

## interview \_\_\_\_\_

### H.E. Mr. Marek Szczygiel

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland in Romania



Your Excellency, the main priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council have focussed on *the European integration as a source of growth, a secure Europe and Europe benefiting from openness*. In your opinion, to what extent have these goals been achieved during the last six months?

Poland held the Presidency of the EU Council in a very difficult period and our priorities were to some extent overshadowed by the debt crisis in the eurozone. However, Poland had a well-defined plan and realistic goals and Warsaw confirmed the ability of the new Member States to assume the responsibility of European leadership.

The Presidency did everything possible to fight the euro-area crisis, and to restore the EU's more rapid economic growth. In particular the adoption of the "six-pack" has significantly reinforced the economic governance, as did decisions taken at the December European Council.

The report on sources of economic growth published in October constitutes the basic legacy of Poland's Presidency. Another important project, the strengthening of the single market, is the "blue button project" - also known as European Contract Law, supposed to make trans-border e-commerce easier. I also need to mention the progress made in the negotiations of the EU patent. I am certain that our initiatives will soon give European economy new impetus. Last but not least, we have started the negotiations on the New Multiannual Financial Framework, which, we insist, must be growth-oriented and not merely reflect the difficult economic conditions we have at present... **p.2**

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## analysis | opinion \_\_\_\_\_

### The European Year for Active Ageing

The European Union – Between silver economy and silverless society

2012 - The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations is intended, from a pro-active perspective, as an occasion for European nations to celebrate old age and reflect on the opportunities of a longer and healthier life than ever.

In European Union's view, active ageing can give the baby-boom generation and tomorrow's older adults the opportunity to ... **p.5**



... Poland stayed committed to reinforce the external dimension of the energy policy. One of the most important achievements was the elaboration of a mandate for the European Commission to negotiate a treaty between the EU, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to build a Trans Caspian Pipeline System. We've also had the chance to lead the discussion on the EC proposals on the reform of the CAP after 2013, that would guarantee further modernization of European agriculture and its enhanced competitiveness.

A Europe benefiting from openness was our third priority. Firstly, good progress has been made on the European integration of the Western Balkans. On 9 December 2011 we were happy to witness the signature of the Accession Treaty of our 28<sup>th</sup> Member State, Croatia. This should constitute an incentive for the rest of the region to keep to the path of European reforms.

The successful Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw confirmed our ambition to create the necessary conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration between the EU and partner countries in the East. Two months later negotiations have been launched on the deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with Georgia and Republic of Moldova.

There is however one dissatisfaction, I have to mention, and that is connected to Romania and Bulgaria's accession to the Schengen area. We have done our best, we have made progress with the negotiation process, but decisions were blocked. I am convinced, however, that due to the Polish involvement and efforts, a positive decision in this respect will be taken as soon as possible in the first half of 2012.

The slogan of our Presidency was "More Europe in Europe". During our Presidency, we tried to promote the community spirit instead of egoistic national interests and to inspire fellow Europeans with our optimism and confidence. We believe we managed to do so and we wish the best of luck to our Danish friends!

**Almost eight years after Poland's accession to the European Union, how would you assess the costs and benefits of being a full Member State for the Polish people?**

The accession on 1 May 2004 meant for us the end of our struggle with the history. Anchoring in Europe, the "better part of the world" brought us the security, stability and democracy we have hoped for since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

EU has been virtually transforming our social-economic landscape: 67 billion EUR of structural fund, available between 2007 and 2013 translate into new infrastructure investments, safer environment, competitive enterprises

conquering Western markets, modernized agriculture, reduction of the unemployment rate, richer cultural diversity, passport-free travel in a border free area.

**Ambassador Marek Szczygiel** was born in 1969 in Poland. After graduating in law and international relations, he began his career in Foreign Service as desk-officer for Romania and Bulgaria in European Affairs Department of Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Career diplomat, in 1995-2000 worked in Polish Embassy in Stockholm. Later specialized in security policy and held twice the post of Deputy Director in Security Policy Department, MFA, in charge of regional security (2002-2004) and non-proliferation, disarmament and export control issues (2008-2011), as well as the position of Deputy Head of Polish Mission to the OSCE and UN Office in Vienna (2004-2008).

In the past he used to head the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Combating Proliferation of WMD. He was also a lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy in Warsaw.

Since June 2011 he has been accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland in Romania.

In fact it was the 4 fundamental freedoms that Polish citizens benefited the most of: movement of people in the European labour market, partially opened to Poles from the very day of the accession, free movement of goods, services and capital, that constituted, next to EU cohesion funds, a real boost to our economy, an important contribution to improved living standards. We are still lagging behind, but the GDP per capita increased in Poland within a few years from 49 % of the EU average up to 63 % in 2010 and the total financial net transfers since the accession day reached nearly 36 bn EUR.

Being part of the Union pays off also in terms of international relations; it gives us more weight in the decision-making process affecting our future, it enables the development of such great initiatives as the Eastern Partnership, it helps transform, in a positive way, our relationship with Russia. Even hit hard by the crisis, the EU remains an appealing model for aspiring countries

On the cost side, deep reforms we had to undergo while adopting the *aquis communautaire* and restructuring of our economy must have been tough for many families. Playing according to European "green" standards can still be difficult for numerous Polish companies, using less environment friendly coal-based energy. Fortunately the pre-accession fears (of Polish plumber in France or Germans buying properties in Poland) turned out to be exaggerated. As the Eurobarometer of Spring 2011 revealed - 78 percent of Poles believe their country has benefited from being a member of the EU. Even the economic crisis cannot change this.

I am confident Poland's membership pays off for Europe, too. Our Presidency in the EU Council confirmed our commitment and responsibility and our care for the future of the entire European project.

**Could you estimate the effects of the present crisis upon the Polish business environment?**

Although the forecasts of economic growth in Poland for 2012 have been cut to 2.5% GDP, we will most probably remain one of the fastest developing countries in the region. Our economy grew healthily by 4% in 2011 and 3.8% in the previous year. Even in 2009, when all of the EU countries were in recession, Polish economy grew by 1.7%. This is partly due to the fact that the Polish economy is very much based on small

and medium sized enterprises, which are less affected by what happens on the external market. Poland also has a quite large internal market with strong demand from 38 million consumers which makes the Polish producers less dependent on exports. Thanks to the diversified foreign trade structure, export of Polish products is more resilient to external shocks.

**Given the current European economic and social turmoil, what would you consider to be the most important future steps necessary for rendering the Eastern Partnership more efficient in the Central and Eastern part of Europe?**

Since launching the initiative, the EU has made significant progress and relations with most Eastern partners strengthened significantly. This was evident in Warsaw during the Summit, at which a declaration was adopted aimed at boosting trade and mobility between the EU and the partners, while supporting the 6 states in implementing political, institutional and economic reforms.

Eastern Partnership is not only a political idea which is discussed between politicians. The support should be strengthened for the non-governmental organisations and the civil society. They deliver often new initiatives and can play an active role in promoting democratic and market-oriented reforms. Boosting a greater regional cooperation among EaP partner countries would be crucial as well.

Regardless of our economic and social crises, we have to keep our commitments. This means more financial support, closer political cooperation and deeper economic integration for those partners who have embarked on deep reforms. It is what we call 'more for more' rule.

**How would you evaluate the current economic and foreign trade relations between Poland and Romania? Could you share with us the main areas for further cooperation development?**

„Poland held the Presidency of the EU Council in a very difficult period [...] During our Presidency, we tried to promote the community spirit instead of egoistic national interests and to inspire fellow Europeans with our optimism and confidence.,,

In 2011, Poland continued to be one of Romania's 10 most important trade partners. In the first three quarters of 2011, the trade volume reached 2.4 bn EUR (export from Poland 1.57 bn EUR and import from Romania 829 m EUR). Poland occupied the 9<sup>th</sup> position in the ranking of Romania's both import and export partners. The data for the entire year is not yet available, but we are hoping to break the record that was registered in 2010 (2.7 bn EUR) and to reach a trade volume of 3 bn EUR. Romania ranks 25<sup>th</sup> among the biggest exporters to Poland. I guess our consumers would be happy to see Romanian wines and regional food products on the shelves of Polish stores.

At the moment there are over 600 companies with Polish capital registered in Romania. I would like to see more Romanian companies investing in Poland.

This is an area with a lot of potential that we can work on. We are also looking forward to seeing Romanian companies listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange, which is the regional financial centre of the Central and Eastern Europe. The Warsaw Stock Exchange occupies the first place in Europe with regard to the number and the value of the initial public offerings. Companies from Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Bulgaria are already listed on WSE. We are open to share our experiences and plan to organize a seminar dedicated to the Polish capital market.

After a very intensive year for Polish public administration, related to the EU Presidency, and the EU agenda constituting a great part of our cooperation with Romania, the priority for 2012 will be indeed to focus on deepening of bilateral relations, advancing the implementation of the action plan, having all the sectors involved: central administration, local authorities, business communities, think-tanks and NGO's, national parliaments.

Interview by **Oana Mocanu**



## Almut Möller

Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies, the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

**In light of the latest attempts of the Palestinians to obtain UN statehood recognition, how do you assess EU's reaction?**

It is very relevant for the EU to keep unity on the Palestinian issue. This is really one of the few foreign policy areas where the EU and its members can have a stronger say. The EU has invested a lot of money, a lot of expertise and helped the Palestinian Authority, particularly in the area of security and the judicial system. But in the past, the EU has taken a back seat in the political arena, and now is even risking its potential clout by not speaking with a single voice. In the wider regional context, things have changed with the Arab uprisings. While there is a lot of hope for democracy and a better life for people in the Arab world, there is also the risk of greater insecurity of the states in transition. This could impact on

the region as a whole. This is why the EU has to stay engaged in its southern neighbourhood. The security situation in these countries will directly impact on Europe.



Almut Möller has been head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) since 2010.

She was a guest researcher at Renmin University of China in Beijing (2006), Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo (2007), and at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS) at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. (2008). Ms. Möller is a Non-Resident Fellow at AICGS and an Associate Fellow at the Austria Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES). She is the editor of the *berlinbrief*, a briefing on German foreign policy for an English speaking readership.

Almut Möller holds an M.A. in political science from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich (2002). She also studied at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster and at the Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences-Po) in Aix-en-Provence.

**Given the declarations of the Libyan National Transitional Council leaders on the reshaping of the Libyan legislation based upon “moderate Islam”, how do you envisage the potential for stabilization and transition process in the North African region?**

Looking at the question of stabilization in the North-African region, it was very interesting to see that there was a shift in the discourse in EU states. In the beginning, there was a lot of enthusiasm that the Arab world would eventually move forward. The people of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria and other countries are trying to take their destiny into their hands. It all happened unexpectedly, and the immediate reaction, naturally, was to advocate democratization. The shift happened after several months, when European governments had to realize that democracy in the Middle East is something very difficult to achieve and something which would look very different from what EU countries have in mind when they talk about Western types of democracy. As much as one would wish for Arab countries to open up and become more democratic, there is now a great deal of concern about what kind of countries and societies will eventually emerge in the Southern Mediterranean.

**How should the EU respond to the new realities in the Mediterranean region?**

There has been a lot of talk over the last year about what the EU can do to support democratization in the Mediterranean. However, I consider the EU's role as limited if it does not decide to put real incentives on the table, such as better market access for the countries in the Southern Mediterranean, and greater mobility. With what has been offered so far, the room for manoeuvre for the European Union and its members is limited in terms of influencing the transitions to democracy in the Arab World. And the EU has to work on its knowledge and credibility. There are very basic things the EU can do. EU countries have to admit that despite geographic proximity and colonial history they still know little about contemporary Arab societies in their neighbourhood. You can feel that in the question of how to deal with political Islam, for instance. In Europe there is great confusion about what political Islam is, and there are fears about radical forms of political Islam. The EU does not have enough

knowledge and contacts. It's also rather remarkable how little exchange there has been between the two sides of the Mediterranean for the last decades. The Mediterranean basin once facilitated trade and wealth on both sides of the Mediterranean, but today the sea has become a real fence. Do the EU and its members really want to embrace its Arab neighbours as partners?

As regards what the EU should do to enhance its role as a security actor in the region, there is a lot of potential in the Lisbon treaty which has not been looked at. Strengthening the EU's foreign and security policy has fallen off the radar with the overall dominance of the euro currency crisis. And austerity will impact on national security budgets. While there is a need for more cooperation, indeed security policies have turned more national over the last years. Libya contributed to that. The German decision to abstain from the vote in the UN Security Council weakened the EU's position. But at the same time, led by France and the UK, European countries also demonstrated that they are able to take on serious challenges in their neighbourhood. So despite the split over Libya, EU countries need to carry on and work on a joint security approach to the Mediterranean. I believe it is important that the EU continues its multilateral approach to bring together the countries in the region to discuss security issues of joint concern. The EU has to seize the opportunity to get the Arab neighbours engaged. This also means to continue and improve relations with the Arab League which over the last months has shown quite a level of activity. Europeans should take the lead and create a platform for a Euro-Med security debate, which may become a nucleus for a new kind of security cooperation with and in the region.

*„It would be very beneficial for European Member States and European institutions to strengthen their resources in order to create solid networks in a world that is becoming more interconnected and multipolar. I think its great potential in this area is a strategic asset of the European Union.”*

**What elements do you deem as essential to ensure the strategic relevance of the European Union in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?**

I think it's very fashionable now to talk about the decline of the EU. I don't believe that this is happening. I think the EU is different from the United States, from China and all other parts of the world. It has found a way of dealing with its internal issues and its external relations that is quite unique. It would be very beneficial for European Member States and European institutions to strengthen their resources in order to create solid networks in a world that is becoming more interconnected and multipolar. I think its great potential in this area is a strategic asset of the European Union. We should start to develop real privileged relationships or partnerships, and begin with the countries in our neighbourhood.

**Could you think of particular research areas where DGAP and EIR may develop cooperation?**

I think it's important for institutions in Germany and Romania to exchange views on the neighbourhood policy in the overall perspective. Of course, for Romania it's more important to talk about the Eastern than the Southern dimension, as it is for Germany. But I think facing the historic changes in the Arab neighbourhood, countries that went through a transition themselves not long ago can bring valuable experience to the table.

Interview by Agnes Nicolescu

## The European Year for Active Ageing

### The European Union – Between silver economy and silverless society

2012 - The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations is intended, from a pro-active perspective, as an occasion for European nations to celebrate old age and reflect on the opportunities of a longer and healthier life than ever.

In European Union's view, active ageing can give the baby-boom generation and tomorrow's older adults the opportunity to:

- remain in the workforce and share their experiences,
- keep playing an active role in society,
- live as healthy and as accomplished a life as possible.

It is what could make up the silver economy of the future Union: goods and services for older people provided, among others, by elderly persons. Such a project is consistent with the principles of human rights for development cooperation, included in UN conventions, i.e.:

- **universality** - human rights are innate, the same for everyone, including the elderly,
- **indivisibility** - human rights are indivisible and interdependent, so that no right can be prioritised over another,
- **participation** - development cooperation is more effective when the intended categories, individuals and communities, participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation.

According to these principles, the elderly should be regarded as persons with rights, not as objects of charity acts. Maintaining collective respect and self-esteem, as well as capitalising on experience and work capacity, while maintaining solidarity between generations in societies with rapidly growing numbers of ageing people, are also considered essential.

The challenges for political decision makers and stakeholders will be to improve the opportunities for the population to take part in active ageing in general and to be able to live independently, carrying out activities in various fields, such as employment, health care, social services, adult learning, volunteering, IT services or transport.

The European Year seeks to rise awareness of the problems that an ageing society is facing and to promote the best methods to address them. But most of all, it is intended to encourage all decision-makers and stakeholders to set their goals and take appropriate measures to achieve them. 2012 should go beyond debating; it should be able to bring tangible results. The intentions are ambitious, appropriate for the institutions promoting them, consistent with the objectives and the means at their disposal.

However, 2012 - The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations comes at a critical time for Europe. The financial and economic crises seem to have a new impetus, doubting growth perspectives for Europe in general and for the euro area in particular.

Restructuring sovereign debts of European states, the sore point



European Year for **Active Ageing**  
and **Solidarity between Generations 2012**



of the European Union, is an important factor in activating the "perfect storm" predicted by Nouriel Roubini, which will worsen the perspectives of global economy. Such worries are legitimate, at least according to the news at the beginning of 2012. The rating agency Standard & Poor's eliminated France and Austria's triple-A status and downgraded other seven euro zone states, among which Spain, Italy and Portugal.

2012 needs an intensification of the series of reforms associated with measures for macroeconomic recovery and for overcoming the crisis. Fiscal consolidation and European austerity threaten new cuts in governmental spending, especially for the public sector, health, social services and security, including civil service job cuts.

Austerity policies and the adjustment of taxes, contributions and social transfers, meant to re-establish macroeconomic balance, have already generated massive demonstrations, trade union actions, forms of resistance and violence in Europe. Governance deficiencies and flaws of the act of justice can have devastating effects on the peoples' way of accepting power. And the wisdom of grey hair does not seem to be reflected in the good governance.

And yet, there is still some hope. At the beginning of the year, the site europa.eu registered initiatives dedicated to the European Year in seven European states, which can be extended or subsequently used to a larger extent (France, Germany, United Kingdom, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia). These projects, older or newer initiatives, target a fairly wide range of interest areas: labour and business, health, research, intergenerational education, behavioural sciences, music and art, history, sports, mass media.

The means for implementing the projects consist of various instruments: analyses and methodologies, volunteering, courses, archive elements, communication events and meetings, intergenerational companionship, exhibitions.

The European Year cannot avoid the increasing pressure exerted on the elderly population, expressed by the threat of unemployment, employers' reluctance, limited access to health and care services, against the background of a decrease of purchasing power. An increased awareness of the problems of the elderly, even in difficult conditions of crisis, can only prevent Europe from turning into a helpless society. A Europe of senior citizens is difficult to avoid. But an unprepared and careless one can be prevented.

Iulian Oneașcă

## Studies in European Affairs in 2011

In 2011, the Studies and Analyses Unit brought its contribution to EIR's objectives to support the substantiation and implementation of public policies in European Affairs, by its research and analysis programs and activities carried out. The research and analysis activity for 2011 included both the **traditional programs** consisting in coordinating and publishing studies in the field of European integration, among others, and the **novelty elements**, such as: collaboration between Polish researchers and EIR experts in drawing up the series of micro-studies Working Papers. The publication **Perspectives of Polish - Romanian Bilateral Cooperation prior to the Polish EU Presidency**, an analysis of the EU Polish presidency priorities of 2011, has thus benefited of an increased promotion on the EIR website and on the websites of EPIN (European Policy Institutes Network) and PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society).

In 2011, within the project **Strategy and Policies Studies (SPOS)** four studies have been realized, on: *The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in the framework of the post-2013 budgetary perspective*, *Adopting the Euro Plus Pact: implications to Romania's fiscal policy*, *The European Semester and the insurance of a sustainable economic growth through healthier public finances. Lessons for Romania from the perspective of the public finances sustainability* and *Analysis of the evolution of EU social policies - supplementary/private pensions and the impact of an aging population*.

Another project managed by the Studies and Analyses Unit was the editing and publication of the translation of a reference book in European Affairs, **Policy-making in the European Union**, coordinated by Helen Wallace.

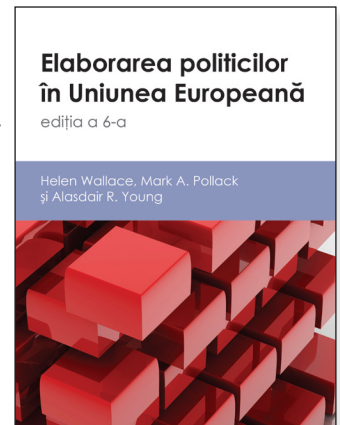
The Studies and Analyses Unit contributed, by opinion articles, scientific works published in specialty reviews and interventions in some relevant national and international conferences, to promoting the EIR image as well as to debates on current themes for the European and international agenda, such as: the importance of the Euro Plus Pact, the role of the national parliaments after the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, perspectives upon the political and economic evolutions of the states in the BRIC group and in the Central Asia region etc. We mention the contribution to developing existent institutional partnerships (EPIN, EADI) and establishing new collaboration relations, with the Black Sea Fund for International Cooperation, the Confrontations Europe Association and EINIRAS (European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies). In 2011, EIR became member of the Executive Committee of EPIN (*European Policy Institutes Network*) and of EADI (*European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes*).

The Studies and Analyses Unit also participated, next to the Communication Unit, in organizing and moderating the international conference organized in collaboration with EPIN and the European Commission Representation in Romania, *Strategic Thinking in the European Union* (30 September). The event was attended by important Romanian and foreign officials with responsibilities in European Affairs, as well as by numerous representatives of the academic and research environment within the EPIN analysis centres.

We must also remark the activity carried on within the editorial team of the *Romanian Journal of European Affairs*, both on the scientific and on the administrative level, by managing the relations with the external partners in order to enhance the scientific character and international visibility of the journal.

The Studies and Analysis Unit was also involved in the effective implementation of projects financed from European funds such as the POSDRU project: *Enabling an easy transition from school to work for the students in Economy - International Affairs*. The training courses in European Affairs organized at the EIR headquarters and the work visits at the main national and international institutions represented in Bucharest offered to the participants a clear idea about the professional and academic opportunities associated to European Affairs.

Agnes Nicolescu



## Communication in European affairs

In 2011, the European Institute of Romania strengthened its role as a platform for public debates in the field of European affairs, by organising and co-organising **21 national and international public events**: conferences, roundtables, seminars, Europe Day etc. European topics considered a national priority were approached, among which: costs and benefits of the accession, European Green Growth and sustainable development, migration, economic catch-up, new guidelines for the industrial policy in Romania, the Lisbon Treaty and its implications on the Romanian policies and institutions, strategic thinking in the EU, EU budget, the role and place of public policies in the European economic governance, etc.

EIR also increased its visibility by enhancing existing institutional partnerships or by initiating extremely productive new partnerships. Thus, the events organised in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Romania continued. The 31<sup>st</sup> conference within the project "Romania-France: together in Europe", launched in 2007, was held in December 2011.

Other important partner institutions in the field of communication activities were the Department for European Affairs (debate on economic catch-up, actions dedicated to Europe Day at the Infoeuropa Centre), the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry (conference on green economy and sustainable development), the Chamber of Deputies and the Commission for European Affairs





of the Chamber of Deputies (debate on the Lisbon Treaty), SOROS Foundation (debate on migration), the European Development Platform (debate on the costs and benefits of the accession).

EIR's expertise in this field offered the possibility to continue the collaboration with the "traditional" partners. Apart from the project with the Embassy of France mentioned above, we also mention the partnerships with the Embassy of Poland (EIR was co-organiser of the conference held in Bucharest, under the aegis

of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, event which benefited from the participation of Mr. Janusz Lewandowski, European Commissioner, as key speaker), respectively the EC Representation in Romania (partner of the Institute in the organisation of the conference for launching the SPOS 2010 studies, the international conference under the aegis of European Policy Institutes Network - EPIN, as well as the annual EIR conference).

The annual EIR conference brought to the public's attention the European economic governance and the role played by public policies in this process. The event was honoured by the presence of Ms. Helen Wallace, Emeritus Professor at the European Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSEPS).

At the same time, in the context of the European Year of Volunteering, the annual conference provided an opportunity for the granting of the EIR Excellence Awards, second edition, dedicated to the nongovernmental organisations which distinguished themselves by promoting the spirit and the European values among the Romanian public.

For additional information, please visit [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro), the Communication/Previous events section.

**Florentina Costache**

## Training programs at EIR in 2011

The year 2011 was characterised by a wide range of programs on various themes, related to the field of activity of the European Institute of Romania (EIR), i.e. European affairs.

The Training Unit within the EIR continued its traditional programs dedicated to general training (**General training in European affairs, Trainer**), and especially to deepen some themes specific to the field of European affairs: **Legal system of the European Union, Integrated waste management systems in the context of European Law**. Based on the received applications, the introduction of a new program on the **Area of freedom, security and justice - visas, asylum, immigration between Schengen and Lisbon**, conceived for the specialised staff of public institutions, proved to be appropriate.

As a response to the interest the public continues to manifest for the theme of European funds in Romania, EIR organized in 2011 new sessions of the specialization program for the profession of **Project Manager** with direct applicability in the management of projects financed from European funds (authorized by CNFPA). This interest is also proved by two sessions organized at the request of the *Romanian National Company of Motorways and National Roads (CNADNR)*. Correlated to this course, the program **Expert in accessing structural and cohesion funds**, oriented towards the development, in particular, of the competencies required for identifying, accessing, developing and implementing a successful project, started in 2011.

After the CNFPA authorization, the program **Public procurement expert** was organized in a new format, of 5 days. 3 of the 5 training sessions were carried out at the request of *CNADNR* and *EduTech Consulting*, of Miercurea-Ciuc.

Another program of interest, in connection to the European themes was **Development of competencies for the translation**



**and revision of legal texts**. In 2011, 3 more sessions were organized, mostly sustained by trainers within EIR based on over 10 years' experience in the translation of the Community acquis and ECHR case-law.

In 2011 the collaboration with *Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA)*, *Embassy of France in Romania* and *French Institute in Bucharest* continued as part of the *Training plan of European public servants* financed by *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)*. New sessions of the program, already traditional at EIR, dedicated to the training of the Romanian specialists within public institutions for the preparations of the admission exams in European institutions, as well as a series of thematic seminars (concerning Common Agricultural Policy and public-private partnership) were organised within this partnership. All these programs are sustained in French.

A novelty in the training programs for the European contests was the organization of a session, in English, developed in partnership with *Euphorum - EU Carrier Portal*.

For 2012, the Training Unit undertakes to successfully continue the organization of programs intended to ensure a high level specialization of public servants in the specific themes, but not limited to them. In order to substantiate and develop the

structure of programs offered for the next period, a new analysis of the training needs in public administration, having as purpose the identification of the current areas in the development of the target group competencies took place in the second half of 2011.

Diana Popa  
Gigi Mihăiță

## Translation Coordination Unit activities in 2011

The activity of **translation and revision** was carried on within three internal projects: the translation and revision of the ECHR case-law, the translation and revision of the CJEC case-law, the translation of other documents, as well as two contract projects: the contract *Modern mechanisms for an efficient administration*, signed with MAI, and the contract with the Deposit Guarantee Fund in the Banking System. In April 2011 TCU finished the translation of the book *Policy-making in the European Union*, sixth edition, by Helen Wallace, Mark Pollack and Alasdair Young, launched in December within the EIR Annual Awards.

TCU colleagues provided the interpretation during the events within the project *Modern mechanisms for an efficient administration* and during the events organized by EIR.

At the end of 2011, the terminology database had 30 805 validated terms, with free access on EIR's website.

A *Trilateral Protocol for the collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Superior Council of Magistracy and the European Institute of Romania* was signed in April. The Protocol

is intended to improve the access at the European Court of Human Rights case-law (ECHR) by translating and revising the ECHR case-law, drawing up information materials and by organizing events focused on ECHR case-law related issues.

At the end of 2011, the collaboration started at the end of 2010 between the Deposit Guarantee Fund in the Banking System and the European Institute of Romania was renewed by signing an additional document.

Three specialised publications were issued in 2011: *Historical Case-law of the Community Courts* - reports of summaries, tome V, *European Court of Human Rights Reports* - tome II, *Legal Glossary*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The best sold publications were the *Romanian Style Guide for the Use of Translators of the Acquis Communautaire*, the *Guide for the translation into Romanian of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights*, the *Glossary on the Treaty Of Lisbon and the Legal Glossary*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Mihai Constandache

## In focus

### Priorities of the Danish Presidency for 2012

Within the press conference held in Bucharest on 10 January 2012, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Romania, His Excellency Mr. Michael Sternberg presented the main priorities of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, held by Denmark in the first half of this year. The four established objectives are ensuring an economically responsible Europe, resuming economic growth, promoting a green agenda and enhancing Europe's internal and external security<sup>1</sup>.

The first objective envisaged by the Danish Presidency in its mandate is to ensure EU's economic stability by supporting economy in order to make it as sustainable as possible, upheld by a strong fiscal discipline. The Danish Presidency also wishes to implement better economic surveillance regulations and procedures. Therefore, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Romania declared that his country is just as concerned as the other Member States with the extent of the crisis in the euro area and that it will do everything possible to find a viable solution to overcome the crisis.

The second objective set is to resume and encourage economic growth by developing the European Single Market. In the opinion of the Danish Presidency, a dynamic Europe also means improving trans-European infrastructure in order to improve the functioning of the internal market, in order to ensure the movement of persons and goods and, last but not least, in order to ensure the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union. Moreover, another area of interest is related to stimulating research and innovation, but also to establishing new connections and business opportunities between the companies in Europe and states such as Japan, India, Canada or Tunisia.

eu2012.dk

DANISH PRESIDENCY  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION 2012

<sup>1</sup> <http://eu2012.dk/en/NewsList/Januar/uge-1-og-2/-/media/C7302481785E4F9A876B0EAE29F9A11.ashx>



More consideration for environmental protection is another objective envisaged for the Danish mandate and making sustained efforts to maintain the position of the European Union as a global leader in promoting a green agenda concerning environment, energy and climate change. In order to achieve the proposed target for Europe, which is to reduce by 20% conventional energy consumption by 2020, the Danish Presidency will focus on a new directive, whose purpose is to improve energy efficiency, according to the European Energy Efficiency Plan 2011. At the same time, the foundation for a long-term strategy in the field of energy and climate change will be laid.

Last but not least, strengthening Europe's internal and external security is envisaged. The priority of the Danish Presidency is to encourage cooperation at the EU level for better management of challenges at the borders and in order to ensure the security of European citizens. In order to monitor the phenomenon of migration from less developed countries, the Danish Presidency will do its best to achieve the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) by the end of this year. Moreover, strengthening the Schengen system and negotiations on the European Investigation Order are also envisaged.

Concerning Romania and Bulgaria's accession to the Schengen Area, His Excellency Mr. Michael Sternberg admitted that he acknowledges the sustained efforts made by the two countries in order to meet the accession criteria and that the same standards should be applied to all countries. At the same time, he highlighted that it is important for Romania to continue its efforts towards accession to the free movement area since it is on the right track.

Mr. Teodor Baconschi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, emphasized that Romania supports these priorities, mentioning especially the confidence in the Community method and in the Internal Market dynamics. Romania supports the actions taken to ensure and consolidate an environment of cohesion and solidarity within the EU, as well as the phenomenon of EU enlargement and the development of neighborhood policies, especially in Eastern Europe.

Yet, Mr. Leonard Orban, Minister of European Affairs, declared that the perspectives for Romania's accession to the Schengen Area are not too optimistic at present, especially since the Netherlands strongly contend that at least two positive reports are needed. Nevertheless, the minister emphasized that Romania will continue to persist and prepare for the whole process, including the process of strengthening the Schengen governance. Mr. Orban insisted on the importance of all European actors and institutions in maintaining and strengthening solidarity within the EU. Last but not least, the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his whole support for the priorities established by the Danish Presidency and offered his support in view of a close cooperation for the achievement of the proposed objectives.

Oana Mocanu  
Adina Monica Lungu

EIR publication

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## Romanian Perspectives regarding the Inter-war Plans of Creating a "Danubian Confederation". Toward a Europe Danube Strategy *avant la lettre* - Working Papers Series no. 31

In his paper *Romanian Perspectives regarding the Inter-war Plans of Creating a "Danubian Confederation". Toward a European Danube Strategy *avant la lettre**, Mihai Sebe, expert of the European Affairs Training and Research Unit, European Institute of Romania, analyses the attempts of creating a block of the Danubian states, during the inter-war period. The author's methodology consists of studying the publications of that period, comparing various sources and analysing the contemporary opinions about that period.

The study is structured in five chapters. The first chapter, *The Danube's international regime before World War I. Proposals of modification of the status of the river*, presents the status of Danube until World War I and reviews various proposals submitted by the European powers. These proposals were often refused by the Danubian states, motivating the limitation of their national sovereignty.

In the second chapter, *French plans for creating a Danubian Confederation (1919-1920) and the Romanian reaction*, France's wish to create a Danubian confederation is explained from the perspective of the void created in the in Central

Europe by the disappearance of Austria-Hungary after World War I. France was the main continental power of that period, but it did not have the necessary means in order to support its position, for which reason it tried to create a "buffer zone" hindering Germany and Russia to increase their influence. However, Romania refused the French proposal, especially because of the increased involvement of Hungary, which aimed at restoring the pre-war situation, by approaching Austria. The idea of a Danubian confederation came back in 1922, by the plan supported by Oskar laszi, professor of Budapest, militating for regional agreement. This paper presents the opinions of some prominent Romanian figures of that period, such as Nicolae Iorga and Mihail Manoilescu, highlighting the difficulties that would have been faced by such a plan which looked good at conceptual level.

The third chapter, *Maniu's Government Plan for creating a Danubian Confederation*, presents the efforts of Iuliu Maniu to lay the foundation of a confederation of the Danubian states. Its first proposal, at the end of 1920s, referred at setting preferential rates between six Central European countries - Romania, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria and

Yugoslavia. Coming to power, in the autumn of 1928, Maniu begins to implement this plan which contained an economic aspect as well as a political aspect. At the end of the chapter, M. Sebe presents the reasons for which this plan, as well as the following one proposed by Maniu in 1930, failed.

The fourth chapter of the study analyses *Tardieu's Plan and Romania's reaction (1932)*. This Plan had little chance of victory, taking into account that it was conceived as an electoral manoeuvre and, moreover, it excluded Bulgaria from the Danubian confederation. Next, it presents the opinions of the Romanian elites of that period - G. G. Mironescu was for Tardieu's plan, V. Madgearu opposed this initiative, N. Iorga admired the idea, but did not consider it viable. Despite the failure of Tardieu's Plan, Little Entente (Romania, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia) represented, at a reduced scale, a construction ensuring the cooperation between some of the Danubian states.

The last chapter of this paper is dedicated to the analysis of the regional situation at the end of the inter-war period - *The Danube and World War II*. This period is marked by the geopolitical changes at the European level, mainly represented by the Germany's ascension, which wanted to have control over Danube. It describes very well the position of Grigore Gafencu, who was aware that Romania could not be hostile to Germany, but who underlined the need of a conditioned support from the Romanians.

The study ends by reaffirming the importance conferred by the Romanian elites to the Danube, in the inter-war period, and suggests the possibility for this region of Europe to be the key for getting out of the current crisis, as it was also seen in some milieus during the period of the Great Crisis.

The entire paper can be consulted at

[http://www.ier.ro/documente/working\\_papers/wp\\_31.pdf](http://www.ier.ro/documente/working_papers/wp_31.pdf)

Dragoş Calcan

EP

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 16 – 19 January 2012 Strasbourg plenary session



Sursă foto: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

The new President of the European Parliament, elected for the next 30 months, is **Martin Schulz**, candidate of the Socialist Group. On Tuesday, 17 January, by secret vote, he obtained 387 votes out of the 670 valid votes. He had two counter-candidates - the independent Diana Wallis (141 votes) and Nirj Deva, member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (142 votes), who did not run for vice-president. On Wednesday, 18 January, also by secret ballot, the 14 vice-presidents and the College of Quaestors (composed of 5 members) have been elected.

In his inaugural speech, Martin Schulz specified that he will fight for the European Parliament, one of the three most important institutions, to maintain its role of representing the citizens, especially by attendance at the negotiating table at the European summits. To this effect, "the intergovernmental agreement on a new fiscal union will be the first test"<sup>1</sup>, in order to ensure the balance between the budgetary discipline, growth

and employment. Stating he opposes the trend towards "the re-nationalisation of policy-making", the EP president undertook to help the EP to raise its profile as a forum for democracy and debate. His message was full of confidence as concerns the European values and the success of the fascinating idea which is the European Union.

**The international (intergovernmental) agreement on the consolidated economic union**, object of a common resolution project, drawn up by four parliamentary groups, prompted debates on the method (Community vs. intergovernmental) and on the dangers that this agreement may represent. The Parliament adopted the resolution, establishing requirements and preoccupations related to the negotiations of this agreement. The resolution underlines the need of growth and solidarity, but also the fact that the objectives of the international agreement may be reached through the EU legislation and normal procedures. MEPs expressed their doubt about the need of such an agreement outside the EU system, which could affect the democratic legitimacy. Attending the plenary session, the Chairman of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, referred to this agreement as to an element of the package of measures which give an answer to the crisis, in order to ensure the viability of the euro. That is why, the chairman underlined, the agreement needs the support of the Commission and of the Parliament.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/the-president/en-ro/press/press\\_release\\_speeches/speeches/sp-2012/sp-2012-january/speeches-2012-january-1.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/the-president/en-ro/press/press_release_speeches/speeches/sp-2012/sp-2012-january/speeches-2012-january-1.html)

**The Danish presidency program** (January - June 2012), presented by the Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt, has a series of priorities in order to face the crisis, all in the context of the Community method ("more Europe"), ensuring compliance with the law and democracy: economic growth and consolidation, budgetary discipline, jobs, policies for environment protection, ensuring the citizens' security and strengthening Europe's voice in the world. The program was well received by most of the MEPs.

**Debates on the situation of Hungary** prompted a wide spectrum of opinions of the MEPs. One day after the European Commission had started infringement procedures against Hungary on three laws, the representative of the Danish presidency of the Council underlined that the dialogue with Hungary is necessary. In his turn, José Manuel Barroso communicated the MEPs that he asks for respect for democracy in Hungary, "in the interests of the Hungarians". To this effect, the Commission insists that the independence of the Central National Bank, of the judicial system and of the supervisory authority for data protection is respected. The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán guaranteed that the problems signalled by the Commission can be rapidly solved, insisting on the fact that the adopted measures were justified by the imminence of the economic collapse of 2010. The participants in the debate spoke about poverty and corruption, about non-compliance with obligations, about the economic policy of the Hungarian Government, about European rules and national sovereignty, asking at the same time for effective solutions.

Other topics discussed were the waste of food, the updating of the legislation on electric and electronic waste management, the biocides, the European space strategy. Finding on one hand that the **waste of food** is an alarming phenomenon in the European Union, and on the other hand that 16 millions European citizens are fed by the charitable associations, EP asked for urgent measures in order to decrease by half, by 2025, the quantities of food wasted along the whole economic chain (producers, processors, distributors, consumers). The resolution asks the Members States to introduce in schools courses explaining how food must be kept, cooked and discarded.

As for the **biocides products**, meaning the products against the pests of plants (insects or bacteria), EP adopted an agreement with the Council, by which this substances must be approved before sale in EU.

For additional information, please visit: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/ro>

Mariana Bara

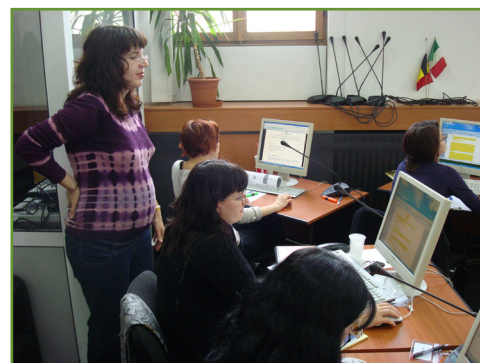
Promo

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## Training programs at EIR's Training Unit in the period February - March

### Development of competences for the translation and revision of legal texts

This program is intended for all those who are interested in the translation and revision of legal texts and who have advanced knowledge of French and/or English. Being highly practice-oriented, the program is structured into thematic modules intended to develop competences regarding the main stages, instruments and standards for the translation, linguistic revision and legal revision, as well as for the terminology research. The course provides elementary notions of law - especially on the European Union law and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights - and contributes to the development of a responsible attitude, a critical spirit and communication and organisation skills in this field.



### Training session for recruitment competitions for the European institutions

Organised in partnership with École Nationale d'Administration, the Embassy of France in Bucharest and the French Institute in Bucharest, the program is subsidised by the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF).

Held in French, the session is intended to provide an advanced training for applicants for positions in the EU institutions (who have already applied or who are going to apply for competitions), given the fact that the tests for recruitment in the EU institutions have changed, especially by removing the multiple-choice test on EU knowledge.



## Project Manager

### Specialisation program for EU funded projects

The program aims to help trainees acquire the key skills necessary for drawing up, planning and monitoring projects and for resource management, including risk management and project team management, as well as for becoming familiar with the main tools and methods meant to support the project management activity, as well as the capacity to use them.

The program tackles the skills needed by a project manager for EU funded projects.



For more information (dates of the training programs, how to enrol), please visit [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro) Training in European Affairs section.

## Call for papers – Romanian Journal of European Affairs – 2012



The European Institute of Romania would like to invite the authors interested in European affairs to submit articles for evaluation and publication in the **Romanian Journal of European Affairs**, an **IDB indexed publication**.

Romanian Journal of European Affairs (RJEAs) is a quarterly publication edited by the European Institute of Romania. The journal covers a wide range of topics, from analysis of current EU related issues (institutional building, economic and monetary affairs, internal market, energy, migration, security, neighborhood policy etc.), to identifying the effects of the European integration process on the new member states (with a particular focus on Romania), as well as EU's relations with other global actors.

The recognition of RJEAs role in the European studies area has also been confirmed by its admission in various **international scientific databases**, such as: ProQuest, EBSCO, SCOPUS, DOAJ, Index Copernicus, HeinOnline, Cabell's Directory, ICAAP - International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publications, Gesis, Open J-Gate etc.

### Guidelines for authors:

**4,000 - 8,000 word articles** written in **English or French**, followed by a **200 word abstract** in English, a very brief autobiographical note, keywords and **JEL** classification (if applicable).

Articles should be presented in Microsoft Office Word format, Times New Roman, 12, 1.5 line spacing, and will be sent to the address [rjea@ier.ro](mailto:rjea@ier.ro) mentioning "For RJEAs". Oxford citation system is highly recommended.

Book reviews should be no longer than **2 000 words**.

The submission of an article implies commitment from the author to comply with the copyright policy of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs. The Copyright Agreement is available online at: [http://www.ier.ro/documente/rjea\\_pdf/copyright\\_agreement\\_for\\_RJEAs\\_articles.pdf](http://www.ier.ro/documente/rjea_pdf/copyright_agreement_for_RJEAs_articles.pdf)

### Selection of articles:

Each article received for publication enters a thorough selection procedure before being accepted or rejected. All articles under analysis are made anonymous and handed over to two referees for evaluation. Their reports will provide the basis for acceptance or rejection.

The evaluation procedure involves quantitative and qualitative elements. The main selection criteria are: scientific excellence, originality, novelty and potential interest for the journal's audience.

The editors reserve the right to ask for changes, both in form and content, to decide upon publication, to edit the articles or to eliminate fragments, without altering the meaning of the original text.

For more general information about the journal, please visit [www.ier.ro/rjea](http://www.ier.ro/rjea)

# Call for Working Papers – 2012 EIR Micro-Studies Series

The European Institute of Romania welcomes potential authors from various fields of activity, including researchers from University centers and Academy institutes, who can contribute to tackling topics that are specific to the field of European affairs and offers to publish their micro-studies online as part of the EIR collection - Working Papers Series.

The **Micro-Studies (Working Papers) Series**, coordinated by EIR, analyse topics which are relevant and adapted to the current domestic and European context. The Working Papers support the exchange of ideas scientifically substantiated and facilitate the dissemination of information and opinions for the shaping up of a Romanian perspective with regard to European processes.



## Guide for authors

The micro-studies can be published in Romanian or in a bilingual issue, in Romanian and English. They must be between 25 and 35 pages, and also include an abstract in English, as well as a short autobiography of the authors. Micro-studies must feature the structure of the paper, detailed in chapters, as well as bibliographical references.

The text or the annexes of the study can include tables, graphs or sketches, in support of the argumentation. It is highly recommended to avoid an over-specialized language, as well as the excessive use of mathematical formula.

Papers will be written in Microsoft Office Word, 12 Times New Roman font, at 1.5 spacing and can be submitted, throughout the year 2012 at the e-mail address [agnes.nicolescu@ier.ro](mailto:agnes.nicolescu@ier.ro), with the specification „For EIR Micro-Studies Collection”.

## Selection of papers

Each paper proposed for publication undergoes a selection process before being accepted. During the evaluation procedure, a series of factors, both qualitative and quantitative, are taken into consideration.

Should a paper be accepted, the editorial board has the right to edit the materials, when necessary, while keeping the spirit of the original paper.

**Starting with 2010**, the submission of a Working Paper for evaluation and further publication in Working Papers Series entails the author's acceptance of the copyright policy of the Working Papers Series.

For further information please visit [http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/seria\\_working\\_papers](http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/seria_working_papers)

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