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Start of the Lisbon Network

The first Annual Conference of the Lisbon Network took place at Fondation Universitaire, in Rue d'Egmont, Brussels on the 16-17 June 2011. **LISBOAN** (Linking Interdisciplinary Integration Studies by Broadening the European Academic Network) is a network of 67 partner institutions from all EU member states as well as Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. Its aim is to strengthen cooperation between institutions of higher education and research in Europe with a view to teaching and researching the Treaty of Lisbon, the European Union's legal foundation since December 2009. LISBOAN is funded under the European Union's

Lifelong Learning Programme.

The following thematic workshops met (name of Chairperson of each is placed first): Edward Best-Institutions; Simon Bulmer-Integration Theories and Governance; Ian Manners-External Action and CFSP; Paul Luif-Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; Andras Inotai-Economic and Financial Policy; Wilfried Loth-Lisbon Treaty in a court, moyenne and longue durée perspective; Lucia Rossi-Quasi-constitutional nature of the Lisbon Treaty.

This first Lisbon Annual Conference was attended by Professor Roderick Pace, Director of the EDRC.

Ph.D. Workshop on International Climate Policy



The 23rd Ph.D. Workshop on International Climate Policy will be held on 20-21 October 2011 Malta, at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus. This workshop is being organised by the EDRC, and supported by the Island and Small States Institute (ISSI) and the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy (FEMA) of the University of Malta. Financial and technical support was secured from the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Investments (MFEI) and the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA). Mr Stefano Moncada, a resident academic at the EDRC and Ph.D. candidate on a climate change related research topic, is playing a key role in organising this workshop.

The Workshop on International Climate Policy is organised twice every year under the auspices of the European Ph.D. Network on International Climate Policy. It aims to offer Ph.D. candidates the opportunity to present their research ideas and

results, receive feedback, exchange information and network with fellow colleagues, all in an informal and stimulating environment. Ph.D. students from all disciplines working on topics relevant to climate policy can participate. A call for papers for the workshop has been issued. The workshop will cover a wide range of topics related to climate policy, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, adaptation and development, climate change economics, climate change modelling, climate change negotiations and post-Kyoto climate regimes, European studies and climate change, small islands and climate change, energy, technology and environmental policy, instruments of climate policy, climate change financing and technology and climate change and biodiversity. Many applications were received from all over the world, and scholars from key research institutes are expected to participate.

Talk by Ms Cecilia Attard Pirotta Deputy Director General of the Union for the Mediterranean



Ms Cecilia Attard Pirotta

A talk was given to European Studies Third Year students on the 26th April by Ms Cecilia Attard Pirotta, Deputy Director General of the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat. Ms Attard Pirotta kindly took time from a private visit to Malta to speak to third year students who were studying Euro-Mediterranean Relations with Dr Mark Harwood. Outlining the work of the Secretariat as well as the state of play in Euro-Mediterranean relations, Ms Attard Pirotta explained the complexities involved in trying to broker a common approach to the

region from amongst the 43 participating states. She also provided an overview of the changes being undertaken as a consequence of the Lisbon Treaty, in particular the establishment of the European External Action Service, and explained how this could have an impact on the Union for the Mediterranean.

The talk was held at Dar l-Ewropa in Valletta.

Visit by EDRC Students to New York to Participate in the SUNY Model EU



From Left: Pavel Jakovlev, Petra Galea Debono, Julia Pisani, Laura Muscat

Four EDRC students, Petra Galea Debono, Pavel Jakovlev, Laura Muscat and Julia Pisani, had the opportunity to participate in the EU Council Simulation which was held at the State University of New York in New Paltz, on 14-16 April 2011. This is an annual simulation exercise where students from across Europe and the United States represent an EU state in mock Council meetings.

As the biggest challenge to make this visit possible was funding, the grant agreement which the US Embassy signed with the EDRC in March to part-fund the visit was particularly welcome. Once the financial aspect of the trip was settled, the students focused on the preparation for the EU Council Simulation. Students from each

participating university were required to represent one of the 27 EU Member states and take on what was referred to as an alter-ego, that of the Foreign Minister, COREPER, ECOFIN Minister or Head of Government of the country assigned to them. The four attending EDRC students were assigned Slovenia. Participants could also propose items to put on the agenda to discuss during the three day simulation. Once the agenda was set, the students carried out research on the position which their alter-egos took about the matters to be discussed.

On campus in New Paltz, the EDRC students made instant friends with other participants. The issues for discussion in the COREPER simulation included border control, and parallel to this, the problem of migrants, as well as social cohesion in relation to migrants. As there was no one representing Malta, given that the matters being discussed were of particular local interest, one of the students managed to obtain a concession to represent Malta, together with the assigned role of Slovenia, in the discussions. It is not the norm that students represent their own country, but an exception was made given the particular

relevance of the discussion to Malta. The other students attending the ECOFIN and Foreign Affairs simulation meetings also ended up representing both Slovenia and Malta.

The EDRC students participating in the SUNY Model EU felt that this was a very positive experience. Participation in mock EU Council meetings and representing another country was in itself a learning experience. Furthermore, the students also had the opportunity to improve their public speaking skills, whilst the exposure to cultural diversity was also a beneficial experience. The students also managed to extend their visit to spend a few days in Manhattan prior to attending the simulation.

The next EU Council Simulation will be taking place at Exeter University in the UK between the 5 and 8 January 2012.



SUNY Campus

Visit by the Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta at the EDRC

Mr Martin Bugelli, Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta, together with Ms Diane Spiteri and Ms Dorianne Coleiro, visited the EDRC on 13 June 2011.

The meeting took place in the EDC library and was also attended by members of the academic staff and the EDC documentalist. The visit started off with a brief introduction on the EDC, and an outline of the functions of the EDRC together with an evaluation of the ever-increasing number of graduates from the EDRC. Professor Pace, Director of the EDRC, gave a brief history of the EDRC and explained its origins, its successes and its constraints. The visit focused mainly on how the European Commission

Representation in Malta can help the EDRC to further promote European Studies to a vaster audience and to stimulate more research on European integration. Professor Pace also spoke of other EDRC activities, such as the start of the PhD program and the students' placements programme, which will begin as from the next academic year 2011/2012.

The idea of turning the EDC library into a live centre for research and discussion, with talks on European topics taking place at a regular basis, was also discussed. The EC Representation tendered its support to these initiatives and offered some posts for student placements, as well as its venues for any future talks on EU-related matters. During

the visit, Mr Bugelli also spoke of Team Europe, stating that it would be revamped and developed in the coming months. He also invited EDRC academic staff members to involve themselves in this initiative.



Mr Martin Bugelli

Chinese Students Visit the EDRC

A group of Chinese European Studies students accompanied by their professors from the Institute of European Studies at Nanhua University of Taiwan visited the EDRC on Friday 8 July 2011. The group is in Malta researching on Malta's cultural history. At the EDRC, the students followed a presentation on the research and teaching activities of the Centre including the courses on offer. Some Maltese European Studies students present at the meeting took the occasion to get to know these students better and to exchange contact details with them. The brief information meeting was also addressed by Prof Wu-Ping Kwo, Dean,

College of Social Science, Nanhua University, who spoke of the aims and activities of the Graduate Institute of European Studies at his University.



Professor Roderick Pace and Professor Wu-Ping Kwo



Chinese European Studies Students

Alumni Network

It has become customary to include news from alumni of the EDRC in the newsletter. Ms Romina Zammit, a member of the administrative support staff, is in charge of the EDRC's alumni network. If you

Mr Reuben Gauci

Reuben read for his Masters in European Studies at the European Documentation and Research Centre (EDRC) from 2006-2008. His first degree was a B.A. General in Maltese and Theatre Studies. After obtaining an M.A. Qualifying, he proceeded to read for a Masters in Human Rights and Democratization at the Faculty of Laws in 2003-2004 and subsequently read for the Masters in European Studies. During his Masters at the EDRC, in February 2007, he decided to sit for the examinations for the diplomatic service of Malta. Reuben managed to place second in the selection process which he says was "thanks no doubt to the reading for the Masters in European Studies amongst other factors".

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs later

know alumni who have not responded to our call, you are encouraged to ask them to contact Ms Zammit at the earliest. Her email address is romina.zammit@um.edu.mt.

that year and as Desk Officer of the Arab League, had the opportunity to be involved in the events at the Ministry which fostered the Malta Initiative leading to the Ministerial Meeting between the EU and the Arab League in February 2008. Indeed, he told us that this led him to choose his dissertation title: *"Relations between the EU and the Arab League: Prospects and Pitfalls."*

Reuben began his Masters in European Studies a little later in life than is the norm, at the age of thirty. Nonetheless, he argues that his ten year career as a teacher prior to that, in which he taught European Studies and other subjects, gave him a good preparation both for his Masters and for his career in diplomacy.

Reuben is currently serving as Chargé d'Affaires

In this issue of the newsletter, we meet Reuben Gauci.

ad interim in the Embassy of Malta in Lisbon, Portugal. He says "The knowledge that I have gathered during my Masters' degree at EDRC has undoubtedly helped me to build and further advance my career".



REUBEN GAUCI graduated in 2008

New Official in charge of the EDC at the EDRC

Ms Daniela Callus was appointed as the new official in charge of the EDC on 25 April 2011. She graduated B. European Studies (Hons) at the EDRC in 2009, and completed an M.A. course at the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, graduating in 2010.

Ms Callus is fluent in Italian, French and Spanish. She is very interested in learning different languages from the places that she visits, and has a basic knowledge of Arabic and Amharic. Being a music-lover, Ms Callus enjoys singing and playing the piano. She teaches music and coordinates music sessions for young children.

She is also interested in voluntary work and has been to Egypt and Ethiopia on several different occasions working in summer camps for children

(Egypt) and in an orphanage and hospital (Ethiopia). Among other interests, Ms Callus enjoys reading, and can consider herself to be an avid bookworm!

Ms Callus started off her work at the EDRC by evaluating and sorting the pending publications available at the EDC. She is also carrying out an exercise to identify what material is available online and can be safely removed to make physical space for new publications and other materials. An outreach programme is also planned to increase awareness among the public, academics and students about the EDC facilities. Coordination with the University Library to eventually start the EDC's own catalogue system is also in the pipeline. The EDC hopes to invest more resources in the future in support of

research on European studies and to make these available to students as well as the general public.

You may contact Ms Callus on telephone 23403386 or by email daniela.callus@um.edu.mt.



Ms Daniela Callus



Concluding the First European Semester

On 7th June 2011, as part of the first European Semester, which was launched at the beginning of 2011, the European Commission presented its country specific recommendations, together with a recommendation for the Euro Area as a whole. These country specific guidelines were endorsed by the European Council, at its meeting of 23-24 June, importantly, without any significant watering down. These were then formally adopted by Ecofin in July, thus concluding the first European Semester of economic policy coordination.

The European Semester provides for improved coordination of the economic and budgetary policies of Member States. Following agreement at EU level on the economic and budgetary priorities, Member States presented their national reform programmes and their stability or convergence programmes, outlining their structural reform plans and their budgetary programmes, respectively. The assessment of these programmes was followed by the Commission's recommendations, which Member States are expected to take into account when preparing their national policies and budgets later on in the year. Indeed, this is a novel aspect in EU economic policy coordination, which recognises the interdependence of EU economies and the need for improved coordination in economic governance between the EU Member States.

The 2011 country specific recommendations covered both public finances as well as

economic reform measures to sustain growth and jobs and to reach the Europe 2020 targets. They also cover the commitments made by the 17 Euro Area countries and the other 6 Member States which have signed up to the Euro+ Pact.

The Commission's recommendations covered diverse areas. As regards public finance issues, the recommendations concerned not only fiscal consolidation in line with the Member States' Excessive Deficit Procedures but also fiscal rules and budgetary frameworks, pension reform, as well as tax efficiency and growth enhancing expenditures for some countries. Recommendations regarding financial stability and the property market were also directed to a number of Member States. As regards structural reforms, the recommendations covered various aspects including wage bargaining and indexation, labour market, education, research and innovation, energy efficiency and renewable energies, transport, public administration reform, the business environment and fostering competition in various markets.

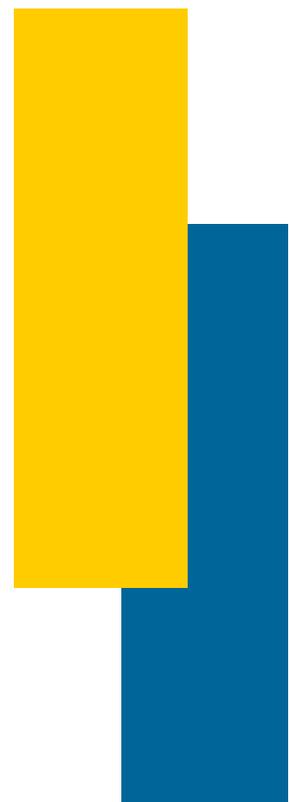
Overall, the Commission considered that the policy guidance offered in the Annual Growth Survey, which launched the European Semester in early 2011, has been largely taken on board. However, the national programmes tended to lack in ambition and many programmes were rather vague, lacking specific measures. The Commission deems that further efforts need to be made by Member States in order to ensure that the Europe 2020 targets are reached.

The 2011 Commission recommendations are more specific than previous recommendations and also include deadlines for implementation. This should facilitate their surveillance and monitoring. Indeed, this will determine whether the European Semester will in fact constitute a

new era of EU economic policy coordination. The implementation of these recommendations by the Member States will be subject to a process of peer monitoring, with input from the Commission. In its next Annual Growth Survey, due in January 2012, the Commission will assess the progress made by the Member States and a formal assessment will be presented in June 2012 in next year's country specific recommendations and respective analyses. Implementation of the country specific recommendations will be largely driven by peer pressure. Thus the credibility and effectiveness of the whole process will depend on whether peer review will be based on objective technical analysis or whether this will give way to political compromise.

Information edited by Moira Catania and compiled from:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance



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European Documentation & Research Centre (EDRC) was established at the University of Malta in 1992 and was granted in 2004 the status Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence by the European Commission. It operates as a research and teaching centre in the area of European policy studies. In addition to publishing papers, studies and books on developments in the EU and on EU-Malta and Euro-Mediterranean relations. It organises conferences and seminars for a wide range of audiences and publishes a regular Newsletter.



TEPSA

the Trans European
Policy Studies Association

TEPSA Conference – ‘Polish Presidency 2011: Priorities of the Polish Presidency of the EU’

This TEPSA Conference, organised in conjunction with the College of Europe and the Polish *Instytut Europejski*, was held in the College of Europe's Campus in Natolin, Poland on the 30 June to 1 July 2011. Mr Jean Micallef Grimaud, a resident academic at the EDRC attended this conference

Besides the TEPSA General Assembly, there were a number of thematic TEPSA working groups (name of Chairperson of each is placed first):

Jean Paul Jacqué – Institutions; *Jaap de Zwaan* – Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; *Jacek Saryusz-Wolski* and *Michele Comelli* – External Action; *Iain Begg* – Economic and Social Governance.

This conference also included other thematic themes presented by high profile EU personalities and Polish politicians. European Council President Herman Van Rompuy made a speech on the Presidency of the European Council whereas the Polish Foreign Affairs Minister, Radoslaw Sikorski and the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Mikolaj Dowgielewicz spoke about the priorities of the Polish Presidency. Other keynote speeches were made by the President of the European Parliament and former PM of Poland, Jerzy Buzek and EU Commissioner for Financial Programming and the Budget, Janusz Lewandowski.

The next TEPSA conference is to be held in Copenhagen in December 2011. One of the main themes to figure in this Conference will

be the Europe 2020 strategy. TEPSA will be inviting once again high profile EU and Danish politicians for the conference.

