

interview _____

H.E. Henri PAUL

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Romania



France holds the presidency of the G20 in 2011 and has established, in this capacity, a very ambitious agenda with objectives like the reform of the International Monetary System (IMS) and the strengthening of the financial regulation. Could you tell us more about these objectives? What is their current status?

For a long time France has played an important role in the organization of the global economic governance and, of course, while holding the presidency of the G20 and learning lessons from the financial crisis, it keeps playing this role. Within our cycle of conferences, Benoit

Coeuré, Director General of the Treasury, came to Bucharest last December to explain the crisis exit strategies. Let me remind you that it was France, for instance, at the origin of the G7 in 1975, and of the concerted budget recovery proposed at the G20 meeting of London in 2009.

Our agenda is very ambitious and contains four major themes: the reform of the international financial system and the strengthening of the financial safety mechanisms for the countries confronted with the volatility of capital flows, the extension of the financial regulation to shadow banking, the regulation of the raw material markets, the fight against non-cooperative jurisdictions ... **p.2**

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in focus _____

The Conclusions of the European Council (23 – 24 June)

The summer meeting of the European Council, chaired by Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the institution, was held in Brussels on 23 and 24 June.

The main topics debated by the Heads of State or Government of the 27 EU Member States were: economic policy, migration, the accession negotiations with Croatia, Roma inclusion and the endorsement of the Strategy for the Danube Region ... **p.8**



... We move forward in a progressive and concerted manner. I am sure that the election of Christine Lagarde in front of the IMF, which is good news for Europe, shall allow us to move forward more quickly.

Significant progress has already been made: on 4 and 5 of June last year, at the Busan high level meeting, in South Korea, the ministers agreed to the strengthening of the economic policies, the need to reach an agreement at the Seoul high level meeting, next November, on the strengthening of the banks, capital, on the common taxation principles of the financial sector and on the need to reorganize, in time, the financial sector.

Further progress has already been made, especially concerning the supervision of credit rating agencies, the regulation of derived products, the fight against tax havens, the establishment of the market players' remunerations.

During the last few months, the Romanian media spoke about Romania's accession to the Schengen area, more precisely about a French "opposition" to this accession. Could you tell us more about this and about the current situation?

Indeed, among other states, France has asked Romania and Bulgaria to make additional efforts to fight against corruption in order to be able, in complete safety, to agree to the accession of these two countries to the Schengen area. First of all, let me remind you that this area of free movement between European countries now faces a crisis: due to the migratory pressure of countries from the African continent or the Middle East facing serious problems or economic crises, it is difficult for the European countries to absorb their nationals who wish to emigrate, sometimes even at the risk of their life. Therefore we wish to introduce safeguard clauses in order to protect this area of free movement. It is not about imposing restrictions on the movement of Romanian citizens, but on the movement of non-European citizens.

After our discussions with the Romanian authorities, they understood the reasons of our objections; we have always asserted the vocation of Romania and Bulgaria to adhere to the

H.E. Henri Paul

At present, he is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Romania (since August 2007).

Born on 8 August 1952 in Arcachon (Gironde), he is a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris) and holds a Bachelor's degree in Law. Between 1978 – 1980, he attended the French National School of Administration (École Nationale d'Administration) ("Voltaire" year).

He started his career in public service in 1980, being an auditor at the Court of Auditors until 1984. Between 1984 – 1998, he was Referendary Counsellor at the Cour des comptes, and in 1998 he became Master Counsellor in the same institution.

In parallel, His Excellency Henri Paul carried out a series of important duties in the French administrative system, at local and central level, being Director of Financial Affairs for the Île-de-France region, in the period 1986 – 1993. Between 1993 – 1994, he was Deputy Director of the Cabinet of Ms. Simone Veil (Minister of State, Minister of social affairs, of health and of town) and Director of the Cabinet of Mr. Philippe Douste-Blazy (Delegate Minister for Health). From 1994 until 1998, he was Director of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs for the Overseas Territories in the Ministry for Overseas Departments and Territories.

Culture is another field of interest for His Excellency Henri Paul; between 2002 – 2004, he was President of the Institute for the Financing of Cinema and Cultural Industries, and from 2004 until his appointment as Ambassador to Romania, he was Director of the Cabinet of Mr. Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres (Minister of Culture and Communications).

His Excellency Henri Paul is an Officer of the Legion of Honour and of the National Order of Merit.

Schengen area when the conditions are met. We hope this will be the case by the end of 2012. To this effect, the Commission's reports on the effective application of the reform of justice are closely followed by the interested European countries.

Lately, there were many speculations about a certain "difficulty" in the relations between France and Romania. What is in fact the situation of the political cooperation between France and Romania in the European Union and on the international stage?

The Romanian authorities regretted that the intensity of political dialogue between the two countries was affected by the Schengen issue. But I think we got over this phase: from the beginning of the year the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice came to Paris to engage in discussions with their homologues, the French Minister of Internal Affairs came to Bucharest and several bilateral consultations occurred.

Each time we have noticed a large identity of views on the current international issues, except for a few nuances. At the last European Council, the Romanian President agreed to the reform of the Schengen area, for instance.

But, of course, we can always do better.

Since 2007, the Embassy of France in Romania and the European Institute of Romania have an intense academic collaboration in the series of conferences 'France - Romania: together in Europe'. How do you appreciate the success and results of this project so far?

I see a very positive result of this cycle of conferences. The Romanian participants are from various fields, such as administration, education or business, the French lecturers are generally very satisfied, and so am I, as each time I take advantage to make new contacts and deepen common topics.

What is the most persistent memory that you have kept since you became ambassador in Romania? What impressed you most?

They are so many things, I cannot choose one. I lived intensely the French presidency of the European Union in 2008. I have also...

...been able to organize large scale cultural events which brought me a lot of satisfaction, as I saw that the Romanian audience is connoisseur and attentive. The Romanian francophony and francophily really exist in our multicultural world. This gives strength to our relation allowing us to overcome the difficulties.

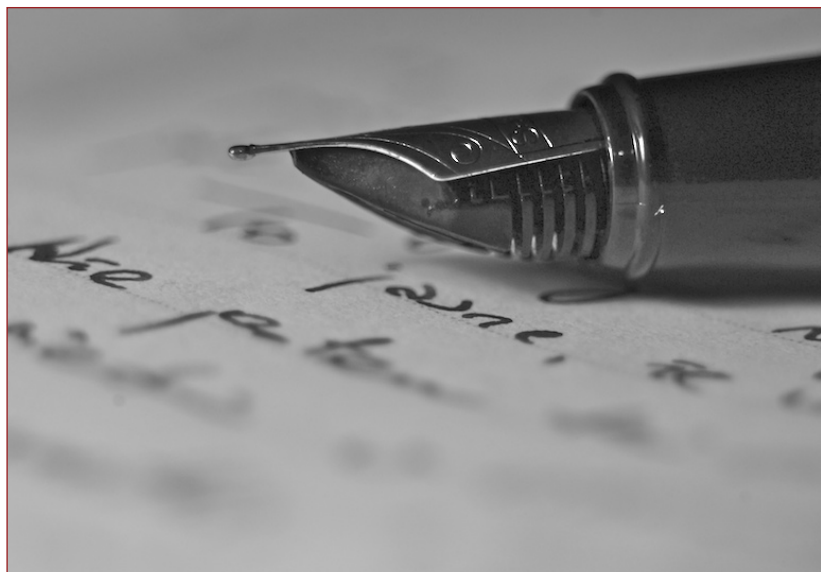
If I can express my regret, it is that I do not have enough large scale cooperation projects especially in the economic field. I hope that the future relaunching will generate more projects. Our administrative cooperation is good, especially in the field of justice and police, as well as in the field of governance.

What cooperation projects do you have for the future between France and Romania and in which fields?

Interview by **Mihai Sebe**

analysis | opinion

Schengen Area and migration



On 14 June 1985, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, France and Luxembourg signed the Schengen Agreement. The purpose of this agreement was to abolish internal border controls and harmonize external border controls. At present, 25 European states have signed this agreement: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Among these, three states are not members of the European Union: Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus and Liechtenstein are in the process of accession.

The main provisions of the Schengen Agreement concern the abolition of internal border checks and the movement of persons, the Schengen Information System (SIS), the transport and movement of goods and data protection¹.

A major problem faced lately by the Schengen Area is the migration of citizens from North Africa to Italy and Malta, due to political conflicts in the region. They enter the Schengen Area mainly through the Italian island of Lampedusa, which is close to the Tunisian coast, a fact that caused the profound dissatisfaction of certain European states and gave rise to a series of negotiations on the fate of the Schengen Area and the immigrants. In response, the European Commission wishes to implement a common system regarding migration and asylum in the European Union states, since “all Member States should intervene if the border countries cannot manage by themselves an unexpected flow of migrants”². Therefore, the Justice and Home Affairs Council brought up at its meeting in Luxembourg, between 9 – 10 June this year, the issue of migration and asylum in the European Union, by establishing a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by 2012³.

Illegal migration is a problem that postponed the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen Area, since countries like France, Germany and Netherlands expressed reservations concerning their ability to cope with illegal migration and border crime. Jean-Dominique Nolle, head of Europol’s Analysis and Information Department, thinks the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen zone has a potential to lift the pressure from the Turkish-Greek border⁴. However, the opinions are divided.

Sándor Pintér, the Hungarian Minister for Home Affairs, thinks the two countries are technically prepared and, more than that, Bulgaria has worked out a separate strategy for this situation, which provides an appropriate guarantee for the rest of the Member States⁵. Romania is confronted with waves of immigrants from the Republic of Moldova, but their number is insignificant compared to the figures at European level.

Migration is a problem on the agenda of European officials, which, in the context of the demographic decline in developed countries, highlights unprecedented situations. On the one hand, Europe needs external labour; on the other hand, the migration is a very sensitive process and it must be kept permanently under control. In this case, the maintenance of the balance between the two components of the migration flow is at stake.

Agnes Nicolescu

¹ <http://www.schengen.mira.gov.ro/index01.htm>

² http://ec.europa.eu/news/justice/110506_ro.htm

³ <http://europa.eu/eucalendar/event/id/2913-justice-and-home-affairs-council/mode/standalone>

⁴ <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/bulgaria-romania.amv>

⁵ <http://www.eu2011.hu/news/pinter-schengen-enlargement-be-decided-september>

Migration beyond prejudice and myths

The Soros Foundation and the European Institute of Romania (EIR) organised, at Intercontinental Hotel, on 9 June 2011, a debate on “Migration beyond prejudices and myths”. The conclusions of the study Maximising the Development Impact of Migration, made by a team of authors from the International Agency for Source Country Information (IASCI) and the Soros Foundation, were presented at the event.

After a short presentation of the topic by Gabriela Drăgan, Director-General of EIR, Gabriel Petrescu, Executive Director of the Soros Romania Foundation, took the floor and presented an updated profile of the Romanian emigrant. The issue of cash flows from emigrants and financial relations between emigrants and their families was also brought up. Both speakers focused on destroying some myths created in that regard, which are invalidated by the study.

The professional qualification level of emigrants was the topic of the intervention of the Presidential Adviser Leonard Orban, who argued that, in this context, public institutions are in a difficult situation, due to the lack of qualified staff in fields like IT and health. Pursuing this idea, Valentin Lazea, Chief Economist at the National Bank of Romania, talked about the exodus of specialists towards the West (the so-called “brain drain” phenomenon). One of the proposed solutions was a better promotion of young people with exceptional results so that the state can recover its investment in their education.

Cristian Ilie, Director General of the European Affairs Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business Environment, stressed out the importance of developing the business environment in order to attract emigrants back to the country. A generally accepted fact is that the Romanian emigrants wish to come back to their country of origin if they can achieve their financial and social objectives.



The representatives of the research team, Nicolaas de Zwager, Director of IASCI, and Ciprian Niță, from the International Organisation for Migration, made an analysis of emigrants’ reasoning, emphasizing the fact that they have well established financial objectives that prevail over their will to integrate into the destination country. The representatives of the authors presented a social network designed for the interaction among emigrants, called NEXUS. It has also been presented the difficulties faced by emigrants, generated, among other things, by their way of relating to the standard of living in the destination countries.

In the last part of the meeting, the participating audience addressed a series of questions regarding the context of the crisis and its impact on migration.

For details about this event please visit: www.ier.ro, Communication and Marketing / Previous events section.

Alexandru Boboc

Monitoring and controlling public policies and expenditures

The conference “Monitoring and controlling public policies and expenditures” in the series of conferences “Romania-France: together in Europe” took place in the lecture hall of the Central University Library, on Monday, 27 June, and was held by the Public Prosecutor of the French Court of Auditors, Jean-François Bénard. The conference was attended by His Excellency Henri Paul, Ambassador of the French Republic to Romania, and was chaired by Gabriela Drăgan, Director General of the European Institute of Romania (EIR).

After a short introduction made by His Excellency Henri Paul, Jean-François Bénard presented the role of the Court of Auditors in the evaluation of public expenditures, from the perspective of the three elements it comprises.

The first element is the legal framework established in order to facilitate a better control of the state budget and to offer the French Parliament an optimal method for regulating it. In order to overcome the difficulties related to efficiency and communication with the public, this new system of budget tasks (general policies voted by the parliament) was implemented in 2001. Within the framework of these tasks, several programmes with various degrees of priority, representing the means of

applying a public policy managed by a ministry in the spirit of the predetermined strategy, were put in place. These programmes include several actions consisting of sequences that identify the means and methods of action used by the participants in a certain programme. The development of the programmes is supervised by ministries through programming laws for periods of approximately three years. The framework laws on finances have also been mentioned as intermediary between the Budget Law and the Constitution. Moreover, the guest drew attention to the judicial nature of social contributions in the process of social security financing, which are regulated, not imposed. In the same time, local communities can self-manage in the limit of their own resources, without breaking the “golden rule” of not voting budgets based on deficits.



The second element consists of the diagnosis instruments available to the Court of Auditors, including: budget accounting, which does not offer the best representation of public finance, due to an exclusive consideration of budget inputs and outputs; general accounting, certified by the Court of Auditors due to similarities with the private sector and national accounting, which offers the advantage of being divided into categories by the public administration, due to the calculation of the balance and the public debt.

The third element is represented by public finance management policies, supported by the Stability and Growth Pact, together with stability programmes. Management can be split into risk analysis (such as public debt or ageing population), progress estimation by calculating potential growth and structural deficit and, last but not least, economic recovery measures.

In conclusion, the degree of involvement of the Court of Auditors will increase in order to optimise the system of public expenditure and policies and facilitate public finance transparency.

For details about this event please visit: www.ier.ro, Communication and Marketing / Previous events section.

Alexandru Boboc

Religions, fundamental rights and laicity* in the European Union

A new conference within the project “Romania – France: together in Europe”, with the topic “Religions, fundamental rights and laicity in the European Union”, was held on Thursday, 16 June 2011. The lecture hall of the Central University Library hosted the event which was attended by His Excellency Henri Paul, the Ambassador of France in Romania. The lecture was delivered by Jean-François Colosimo, President of Centre National du Livre (CNL) in France, lecturer at Saint Serge Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris. The meeting was chaired by Răzvan Theodorescu, member of the Romanian Academy and member of the Administrative Board of the European Institute of Romania (EIR), former Minister of Culture, former Senator.

The conference was opened by H.E. Henri Paul, who discussed the issues raised in Europe by the concept of laicity, as it is perceived in France.

In his presentation, Jean-François Colosimo focused on the way laicity is understood and applied in France. In his opinion, the French experience in the religious field was marked by the way of promoting Christian values to non-Christians and by the way in which the religious wars were brought to an end.



The beginning of laicity in France is marked by the 1905 Law on the separation between the State and the Church. Initially, laicity was characterised by aggressiveness directed in particular against Jewish communities. At present, in

* fr. laïcité

Europe, the existence of a positive laicity is noticed, in the context in which the religious communities are not subjected to the state anymore, but have acquired the total freedom to take part in the social life. Laicity can be defined as the reign of the ideological freedom and it also represents a possible solution for a harmonious future within the EU, also from the religious point of view.

Jean-François Colosimo underlined that a distinction must be made between the concept of *laicity* and that of *secularization* and also stated that, at present, there is a secularization phenomenon in Europe.

As for the Orthodox world, it lacks the occidental experience of the national state and is also affected by the communist

period. It is noticed the importance of the Romanian orthodox communities in Europe, Romania being considered “a bridge-country between East and West, between the Latin and the Slavic cultures, between the two Europes”.

By its geographical placement and its human resources, Romania “may play a very important role in the future as far as it does not fear to assume this role”, the lecturer also stated.

For details about this event please visit: www.ier.ro, Communication and Marketing / Previous events section.

Teodora Bratu

in focus

June 2011 Plenary Session

The European Parliament plenary session took place at Strasbourg on 6 – 9 June 2011. The members of the European Parliament meet once a month, for a four-day session, to vote on EU legislation and to adopt a stance on political issues. In addition to these twelve annual Strasbourg sessions, the European Parliament can also meet in additional two-day plenary sessions in Brussels up to six times a year.

The main themes discussed on the first day were boosting competition and reducing reliance on ratings in view of toughening up credit rating agency rules. Credit rating agencies are considered to enjoy an excessive reliance which, in the context of the current economic crisis, may lead to major difficulties on the international market. To this effect, competition must be boosted and reliance on ratings granted by these agencies must be reduced*.



The enlargement of the Schengen area by accepting Romania and Bulgaria, keeping the Parliament informed of additional security measures to be taken in the Bulgaria-Turkey-Greece area in order to deal with any surge in migration pressure; the Eurovignette; the E. coli poisoning and the outbreak in Germany; EU-Russia relations were key items discussed on the second day of the session.

The Parliament discussed the future of EU financial framework, starting from the proposal of some Member States to freeze future EU budgets at 2013 levels, on the third day. It also briefed on how the new Hungarian Constitution observes the EU fundamental values and principles.

The plenary session ended on the fourth day, with discussions on human rights and democracy concerning Madagascar, Guantanamo and Ukraine.

Other topics concerned the Sudan border tensions, the selection process for the new IMF managing director, Hans Gustaf Wessberg's candidature as member of the European Court of Auditors, the EU-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

For more details about the event please visit:

<http://europa.eu/eucalendar/event/id/160066-european-parliament-plenary-session/mode/window>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/indexPartSession.do?reference=2011-06&language=EN>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20110516NEW19404/html/Newsletter-6-9-June-2011-Strasbourg-plenary-session>

Mihai Sebe

* <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A7-2011-0081+0+DOC+XML+V0//RO>

Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting, 9 and 10 June 2011

The Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting took place in Luxembourg on 9 and 10 June.

On the first day, the home affairs ministers discussed issues related to the modification of FRONTEX, the European Agency for the Management of External Borders, the Hungarian presidency aiming at reaching an agreement on the regulation proposed by the European Council in March 2011.

The main subjects discussed concerned migration and asylum in the EU in 2010 and a dialogue for migration, mobility and security with the Southern Mediterranean. As regards the legislative package that aims at establishing a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by 2012, the Council took note of the proposal on procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, as well as the reception conditions for asylum seekers.

The main duty of the Council, concerning the Schengen area, was the completion of the evaluation process for Bulgaria and Romania. Other agenda topics were the strategy against terrorism, the priorities for the fight against organized crime, the EU-US and EU-Russia ministerial meetings on justice and home affairs.

The EU, Norway, Island, Liechtenstein and Switzerland Mixed Committee examined the status of the development of the Visa Information System (VIS) and the Schengen Information System II (SIS II) and also discussed the proposal for a regulation on establishing an Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in areas such as freedom, security and justice.

On the second day, the Council adopted a general approach on a draft directive on attacks against information systems, defining the criminal offences in this field, the minimum penalty levels for such offences, as well as common provisions to prevent such attacks and improve European cooperation in this field.

The ministers discussed the proposal to allow one EU Member State to carry out investigation measures (interviewing witnesses, searches, seizures, interception of telecommunications, observation, infiltration and monitoring of bank accounts) at the request of another EU Member State, on the basis of mutual recognition and agreed the general principles.

The ministers of justice sought agreement on attributing legal value to the electronic edition of the Official Journal of the EU,



CONSILIUM EUROPAEUM

taking note of progresses on e-Justice and the current phase of EU's accession to the European Convention of Human Rights. The main points reached were: guidelines on methodological steps to be taken to check fundamental rights compatibility at the Council's preparatory bodies and the EU-USA Justice and Home Affairs meeting. Finally, the Council adopted conclusions concerning the strengthening of the rights and increasing the protection of victims and conclusions regarding the 9th Eurojust annual report for 2010.

For additional information, please visit: <http://europa.eu/eucalendar/event/id/2913-justice-and-home-affairs-council/mode/standalone>

Florentina Joița

The European Union- Russia Summit

The European Union-Russia Summit was held in Nizhny Novgorod, the Russian Federation on 9 and 10 June 2011. Topics like the development of economic relations, the modernisation of Russia and the situation in North Africa and the Middle East were discussed at the meeting.

The EU and Russia leaders talked about the beneficial contribution of the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation, launched in 2010, supported by the other 16 bilateral partnerships. Projects and activities benefit from considerable European financial assistance, increased by a two billion euro loan during the summit.

The rule of law, the protection of citizens' rights and fair business conditions are indispensable to modernisation. They sustain the approach between citizens in Russia and Europe and the development of economic relations. The situation of human rights in Russia continues to raise concerns in Europe. In this regard, the elections in Russia, which will take place in December 2011 and in March next year, present a particular interest, especially from the perspective of complying with international obligations and of political pluralism.

The meeting registered progress in negotiations on the bilateral EU-Russia agreement, in Russia's accession to the World Trade Organisation process and in the issue of the liberalisation of the visa regime. Moreover, the parties reached a compromise agreement regarding the lifting of the ban on imports of fresh European vegetables in Russia, after the E.coli crisis.



Cooperation in the field of foreign and security policy is a positive feature of bilateral relations, but it still has an unused potential. The EU aims at concluding a framework cooperation agreement on crisis management by the end of this year. The parties expressed similar opinions regarding the importance of recommencing the dialogue in the Middle East peace process and the need of a democratic transition process in Libya. Concerning the problems of the European continent, Herman VAN ROMPUY, President of the European Council, stressed the need to achieve significant progress in solving the open problems in Moldova/Transnistria.

The EU-Russia summit, through the dialogue and its excellent atmosphere, proves, according to the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, that this partnership is a fruitful one.

Julian Oneașcă

The Conclusions of the European Council (23-24 June)



The summer meeting of the European Council, chaired by Herman Van Rompuy, the president of the institution, was held in Brussels on 23 and 24 June.

The main topics debated by the Heads of State or Government of the 27 EU Member States were: economic policy, migration, the accession negotiations with Croatia, Roma inclusion and the endorsement of the Strategy for the Danube Region.

The European Council concluded the first European semester by collectively assessing the Member States' programmes on the basis of the Commission's evaluation and by endorsing the recommendations that must be taken into account in upcoming national decisions on budgets and structural reforms. In this context the Council noted the pledge of Member States taking part in the Euro Plus Pact to enhance the ambition and precision of their commitments in next year's exercise. The European Council assessed the situation of Member States with an economic adjustment programme.

As regards Greece, the euro area Heads of State or Government agreed on the path to follow and called on their Finance Ministers to complete works in order to allow the necessary decisions to be taken by early July.

After an extensive debate, the Council set orientations for the development of the EU's migration policy, for the governance of the Schengen area, the control of external borders, the development of partnerships with the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood and the completion of the Common European Asylum System by 2012.

The European Council agreed that the accession negotiations with Croatia should be concluded by the end of June 2011,

thus confirming its strong commitment to the enlargement perspective towards the Western Balkans. Croatia should continue its reform efforts with the same vigour, especially concerning the judicial system and fundamental rights, so as to be able to fully assume its obligations as Member State from the date of accession.

The Council endorsed the Presidency's report on Roma inclusion, after noting its paramount importance, and requested Member States to implement immediately the Council's conclusions of 19 May 2011 on the EU framework for national Roma integration strategies covering the period up to 2020.

Other points discussed at the meeting included: the appointment of Mario Draghi as President of the European Central Bank for the term of office starting from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2019 and the adoption of a declaration on the Southern Neighbourhood. In the framework of this declaration, the European Council endorsed the new approach to relations with the European Union's neighbourhood, as set out in the Council's conclusions of 20 June 2011, and emphasized the importance of the future Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw (29 – 30 September 2011).

In the declaration on the Southern Neighbourhood, the Council condemned the repression and the violence applied by the Syrian regime and expressed its concern about the situation in Yemen, urging the parties to stop violence, respect human rights and seek the achievement of a permanent cease-fire.

Teodora Bratu

350 people trained at EIR

The Research and Training in European Affairs Unit organized during the first half of 2011 training sessions corresponding to a number of 9 training programmes.

Five out of the nine programmes which have taken place were programmes authorised by the National Council for Adult Vocational Training: Expert in accessing structural and cohesion funds, Public Procurement Expert, Civil and Social Competencies, Project Manager and Trainer (these last two organised in partnership with the Adult Vocational Training Association). The courses summed up a total of 350 attendants.

The partnership of EIR with the French Institute of Bucharest (IFB) and École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) continues in 2011. This year's first course in French organised in this partnership was held in June and its objective was to prepare the Romanian public institution experts for the European institutions employment competitions (the following seminar will take place between 11 and 13 October 2011).



Three thematic seminars are scheduled for the period September – November 2011: L'avenir de la politique agricole commune [Future of the Common Agricultural Policy]; Le financement de projets d'envergure régionale, nationale et européenne: limites et opportunités du partenariat public/privé [Financing of regional, national and European commitments: limits and opportunities of the public/private partnerships]; Les engagements de l'UE en faveur de la lutte contre le changement climatique – quels impacts sur les politiques publiques dans le domaine de l'énergie, des transports, du logement, de l'agriculture [The EU commitments for combating climate change - impacts over the public policies in energy, transport, housing and agriculture fields. The activities of this partnership are financed by the International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF).

In April this year the partnership between EIR and euphorum (Germany) was launched and the first training session, for the preparation of the EPSO AD 2011 competition for employment in the European institutions, has been held. The novelty of this partnership is the fact that the seminar is in English and it lasts only one day, during the weekend.

On 14 and 15 April, a first session of the specialised training programme Free Trade with the European Union was held in Chişinău. It was attended by 27 representatives of the central administration of the Republic of Moldova and members of the working groups for the technical coordination of the negotiation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the European Union (DCFTA). This training programme was carried out within the project Preparing Moldova for a comprehensive free trade area with the European Union, implemented by EIR in cooperation with the Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul" of the Republic of Moldova and financed from the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, an initiative of the German Marshall Fund.

One of EIR's emblematic courses is the Legal system of the European Union, which offers the attendants detailed information about the EU institutions, their legal acts, as well as the Community jurisdiction; the first session of this year was held between 18 – 19 April.

Between 21 and 25 March 2011 the Translation Coordination Unit organised the first session of this year of the programme "Development of competences for the translation and revision of legal texts".



Following the success of the three sessions organized in 2010 and based on the attendants' feedback, the training programme was prolonged from 3 to 5 days in order to deepen the comprehension of the concepts and techniques already included in the programme structure, to extend the practical applications, as well as to include new themes, relevant for the field of translation and revision of complex legal texts. The attendants had various professional backgrounds, most of them being employees of public institutions and private companies. Although they are not hired on positions of translators, they have translation/revision responsibilities which determined their interest in this programme.

Detailed information, the agenda of the previous editions and opinions of the former attendants can be found on the web page: http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/curs_dct_traducator.

A new partnership, launched in June this year, was signed with the National Confederation of Public Worker's Unions (SED LEX) within the project „Budget +”, a public sector workers discount programme. The partnership shall give the possibility to the holders of the Buget + card to benefit of a 20% discount from the price of EIR's training programmes.

Alice Olaru
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