



## **In Memoriam: Dr Volker Beck**

We were deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Volker Beck in late December 2017. Volker Beck was a dedicated advocate of biological disarmament, who many of us in the NGO community had the privilege to work alongside for many years.

There are few people in the world who have participated in as many BWC meetings in Geneva as Volker Beck. He was involved in the protocol negotiations from the very beginning. He was there when the 'intersessional process' was invented. He played a major part in efforts to improve the CBMs so that they really would build confidence, and, in more recent initiatives, to open biodefence facilities to reassure peers in the international community of their compliance with the BWC. And while he claimed to have retired after the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Conference in 2011, he still appeared from time to time, and was also present at the last BWC meeting in December, active as always.

Volker Beck was an experts' expert, and he shared his extensive knowledge and experience willingly. He always had very clear ideas about the direction in which the BWC, and biosecurity policy more generally, should travel. He had equally clear ideas about the practical steps that could and should be taken to get there. Volker Beck often spoke bluntly, but with humor and a twinkle in his eye, and always with great conviction. Listening to him, it was obvious that for him the BWC was much more than a 'job' that needed to be done and whose conferences you had to attend. He had a passion for this treaty and his departure leaves a tremendous vacuum in the field of biological disarmament. He will be deeply missed.

*Written by Una Becker and Filippa Lentzos  
on behalf of the BWC NGO community*

*Una Becker-Jahol*

*F. Lentzos*



Dr. Beck was a kind man with a sense of humor  
and enormous knowledge. He touched many people  
from around the world, and we miss him.

Jeifer Mackby, USA

Conocer a Dr. Beck en la reunión  
de biólogos. Era una persona  
brillante y educada, un verdadero  
rebio de la convención. Desearé  
en paz.

Rafael de Högsten  
Hivio - Spain

Your looks will forever be  
remembered  
Myndt



I've lost a friend. A real friend and a master  
Dr. Rafael Rey Melledo, Spain.

I will remember Volker as a very kind, humorous  
person who was very generous in sharing his vast  
knowledge and passion.

- Sergio Bonin, Swiss MFA

Very fondly remembered - such a wealth of  
knowledge given generously. I will always remember  
Volker's guidance to me in the early days attending  
the BWC in 1994.  
Ronnie Russell  
Ireland.

I will remember VOLKER BECK FOREVER!  
From my first meeting at the Palais he always  
was interested to share his knowledge and  
were always enlightening our conversations!  
THANK YOU VOLKER

Júlio (am)ho  
PORTUGAL



A great man and a great colleague  
we will definitely miss you  
BW

I have had the opportunity to work  
together with Volker for many years.  
He was always open to discussion and  
informing.

A really great loss.

Sean Pascoe

He was a wonderful man.

Scott Davis

Le décès de Dr. Volker Beck  
et son départ lui a valu de  
de nous tous une profonde estime.

J. J. W. H.

(U.N.) Ass. World Citizens  
& people's Health  
Movement.



## TRIBUTE TO DR VOLKER BECK

Volker was one of the BWC's most faithful and energetic supporters. It was a privilege to know him and to witness his many contributions to reinforcing the treaty regime. He was an outspoken advocate of a stronger BWC and an outspoken critic of those who would obstruct it. For us NGO people, his presence was always reassuring as a familiar face at BWC meetings and a constant source of encouragement.

I remember his reaction when the first week of the VEREX session held in March/April 1992 got off to a bad start. He had come to Geneva all set for an expert study of verification techniques applicable to the BWC. The VEREX experts had been mandated by the Third Review Conference to examine this subject from a scientific and technical viewpoint. But Volker was exasperated to find that very few delegations were suitably staffed with the required expertise for this task. He expressed his disappointment in his usual blunt manner. Then, again typically of Volker, once that first week's deadlock between competing expectations of the nature of the exercise had been overcome he worked hard to make a success of VEREX in the remaining sessions through 1992-1993.

What he disliked – and what he had seen happening at the start of VEREX – was people playing politics with the BWC. He saw this treaty as far too important for that. It needed practical solutions which made scientific and technical sense. So he took a practical approach to the work on Confidence-Building Measures between the Sixth and Seventh Review Conferences when like-minded governments, academics and NGOs joined in Geneva Forum seminars at Jongny-sur-vevey and elsewhere to identify improvements which could make the CBMs more useful after 2011. After twenty years' experience some CBMs needed refining, some deleting, and all bringing up to date in concept and operation, if they were to have practical value in actually building confidence. Volker played a central role in this intricate exercise, coordinating contributions from many participants and steering several of the resulting proposals into the consensus outcome of the Seventh Review Conference, although other proposals remained unadopted. With characteristic determination he continued to encourage governments and NGOs to persevere in their efforts to strengthen the CBMs and other aspects of the BWC to make it an effective instrument of biological disarmament.

He will be greatly missed.

Nicholas A Sims  
Emeritus Reader in International Relations  
London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)  
University of London

n.sims@lse.ac.uk



R.I.P.  
Angela Woodward  
VERTIC

RIP  
Reb Wollenmann  
SWITZERLAND

R.I.P. I. Michelogiannakis  
Greece.

Scott Spencer  
UNSC 1540  
G.O.E  
RIP Voller

Green nameless. (Koricevsko  
Serhiy Komisarenko Ukraine.

Richard Cupitt, STIMCON CENTER

As my colleague as an EXPERT  
supporting the 1540 COMMITTEE, I  
FOUND SOMEONE WHO HAD A COMMITMENT  
TO GETTING TASKS DONE, JUSTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.  
HE SOON BECAME A FRIEND WITH WHOM I HAD  
THE GREAT PLEASURE TO WORK WITH AND SEE MANY  
TIMES AFTER THOSE FIRST YEARS. HE IS MISSED  
ALREADY.

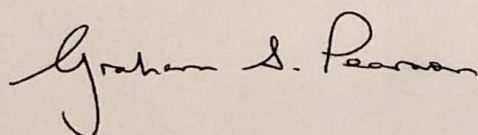


## **In memory of Volker Beck**

I have long and happy memories of working with Volker Beck, primarily in Geneva, to strengthen the effectiveness of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. We had a similar background in that we had both come from the Ministry of Defence in our respective countries and we both developed a passion for doing whatever we could to encourage the States Parties in Geneva to make progress towards a stronger and more effective Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

One of my earliest memories of our collaboration is from the early 1990s when Volker and I were invited by Ambassador Tibor Toth of Hungary to participate in VEREX, an Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts open to all States Parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint. VEREX met four times in 1992 and 1993 and the report issued on 8 June 1993 (BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/6 – available on the UNO Geneva BWC website) records Volker's specific contributions on page 41 on *Evaluation Ground-Based Surveillance* and on page 111 on *Types and Quantities of Microbial and other Biological Agents and Toxins*, followed immediately on page 119 by the contribution of Åke Bovallius and myself on *Measures in Combination*.

Both Volker and I continued working on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention after we retired from our respective employment by our Ministries of Defence and our collaboration continued as we shared our firm belief that the BTWC could and should be strengthened to enhance international safety and security.



Graham S. Pearson

Former Director-General and Chief Executive of the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, Porton Down, United Kingdom 1984 – 1995.

Honorary Visiting Professor of International Security, Division of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, United Kingdom 1996 – 2017.



I had the privilege of learning from Volker at the Biological Weapons Convention meetings in Geneva. He was a treasure trove of knowledge, full of energy and humour. Volker was always generous in sharing with those from a younger generation who sought his insights and advice.

Dr Volker Beck will be remembered as an outstanding representative of Germany who made a lasting contribution to improving the international ban on biological weapons.

Vladimir Ladanov,

Russian BWC delegation





**MAD/AMB/05/08/2018**

**August 8, 2018**

Excellency,

It is with great sadness that I learnt of the passing away of Dr. Volker Beck, a long-time Member of the German Delegation to the BWC meetings in Geneva. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Beck over two decades – between 1997 and 2016 and greatly benefitted from his insights on finding the right balance between the imperatives of science and the demands of diplomacy. He was greatly respected for his dedication and professionalism and would be missed by the BWC Community.

Through you, Excellency, I convey my deep condolences to his family, friends and the German Delegation to the BWC.

With assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

**Yours sincerely,**

**(D.B. Venkatesh Varma)**

**H.E. Mr Peter Beerwerth  
Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Germany  
Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva**



Volker Beck was a very important source of inspiration for many of us scientists working on methods and strategies to improve biological arms control. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the BTWC, his passion during discussions to fight for the cause (and not against people) as well as his big-hearted support of newbies starting to work on biological arms control issues - all this we miss very deeply.

Our memories are with you, Volker.

Mirko Himmel, University of Hamburg



Amb. (res) S. Barsanov. Science and World Affairs  
Penguin conferences on

I came to know Dr Volker  
Beck in 1990s if not earlier.

He immediately struck me  
as not just an excellent expert  
on the BWC-related issues,  
but also as ~~a~~ someone with  
deep understanding of global  
issues, problems of war and  
peace, military strategy  
and at the same time a  
very open, good-willing  
individuals. Each time  
after we met (and we met in  
~~so~~ many different places and under  
different circumstances), I felt  
I learnt something new, and I  
also felt "charged" with Volker's  
wisdom and attitude.

Volker's contribution to arms  
control and peace is exemplary.  
And those, who knew him personally  
will always keep the fondest memories  
of him as a great friend. M. Barsanov



## A tribute to Volker

Volker was a constant for me at BWC meetings since I first began attending in 2005.

We worked closely together, alongside Swiss and Norwegian colleagues, to convene the CBM seminar series in 2009-2010, to consult widely, and to present a set of proposals to the 2011 Review Conference for revisions to the CBM mechanism. At the time, it was the one area where we judged states could actually agree on a practical step to build confidence.

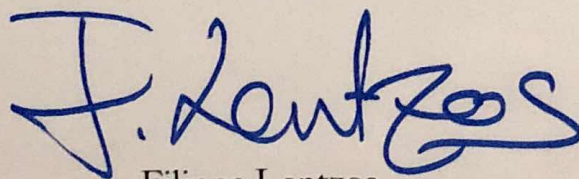
Later, in 2016, I worked again with Volker, this time in a more receptive multilateral environment to building confidence through practical steps.

Volker was part of the team inviting me to take part in the peer review exercise of the Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology in Munich, as the only civil society observer alongside 20 government experts. He always saw the value of state and NGO partnerships.

Volker was knowledgeable and experienced, and I had the utmost respect for him and his determination to strengthen the BWC. I also got on well with him on a personal level. He always took an interest in my family, and whenever I saw him he would ask how my girls were doing -- the eldest of which he had warmly welcomed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin when she was just a baby, and generously tolerated her sitting through our two-day meeting.

My last memory of Volker is sitting in a bar at Moscow airport waiting for our delayed flight to Sochi, with Volker entertaining our small group of BWC travelers with exotic stories of his time on the ground securing biological facilities in the post-Soviet world.

Volker may be gone, but there are parts of him in this treaty, in its evolution and in our common understandings of it, that will always be with us. He was a remarkable colleague who did a great service to our community.



Filippa Lentzos

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) (2002-2011)  
King's College London (2012-present)  
University of London



Dr. Beck was a kind man with a sense of humor  
and enormous knowledge. He traveled many parts  
from around the world and we miss him.

I had the pleasure to meet Volker several times and  
endorse with him a common vision on the proliferation  
dimensions of the edging biotechnologies and life  
sciences.

Volker was a sort of living memory on the history of the  
BWC regime and on the continuous challenges against it  
due to the tremendous S&T developments in the life  
sciences.

Kindest regards,  
Maurizio Martellini, Landau Network Fondazione Volta



Almost ten years ago, I was responsible for BWC in Tokyo and had several chances to work with Dr. Volker Beck in Geneva, Washington D.C., etc, in which I was always impressed with his deep expertise, knowledge and passion to promote international efforts under BWC.

Ten days ago, I was posted to our delegation in Geneva, to hear the sad news of his demise. Such a pity. I would like to join many voices in this commemorative book that Dr. Beck had made tremendous contributions to BWC discussions. I was indeed lucky to have precious chances to work with him.

Kazuhiko Nakai  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Confere of Disarmament,  
JAPAN

Thank you, Volker Beck!  
May we follow in your footsteps  
improving as we go.

Christa Ullrich



*Saddened to hear of the passing of Volker.  
A busy doyen of biological disarmament issues,  
who nonetheless made time to talk to younger  
scholars and did so with both wisdom and, no less  
importantly, wit.*

James Revill, University of Sussex



I have worked with, and  
learned from, Volker Beck,  
for many years - since 1991!  
He was extremely knowledgeable  
and experienced, patient when  
he needed to be, and with a  
good (and in this business, always  
needed) sense of humor. We  
will miss him as a friend and  
a colleague. His spirit will  
live on!

Kathy Crittbergen  
USA Delegation, BWG

The BWG has lost one of its few genuine experts and  
real supporters. We miss your substantive contribution as much  
as your persistence and good humor.

James Hansen

UK



I've had the pleasure of working with Volker and a number  
of other people for many years.

I will remember Volker as a very kind, humorous  
man and also very generous in sharing his vast

I had the pleasure of working with Volker for the  
best part of 30 years and will miss him deeply.

Bob Mathews, Australia

John (Cousin)  
Barnes



I met Volker Beck for the first time in January 1991 in Bonn. Over the years, we met on numerous occasions, and I worked with him in German delegations to BWC Review Conferences. Never before or afterwards I met a person that was capable to exactly analyze the positions and strategies of all the delegations present in the Palais des Nations. He was simply brilliant in that regard.

One experience I will never forget is when, on the occasion of the 2001 BWC Review Conference, John Bolton came to Geneva to tell the delegations that the US wanted to end the mandate of the Ad Hoc Group to negotiate a BWC additional protocol. Apparently, the US had not consulted anybody in advance, including the UK. In the aftermath of this experience, I think Volker Beck played a very important role to save the BWC and to initiate what later became the intersessional process.

Oliver Thränert, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zürich



Ich bin sehr dankbar für alles, das  
ich von Volker Beck gelernt habe.  
Ich werde diese Diskussionen  
sehr vermissen.

Fathayn Nixdorf

Cher Volker,

De tout mon cœur, je souhaite te revoir encore  
ici combien tu es une magnifique référence  
pour nous tous. Tu as su imposer  
avec une rare finesse d'analyse et une  
exceptionnelle pertinence et hauteur de  
vue, tous les travaux de cette Convention.  
Sois en tu profondément remercié!

Nes prières t'accompagnent pour cette  
nouvelle aventure. Que le Seigneur  
t'accueille dans Sa Lumière et dans  
Son Amour.

Respectueusement et affectueusement.

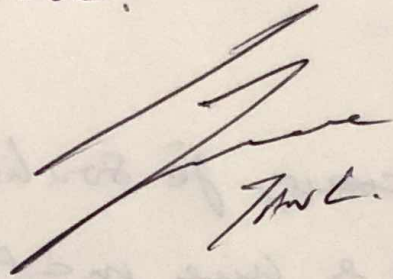
Isabelle Dorst - Nalaval,

Дорогой и уважаемый г-н. Волкер Бек

Каждо сердце и желанием радостно  
приветствует. Очень жаль, что вы покинули этот  
мир. Но мы не забудем. (S. B. (Nalaval))



Volk's absence was a great shock,  
only weeks after our usual joking  
at the Manotel Kopering last winter.  
Rejoice the loss of a great colleague  
and good friend.



J.W.L.

Memoriale de participation du LIBAN à la  
réunion des Experts 2018 - Palais des Nations -  
13-16 August 2018 - Antoine EL-HAMM.



Dear Volker,

I'm very proud to have honor to sit next to you for more than 10 years. I studied a lot from you, and I miss you very much - we all will be missing you!

Gela Bakamidze,  
Georgia

Dear Volker,

With best thoughts for your onward journey.

Sincerely,



John MILLER

친애하는 Volker

올해로 BWC 회의에 참석하기 12년째 됩니다.

매년 회의에마다 열정적으로 참여하고, 질문을 하던 모습들 기억합니다.

상가 2인의 명부를 씁니다.

Jong-Min Kim, Replic of Korea



We were so sad to hear of the sudden death of our friend and colleague Volker Beck. We had both worked with Volker for many years in Geneva and in other places too; he was always congenial company with a sharp wit and ready sense of humour. Volker was a consummate professional, extremely knowledgeable and always ready to share his experience with colleagues in the cause of biological weapons disarmament. We miss him.

Lorna Miller

John R. Walker

Lorna Miller and John Walker, UK



Dr. Beck,

Was a knowledgeable and humorous presence  
in the BWC and he will be missed.  
May he rest in peace. Ntombi Ndlovu (Zimbabwe)

Volker was a great man. He will  
be sorely missed by the BWC  
Community. May he R.I.P. - Amb. Wood  
US Mission



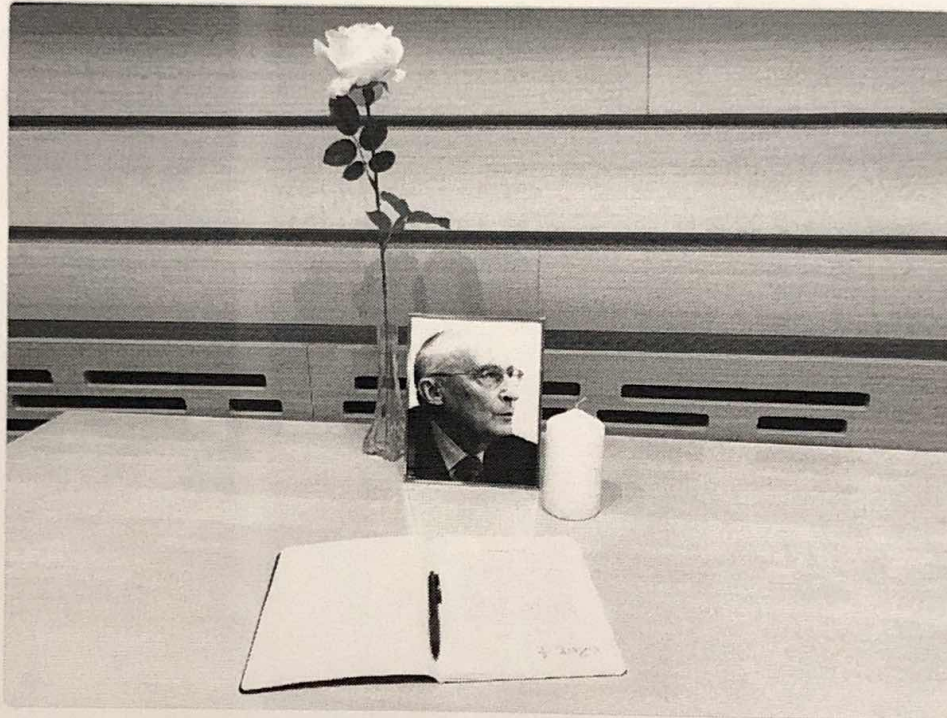


**Filippa Lentzos**

@FilippaLentzos



#1972BWC delegates are invited to pay  
tribute to Dr Volker Beck in commemorative  
book located at the back of meeting room  
#BWCMX1 #BWCMX2 #BWCMX3  
#BWCMX4 #BWCMX5



2:14 AM - 7 Aug 2018

7 Retweets 16 Likes



1



7



16



Add another Tweet



**Amandeep Gill** @gioasempre · Aug 7



Replying to @FilippaLentzos

An outstanding colleague and great supporter of #1972BWC RIP dear friend.



1





10:16

4G



## Notifications



**VERTIC** @vertic\_org · 19h



Dr Beck was a true professional, a great supporter of the #1972BWC, and a friend of VERTIC. The community will build on his legacy. Thank you, Volker, for your service.

**Filippa Lentzos** @FilippaLentzos

#1972BWC delegates are invited to pay tribute to Dr Volker Beck in commemorative book located at the back of meeting room #BWCMX1 #BWCMX2 #BWCMX3 #BWCMX4 #BWCMX5

