



Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/snapshot/>

Europe and You – a Snapshot for 2009

According to an European Commission release, 2009 represents not only the year of **creativity and innovation**, but also the year when the road towards **economic recovery** was prepared, a year when we can communicate **cheaper via mobile phones**, when **academic and scientific resources** were reunited in order to face craziness at European level, a year to tackle **climate change**, the **fight against hunger** in the poorest states of the world, the concern for the **environment**, the **reconstruction of Europe** after a natural disaster – like in the case of the earthquake in Italy, ensuring a fair price quality rapport for consumers of **banking services, animal protection**, as well as facilitating online trade for European consumers by introducing some measures for the web pages which did not ensure the rights they benefit under Community legislation.

Further details about these ten success stories of the European Commission you can find on <http://ec.europa.eu/snapshot/>.

Amongst all these, Europeans could consider this year an important one for the EU history for finalising the ratification of the **Treaty of Lisbon** as well as its entry into force on 1 December 2009.

Mădălina Barbu
Communication Unit

In this issue:

Interview

NICULAE IDU - Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania
The Lisbon Treaty follows an attempt to establish a European Constitution and a period of reflection on the nature of the European political project. Does the new treaty have the substance of a Constitution of the European Union?

The Lisbon Treaty amends the current treaties establishing the European Union based on the same techniques used for the Single European Act ... [Read more on page 2](#)

In Focus

Multilingualism / plurilingualism in the European context

On 23 November 2009, at the premises of the European Commission Representation in Romania, a debate on the issue of the *Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon* took place ... [Read more on page 3](#)

Analysis/Opinion

The Treaty of Lisbon – the victory of a necessary compromise

On 1 December 2009, when the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force, a new chapter from the epic of the most recent, vast and complex process of reform of the ... [Read more on page 4](#)

Event

The consolidation of financial surveillance in Europe and its importance for the macroeconomic stability and the stability of the business environment

... [Read more on page 5](#)

**Overcoming the economic and financial crisis
Seizing the opportunity to reform the world economy**

... [Read more on page 5](#)

The Republic of Moldova between Eternal Neighbourhood and European Integration

... [Read more on page 6](#)

RJEA, vol. 9, no. 4

... [Read more on page 6](#)

EIR Agenda: December 2009

EIR – Swedish Embassy Conference: The European Union as a Security Actor **11 December**
and its Global Role

EIR Debate: Multilingualism in the European context - Glosar privind
Tratatul de la Lisabona [Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon] **18 December**

NICULAE IDU

Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania

The new Treaty promotes a stable institutional system

The Lisbon Treaty follows an attempt to establish a European Constitution and a period of reflection on the nature of the European political project. Does the new treaty have the substance of a Constitution of the European Union?

The Lisbon Treaty amends the current treaties establishing the European Union based on the same techniques used for the Single European Act, the Treaties of Maastricht, Amsterdam and Nice. In order to use its entire potential, the European Union has to modernise and to reform itself. A 27-member Union can no longer operate based on the rules applicable in EU-15. During the last ten years, the Union has taken actions for the optimisation of the instruments and its capacity to act. At the same time, there is an increasing support to involve the Union in subjects which affect us all, such as: climate change, energy security and international terrorism. That is why the improvements brought by the Treaty will provide the means to better approach the challenges of the world in which we are living today.

There are three fundamental reasons for the existence of the Treaty: achieving efficiency in the decision-making process, enhancing the democratic assumption of responsibility by associating the European Parliament and the national Parliaments and increasing the coherence of the external actions. All these will provide the Union with the necessary means to better defend the interests of its citizens.

The need to have a more efficient decision-making process is one of the reasons raised by the supporters of the Lisbon Treaty. What effects do you envisage for the combination between the transition from the unanimous vote to the qualified majority voting in the Council – especially in key areas, such as, the migration – and the increase of the legislative powers of the European Parliament?

The treaty establishes a clearer distribution of power between the Union and the Member States, allowing the citizen to better understand what each side does. There are more areas in which the directly elected European Parliament must approve the European legislation by co-decision with the Council of the European Union. The Treaty enhances the democratic control in the context of a stronger role of the European Parliament and of the national Parliaments.

The qualified majority voting will be based on the double majority principle (55% of the Member States representing 65% of the EU population). The possibility of establishing a blocking minority of at least four Member States was also provided. The European Council has decided that the new system will apply starting with 2014. In the first three years, until 2017, a Member State can request a certain act to be adopted according to the qualified majority system, as defined in the Treaty of Nice.

The new decision-making system will be extended to new areas, such as the fight against climate change, energy security

and humanitarian aid for the "hot" areas of the world. We could add elements such as: the citizens' initiatives, the diplomatic and consular protection and the procedural issues. The unanimity will continue to apply when adopting decisions regarding taxation, foreign policy, social protection and security.

In the Lisbon Treaty, the Union receives, de jure, the instruments necessary to conduct a more coherent and stronger foreign policy. Will the capacity to act in this direction also be translated into the willingness to do so?

The Treaty creates the institutional position of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is also the Vice-President of the European Commission chairing the External Relations Council. In this formula, the Union replies when a coherent voice is needed on the international stage. Nevertheless, a series of foreign policy subjects can be treated better by the Member States acting together. The position of High Representative is not endowed with new powers, but it concentrates the external action, avoiding confusions and duplications. His activity will be conducted based on the unanimous decision of the Member States, completing, not replacing, the foreign policy and the diplomatic efforts of the Member States which will continue to operate in parallel.



Considering the debate on the "democratic deficit" in the Union, can the Lisbon Treaty be interpreted as a step towards a return to the participative democracy?

The new Treaty promotes a stable institutional system in which the decisions will be adopted more quickly, in a more transparent way, with a stronger democratic control and more emphasis on the respect for taking decisions at the right level. The citizens will have a clearer idea about who is responsible, about what and why the Union adopts a certain decision. For the first time, one million citizens will be able to directly request the Commission to submit a draft decision which they consider important. However, the Treaty does not use well-established elements and does not aim explicitly to promote the participative democracy in its historical sense.

Interview by **Iulia Serafimescu**

Multilingualism / plurilingualism in the European context

„Such works on political terminology are the condition that all languages should gain new concepts, which will become common concepts and not only an import from another language and from another legal and cultural system.” (Christian Tremblay – President of the European Observatory for Plurilingualism – OEP)

On 23 November 2009, at the premises of the European Commission Representation in Romania, a debate on the issue of the *Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon* took place. Guests of honour were Mr. Leonard Orban, European Commissioner for Multilingualism and Mr. Marius Sala, Vice-President of the Romanian Academy, Director of the “Iorgu Iordan – Al. Rosetti” Linguistics Institute.

By comparing the *Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon* with an “Ariadne’s thread” which completes the Treaty and makes it more accessible, Mr. Orban recommended a follow-up to the Glossary with equivalents in the other 20 official languages of the European Union, as well as continuing to value the experience that the European Institute of Romania (EIR) has gained during the period it coordinated the translation of the pre-accession *acquis communautaire*.

Mr. Marius Sala restated the continuation and the consolidation of the Romanian Academy’s participation to EIR’s project on terminological harmonization.

This topic will be largely debated on 18 December 2009, at EIR’s premises, during the *Multilingualism in the European context – Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon* debate. The President of the European Observatory for Plurilingualism, Mr. Christian Tremblay, who will participate to this debate, has had the courtesy to answer several questions, which are presented below.

In your opinion, what strategy could make non-international languages to be used more within the European institutions?

In my opinion, two aspects are important. On the one hand, communication to the public must largely observe a plurilingualism, if not complete, at least fair. The importance of all official languages must correspond to their demographical importance, based on a ratio that could be similar to the one used by the European Parliament, both for recent publications and for less recent ones. On the other hand, in terms of texts elaboration, the linguistic activity in languages other than the “languages of the case”, must start very early. This should allow national administrations to work by using their national languages and not only the languages of the case, mainly English. Of course, this implies certain costs, but I remind you that the total budget for translation and interpreting activities of all European institutions represents around 2 euros per citizen, which is not a lot considering the stake.

During 18 – 19 June 2009, in Berlin, the European Observatory on Plurilingualism organized the second edition of the Assises Européennes du Plurilinguisme. Did it have the results you were expecting?

Assises Européennes du Plurilinguisme reunited around 150 participants from 22 countries. The reunion had multiple objectives. First of all, the aim was to make progresses in terms of reflection in three main directions:

- Citizenship: language, mobility and culture.
- Education: a strategy for language teaching and learning from kindergarten to University
- Businesses: languages within business strategies and workplace relations.

Progress has been made in these three fields, but now we want to take practical actions. Thus, a work group will be set up in Brussels as part of the civil society’s initiatives of making propositions concerning the institutional plurilingualism, which, as you already know, is not observed, especially by the European Commission. We would also like to continue the work we have started on 20 February 2009 with the Romanian Embassy in Paris as regards plurilingualism within higher education, especially in universities.

A second objective aimed at involving European institutions in our activities. This goal has been fulfilled if we consider that the four institutions invited have accepted the invitation and that two of the European Commission’s Directorates-General took part in the event, as well as representatives from the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and from the Committee of the Regions. Of course, nothing is final in Brussels, but what matters is to take part in the process of making things work. In my opinion, we have obtained certain results, and Mr. Leonard Orban’s activity as European Commissioner for Multilingualism was a positive one, but we have to go further and deeper.

There is no doubt that what we have discussed in Berlin is of interest to national institutions and administrations as well. We enjoyed a very interesting participation from the Bundestag, from the French, German and Italian Ministries, but we understand that the members of the EOP must act at local level. From this point of view, there are still considerable efforts to be made.

A third objective concerned the development of the EOP international network. In this regard, Assises has undoubtedly allowed EOP to extend its network.

As for other objectives, such as the impact on the political class, not on the institutions, and on the public, there are still a lot of things to do, and these directions will be priorities in the months and years to come.

Currently, where does the European Charter on Plurilingualism stand in the European context of plurilingualism?

The initial version of the Charter has been translated into 19 languages, while the final version into 9 languages, including Romanian. We hope to have Slovak and Polish versions soon.

The Charter is not a contemplative document. First of all, this is a means of action, a support for citizenship initiatives before the European and national institutions. This is how we intend to use the procedure that will be implemented once the Treaty of Lisbon will enter into force. This treaty recognizes the citizens’ right to take the initiative of inviting the European Commission to make propositions concerning matters in which citizens consider that a legal action is necessary for the implementation of the treaties. Considering that plurilingualism is such a matter, we will use the procedure to seize the European institutions once it enters into force. What can be achieved at European level, can also be achieved at national level, if national institutions acknowledge the rights to petition and popular initiative.



The Treaty of Lisbon – the victory of a necessary compromise



Source: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>

On 1 December 2009, when the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force, a new chapter from the epic of the most recent, vast and complex process of reform of the institutions and EU decision making mechanisms took an end. The enthusiasm which accompanied the moment of signing in Rome, five years ago, the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe left place for a feeling of liberation from an uncertainty with elements of consensus and stability thoroughly analysed and conserved by very pragmatic political assessments.

A long obstacle course towards new opportunities

Which was the almost eight years long itinerary which led to this “victory” in weighting the constitutional aspirations of the European Union? A Convention on the Future of Europe, a few Intergovernmental Conferences intended for negotiating and renegotiating what is to remain a symbol-document for the Community constitutional ambitions, the signing of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, followed by the long obstacle course of ratifications, a process of reflection which inclined the balance towards the minimal scenario of saving the elements of institutional reform provided for in the defunct constitutional treaty are some of the steps taken towards the acceptance of the present version of the Reform Treaty.

Its ratification at the end of two years, marked by a public rejection, as well as by an increase of the euro-indifference and euro-scepticism level is, no doubt, a welcomed and necessary outcome. It will allow, but not guarantee, a better and more coherent functioning of the Community institutional and decision making system, a reduction of the frequently diagnosed European democracy deficit, offering at the same time the premises for outlining a more unitary, more credible and better equipped external profile of the EU on the international stage.

The institutional innovations introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon – the stable Presidency of the European Council, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the reduction in size of the Commission and the reduction of the number of MEPs, strengthening the powers of the European legislative body and of the national parliaments, amending the voting rules in the Council and expanding the scope of the qualified majority, simplifying the reinforced cooperation mechanism, etc. – represent some of the

instruments offered by the treaty for a more profound comprehension of the European integration and for strengthening the role of the EU in a world which is predominantly multipolar. However, these are only the formalised, untested and perfectible premises. The years to come will offer new answers on the political will of the Member States to capitalise on these opportunities and on the concrete efficiency of the new set of instruments provided for by the treaty.

The triumph of the European Intergovernmentalism

The new treaty is, however, first of all, an establishment of the victory of intergovernmental compromise obtained by EU – 27 over the efforts to consolidate and promote, on consensual grounds, the ambitious political project much awaited by the advocates of the European supranationalism. In order to function efficiently in the present extended formula and in order to give a real chance to the re-launching of the enlargement process, the Union needed a reformed institutional architecture with more flexible, more simple and more rapid rules and instruments which are less dependent on the equation of the monolithic unanimities, successfully applicable five decades ago. In a Europe of differences and of national interests which are sometimes hard to reconcile, the thorough analysis of the most sensitive and controversial areas of policy can only be possible by abdicating from the traditional principles of block solidarity and opening up to the flexible integration scenarios, based on non-exclusive ad hoc coalitions made up of different Member States of the EU.

Restoring credibility for the flexible integration

The consensus regarding the actual version of the Lisbon Treaty has been obtained also by negotiating derogatory clauses meant to mitigate the reticence of certain Member States. Moreover, the *opt-in/opt-out* paradigm will also be encouraged by the simplification of the reinforced cooperation mechanism, which will allow the states, within the framework of the treaties, to launch more rapidly various forms of differentiated cooperation in certain policy areas. However, there is the risk that this instrument, already in place, might remain, as until now, just an untaken opportunity.

An extremely sensitive political area which might progress on the basis of such flexible integration instruments is that of European Defence. Upon entrance into force of the new treaty, a new mechanism of structured permanent cooperation might allow the creation of the embryo of a true integrated defence policy at the level of the European Union.

Although it lacks the constitutional substance of the treaty signed five years ago in Rome and – operating by amending the constitutive treaties – it misses almost completely the initial objective of a simplified presentation, the Reform Treaty represents that necessary compromise which might enable the extended Union to respond in a more rapid, coherent and efficient manner to the present day challenges on the European and global agenda.

Gilda Truică

The consolidation of financial surveillance in Europe and its importance for the macroeconomic stability and the stability of the business environment

The objective of the event organised by the European Institute of Romania and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bucharest was to bring together the opinions of recognised experts, representatives of the surveillance authorities in Romania and Poland, of the banking and business environment, regarding the implications of creating new structures of supervision, as well as of strengthening the cooperation and coordination mechanisms in the field of financial surveillance at European level. The starting point of the debate was the package of legislative projects adopted by the European Commission for the purpose of enhancing the surveillance of the financial sector in the European Union. The conference gathered participants both from the governmental and public administration area, as well as from the surveillance authorities of the financial sector and representatives of private banks, insurance firms and the private pensions system, representatives of the Academia and of the research environment, entrepreneurs, officials from the embassies of the EU Member States in Romania, as well as representatives of the civil society and of the media.



Source: <http://www.consiliulm-europa.eu>

The debate, structured in two sessions, had as a starting point *the importance of the new surveillance architecture in the European Union*. The necessity of a good cooperation between the national authorities, of the maintenance on the national level of a series of responsibilities in the field of the financial surveillance, and also the necessity of an institutional diplomacy in the relationship with the Institutions of the European Union have been discussed. Moreover, the importance of adopting measures with a view to implementing the "Solvency 2" Directive and to training the personnel responsible for it has been pointed out. Considering the possibility of regulating the financial markets, it has been stated that it is the duty of the competent authorities to offer protection to the players on the market to the extent to which it is possible, a regulatory framework being needed, at the same time, in order to ensure the continuity of the financial integration process.

During the second session of the conference the participants approached *"the implications of strengthening the surveillance framework of the EU financial sector for economy and business environment"*. The efficiency of the financial surveillance system was brought into the discussion, with the mention that it is necessary to apply the regulations in this field on the internal markets. The issue of the approximation of legislation and the necessity of a centralised structure in the field of the financial surveillance have been reiterated.

Silviu Piroş

Analysis and European Studies Unit

Overcoming the economic and financial crisis Seizing the opportunity to reform the world economy

Held in a moment when it is already possible to conduct the first analyses on the impact of the economic and financial crisis, the international conference organised by EIR in cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in Romania on 18 and 19 November 2009, in Bucharest, aimed to facilitate the confrontation of the points of view of well-known foreign and Romanian analysts with those of the officials of international economic organisations and Romanian economic decision-makers regarding the causes and consequences of this phenomenon.

The welcoming speech was delivered by Mr. **Niculae Idu**, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, special guest of the opening session being Mr. **Eugen Dijmărescu**, Director of the Deposit Guarantee Fund in the Banking System. Opening speeches were also delivered by Ms. **Gabriela Iordache**, State Secretary, Ministry of Public Finances, **Lucian Croitoru**, Counsellor of the NBR Governor and His Excellency Mr. **Mats Aberg**, Ambassador of Sweden in Bucharest.

The conference included speeches of important guests, both Romanian – Mr. **Aurelian Dochia**, the Romanian Center for Economic Policies, Mr. **Florin Pogonaru**, President of the Businessmen's Association of Romania – and foreign: **Fabian Zuleeg**, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre, **Joan Hoey**, Senior Analyst Eastern Europe, The Economist Intelligence Unit, **Tibor Palankai**, Jean Monnet Chair, Director of the European Study Center and Gabor Hunya, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies.

The conference works have been organised in three sessions (moderated by Mr. **Valentin Lazea**, NBR Chief Economist, Ms. **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of EIR and Mr. **Dragoş Pîslaru**, General Manager, GEA Strategy and Consulting), giving the possibility of shaping a vision both retrospective and prospective in view of drawing conclusions on overcoming the current crisis, limiting its consequences, as well as the actions which must be conducted for avoiding its repetition. The final speech was delivered by Mr. **Mişu Negriţoiu**, Director General of ING Bank.

The three sessions with subjects related to the global nature of the economic and financial crisis and the possibility of an evolution towards a new international financial architecture, Europe's reaction to the crisis, the European Economic Recovery Plan and identifying certain specificities in the behaviour of the new Member States as regards the fight against the effects of the crisis, generated a great interest among the participants, which were representatives of the Romanian governmental area and public administration, of the European Commission and international economic organisations, of the academic and research environment, entrepreneurs, officials of the Embassies of the Member States in Romania, as well as the representatives of the civil society and mass-media.

The works of the conferences will be included in a post-event brochure which will reflect the key subjects discussed during the conference sessions. The brochure will be prepared by EIR in cooperation with the Representation of the European Commission in Romania and is to be published in the first quarter of 2010.

Iulia Serafimescu

Analysis and European Studies Unit

RJEA, vol. 9, no. 4

Development, structural policy, competition, energy market, energy security, European Neighbourhood Policy, Czech Presidency, political profile are the keywords you can find in the December 2009 issue of RJEA.

Alina Bârgăoanu and **Loredana Călinescu** in the article *Regional and Cohesion Policy – the Crossroads of EU Sectoral Policies* make a review of the main theories of development in order to provide the conceptual framework needed to discuss one of the most important European policies – the Regional and Cohesion Policy. Moreover, the authors analyse this policy taking into consideration the world economic crisis.

In the same frame of the economic crisis **Cristina Havriş** analyses in the article *Competition and Regulation in the EU Energy Market the relationship between competition and the quality of services provided by the European energy market*. Characterised by the existence of Member States' monopolies, the energy market is a fragmented one, with an often divergent energy infrastructure and lack of coordination and cooperation.

The topic of energy is a constant concern for other authors as well, such as **Ovidiu-Horia Maican** with his article *Some Legal Aspects of Energy Security in the Relations between EU and Russia*. The author analyses the European Commission Green Papers of 2000 and 2006, reviewing the main challenges of the energy situation at the European level. We thus have access to the Community initiatives and we can see clearly what are the main obstacles encountered in assuring the energy security.

The European Union enlargement policy towards its Eastern neighbours is a continuous subject of interest for the academic world as it can be proved by **Oana Mocanu's** article *The Eastern Partnership – a premise for an Enhanced EU-Eastern Neighbours Cooperation Relationship*. We are dealing with a synthetic presentation that clarifies the main stages of this political project. It is a necessary analysis as we continue to have a yet not well informed general audience with regard to the Eastern Partnership and its role within the European Union foreign policy.

At the end of the Czech Presidency **Petr Haniok** and **Hubert Smekal** analyse this mandate in the article *The Czech Presidency of the EU Council: no Triumph, no Tragedy*. They explain the special, national and foreign context of the beginning of the Czech Presidency. The Czech Republic mandate was severely criticised by the European media often on superficial grounds as it results from this analysis.

2009 was also the year of European Parliament elections, elections which at least in Romania were characterised by a fierce electoral competition. **Sergiu Gherghina** and **Mihail Chiru** present the "national characteristics" in the article *Where is the Difference? The Profile of the Romanian Candidates for the 2009 European Elections*. They provide an accurate description of the Romanian candidates, a description that, due to its meticulous documentation can serve as a basis for a potential future research realised at the European level.

For information on how you can purchase the Journal in printed format please access www.ier.ro/rjea, the Contact section or write at sales-rjea@ier.ro.

Mihai Sebe

European Studies and Analysis Unit

The Republic of Moldova between Eternal Neighbourhood and European Integration

The European Institute of Romania and the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations approached the topic "The Republic of Moldova between Eternal Neighbourhood and European Integration" in the framework of an event which aimed at analysing the challenges and perspectives involved by the rapprochement of the Republic of Moldova of its European identity. Speakers debated various options of restructuring the political, economic and social system from the neighbouring state, from the perspective of the latest developments which put their mark on Moldova's post-communist society, highlighting the necessity to increase the involvement of state institutions, as well as of the civil society, the business and the academic environment in shaping up a working Europeanization perspective.

Moldova's Rapprochement to the Euro-Atlantic space and bilateral relations with Romania

The debate was opened by Mr. **Ion Bulei**, Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations (ISPRI) of the Romanian Academy, and enjoyed the participation of Mr. **Ion Negrei**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova, who welcomed the organization of this event as a proof of an increased interest in Moldova's political and social developments. Mrs. **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of the European Institute of Romania, Mr. **Efim Chilarî**, Chargé d'Affaires, Minister-counsellor within the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova in Romania, Mr. **Oleg Serebrian**, political analyst and member of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, **Dan Dungaci**, researcher at ISPRI, and Mr. **Adrian Cioreanu**, PhD University Professor at the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, tackled geopolitical, geostrategic, political, social and cultural aspects of Moldova's course towards Euro-Atlantic policy objectives.

Mr. **Cristian Ghinea**, Director of the Romanian Centre for European Policies highlighted the issue concerning Europeans' perception on the Republic of Moldova and called upon Bucharest to undertake increased actions, in order to give a proper reflection of this issue at the European level. Aspects tackled by other participants concerned the situation of the education system in Moldova, the necessity to adopt a pragmatic attitude towards the unionist matter, the procrastination of Transnistria's issue as a major obstacle to Moldova's accession to the Euro-Atlantic structures, the role as well as the limitations of the Eastern Partnership in the region, the need for a deep reform of the internal political system and other economic and social elements.

The full summary of the event, in Romanian, can be accessed on EIR's webpage: http://www.ier.ro/documente/arhiva_evenimente_2009/dezbatere_R.Moldova_sinteza_16_11_09_.pdf.

Agnes Nicolescu

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