

Closing speech and conclusion**E. Welte, acting President of CIEC**

**Mr. Chairman,
dear ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a tradition of CIEC and one of functions of the Vice-President for conference planning, research programming and publishing to close the symposium by some remarks which reflect the spirit and the activities of the fertiliser science as demonstrated once again by the papers presented during this symposium.

There is no doubt, and it became obvious during this conference, that fertilization is essential for the survival and welfare of the whole population of our planet.

Already in historic times, and even more so in the present time, when the world population is increasing at a rate so rapidly, it is frightening to see how the natural environment has permanently been exploited, up to the exhaustion of the resources which support us, resulting in the deterioration and destruction of landscape, soil and water resources.

Regarding the consequences which resulted from research and experiences and which in some areas of the world have already reached catastrophic dimensions, the time has come to resist such damaging activities increasingly and strongly, if we want to be respected as a responsible human society by our children, grandchildren and the following generations. We have fundamentally changed our system of thinking, which has predominantly based on an unlimited utilization of the natural resources in order to satisfy our individual wishes and demands in a very egoistic way. Some people have forgotten or are even not willing to recognize their egoistic behaviour, and do not accept the right of next generations, to utilize the natural resources in such a way that they can also enjoy an adequate standard of living.

Under these conditions and with respect to a sustainable management of land use for agriculture, horticulture and forestry the CIEC-founded already in 1932/33, has recognized very early the scientific facts and the absolute necessity, that this aim can only be reached by an adequate replacement of the plant nutrients which have been removed by an adequate replacement of the plant nutrients which have been removed from the soil by harvesting. The resulting consequences have already been formulated by the law of the famous Agricultural Chemist Justus von Liebig in the thirty of the last century, in other words about 150 years ago.