

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

### Kaisa Korhonen

Researcher in the European Union Research Programme at FIIA  
(The Finnish Institute of International Affairs), Helsinki



Your current research at FIIA focuses on the EU institutional development and the Finnish EU policy-making. Could you tell us more about your work?

Initially I joined the FIIA to coordinate a research project on Nordic cooperation in international affairs. This project's final report, suggesting new ways in which the Nordic countries could work together on various global, European and sub-regional policy-making arenas, was published in English in June 2011. After this I have been focusing on the EU institutional developments in light of the Lisbon Treaty's entry into force. Currently, most of my working time goes to coordinating and editing a publication series on the topic, as well as to writing shorter pieces on either this topic or the Finnish EU policy-making.

With reference to the above mentioned report on Nordic Cooperation, could the Nordic cooperation model, in your opinion, be extended to other regions in Europe?

The Nordic cooperation model has at least two peculiar features. One is the strength of the the parliamentary and civil society cooperation: Nordic cooperation has a strong bottom-up dimension ... **p. 2**

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## EIR publication \_\_\_\_\_

### RJEA – 10 years of international views on European Affairs

Launched a decade ago, with the aim to periodically publish opinions, as well as documented research on EU subjects, papers of interest not only in Romania, but also at international level, the *Romanian Journal of European Affairs* has focussed on EU debates and has gradually gained popularity and scientific recognition in the fields of political and social sciences and of European studies... **p. 5**



... Indeed, the parliamentary assembly, the Nordic Council, has an even longer history than its intergovernmental counterpart, the Nordic Council of Ministers, while relatively resourceful Nordic associations still work actively at the grass root level to promote people-to-people contacts, for example through different exchange programs. The second peculiar feature of Nordic cooperation is its pragmatic approach to international cooperation in general. Perhaps due to the failed efforts after the World Wars, the Nordic cooperation has been, during the past decades, about solving specific concrete problems on the way to a more economically and culturally integrated *Norden*. Now, all this makes the Nordic cooperation model enduring and worth extending further to regions where enhanced cooperation without far-reaching political integration is searched for. However, I do not believe that using the model in other regions is likely to be successful if these regions do not have similar background factors such as a strong regional identity together with transnational trust and solidarity.

**How did the Finnish decision-makers and civil society at large receive the changes brought by the Lisbon Treaty? And how would you assess its general impact on the domestic decision-making process?**

Generally, the changes brought by the Lisbon Treaty were received positively in Finland. Most commentators saw the Treaty as an important step towards a better functioning and more transparent Union - the Treaty was approved by the Parliament with a large majority. Lately, however, some specific provisions, such as the more central role of the European Council, which could be interpreted as decreasing the small member states' influence in EU decision-making, have been discussed with

„...the Nordic cooperation model [is] enduring and worth extending further to regions where enhanced cooperation ...is searched for...”

**Kaisa Korhonen** – MA, College of Europe (Bruges), MA in European Political and Administrative Studies, 2008, Politics magister, Stockholm University, Master of Political Sciences with Specialization in European Politics, 2007

**Areas of expertise:** EU as political system; European integration theory; Lisbon Treaty and EU institutional development

**Recent publications:**

*Norden – Making a Difference? Possibilities for enhanced Nordic cooperation in international affairs, the Norden 2020 project report, FIIA Report 29, co-edited with Teija Tiilikainen*

*Guardians of subsidiarity: National parliaments strive to control EU decision-making, FIIA, Briefing Paper 84 (2011), published on May 25th, 2011*

*No longer a model pupil in European politics? Finland's EU policy after the general elections, EPIN Commentary, No. 6 / 28 April 2011, together with Juha Jokela*

*The belittled trio: towards a new managerial identity for the rotating EU Council presidency, Briefing Paper 71 (2010), Finnish Institute of International Affairs, published on December 16th, 2010*

**Languages:** Finnish (native), Swedish (fluent), English (fluent) and French (passive)  
Source: <http://www.fiaa.fi/en/home/#tab1>

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concern. When it comes to the Finnish EU policy-making, the Lisbon Treaty as such has not greatly changed the process, since notwithstanding the new prerogatives of national parliaments in the Lisbon Treaty, the Finnish Parliament, Eduskunta, continues to focus on keeping the Government accountable when it negotiates in Brussels. Changes in the Finnish EU policy are rather linked with the general elections in spring 2011, because an anti-EU populist party, the Finns, gained an unforeseen electoral victory.

**Finally, how do you think FIIA and EIR should develop cooperation relations in order to consolidate the EPIN (European Policy Institutes Network) and its objectives?**

I consider EPIN as an important network for the exchange of national views on EU policy matters. It also gives a platform for researchers to form professional contacts that can later be put in use in the framework of various research projects. Taking part in regular meetings keeps the EU researchers up to date about the current projects in other institutes and thus inspires the establishing of their own projects that do not duplicate the efforts, but fill in the knowledge gaps. It is therefore especially important to ensure that information received during these meetings - or through the exchange of newsletters etc. - is distributed as widely as possible in the researchers' home institutes. The frequent flow of information concerning seminars and/or research projects helps to identify possibilities for concrete cooperation the moment they emerge.

Interview by **Mădălina Magnusson**  
(Interview agreed upon at the end of September 2011)



**Vivien Pertusot**

Head of IFRI (Institut Français des Relations Internationales), Brussels office

**Taking into account the evolution of the Libyan situation with the clear victory of the opposition forces and the European Union intention to open a Tripoli office which should be the actions taken by the European Union? What is your comment**

**regarding the involvement of the European institutions in the Lybian affair? What have we accomplished and what should we do next?**

First, it is important to remember what the EU did not do in Libya. The European Union dithered for a short while on whether

and how to get involved but forcibly failed to commit to any kind of engagement. It reinforced the impression that the Common Security and Defence Policy lacks clout and strength, especially as countries favoured NATO to command the operation. In the end, the EU did agree on creating a humanitarian mission EUFOR Libya that is constrained by such important caveats that it looks as if it was designed to never be deployed. However, Libya enters a new phase in which the EU can highlight a certain expertise. Libya's institutions are in shambles and the EU could become in the mid-term a prime partner to assist the new authorities to build and reform the institutions, especially the security sector, the judiciary system, as well as the economic and social sectors. In the short term, the situation remains very volatile, and the two immediate concerns are the humanitarian situation and the smuggling and unmonitored dissemination of conventional weapons. It is unlikely that the EU will commit too many resources to Libya as long as the safety of its personnel cannot be guaranteed.

**What is the current situation of the dialogue between the European Union and the North African countries taking into consideration the « Arab spring » ? Has the European Union grasp the moment and initiated a constructive dialogue? Or are there still plenty of things to be done?**

We should bear in mind a few key factors. The European Neighbourhood Policy was created to deepen the dialogue between the EU and its neighbours, both East and South. Meanwhile, the Barcelona Process vanished as it became increasingly plagued with political tensions. The Union for the Mediterranean was then founded in 2008 to revive the Barcelona Process but stumbled on the same obstacles and a lack of political willingness to get it off the ground. The timing of the upheavals took the EU by surprise. An ENP review was already being debated, but it had to adapt quickly to the ever-evolving situation. Moreover, the EU had often been criticized for being complacent with authoritarian regimes in the region, favouring cooperation on illegal migration rather than pressing for reform.

„The European Neighbourhood Policy review has tried to tailor a new approach putting democracy support at the top of the agenda...”

what resources in cooperation with their partners. Second, they need to gather the support of their partners; it may be easier for some of them compared to others. Third, they need to learn from past experiences.

The ENP review has tried to tailor a new approach putting democracy support at the top of the agenda. However, the case of Tunisia illustrates the tension between a value-based policy and an interest-based policy. On the one hand, many people lauded the protestors, while others, or sometimes the same, were criticizing the new authorities for being too lax vis-à-vis the migrants fleeing Tunisia to go to Europe. Now, the EU and its member states need to concretely define what they can offer with

**Vivien Pertusot** graduated from King's College London (MA, Mediterranean and Middle East Studies) and from IRIS Sup (MA, International Relations). He also studied for a year at South-western University in Georgetown, Texas. He previously worked at NATO and Carnegie Europe. He also taught political science at University Lille 2.

**Research areas:** European security and defence issues, NATO and European Neighbourhood Policy

Source: [http://www.ifri.org/?page=research\\_fellow\\_detail&id=4691&section=parcours](http://www.ifri.org/?page=research_fellow_detail&id=4691&section=parcours)

**What should the European Union do in order to increase its strategic relevance in a changing world?**

That's the million dollar question. Before trying to devise a new strategy, the EU should consider ridding two aspects of its posture. First, the EU needs to learn how to be on the demanding side. The EU has increasingly become an actor among many others and while it still has a lot to offer, especially with respect to trade, it needs to learn how to demand. That applies to the neighbourhood, but probably more to the so-called "strategic partners," such as the United States, India, and Brazil. Second, the EU needs to revamp its image when it comes to neighbours. The EU acts with them as if they were candidates to the EU. By and large, the mechanisms and the approach are similar: the EU requests

partners to comply with a myriad of norms and standards, but fails to clearly explain what the benefits are for the country in the short-, medium- and long-term. It still behaves as if the EU was the actor every neighbouring country wanted to get closer to. It may be the case for some, like Moldova, but not for others, such as Egypt. In this regard, the EU is not the first to blame, the member states are. They are still reluctant to let the EU develop its parallel, even if complementary, external policy.

Interview by **Mihai Sebe**  
(Interview agreed upon on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 )

analysis | opinion

## Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on the Agenda of the European Institution

After the Second World War we witnessed the development of a new concept, that of the *corporate social responsibility*, which emerged as a reflection of changes in the society. Thus, the companies do not have only to accomplish their "legal" obligations (payment of fees, observance of the legislation in force etc.), but they also have the obligation to obtain a so-called „social" opinion from the consumers, who expect the interested organization to get actively involved in the solving the social and environmental problems, beyond its legal obligations. We may thus identify a series of factors which led to the development of this new concept, among which:

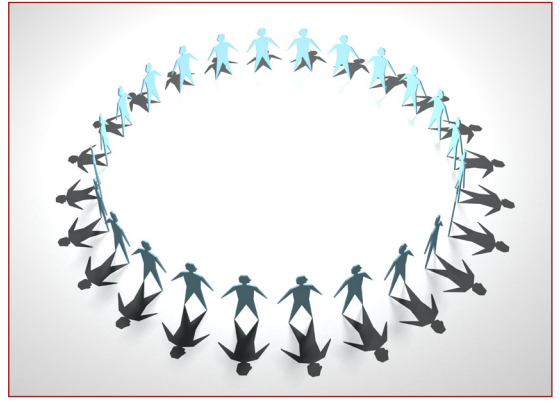
- *environment deterioration;*
- *increase of the companies' social involvement;* or
- *increase of the pressures of different interested parties, with influence in the companies' life.*



In addition to these factors, let's call them "negative", which determined the development of the social responsibility, there is a series of advantages, "positive" factors, resulting from the appropriate implementation of the social responsibility:

- there is also a direct benefit for profitability;
- there is a surplus value added at the company's image and reputation;
- the companies choose to fulfil their corporate values through CSR<sup>1</sup>.

The European Union could not remain insensitive to the problem of social responsibility. As a consequence, in 2001, a first official position is adopted by the publication of the *Green Paper: Promoting a European framework for Corporate Social Responsibility*. In the Green Paper, corporate responsibility is defined as being "a concept by which the companies voluntarily integrate the social and environment concerns into their economic operations and into their interaction with their interested parties"<sup>2</sup>.



Things will evolve and in 2006 a new *Commission's Communication concerning Social Responsibility* is issued aiming at making Europe a pole of excellence in the field of corporate social responsibility. The definition offered to social responsibility is maintained, while a series of additional elements are supplied. Social responsibility means doing better, exceeding the inferior limits established by the legislation in force in order to satisfy the needs of society. Nevertheless, social responsibility cannot do everything and it cannot replace public policies<sup>3</sup>. On this occasion, the *European Alliance for Corporate Social Responsibility* was also launched, organization supported by the European Commission, serving as political umbrella for the mobilization of the European companies in order to promote social responsibility<sup>4</sup>.

This *Communication* drew the attention of the European Parliament which issued in 2007 a *Resolution* in this field asking for greater involvement of the European institutions and underlining that "social and environmental responsibility equally applies to governmental, non-governmental organizations and enterprises". The Parliament also reiterates the definition of social responsibility at the European level, which represents the "voluntary integration of social and environmental aspects into the commercial operations, beyond the legal requirements and contractual obligations" and points out that it cannot serve as a pretext for the non-compliance of the legislation in force<sup>5</sup>.

The most recent Community initiative in that direction dates from October 2011 when the Commission published the new *Strategy 2011 - 2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility*<sup>6</sup>. On this occasion, a new definition of social responsibility was launched, a generic definition according to which social responsibility means "corporate responsibility concerning the impact exercised upon society".

According to this strategy, in order to accomplish their obligations, the enterprises need to "initiate, together with their interested parties, a process meant to lead to the integration of social, environmental, ethical concerns, as well as of those concerning human rights and consumers into their commercial activities and into the basic strategy". The new policy also establishes an action plan for the period 2011 - 2014 covering eight key areas:

- enhancing CSR visibility and dissemination of good practice;
- improving and monitoring the levels of trust in business;
- improving the self-regulation and co-regulation processes;
- increasing rewards offered by the market for CSR;
- improving the companies' transparency in the field of social and environment information;
- integrating CSR into education, training and research;
- highlighting the importance of national and sub-national policies in the CSR field;
- harmonizing the European and global approaches in the CSR field<sup>7</sup>.

The European policy in the field of social responsibility is a policy in continuous evolution and Romania, as Member State, must take into account these evolutions on European plan and must update and create, respectively, a series of national instruments in the field of social responsibility promotion and implementation.

Diana Popa, Mihai Sebe

<sup>1</sup> MEMO/09/109 *What is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?*, p. 1 - 2, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=2067&langId=en> (consulted on 20.11.2011).

<sup>2</sup> Green Paper *Promoting a European framework for Corporate Social Responsibility*, COM(2001) 366, July 2001, p. 6, [http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2001/com2001\\_0366en01.pdf](http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2001/com2001_0366en01.pdf) (Last consulted on 20.11.2011).

<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee, *Implementing The Partnership For Growth And Jobs: Making Europe A Pole Of Excellence On Corporate Social Responsibility*, COM(2006) 136, March 2006, <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2006:0136:FIN:EN:PDF> (Last consulted on 20.11.2011)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.csreurope.org/pages/en/aboutalliance.html> (Last consulted on 20.11.2011)

<sup>5</sup> European Parliament Resolution of 13 March 2007 on corporate social responsibility: a new partnership (2006/2133(INI)), <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2007:301E:0045:0055:RO:PDF> (Last consulted on 20.11.2011)

<sup>6</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions *A renewed EU Strategy 2011-2014 for Corporate Social Responsibility* /\* COM/2011/0681 final \*/, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:DKEY=625565:RO:NOT> (Last consulted on 21.11.2011)

<sup>7</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions *A renewed EU strategy 2011-14 for corporate social responsibility*, COM(2011) 681, October 2011, [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/files/csr/new-csr/act\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/files/csr/new-csr/act_en.pdf) (Last consulted on 20.11.2011)

## RJEA – 10 years of international views on European Affairs

Launched a decade ago, with the aim to periodically publish opinions, as well as documented research on EU subjects, papers of interest not only in Romania, but also at international level, the *Romanian Journal of European Affairs* has focussed on EU debates and has gradually gained popularity and scientific recognition in the fields of political and social sciences and of European studies.

The ten-year anniversary of RJEA (published quarterly under the EIR aegis) represents not only a celebration, but also a time of reflection on the journal's future and goal. We are committed to enter, step by step, into the league of major journal players and this requires an extra effort and dedication from us all. Therefore we are currently in a rebranding process, not only in layout and design, but most importantly in content, a process that will have as ultimate end the creation of a new and better Journal regarding its scientific stature and usefulness.

However, this journal could not have been what it is today without its initial team, the founding Director - **Niculae Idu**, former Director General of EIR, now Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania, **Jacques Pelkmans** - Jan Tinbergen Chair for European Economics, Director of European Economic Studies at College of Europe, Bruges and Associate Senior Fellow at CEPS in Brussels. The present RJEA team would also like to thank the first Editor-in-Chief, **Lucian Branea**, Executive Secretary of Epsilon III Association, whose project and concept of a Romanian journal covering the area of European Affairs, materialised into **RJEA** as the first Romanian publication focussed on European integration. Moreover, a warm *Thank you!* goes to the current Director of the Journal, **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of the EIR, to all the members of the Editorial Board, to its dedicated scientific reviewers and to all the editors who have focused their work on constantly improving this journal during the past ten years.

Yet, a publication would be nothing without its authors and therefore we would like to thank and congratulate the contributors who have delivered interesting papers for the 40 issues of the Journal, their articles (over 200) turning RJEA into a useful scientific instrument available to the worldwide academic area. The recognition of the positive role of RJEA within the European studies research area has also been confirmed by its acceptance into various specialized scientific databases, such as: ProQuest, SCOPUS, EBSCO, DOAJ, Index Copernicus, HeinOnline etc.

The **December anniversary issue** contains not only remarks from **András Inotai** - Member of the RJEA Editorial Board, the Director General of the Institute for World Economics in Budapest and Professor at the College of Europe, research articles from **Geoffrey Pridham** - Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow at Bristol University, **Rok Zupančič** - PhD candidate and Research Assistant at the University of Ljubljana, **Miha Hribernik**, currently pursuing a Master of Science in International Security at the University of Bristol, **Mircea Micu**, PhD candidate in international relations at the University of Cambridge, **Nikolay Karamalakov**, currently a MSc student at the University of Maastricht, **Radu Muşetescu**, PhD, Associate Professor with the International Business and Economics Department at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, **Andreas Stamate**, PhD candidate, Teaching Assistant with the International Business and Economics Department at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, but also a **book review** of **Raluca Oprescu**, PhD candidate at the Doctoral School of International Business and Economics within the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest.

**András Inotai's** remarks highlight the crisis consequences upon EU, in the financial, macroeconomic, social and mental-ideological areas. Moreover, **Inotai** tackles also the challenges for the EU in this context: the revival of international trade; the prevention of the rise of protectionism on the global scale; the need to find a solution to the dilemma between the ambitious goals of the Europe 2020 project and the current fiscal restrictions; and the deficiencies of the "European construction" indicated by the global crisis.

Furthermore in this issue, one can read research findings about the democratisation process in Ukraine. **Geoffrey Pridham** considers two issues to be taken into consideration when analyzing this process: the continuity of EU policy towards Kiev; and, the scope for EU influence in furthering democratic standards. **Rok Zupančič** and **Miha Hribernik** analyse Slovenia's contribution to the normative power of the EU. The authors evaluated the Slovenian foreign policy and its principles, as well as the 2008 Presidency of the EU Council of Slovenia. The Europeanization of the Romanian foreign policy, its usefulness and challenges, have been examined by **Mircea Micu**, with two case studies referring to EU-Romanian disagreements over the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction and Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence.

**Nikolay Karamalakov** assessed the EU's development policy with regard to the gap between the rhetoric and the deeds, focusing exclusively on the actions taken by the EU institutions, while **Radu Muşetescu** and **Andreas Stamate** argue for the need for more coherence in the EU competition law, and invite the reader to consider either the formal rules or the economic approach when the topic of the analysis regards the cartels.



In addition, this issue features a paper reflecting the *Summary Report on the EPIN Conference “Strategic Thinking in the EU”*, organized in Bucharest on September 30<sup>th</sup>, by EIR and CEPS, with the support of the Representation of the European Commission in Romania. The purpose of publishing this Report in RJE was to make known to the journal’s readers the most important points of view presented on this occasion by high officials and representatives of the academic milieu in the European countries, on this occasion. Several topics related to macro-regional strategies such as the Danube Strategy and the Baltic Sea Strategy; the Europe 2020 Strategy and some key points on strategic thinking in EU foreign policy were tackled. The conference consisted of three sessions; the first session outlined the main aspects regarding the Baltic Sea Strategy and the Danube Strategy. The Europe 2020 Strategy was the central point of the second session of the conference, and in the last session, the speakers highlighted important aspects on the strategic thinking in EU Foreign Policy. The series of speeches was completed by a Conclusions’ session that left open for further discussion the need for a solid EU strategic thinking. The authors of the report are **Oana Mocanu**, **Mihai Sebe** and **Gabriela Andreica**, Project Coordinators at EIR.

The book of this issue has been reviewed by **Raluca Oprescu**, who considers *The Dynamics of Change in EU Governance*, by Udo Diedrichs, Wulf Reiners and Wolfgang Wessels, a smooth interfusion between different academic disciplines which focuses on the process of governance transformation in the European Union.

During the current period of economic turmoil any journal needs to have, apart from its dedicated human resources and passionate authors, access to financial resources. Therefore we appreciate the confidence we were invested in by individual buyers and by our subscribers.

Having in mind the invitation for you to continue reading not only the EIR Newsletter, but also the RJE, we thank once again all our contributors for their support and we hope that this Journal was and will continue to be a useful instrument for the academia, the public administration or any other interested reader dealing with EU affairs in Romania and beyond.

**Oana Mocanu, Mădălina Magnusson**

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## European Court of Human Rights Reports – tome II

After almost two years from the printing of the first tome, the European Institute of Romania publishes the second tome of the *European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) Reports*, a reference publication in the Romanian legal landscape.

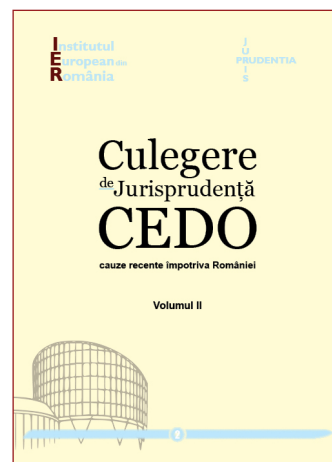
The paper continues to examine the most relevant judgments recently pronounced by the European Court and contains a number of 17 resolutions pronounced during June 2010 - March 2011. The selected judgments tackle various issues, such as the right to liberty and security, the right to freedom of expression, the right to respect for private and family life, the right to a fair trial, the right to an effective remedy, the freedom of assembly and of association etc. Thus, the various chosen jurisprudential benchmarks highlight further on the reasons of the national legal uncertainty, the lack of the legislative coherence and the contradictory case-law concerning the interpretation of certain regulatory aspects.

The *ECHR Reports* targets the law theoreticians and practitioners, as well as those interested in knowing the resolutions of the European Court pronounced versus Romania or those interested in the human rights matters, in general. The usefulness of this paper resides in the alphabetic index on matters, articles, key words, collocations, national and international legal institutions, index which allows the quick identification of the Court’s judgment or judgments incident in the searched matter.

The selection also includes the pilot case *Maria Atanasiu and others vs. Romania*. The first pilot judgment versus Romania had practically suspended the similar cases on the ECHR list and thus obliged the Romanian State to take measures, within 18 months, in order to fix the problem of restitutions. The pilot judgment is important, as it determines the Romanian State to fix the problem of restitutions, in the sense of respecting the fundamental rights and instituting functional mechanism of restitution and compensation.

In conclusion, the sustained selection and publication of the most important cases recently pronounced versus Romania by the European Institute of Romania is a useful instrument for the interpretation of the judicial practice in the human rights field

**Costin Fălcuță**





## CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE EURO ZONE



The 30<sup>th</sup> conference in the series Romania-France: together in Europe, launched in 2007, was held on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The challenges and perspectives of the euro zone were the general subject of the conference organized by the European Institute of Romania and the Embassy of France in Bucharest.

The conference, chaired by Mr. Lucian Croitoru, advisor to the Governor of the National Bank of Romania and member of the Administration Board of the European Institute of Romania, was opened by His Excellency Henri Paul, the Ambassador of France in Romania. He stated that the goal of the event is to understand and anticipate the future of the euro zone, bringing up the chances of success of the European plan, as well as the future developments of the euro zone, from the perspective of Romania's possible accession to this area. Mr. Christian de Boissieu, President of the Council for Economic

Analysis in France, placed the conference in the current context of unpredictability, generated by the future adoption of the European plan by Greece and, at the same time, by the end of the French presidency of the G20. The crisis, which started in 2009 and propagated to Portugal and Ireland in 2010, is a situation that European chancelleries are trying to manage. But, the real stake is to prevent the crisis from spreading to Spain and Italy, whose economies are 9% and 12%, respectively, of the European GDP, whereas the economies of Greece, Portugal and Ireland taken together represent only 5% of the European GDP.

The second part of his speech was structured around the heterogeneity of the euro zone, governed by significant differences in competitiveness among states. In the context of a monetary union, the classic method of reducing these differences, by devaluing the currency, is out of the question, the necessary measures being rather a social understanding concerning the salary cuts in the budgetary system, as well as the establishment of more extensive and, thus, more realistic time limits.

In his presentation, Mr. de Boissieu expressed his agreement on a possible system of sanctions against the countries that do not respect the rules of the game, by withdrawing their right to vote for a limited period.

Mr. de Boissieu ended his speech by launching the idea that Europe's real problems are high unemployment rates and slow economic growth, since the beneficial role of the European Investment Bank is not used to its maximum potential.

**Cristina Mitroi**

## EIR Participation to the study visit within the project "Communicating with Europe", Kosovo

During the period 24 - 27 October, the Romanian Center for European Policies organized, within a project entitled "Communicating with Europe", carried out together with the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), a study visit in Pristina, Kosovo for a group gathering journalists, representatives of think tanks and institutions active in the field of European affairs from both Romania and Moldova. The European Institute of Romania participated with one representative to this study visit. The series of events and meetings organized within the abovementioned project had the role of contributing to the creation of a network between the civil societies of the participant countries, as well as to ensure a better understanding of the socio-political situation in Kosovo.

The Romanian and Moldavian participants met representatives of the civil society in Kosovo, Xavier But de Marnhoc, EULEX representative, Khaldoun Sinno, representative of the Liaison Office of European Commission, Petrit Selimi, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Peter Feith, the representative of the International Civilian Office in Kosovo. From the discussions held with the Director of KFOS, Luan Shllaku, several important ideas were drawn, namely that the civil society in Kosovo is still very vulnerable, mainly due to the lack of a widespread civic awareness - thus, we can speak about a paradox, since the civic participation spirit apparently seemed to be stronger, as organizers pointed out, during the period of Slobodan Milosevic, although the number of the existing NGOs at that time was much smaller than it is now.



Despite a generalized speech, both at the level of civil society and decision-makers in Kosovo, highlighting the need for independence in making and managing the decisions, the Kosovar society is not yet prepared to assume and face the challenges related to the pursuit of social development, enhanced rule of law and democratization. Assuming these challenges implies, first of all, internalizing and accepting the current deficiencies as well as a vivid debate on how to deal with them. At the same time, discussions with representatives of the civil society emphasized their relative discontent with regard to the last report of the international community regarding the situation in Kosovo, which pointed out to the increased level of corruption. Thus, at least at the level of declarations, the perceptions and objectives expressed by the civil society in Kosovo do not seem to fit in completely with those of the international community, whose presence remains essential for ensuring stability in the region.

At the same time, another idea underlined by both the political decision-makers and the representatives of the civil society is that Kosovo should be treated as a *sui generis* case, not to be compared with Palestine or South Ossetia. In respect of the Europeanization and European integration perspectives, the authorities in Kosovo acknowledge that, until now, the priority has been the consolidation of the institutional structures, but from now on they assert their determination to concentrate on pursuing the Europeanization objective.

Agnes Nicolescu

## The Conference

### Research and Analysis in International Relations and European Studies

The European Institute of Romania, in partnership with the Black Sea University Foundation, the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Romanian Academy and the Institute for International Studies of the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, organized in Bucharest, on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the conference with the topic **Research and Analysis in International Relations and European Studies**.

The main **objectives** that research institutes tried to achieve by this cooperation initiative are the following: creating a database on the research carried out in Romania in the field of international relations and European studies; increasing the impact of research on Romania's foreign policy and external actions and creating an Advisory Council gathering representatives of the academic environment; developing the cooperation between the Romanian research institutes operating in the field of international relations and European studies; facilitating the access of institutes to international scientific data.

At the same time, it was decided that, starting from 2012, the Network of Research Institutes in International Relations and European Studies will organize annually a full-scale event with the general topic of *Good neighbourhood and regional security*.

In the opening session, Ambassador Liviu Bota, President of the Black Sea University Foundation, emphasized that this conference is intended to be the first one in a series of conferences governed by a *vision* meant to change the current view regarding research and to become the catalyst of a common state of mind among those involved in the research and the analysis of international relations and European studies.



Mr. Dan Berindei, Vice-president of the Romanian Academy, identified the problem of research in international relations as one of the main concerns of the Romanian Academy, especially since the Romanian Academy is meant to be a national cultural parliament that offers a framework for debates that can bring an answer to the challenges of the current society.

In this respect, Mr. Iulian Chifu, Presidential Advisor for Strategic Affairs, Security and Foreign Policy, emphasized the importance of absorbing research funds, but also of the creation, within the ministries, of a new position of *integrator* who requests topics, absorbs the results of the research and forwards them to the competent authorities.





Mr. Leonard Orban, Minister for European Affairs, saluted the initiative of organizing such a conference which is the answer to a need imposed by the increasingly unpredictable dynamics of the international environment. Strictly in the field of European affairs, the situation does not look too good, since Romania does not have a sufficient number of experts who are able to carry out thorough analyses quickly. Mr. Orban emphasizes the idea that Romanian decision-makers must have at their disposal the necessary instruments to substantiate their position, so that they can really have a say at the negotiation table at European level.

The topic of the first session of the conference was *Research and analysis methodology in international relations and European studies* and was chaired by Mrs. Gabriela Drăgan, Director General of the European Institute of Romania, who stated the goal of the conference, namely to bring together important actors in the field of international relations in order to create a community of ideas and action.

Mr. Radu Carp, Director of the Romanian Diplomatic Institute, identified as the main challenge in the field of research the lack of correlation between state institutions and research and analysis institutes, to which the absence of a unitary methodological standard is added.

Mr. Liviu Mureșan, President of the EURISC Foundation, urged the institutes of the Academy to be more active in the field of research and analysis both in the country and abroad, and the private sector to become involved by financing projects that might offer Romania the possibility of international affirmation.

The second session of the conference, entitled *Drawing up, elaborating and implementing international policies/European policies*, was chaired by Ambassador Liviu Bota, President of the Black Sea University Foundation.

Ambassador Liviu Bota made a few references to the relationship between research and development, stating that progress is not possible without thorough and objective research and without expertise used for solving problems.

Prof Dr. Dan Dungaciu, Director of the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Romanian Academy, mentioned that one of Romania's weak points is the lack of institutions of continuity, of vision, which generate projects, emphasizing at the same time that it is important for Romania to become a provider of expertise, at least in some areas.

Regarding research, Prof. Dr. Vasile Pușcaș, Director of the Institute for International Studies of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, expressed his opinion about Romania's market, indicating a problem related to demand, from the perspective of the analytical references that institutes can provide and, especially, the lack of a strategic vision.

The conclusions of the conference, presented by Mr. Iulian Fota, Presidential Advisor for National Security, highlighted the fact that an increased attention must be given to research in the field of international relations and European studies. At the same time, he emphasized that the problems which need to be solved were identified, but that it is crucial to find solutions for them. In the context of globalization, which brings along alternative structures of thinking, Mr. Fota compared the Western research methods with the research system in Romania, admitting that, in Romania too, *"research should be one step ahead of the executive"* in order to really become visible.

The conference was intended to be a first step towards organizing and intensifying the activity of the Network of Research Institutes in International Relations and European Studies.

The complete summary of the conference works can be consulted on the EIR website [www.ier.ro](http://www.ier.ro).

Adina Monica Lungu

EP

## Citizens' expectations and hopes

### The European Parliament Session 14–17 November 2011, Strasbourg

The Members of the European Parliament had, again, on this session's agenda, the current concerns, expectations and fears of the European citizens, whom they represent. In this connection, the imperative aspects of European topics are obvious in all the reports, resolutions and interventions in debates.

Thus, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on **the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion**, proposed by the Commission in December 2010<sup>1</sup>. The Convention held in October 2011, organized by the Commission and the Polish Presidency on this topic, had emphasized the need to take

<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions, *the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: a European framework for social and territorial cohesion*, Brussels, 16.12. 2010. The document indicates the existence of 80 million people across the EU living in poverty, in 2008.



common action in order to stimulate social inclusion and active ageing. This platform is expected to be an important impetus for taking concrete action against poverty and social exclusion, by using a wide spectrum of public policies.

The document shows that there are persistent and widening health inequalities both among the EU Member States and within them. These differences are visible in alarming figures: 116 million people across the European Union face the risk of poverty and 42 million people (8%) live in conditions of “severe material deprivation”. Given the complexity of the current situation, the resolution criticizes the European Union’s engagements to eradicate EU poverty by 2010, considering that, in the period 2000-2008, social exclusion has increased, affecting new social categories. Due to these “unfulfilled engagements”, the European Parliament is inclined to support a rigorous and intelligent policy, with objectives such as sustainable development, social inclusion, labour market participation, increasing the employment rate for all generations and increasing life expectancy for the entire EU population. Moreover, the resolution quotes OECD statistics showing an insufficient use of social benefits.

**Strengthening economic governance under the slogan “more Europe”** was again on the EP agenda. The representatives of EU institutions - the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of Eurogroup, Jean-Claude Juncker, participated in the debate on the structures of governance and the ways of overcoming the current crisis. Since economic problems worsened, the President of the European Commission drew the attention to the fact that, when things go wrong, the effects reflect on taxpayers, on European workers. In his presentation, Jose Manuel Barroso emphasized that this system crisis needs measures based on rebuilding the trust of citizens and participants in the labour market and the EU must become attractive for investors. The President of the Commission insisted that economic growth, financial strengthening and stability can be achieved only through Member States’ solidarity and by complying with the treaties, the Community spirit. There were interventions by supporters of the intergovernmental method, but the Members of the European Parliament seem to be, however, in favour of the

Community method and of economic governance. The concern that euro did not enjoy enough governance and that, since there are 23 million unemployed people, the EU cannot pursue other austerity measures was expressed. The recommended way is to stimulate economic growth. The Members of the EP deem that the European citizens’ expectations towards EU institutions now need answers and concrete measures, in order to give them new hope.

The EP also adopted a non-legislative resolution concerning the implementation of the Directive 2005/36/CE on the recognition of professional qualifications<sup>2</sup>, with four chapters: *simplification* for citizens, *updating* existing provisions, *upgrading* public health and safety, *integrating* professionals and injecting confidence into the system. Speeding up the recognition of professional qualifications<sup>3</sup> for doctors, dentists, architects and other professionals of the European citizens that migrated to another Member State will contribute to fulfilling the objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy of achieving a 75% employment rate (which is currently 68%). In its preamble, the author of the resolution - Emma McClarkin (European Conservatives and Reformists, United Kingdom) - states that the evolution of labour markets requires greater transparency, accompanied by the simplification and flexibility of the rules concerning the recognition of professional qualifications. In order to allow all European citizens to benefit from the advantages of the freedom of movement, it is necessary to eliminate the discrepancy between citizens’ expectations and reality. It is symptomatic that over 16% of the SOLVIT cases in 2010 were related to the recognition of professional qualifications. Simplicity is vital, since, at present, it is difficult to identify the authority qualified to recognise professional qualifications and the related procedures are complex.

The resolution requires the efficient functioning of the labour markets, a method of stimulating **growth and competitiveness** within the EU, focusing on the modernisation of the Directive 2005/36/CE. Voted by the Members of the EP with a significant majority (463 votes), the resolution invites the European Commission to assess the possibility of extending automatic recognition to new professions. At the same time, the text of the resolution draws attention to other problems caused by the lack of a system for managing the data on professionals. The EP supports, although cautiously, the measures undertaken by the Commission in order to introduce a professional card.

Topics of foreign policy (Egypt, the Palestinians’ requests), the attitude that EU should adopt towards rating agencies and their influence, the European railway system, climate change, etc. were also debated.

For further information, please visit <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ro/pressroom/press-release/plenary>

**Mariana Bara**

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0490+0+DOC+XML+V0//RO&language=RO>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ro/pressroom/content/20111115IPR31526/html/Noi-reguli-pentru-ca-medicii-s%C4%83-poat%C4%83-lucra-mai-u%C8%99-or-C3%AEn-str%C4%83in%C4%83tate>

## A new training program at EIR

### Project financing at regional, national and European level: limitations and opportunities of the public-private partnership (*Le financement des projets d'envergure régionale, nationale et européenne: limites et opportunités du partenariat public/privé*)

The training program is organized by EIR, in partnership with Ecole nationale d'administration, the Embassy of France in Bucharest and the French Institute in Bucharest, and is subsidized by the International Organisation of Francophony (OIF).

#### When?

8 - 9 December 2011

#### Where?

Bucharest, the European Institute of Romania, 7-9 Regina Elisabeta Blvd., conference hall, 4th floor

#### Who is the target audience?

The training is intended for the officials in the central public administration who activate in the field of European affairs or who are involved in managing major public investment projects.

The program will be held in **French**. The participants must have advanced French skills (Level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

Maximum number of participants: 20

#### What are the objectives of the training?

It aims to clarify the legal framework associated with public-private partnerships, to approach their challenges and opportunities, as well as their limitations, to debate the impact of public-private partnerships on project financing, as well as to promote good practices in the field at local, national and European level.

#### Trainers:

Jean-Philippe DURANTHON, Inspector General, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (France)

François GAUDET, Principal Advisor, European Public-Private Partnership Centre, the European Investment Bank  
Gabriela STĂNILĂ, Head of Public Procurement and Investment Unit, the Ministry of Public Finance (Romania)

The registration for the seminar is performed individually, by filling out an online form, accompanied by a motivation letter of maximum one-page (written in French). In the letter, you will mention the reason why you are interested in participating to the seminar and the way in which this participation can help you in your professional activity.

For more information about the training, please visit

[http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/calendar\\_cursuri\\_2011/](http://www.ier.ro/index.php/site/page/calendar_cursuri_2011/)

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