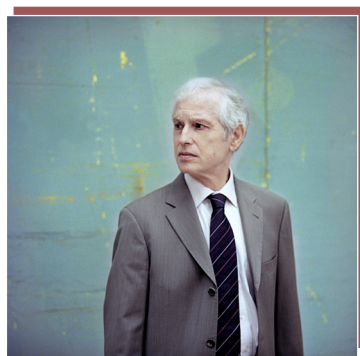


interview \_\_\_\_\_

## Philippe HERZOG

former MEP and university professor, founding Chairman of Confrontations Europe



Recently, the French-German “couple” has published a letter in which it was required the establishment of a Competitiveness Pact. What do you think about this initiative? What is the attitude of the current presidency of the European Union on this subject?

Any initiative that aims at building the Economic Union is welcomed. Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy have decided to take action: they proposed a Competitiveness Pact. After hesitating, Germany has thus confirmed its interest in consolidating the EMU. We must fully support the principle of such a Pact which, unlike the inefficient technocratic exercises of the “open method of coordination”, will be carried out as a “reinforced cooperation” over clear engagements.

Although such an initiative is often criticised as some sort of French-German “diktat”, we must remember that it is an open one and I’m happy that Romania and five other countries outside the euro area have accepted to participate to it.

The fact that heads of states show interest in this central issue of competitiveness and convergence will create a greater “ownership” of national bodies and their political decision-makers. They will no longer be able to complain of the “Brussels’ constraint”, as it has often been the case with the Strategy of Lisbon ... **p. 2**

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## Decisions concerning the euro area

The financial stability topic is extremely intense debated this year. The Council, at the proposal of the Task Force for the Economic Governance, supports the creation of a European Stability Mechanism around which are concentrated the main reunions of the institutions involved in the making and applying of financial and economic policies. The Mechanism and the Euro Plus Pact are the priorities of the current agenda. So far, euro has been adopted by 17 Member States (chronologically): Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus ... **p. 6**



... The European Council gave green light at the March 24<sup>th</sup> summit.

**Why do we need a Competitiveness Pact? Aren't the present policies enough?**

For a country, to be competitive means to be able to produce in order to cover the internal demand and the export. There can be deficits, but they can't be financed indefinitely by others. Solidarity is necessary but it has to be subjected to competitiveness efforts. Or, the coordination of the economic policies didn't exist during the 2000's and the competitiveness divergences among the Member States got worse. They weaken the Monetary Union and threaten to disintegrate the European Union.

The experience has shown that, at EU level, it isn't possible to seriously advance in 27 in the field of national policy coordination. There are always states - one or more - that refuse or keep the distance. And that's what creates the interest for the Pact among the volunteers. However, the cooperation among governments doesn't exempt from the Community way, on the contrary. The Commission must cooperate with the Member States and concentrate on its role: redevelopment of the internal market, banking and financial regulation, consolidation of the European budget.

**The liberal group in the European Parliament has criticised the present project for a Competitiveness Pact and has offered its own solutions. The socialists seem to do the same thing. How are their visions different from the proposed project?**

The liberal group opposes the intergovernmental method to the Community method while in my opinion and as I have shown, it is necessary to walk on two feet. These conflicts of prerogatives are not relevant for the citizens; it is the content of the Pact that counts.

The Socialist Project for Competitiveness and employment is about economic

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Philippe Herzog started his career in 1964 at the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) where he contributed to the first French model of economic forecast. From 1969 to 2003 he taught economics at many universities, among which we can mention Paris-X Nanterre. He joined the French Communist Party (FCP) and was elected member of the Political Bureau in 1979, managing the economic section and the "Economics and politics magazine"; from this position he became one of the authors of the Common Programme of the Left, in the 1970's, programme that promoted an increased participation of the employees in the management of the undertakings. He left the FCP in 1996. Between 1982 and 1988 he was a member of the National Planning Commission and between 1984 and 1989 a member of the Economic and Social Council.

Supporter of the European integration, European deputy (1989 – 2004), he had several positions: president of the Committee on External Economic Relations, and vice-president of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and vice-president of the EU-USA delegation; his contributions within the European Parliament concern the Public Interest Services, the promotion of the social dialogue and the participation of citizens to the institutional system.

In 1991 he founded the association *Confrontations Europe* (<http://www.confrontations.org>), "a laboratory offering reflections and ideas about the changes currently taking place in Europe and worldwide and making proposals for the social, economic and political transformations". Philippe Herzog is the author of many books, the most recent being "Une tâche infinie – fragments d'un projet politique européen". As a supporter of a single act for consolidating the internal market and defining a political dynamics for the European Union, Philippe Herzog became, in 2010, special adviser to Michel BARNIER, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services.

governance directed towards a greater growth with more social guarantees. We support the will to combine competitiveness with the demand of solidarity. But the problem with this project is that it seems locked on the protection of national social rights. It is very conservative in this regard while the issue is to renew our social systems faced with new needs and globalization.

**At the March 11 Eurogroup summit, the 'Euro Pact' was adopted. Compared to the first versions of the Competitiveness Pact, what does the new pact add? What impact will it have over the present situation?**

Turned into the "Euro Pact", this one adds the creation of a "European Stability Mechanism", therefore of financial solidarity, to the competitiveness subjects. It's true.

The definition of competitiveness principles is clear and, at this point, nothing has been imposed. Each country will establish its priorities and will compare itself to the others: it's good.

Hence, the impact will depend on the efforts of each country. The Pact is fragile: its creation needs great social dialogue, political tenacity. Courage and responsibility are necessary too.

**How do you see the future evolution of the euro area?**

Contrary to some pessimistic voices, I think that the governments of the euro area will do everything they can to avoid its dissolution. Indeed, this would have a much too big political, economic and social cost for all the European states, including Germany. A step towards more cooperation and convergence is a positive signal. But the pressure on the present governments of the euro area is not without threats for this process. We must support it!

Interview by **Mihai Sebe**

On 17 February 2011 Philippe Herzog held a speech at an EIR event from series of conferences **Romania – France: Together in Europe.**

## LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGY AND POLICY STUDIES – SPOS 2010



The Strategy and Policy Studies (SPOS) have been issued every year by EIR since 2006 and continue the PAIS series (Pre-Accession Impact Studies) launched in 2001. The goal of the SPOS series is to support the policy makers of Romania in fulfilling the obligations of EU Member State and to offer the elements for substantiating the policies after accession and Romania's positions concerning the European construction.

The SPOS2010 was launched at the Representation of the European Commission in Romania on 30 March, 2011. During the event official views have been presented by **Bogdan Mănoiu**, Minister, Head of the Department for European Affairs, **Leonard Orban**, Presidential Counsellor for European Affairs, Honorary President of EIR, **Gabriel Micu**, Diplomatic Counsellor, General Secretariat of the Government, **Florin Pogonaru**, Chairman of the Administrative Board of EIR and Chairman of BAR\*, **Niculae Idu**, Head of the Representation of the EC in Romania

and **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director-General of EIR. Also, the coordinators and authors of the studies have presented the main results of their research.

The SPOS 2010 studies approach new requirements, which are very important and relevant for the evolution of Romania in the European space, like: the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on Romanian institutions and policies (**The Treaty of Lisbon: impact on Romanian institutions and policies**), the Europe 2020 Strategy [**The new European strategy for growth and jobs (Europe 2020): goals, instruments to monitor its implementation, institutional resources, implementation recommendation**], the EU strategy for the Danube Region (**Romania and the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region: process, implementation and priorities**), the industrial policy, competitiveness and economic growth (**The competitive potential of economic growth: guidelines for a new industrial policy in Romania**).

The studies are available online, in bilingual format (Romanian and English) [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro), section Publications.

Mihai Sebe

## EIR launched the project Preparing Moldova for a comprehensive free trade area with the European Union

On this occasion, EIR and the Department for European Affairs (DEA) organised a press conference at Infoeuropa Centre on 1 April. **Bogdan Mănoiu**, Minister, Head of DEA, **Leonard Orban**, Presidential Counsellor on European Affairs, Honorary President of EIR, **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director-General of EIR, H.E. **Iurie Reniță**, Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Bucharest, **Dinu Toderașcu**, Program Manager for Moldova, Ukraine and Russia, Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation Office (BST), Bucharest, and **Viorel Chivrigă**, Head of Department, IDIS Viitorul, Chișinău attended the event.



The project will be carried out by EIR together with IDIS - Viitorul between March and October 2011 and is financed by BST (German Marshall Fund). This project will assure the support for the authorities of the Republic of Moldova directly involved in the negotiation process for concluding a free trade agreement with the EU. In order to achieve this goal, the project has three components: a training programme (at Chișinău) for 30 members of the central public administration of the Republic of Moldova concerning the free trade within the EU; developing and publishing a study about the **consequences of a large and comprehensive free trade area over the economy of the Republic of Moldova**; stimulating and organising debates on the topic of free trade within the EU, collaboration and transfer of expertise.

The participants to the press conference welcomed EIR's initiative to carry out such a project meant to contribute to the transfer of Romanian expertise towards the public administration of the Republic of Moldova in the context in which the priority of the Moldavian authorities remains the initiation of the Free Trade Agreement.

For the event report, please access [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro), section Communication/ Previous events

Agnes Nicolescu

\* Businessmen's Association of Romania



**Bogdan Murgescu,**  
***Romania and Europe: The accumulation of economic gaps (1500 – 2010),***  
 Polirom, 2010, 523 p.

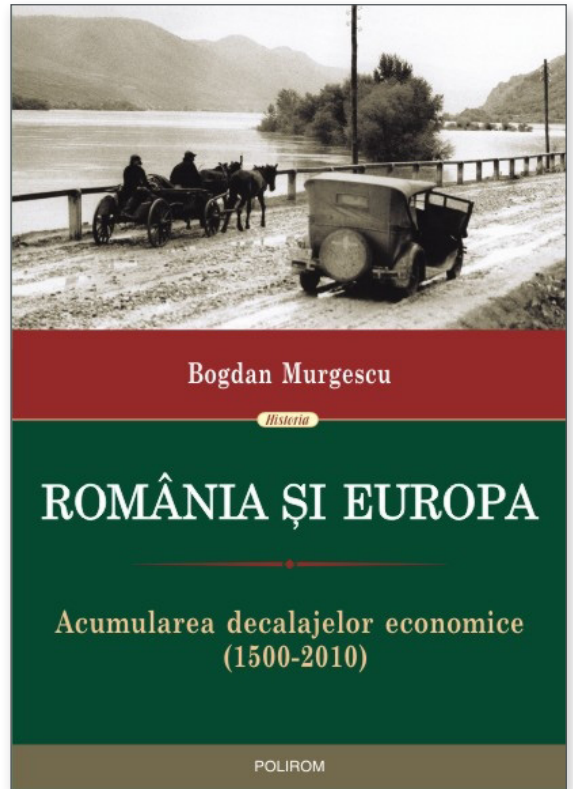
The topic of gaps is a very relevant one these days, not only in historiography but also in the European construction.

ROMANIA'S STRATEGY AFTER ACCESSION dedicates a chapter to the EVALUATION OF GAPS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION and identifies five types of gaps: economic, social, institutional, educational and in the field of RDI (research – development – innovation)<sup>1</sup>. Nowadays the economic gaps are quantified using several indicators: rate of increase of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), labour productivity, contribution of the economic sectors to the GDP, GDP/capita, rate of inflation, unemployment rate, average wage rate, budget deficit and government debt rate. The comparison with the Community average is clear and is expressed in figures and graphics based on the Eurostat database. Many times, even if growth is recorded for an indicator, for example at labour productivity per employed person, the gap still remains (diminished, constant or increased).

The historian **Bogdan Murgescu** speaks about the causes and the historic accumulation of economic gaps using more than five centuries of history and three comparison landmarks for Romania (Romanian Principalities, United Principalities, Old Kingdom, Greater Romania, and modern Romania). The three states that are analysed from the point of view of their evolution – Denmark, Ireland, Serbia – have been chosen for their similarities around the year 1500 (agricultural, peripheral compared to the centres of power and to the economic exchange networks) and for their striking distinctions in 2010. Why Denmark and Ireland have managed to obtain economic performances while Romania and Serbia are still “underdeveloped”?

The author answers to this question in an organised way, first through the structure of the book and of each chapter. The five chapters divide time and establish an inverse proportionality ratio between the periods covered and the number of pages dedicated to each period: **the early modern period**, meaning three centuries, in a hundred pages (p. 23 – 101), **the 19<sup>th</sup> century** (p. 103 – 204), **the period between the World Wars** (p. 205 – 314), **the period after the Second World War** (p. 315 – 464) and an **epilogue about Romania after 1989 – the avatars of the EU accession** (p. 465 – 481). In the seven pages that represent the conclusions, Bogdan Murgescu gives a name to the entire period (“European experiences”) and talks about three concepts: *underdevelopment, gaps and convergences*. Compared to the period analysed, the chapters about the 20<sup>th</sup> century have the greatest extension and present to the reader relevant statistics and analysis.

Actually, the entire book – the result of 12 years of documentation - is written using a rigorous historiographic method. That is why the book has been received positively by the press<sup>2</sup> (“book of the year”). The structure of the book shows both the intention of the author to organise in an accessible way a great number of topics and the fact that such a heteromorphic matter is not a structureless one but it can be mastered and organised for research. The logic of the structure adds didactic value to the cognitive value of the book.



The book offered the opportunity for a debate organised by the EIR together with the Department for European Affairs on 16 March 2011. The event was attended by Professor **Bogdan Murgescu**, PhD., **Răzvan Horațiu Radu**, Under-Secretary of State, Department for European Affairs, **Constantin Rudnițchi**, Economic Analyst, **Cristian Ghinea**, Director of the Romanian Centre for European Policies, Professor **Gabriela Drăgan**, PhD., Director General of the EIR and a large public. The participants appreciated the critic attitude of the book, its scientific value and the projection that the study of history offers over the future.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.ro/upload/articles/100071/strategie-post-aderare2a.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> See, for example, *Ce am făcut în ultimii 500 de ani*, in „Dilema Veche”, no. 359 of 30 December 2010, <http://www.dilemaveche.ro/sectiune/editoriale-opinii/articol/ce-am-facut-ultimii-500-ani>

## Several levels of reading

The reader can choose, depending on his interest and preferences, to follow the sequences in a chronological order, to directly skip to the chapters about the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which are closer to the lived experiences, or to select one of the four economic realities analysed:

- Romanian Principalities – tax, trade, production structures; United Principalities - import, export, social structure etc.
- Denmark – a kingdom at the edge of Western Europe; success and entrance among the developed economies etc.
- Ireland – the Great Famine as a crossroad of development; “economic tiger of Europe” etc.
- Serbia – advantages and disadvantages of the Turkish ruling; Yugoslavia – the model of the third path etc.

## About PRE-CONCEPTIONS

These sequences, placed at the beginning of the first four chapters, are actually reports and conclusions. They are the result of erudition and critical reflection and can be read separately.

For the 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the author identifies a series of “pre-conceptions” (p. 27 – 29) as they have resulted from the study of historiography and from a small opinion poll carried over an educated average public. Although the image of the period is generally dominated by stereotypes like “decline” and “phanariote pillage”, the period benefited from economic and demographic growth. Other “pre-conceptions”, analysed in a similar way, are to be found at every chapter (p. 107 – 111 about the false opinion that the economic balance would have been as good as the national balance in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; p. 212 – 214 about the false opinion that the period between the World Wars would have been an economic success; p. 325 – 328 about the overall judgements and strategies concerning the “the experiment of socialist development in Romania”).

The public with various trainings - anthropology, history, sociology, political science, economy, law etc. - will be satisfied even after a partial lecture of this book, while the public of any training used with the subject will be delighted to read about five centuries of history and to reach a fine understanding of the subject that cannot be obtained from reading a manual.

Mariana Bara

in focus

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## Research as Branding

With 1990, a lot of universities popped up on the educational map of Romania, be they state-run or private. Some say they are too many – they might be so – yet what is important is the fact that many young - and not so young - people have an unimaginable access to education, unimaginable a score or so of years ago. On the other hand, there is a certain competition between universities as to the number of students and fame. The latter, for example, is of great use to people involved in research whether institutionally or not. There are lots of symposia, conferences, etc. Few are free, many are not, and this involves investment, and investment in research is value adding in the long run.

EIR encourages research even when it comes to staff that do not have research in their job description. Obviously, any such “outing” means many other dozens of people finding out about the institute, so much the more when their presentations get published.

This month Mariana Bara and I, both TCU staff, participated in a huge interdisciplinary conference, *Translation, semiotics, anthropology: transferring space and identity across languages*, organised by Spiru Haret University in Bucharest, 25 – 26 February 2011. The ten parallel sections of the conference managed to attract some eighty participants from Bucharest, Timisoara, Iasi, Craiova, Oradea, Constanta, plus various countries: France, Greece, Spain, Italy, Austria and Poland.

The paper of Mariana Bara, *Repere de identitate culturală în traducere* [Landmarks of Cultural Identity in Translation], to

quote her: “is starting from the definition of <<translation>> as an operation implying a transfer of significations from the source language to the target language, both the source and the target must be seen in the double position: an expression of a certain culture and a vehicle of that culture. This aspect is correlated to the cultural competences of the translator, who re-does speech acts and pragmatically situates the message to transmit the sense and not a sequence of morphological formants.”

In my paper, *Épatez le bourgeois! – Visual contrastive semiotics*, as it is manifest in the title, I meant it not to be offish, but enticing. Regarding the theme, it is part of my current afterhours preoccupation with the arts, and that is why it is an excursion into the history of art with a special interest in the avant-garde and its plight to shock *le bourgeois*, to make *le bourgeois* face his own hypocrisy. Unfortunately, in time, especially with Warhol, things turn somehow upside down and today, with the economic crisis as well, the tidal wave of the *avant-garde* is no more than a ruffle on the water.

Being visible in the academic world is beneficial to EIR. It proves that we think out of the box, it proves that we can be ahead of the herd. Today, in a very competitive environment, one does not only have to know how to do something, one has to know how to sell one’s product. As translators, revisers or terminologists we are invisible, as researchers we are not.. Research is a luxury product and so much the more it should have a “story” attached, a brand. Brands create brands and brands will always be brands

Gigi Mihăiță

## Decisions concerning the euro area

The financial stability topic is extremely intense debated this year. The Council, at the proposal of the Task Force for the Economic Governance, supports the creation of a **European Stability Mechanism** around which are concentrated the main reunions of the institutions involved in the making and applying of financial and economic policies. The Mechanism and the **Euro Plus Pact**<sup>1</sup> are the priorities of the current agenda.

So far, euro has been adopted by 17 Member States (chronologically): Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Greece, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Slovakia and Estonia. The ministers of finance of this states form the Eurogroup, at first an informal group that plays more and more the role of an influential formal institution.

The financial stability of the euro area represents the concern of the EU institutions, especially after the beginning of the crisis. It is more and more obvious the fact that the Community method in this field is less used as the intergovernmental cooperation method is preferred. To this end, the calendar established by the Council until the general agreement between the presidency and the EP, planned to be signed in June, is relevant. The task force proposed by the Council in March 2010 presented its proposals in October 2010 and Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, highlights in all his speeches that the European Monetary Union cannot work on a long-term basis without an increased coordination.

date	event/institution	DECISIONS
25 – 26 March 2010	European Council	creating a Task force for establishing the necessary measures in the crisis situation and for budgetary discipline
21 October 2010	report of the Task force presented to the Council	recommendations of the Task force for the economic governance (chaired by Herman Van Rompuy)
28 – 29 October 2010	European Council <sup>4</sup>	proposal: European Stability Mechanism (ESM)
28 November 2010	Eurogroup declaration	defines the key elements of ESM
16 – 17 December 2010	European Council	limited amending of TFEU for the creation of the ESM
4 February 2011	European Council	consolidating the Stability and Growth Pact; answer to the crisis
11 March 2011	informal reunion of the 17 heads of state or of government of the euro area; message of the President of the European Council: "A common currency means doing more in common"	Conclusions: 1. the Euro pact has been approved; 2. preparing ESM for the Council of 24 – 25 March; 3. continuing and finalising the six legislative proposals of the Commission concerning the economic governance
14 March 2011	Eurogroup reunion	preparing ESM
15 March 2011	Council of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN) <sup>5</sup>	general approach for a set of measures for strengthening the economic governance; negotiations with the EP
24 – 25 March 2011	European Council	Euro Plus Pact – "Stronger economic policy coordination for competitiveness and convergence"
25 March	European Central Bank	monetary evolutions in the euro area in February 2011
24 June 2011	European Council	general agreement with the EP concerning the recommendations of the Task force for economic governance

<sup>1</sup> European Council 24 – 25 March 2011. Conclusions [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/RO/ec/120300.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/RO/ec/120300.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament.

<sup>3</sup> Final report of the task force, 21 October 2010: [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata---/en/ec/117236.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata---/en/ec/117236.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/RO/ec/119828.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/RO/ec/119828.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/119938.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/119938.pdf)

To this end, consulting the Council's website allows the creation of a brief chronological presentation of the main reunions concerning the financial policy in the euro area which may show the interest for this topic. The necessity and importance of the decisions at EU level is reflected in the role of the Council in its formal and informal reunions, in the emerging role of the Eurogroup (see the informal reunion of March 11th, 2011), in the decision-making relations with the Commission and the Parliament.

While ECOFIN was initially the Council's group in charge with establishing the financial policy, the powers of the European Central Bank have increased after the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon. ECOFIN remains an important actor that agrees the measures for strengthening the economic governance in the EU, especially in the euro area, as an answer to the events in the sovereign debt market.

The **Euro Plus Pact**, as it has been agreed at the last reunion of the Council by the heads of state or of government from the euro area (pact that has also been agreed by Romania), will offer a new quality to the coordination of the economic policy.

For the analysis of the Council's Conclusions, see **A quantum leap in economic governance – but questions remain**, <http://www.epc.eu>

Mariana Bara

in focus

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## New Energy Agency opened in Slovenia

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), hosted in Slovenia, formally assumed its powers on 3 March, the same day the Third Package for the Liberalisation of the Energy Sector entered into force. Important officials were present at the opening ceremony in Ljubljana, including the Energy Commissioner Günther Oettinger, the Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor, ACER's Director Alberto Pototschnig and the Slovenian Energy Minister Darja Radić.

The role of ACER is to complement and coordinate the National Regulatory Authorities in the field of energy (NRAs). The Agency participates in the creation of European network rules, by taking individual decisions related to access and operational security for cross border infrastructure if NRAs cannot agree. It also plays a role in giving advice on various energy related issues to the European institutions. ACER reports to the European Parliament and the Council. ACER's activity contributes to the liberalisation of the Community electricity and natural gas markets.

The electricity and gas markets are of great importance for the EU economy. With depleting reserves and growing consumers' appetite, gas becomes critically important for the EU; this resource must be kept both affordable and reliable. The situation is similar in what concerns the electricity, and the Member States of the European Union have agreed on an ambitious plan of building the biggest market of electricity, connecting more than 500 million consumers throughout the continent.

The first directives aimed at opening up the electricity and gas markets were adopted in the late 1990s. The European Commission argues that liberalisation increases competitiveness and efficiency of the energy sector, and, consequently, improves the European economy as a whole. Today, industries and private households are in theory able to freely choose their energy supplier following the entry into force of EU directives in 2004 and 2007, but many obstacles remain, with a single



European energy market still far from reality. The European Commission has made further legislative proposals, including the Third liberalisation package. The aim is to make the energy market fully effective and to create a single EU gas and electricity market. This will help to keep prices as low as possible and increase standards of service and security of supply. The desired improvements that the package brings are: strengthening powers of national energy regulators, keeping those regulators independent from the industry, increasing co-operation with each other.

Consumers are advantaged by the new EU legislation: properly regulated competition will offer the best deal for consumers, and the new deadlines introduced make possible to switch suppliers within only three weeks.

Agnes Nicolescu  
Flavia Durach



# The European Commission Roadmap for a Low-Carbon Economy



The European Commission presented on 8 March 2011 its vision on how greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by 80 – 95% by 2050. The communication of the Commission, named “A roadmap for moving to a low carbon economy in 2050”, includes pragmatic paths to aim this target and it is destined for the use of actors in key economic sectors. The Roadmap also shows how additional investments in energy efficient and clean technologies can lead to higher emission cuts over the next decades. Such investments will lead to a green economy and will also create jobs and reduce Europe’s energy imports. New technologies will reduce pollution and health costs in a profitable investment plan.

The Roadmap will be followed by a new Energy Efficiency Plan in order to reach the EU’s energy saving objective and contribute to the long-term

climate and resource efficiency strategy. Such long-term strategies, placed under Europe 2020 objectives for a resource efficient Europe include: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increasing the share of renewable energies in the EU’s energy mix to 20% and achieving a 20% reduction in primary energy consumption compared to projections through energy efficiency improvements.

One of the most enthusiastic countries is Ireland, which has set a target of a 40% share of renewable energies in the power sector, meaning double of the European target. In order to reach this objective, Ireland will expand greatly its wind power capacity. In less than ten years from now, Ireland will have a higher share of wind power than any other country in Europe. This country will become an example (and also an experiment) for other European states on the road to “full decarbonization”, as the EC argues it will happen by 2050.

The Roadmap is an initiative with multiple benefits for the EU. Europe has a leading position in the field of innovative, low carbon technologies; in 2009, the greenhouse gas emissions from the 27 Member States are estimated to have been around 16% below their 1990 levels. Maintaining this tendency will allow Europe to profit from new sources of growth and to create new jobs. A low carbon economy is less vulnerable to future oil shocks and other energy crises.

The Roadmap and the Energy Efficiency Plan adopted on 8 March, together with the White Paper on Transport, are the main components of the Europe 2020 energy strategy. The Commission is also preparing a Communication on resource efficiency and a 2050 Energy Roadmap for adoption later this year.

**Agnes Nicolescu**  
**Flavia Durach**

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## Position of the European Council concerning the situation of Libya

The European Council held an extraordinary session in Brussels, on 11 March, 2011, in order to analyse the situation of Libya. The protests and riots in Libya started in February and led to the civil war between anti-governmental forces and the supporters of Muammar Gaddafi, conflict that caused numerous victims among the civilians.

The European Council condemns the violent repression and the use of military means by the Libyan regime against its citizens and the systematic violation of human rights. Therefore, the Council supports the UN Security Council Resolution 1970. The Resolution foresees the end of all forms of violence against civilians, peaceful reforms, and

the compliance of the authorities with the international law, respecting human rights and international humanitarian law and assistance for imposing the no-fly zone and the arms embargo; it also authorises the Member States to adopt protection measures for civilians and attack threatened areas.

The Council will work with the UN, the Arab League, the African Union and international partners to respond to the crisis and those responsible will face the consequences. As regards Muammar Gaddafi, he must relinquish power immediately because his regime has lost legitimacy and is no longer an interlocutor for the EU . Libya must embark



on a transition to democracy, to build a constitutional state and develop the rule of law. To this end, the EU has considered the interim transitional council in Benghazi a political interlocutor.

The EU is willing to step in for ensuring the safe evacuation of EU citizens or other nationals, for mobilising humanitarian aid in the area, and for monitoring the impact of events on migratory movements. The EU will ensure the financial and technical support for improving the control of borders and to facilitate the return of migrants to their countries of origin. It will also conceive a plan for the development of capacities to manage migration flows. The EU involves itself in several ways to support: the economic development of the area, the stabilisation of democracy and democratic institutions, the respecting of the freedom of expression, the reinforcement of civil societies and the reducing of poverty and social injustice.

The European Council supports the UN Security Council Resolution 1973 approved on 17 March which allows the military intervention and the imposition of a no-fly zone in Libya for the protection of civilians.

The Spring European Council on 25 March decided to continue the military operations until the objectives of the Resolution 1973 are achieved and to intensify its efforts for humanitarian aid. Moreover, supplementary sanctions



will be adopted, including measures to guarantee that the income from oil and gas do not reach to the Gaddafi regime.

For details concerning the declarations of the European Council concerning the Libyan issue, please read [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119780.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/119780.pdf).

Oana Ștefăniță

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## EUROPE 2020 SUMMIT



The Europe 2020 Summit took place in Brussels on 15 March, 2011. On this occasion an *Action Plan for a Post-Crisis World* was published, a collection of essays written by experts in this field on the topics included in the Strategy.

The meeting took place just a few days after the extraordinary Eurozone summit where the plans for a new Competitiveness Pact have been discussed and the solutions for the economic and social future of Europe have been debated.

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durao Barroso, underlined<sup>1</sup> the necessity of cooperation among the Member States for a quick European reform. The President noted that the global transformations force the European Union to evolve in the same direction in order not to fall behind states like China or India; therefore, the main subject of discussion has been the sustainable growth through the reforms proposed by the new strategy. These reforms include the job creation, the reach of a high standard of living and the general improvement of the quality of life.

Although compared with the Lisbon Strategy, which has failed in its attempt to turn Europe into the most dynamic and competitive economy of the world, the Europe 2020 Strategy is different because its goals are clear: it proposes seven important and clear initiatives and a strengthened governance structure, including the European semester.

Also, all ten urgent actions indicated in the Annual Analysis of Economic Growth are to be found in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Their goal is to promote the tax consolidation, to correct the macroeconomic imbalances, to ensure the financial stability, to create new jobs, to improve the Single Market, to collect private capital and to facilitate the access to cheap energy.

The Euro Pact<sup>2</sup> presents a number of measures that coincide with the Strategy and, in the same time, reflect the priorities as they have been identified in the Annual Analysis of Economic Growth published in January 2011. Following the guidelines of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lisboncouncil.net/news-a-events/254-president-barroso-keynotes-the-europe-2020-summit.html>.

<sup>2</sup> It is the basis for the Euro Plus Pact adopted at the European Council of 24 - 25 March 2011.

the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Pact admits the necessity of budget consolidation and structural reforms, requirements that are essential for ensuring the competitiveness, as well as the necessity of investments in the industries of the future, especially in research and innovation domains.

The president of the Commission has underlined that this is the right way, but a unified and urgent action of all the actors involved is necessary for a good enforcement of the Strategy in order to obtain a sustainable economic growth.

Anca Mihalache

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## Launch of the Project Strategy and Policy Studies – SPOS 2011

**EIR**, via its **Studies and Analysis Unit**, launches a new series of studies that aim at supporting the process of elaborating and substantiating Romania's strategies and policies after the accession.

The studies included in the **SPOS 2011** Project approach the following **research topics**:

- 1. The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in the framework of the post-2013 budgetary perspective;**
- 2. The implications of Romania's adhesion to the Euro zone and the Euro Plus Pact over the fiscal-budgetary practice;**
- 3. The European Semester and the insurance of a sustainable economic growth through healthier public finances. Lesson for Romania from the perspective of the public finances sustainability;**
- 4. The analysis of the evolution of EU social policies in the last three years – supplementary/private pensions and the impact of an aging population.**

**The research activity** will take place between **May and December 2011**.

Additional information about the SPOS 2011 project and the selection of researchers will soon be available at [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro), section **Research in European Affairs / Ongoing projects**

### EIR event agenda — April 2011

19 April 2011 – The conference *Creșterea economică verde - premisă pentru dezvoltarea durabilă* [Green Economic Growth - Premise for Sustainable Development]

28 April 2011– Debate within the series *Politics of Romania* regarding *The competitive potential of economic growth: guidelines for a new industrial policy in Romania* study, from the SPOS 2010 series

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\* The texts published in this Newsletter express the authors' opinion and do not represent the official position of the European Institute of Romania.

ISSN 2065 - 457X

In order to receive future issues of the EIR Newsletter, you can subscribe accessing the following link: [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro).



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