the cutting edge far beyond the halls of academia.

The high point came during a period of years in the 1990s when we were able to take over some space in an old science building that no one else wanted and to create a vital centre of international environmental affairs. Konrad was making seminal contributions to the environment and trade debate and editing the journal, *International Environmental Affairs*. Dana was engaged in pioneering work on the idea of sustainable development. And I was in the thick of efforts to promote international cooperation in the Circumpolar Arctic as well as working out the analytic foundations of the study of governance in world affairs. In this, we were joined by Nick Flanders, Gail Osherenko and Lynn Noel along with assistants, secretaries and student helpers.

The result was magical. We developed a tradition of having tea together on Friday afternoons, not to merge our endeavours but rather to compare notes, to stimulate each other’s thinking and to share ideas about communicating our ideas to a broader audience. And it worked. The evidence of our collective influence on governance for sustainable development in the 21st century is apparent to all who are familiar with this field.

All this occurred 7–10 years ago. But our efforts were so vibrant that I remember this period as though it were yesterday. Not a day goes by that I do not think of Konrad and of our glory days at Dartmouth in pushing the envelope of the science/policy interface relating to governance for sustainable development.

"I was impressed in many ways: by his height, his kindness, his concerns, his sweetness."

Pedro Tarak

AVINA Representative, Inter-Regional Bridge Building and Networking

I met Konrad in Bonn, sharing some yogurt in a kitchen of the Adenauerallee Building. It was at the European Institute of Environmental Policy, on the second floor of the IUCN Law Centre. I was impressed in all respects: by his height, his kindness, his concerns, his sweetness. But above all by his non-judgmental approach to people, his evenness, in the equity of his relationships with others, including with "this young unknown critical Argentine."

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"Konrad was a kind of 'periodic' free mentor. I could tell he was betting on me."

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While I lived in Germany, Konrad was a kind of "periodic" free mentor. I could tell he was betting on me. But not for a "predictable return" in a planned strategy. Just for the sake of it. Perhaps, he joined me in my deep desire to contribute to my region. In that regard, Konrad became a partner in my professional life. Many times at a distance, yet always, always, there....

He was available for whenever I needed him in the Southern Cone. But also, whenever he thought I could contribute to a larger-scale vision, he included me in his own opportunities—always respecting my own opinions and wishes.

He coached me, he shared his opportunities and his affections, he shared personal concerns and political worries. With freedom and sincerity, I learned a lot from Konrad. One time, we were visiting the Governor's Office in a northern province of Argentina with his children. I still remember when he "sensed" the atmosphere of the waiting room. His diagnosis was simple: here all interpersonal structural relations are feudal. And they will condition the evolution of democracy in the area. Indeed, more than 20 years later, democracy in many parts of that region is still as feudal as always; mostly because the interpersonal relations stay feudal. It was the first time I realized the long path that remained ahead and that would challenge me forever. Law and policy would not suffice without changes in cultural and personal behavioural patterns.

Another time, I remember that some good friends in Argentina, Miguel and Maria Reynal, wanted to start an environmental NGO for the MERCOSUR countries. When I shared the vision and commitment of my friends, Konrad did not ask for credentials. He simply trusted me and only looked at their human qualities. And as from the very starting point, Konrad became a firm supporter and "opener" of new opportunities for Maria and Miguel.

I only hope that Konrad's commitment to a permanent victory and evolution, will ever guide me toward the same commitment, as I try to make my achievements a contribution to the reason for which we all were born.

"I think that Konrad had his photo taken that day more frequently than did the famous guardsmen..."

*David Runnalls, President and CEO
International Institute for Sustainable Development*

My 30-year relationship with Konrad was flavoured by vigorous debate and good humour. I was always struck by his passion for his work and the depth of his thinking. But when I'm asked to reminisce, it's his gentle wit and colourful personality that leap to the fore.

It is traditional in writing of this kind to describe the fallen figure as a giant. With Konrad, that was true in more ways than one. Standing 6 feet 9 inches tall, or nearly 2.1 metres, and often affecting a black opera cape, Konrad physically dominated a room like few others. In fact, one of my fondest memories of our time together came on our first trip to Beijing in 1994. Konrad had persuaded our hotel to give us two brand new, jaunty yellow bicycles so that we could cycle to Tiananmen Square. The bikes were not only yellow, with bright red writing saying Bugatti on the side, but they were also designed for rather diminutive Chinese riders.

Dressed in his grey cashmere overcoat, Konrad looked like an enormous, if rather uncomfortable, bird of prey. When we arrived at the square, the queue waiting to enter Mao's tomb dissolved into laughter. All of the Chinese tourists waiting to view their revered leader lost the legendary discipline of the Chinese queue as they pulled out their cameras to capture this Kodak moment. I think that Konrad had his photo taken that day more frequently than did the famous guardsmen who goose step their way along the front of the square, opposite the entry to the Forbidden City.

Subsequent visits to China provoked the same general reactions. Visiting a restaurant in China with Konrad was quite an experience. We would enter this enormous, overly lit room full of diners carrying on loud and animated conversations, and all talk would stop while we were escorted to our table. And fitting Konrad into economy class seats on a one-class Chinese airliner evoked gales of laughter from the flight crew and the other passengers. I once asked Konrad whether he found this embarrassing. He looked at me and said: "David, I did not get this tall overnight. For 60 years people have been looking at me like that. If it gives them some amusement, *tant pis*."

At IISD, we look at Konrad and his legacy with awe and gratitude. I miss him dearly.

“...we were about to enter into one of the most important meetings either of us had ever planned, and all he wanted to talk about was his family!”

*Howard Mann, Senior International Law Advisor
International Institute for Sustainable Development*

It is probably still too early to be able to fully assess the monumental contribution of Konrad von Moltke to the development of international policy on trade, investment, the environment and sustainable development. His 30-year history as an environmentalist spans the full length of the environmental movement, and its tensions with economic policy- and law-making over that period. Few others had as close a connection to the evolution—or revolution—in this relationship as Konrad von Moltke.

We celebrate Konrad’s pragmatic efforts at bridge building, first in the pan-European environmental context, and then at a global level between ideologists on both the economic and environmental sides of the trade and environment debate. Coming from a family that shunned ideology, often at great cost, Konrad sought conceptual and practical solutions to complex and otherwise apparently intractable problems. His role with the International Business Forum fit as easily as his role with the World Wildlife Fund at a time when trade and environmental camps were often defined in battleground terms.

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“We celebrate Konrad’s pragmatic efforts at bridge building...”

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Konrad’s later fields of endeavour, in particular on the redesign of the international regime on foreign investment, again sought to turn around oppositional forces. As Konrad rightly noted, this was the first real attempt to draft an economic approach to sustainable development. Governments were sceptical, many NGOs oppositional and other stakeholders often simply disbelieving. Today, he would have appreciated with much delight the success this work has begun to have, even in the year since his passing, and at least four or five years in advance of any impacts we anticipated as we struggled to find the right structures and formulas to bring life to a vision to which he had become deeply committed.

Working with Konrad was always a special treat. “Forthright” hardly begins to describe the nature of our comments on each other’s drafts on trade or investment issues. Watching Konrad in full flight at a conference or workshop was inspiring. And as we finished what was to be his final session as chair, our workshop in The Hague to review the first draft of the IISD Model Agreement on Investment, his infectious joy at the obvious success of the meeting—one he was later to call his best-ever meeting—was again inspiring.

But what I will always remember best of Konrad is the lunch we had during Christmas of 2004. He drove down from his beloved home in Vermont to an old Inn in northern Massachusetts where I met him from my own family vacation in Connecticut. We met ostensibly to discuss the upcoming meeting in The Hague, then just 10 days away. We did do that—for 30 minutes or so. The other two-and-a-half hours we spent talking about his family: this was the first time his whole family had been together in many years, four generations worth, and he was truly overjoyed. To get this in perspective, we were about to enter into one of the most important meetings either of us had ever planned, and all he wanted to talk about was his family!

Konrad's joy and success in those last weeks of December and first weeks of January were mercilessly cut short. But the memory and legacy of both will always be here to inspire others.

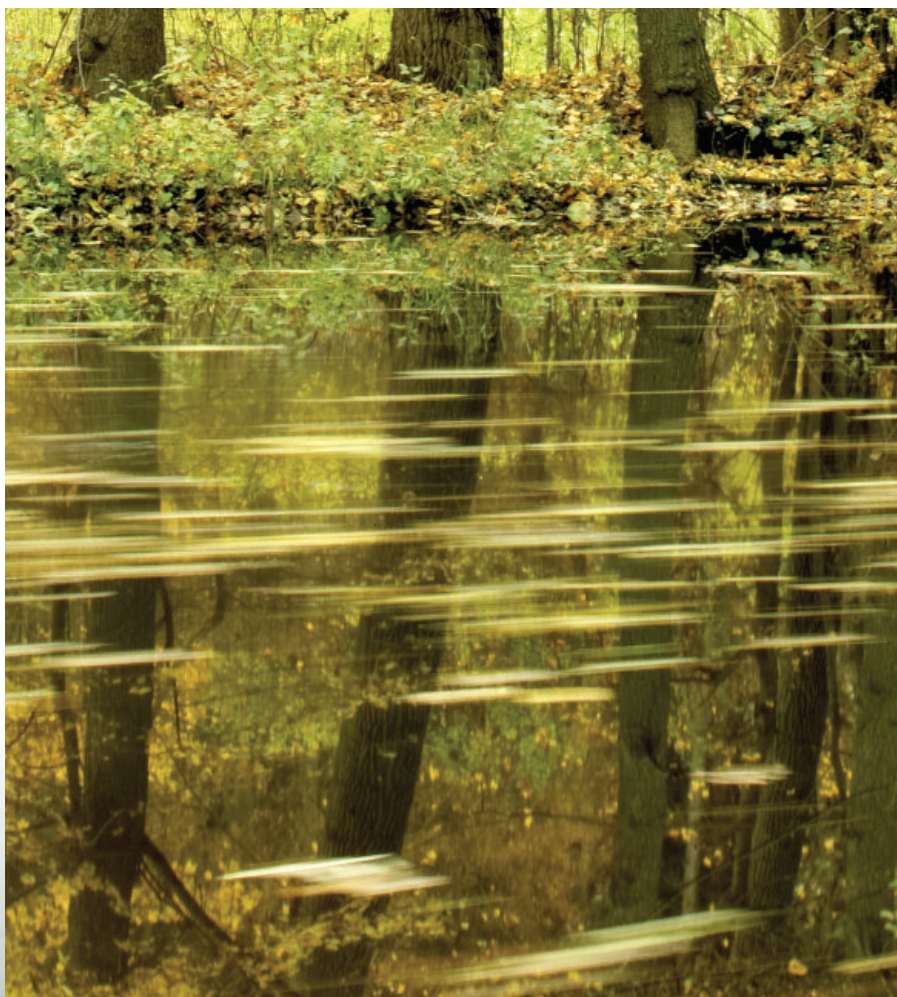




Photo courtesy IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin

Remembering Konrad von Moltke

The following tributes have been collected to commemorate Professor Konrad von Moltke's contribution to the development of international environmental governance. They are extracted from a UNU book, *Institutional Interplay: The Case of Biosafety and Trade* (2006), which is dedicated to Professor Konrad von Moltke.

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Adil Najam

Professor, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Konrad von Moltke was truly—and not just literally—a giant in the field of international environmental politics. Indeed, he was amongst its pioneers. The journal *International Environmental Affairs*, which he edited for many years, was not only an early stomping ground for many of us but was instrumental in giving the field academic recognition and forcing an intellectual rigour on the study of global environmental politics. It played—and I would argue he played, along with other pioneers like Oran Young—an absolutely critical role in making the field respectable for us younger and less adventurous researchers to venture into. He was an ultimate mentor to younger academics: kind, insightful, but always demanding of rigour and never “easy” on anyone. Over the years I was fortunate in working closely with him on a variety of initiatives particularly those related to trade and environment and on global environmental governance. Over a decade of interactions and innumerable meetings, I cannot remember too many occasions when I did not leave saying to myself, “why did I not think of that?”

Konrad was also a role model for all of us who wish to link scholarship with practice. His imprint on the practice of international environmental politics is quite profound. I remember having dinner with him, Klaus Toepfer (UNEP's Executive Director at the time) and some others at a meeting and Klaus saying something to the effect that Konrad was the “practice world's scholar of choice.”

Although made casually at a conference dinner, it was a very apt description. In many ways he was also the scholarly world's practitioner of choice. A wonderful, and vital, bridge between the two worlds. Insisting on scholarly rigour in the pursuit of practice insights, and on practical implications in the crafting of the scholarly agenda.

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*Dan C. Esty
Professor, Yale University*

Konrad von Moltke was a true global citizen who understood the inescapable linkages that unite all people on the Earth. He cared deeply about finding successful strategies for addressing transboundary pollution and natural resource management challenges. He recognized that successful efforts had to work across the environment-economy divide and ensure both a more prosperous world and one that better protected Nature. Konrad von Moltke's towering presence in the realm of global environmental governance will be a source of inspiration for years to come.

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*Ernst von Weizsaecker
Dean, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management
University of California, Santa Barbara*

Konrad von Moltke had a fine sense of what is internationally important. In the 1970s he discovered the significance of European environmental policy and created an institute, the Institute for European Environmental Policy, to pursue this task. Later, he was one of the pioneers investigating conflicts between free trade regimes and environmental protection. Among these conflicts, one of the most exciting is surely the one on biosafety. Will the Cartagena Protocol survive the massive attacks launched by the biotech industry who are using benevolent free traders as door openers for their business? Again, Konrad von Moltke was there. I would have been keenly interested to read his analysis!

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*Nigel Haigh
Former Director of IEEP London*

On becoming the founder director of the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) in Bonn in 1976, Konrad focused on the institutional arrangements for environmental protection. He knew that proposing the right policies was not enough and that if the then rather weak European Parliament was to be a key player its powers had to be developed. His advocacy of amendments to the Treaty of Rome was just one of his contributions, and he had the satisfaction of seeing his ideas adopted. I was one of many people whose lives were changed by Konrad, in

my case when he asked me to open the London office of IEEP in 1980. One of his many ideas that I recall was the analogy of billiard balls. Policy was often made, he said, by a proposal developed by one international institution ricocheting off another, and possibly another, until eventually it becomes reality. I was able to develop this idea for the case of acid rain in an article in the first issue of *International Environmental Affairs*, that Konrad edited. This showed—and I could never have done this without Konrad’s impetus—that at least six separate international institutions were involved between 1970 and 1988.

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Owen Cylke
Senior Policy Officer, Macroeconomics Program
WWF – Washington, D.C.

It is not often one finds a mentor at the age of 66, but I did—the relationship with Konrad emerging from a casual conversation in the ocean waves off Cancun during the fifth WTO ministerial conference in 2003. Konrad and I talked about trade, trade and environment, poverty and environment, the meaning of development, the state of the world, the role of our work in that world, the prospects for change, pathways of change, and our personal and professional histories. From that I came to know him as adviser, authority, backseat driver, teacher, coach, confidant, consultant, counsel, docent, doctor, dominie, don, educationist, educator, elder, expert, fellow, forerunner, great soul, guide, illuminator, instructor, intellect, intellectual, kibitzer, lover of wisdom, maestro, mahatma, man of intellect, man of wisdom, mandarin, mastermind, meddler, monitor, nestor, oracle, orienter, pandit, pathfinder, pedagogist, pedagogue, philosopher, preceptist, preceptor, preparationist, preparator, preparer, professor, pundit, sage, sapient, savant, scholar, schoolmaster, seer, thinker, trailblazer, trainer, very wise man—and hopefully friend.

Just before he discovered his adversity, we were scheduled to meet in Kenya to consider the significance of the flower trade for all of the questions we canvassed in Cancun. Sadly we were unable to meet, but the questions remain embedded in my (our) work and the lives and thinking of those that work touches. Thank goodness for Konrad.

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R. Andreas Kraemer
Director, Ecologic Institute

As a pioneering thinker, Konrad was an inspiration to the Ecologic. He took a particular interest in the development of international trade policy and law and other areas of the global economic order, applying the same principles that had served so well in the context of the EU. He also maintained his focus on networking civil society organizations and succeeded in linking the many institutions, including in academia, in which he had a role. Combining the rigour

of the mathematician in him with the sense of proportion gained as a historian, he tirelessly worked to improve education on both sides of the Atlantic.

Konrad abhorred violence and did not seek conflict, but he did not shy away from political debate and was a formidable and intrepid discussant with his views grounded not only in careful analysis but also in high moral and ethical principles. More than two metres tall and a founder and inspiration to many transnational academic and civil society networks, he frequently, and only half jokingly, referred to himself as the “largest multinational in the room.” His lasting legacy is a multitude of networked bodies that make up part of a global civil society for sustainable development, peaceful conflict resolution and democracy based on grassroots activism and involvement. His example and principles will continue to be a moral compass for our advocacy.

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Richard G. Tarasofsky
Programme Head, Energy, Environment and Development Programme,
Chatham House

Konrad von Moltke’s contribution to international environmental policy cannot be underestimated. Not only was he an influential thinker and writer, but his involvement in the formative stages of important bodies, such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Institute for European Environmental Policy, and others, ensured that his imprint on the policy community was truly profound. Amongst Konrad’s great insights was to recognize very early on that the fortunes of environmental policy are intrinsically linked to economic policy and economic institutions—i.e., that environmental policy would be both limited and boosted by how its means and objectives coincided with the economic agenda. This was the basis of his pioneering work European Community environmental policy and on the interface between GATT/WTO and the environment—later widened to include development and investment. But while pointing out the risks posed by other interests and agendas to environmental policy, he was also its great champion. A key message throughout his writings and speeches was for the environmental community not to despair at the gravity of the obstacles; but, on the contrary, to celebrate its tremendous achievements, as well as the robustness and strength of the international environmental regime. This message needs constant reminding, and Konrad was tremendous in doing so.

Thus, it is very fitting indeed for a set of tributes to Konrad to appear in a book that deals with the biosafety regime. After all, the Biosafety Protocol is not only an important international success in using trade measures to achieve equitable environmental and developmental outcomes, but a triumph against powerful countries and industries that attempted to prevent it from coming into being.

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*Steve Charnovitz
Associate Professor, George Washington University Law School*

Konrad von Moltke was unforgettable in so many positive ways. As a scholar, he was among the first to explore new issues, such as the trade and environment linkage. As a teacher, he displayed modesty and generosity, and shared his encyclopaedic mind. When he spoke as a panellist or workshop participant, everyone in the room would tune in for the big ideas and little witticisms to follow. He was interdisciplinary in method, internationalist in perspective, and passionately interested in how he could help people and the planet.

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*Thierry Lavoux
Former Director, the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP),
Paris Office*

For all those who met Konrad for the first time, he was an imposing and intimidating figure. Immense in size, one was also struck by his beautiful face tinged by nobility and virility. Konrad wanted IEEP to be the vector close to the European institutions and the Member States. When the debate on environmental taxation agitates the expert circles of the western capitals, it should be remembered that from the very start of the 1980s, Konrad had launched the subject by thinking that environmental policy could become more effective through economic tools. That, in this manner, environment policy would enter the “court of the great policies.” In the same way, he firmly thought that the implementation of community legislation in the Member States was neglected, if not ignored. He succeeded, albeit not without difficulty, in convincing European officials that his Institute, thanks to its offices located across Europe, could explore the way in which the main directives were implemented in the various national laws. This was the pioneering topic that quickly made the reputation of IEEP. No need for him to speak louder to make himself understood, although I saw him getting irritated by some national or European officials who did not understand or did not share his views! Then Konrad left the institute he had created. Too quickly in my opinion. He also left us definitely and scandalously too early, leaving all those who had known him in sorrow and a real stir. He was “un grand Monsieur” as we say in French.

