

interview _____

Eivind Smith

Professor of Law, University of Oslo

European integration seen from the outside: Norway



Norway is often seen as ‘*an inside outsider*’, since it is one of the very few Western European countries not a member of the European Union, nonetheless maintaining a relationship based on close contact and cooperation. In your opinion, what are the key points that bring Norway and EU together?

The answer is complex. However, a first point is already at issue: geographically, Norway is in fact a part of (Western) Europe. The country is linked to what is often called “continental Europe” by a multitude of historical and political links. Even if the character of its commercial links are changing over time (say, from fur or dried fish to industrial products, services or petroleum), they have always been important.

In this way, we might say that a key point for explaining the togetherness is mutual self interest. Although unevenly distributed between EU countries, the major part of Norway’s export goes to EU and remains one of the Union’s major clients.

This suffices in itself for explaining the strong links between us. In fact, the Treaty on the European Economic Area (EEA) makes Norway a close to complete part of the internal market in a way well suited for one of the World’s most open market economies. Unfortunately (in my opinion), market access is not paired with a Member State’s right to participate in EU decision-making ... [p.2](#)

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event _____

Krynica Economic Forum – Accounts from the Eastern Davos

The 22nd Economic Forum, held in Krynica-Zdroj, Poland (4 - 6 September 2012), was organised by the Institute for Eastern Studies (ISW) in Warsaw, in collaboration with central and regional institutions in Poland, but also from other EU Member States, as well as non-member states.

As in the previous years, Krynica, also called the Eastern Davos, gathered at the sessions of the Economic Forum over 2500 ... [p.3](#)



... At the same time, however, it should be recalled that Norway is a coastal country largely turned towards the North Atlantic, (relatively) far away from the main powers of Western Europe, largely dependent upon marine resources and with strong engagements in the polar basin. This position commands historically determined experiences and identity as well as concern about security policy: in a cold war perspective, it is worthwhile recalling that Norway used to be one of the two NATO countries with a common border with the Soviet Union. The political situation has changed - but the geography remains.

The combination between market participation and political marginalisation paves the way for Norway's position inside and outside the EU as the main vector of the European integration.

Norway has held two referenda on the issue of EU membership, but got a negative answer on both occasions. Which would be the core reasons for this reluctance to Europe, to the supranational character of the initiative?

No single combination of relevant factors is likely to gather unanimous support. It could safely be suggested, however, that the reason sometimes mentioned - that Norway does not want to share its wealth with others - has not been predominant: first, Norway was far less rich in 1972 or even in 1994 (the years of the two referenda). Secondly, a number of other reasons appear as more important.

To a considerable extent, such reasons are linked to geographical and historical factors already hinted at: even if a part of Europe, Norway enjoys (or suffers from) a peripheral position on the north-western edge of the continent. Even if a part of continental Europe (unlike the UK and some other countries), it belongs in practical terms to an "island", in the sense that you have to cross the sea for reaching the central European part of the continent. As a coastal country, it has mentally been turned towards the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean. Because the territory is extremely long, the distance between Oslo and Brussels is far shorter than the distance between the Northern regions and the country's own capital. Even if boasting of a proud history as attested by the famous Norse Sagas, etc., two thirds of the last 600 years have passed under foreign (namely Danish) domination. Independence was actually restored by the 1814 Constitution (still in existence), but the fact that the personal union with Sweden was

"The EU should not be seen as a bicycle bound to always move forward, but rather as a car that from time to time needs service (and some rest for the driver) ... and is not likely to fall if left in peace for a week or ten"

Mr Eivind Smith is Professor of Law at the Department of Public and International Law, Oslo University. He is a honorary doctor of the universities of Uppsala (Sweden) and Aix-Marseille (France), the head of the humanities division of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, member of a number of international learned societies, a consultant of several research institutions in Norway and abroad, chair of the Institute of Social Research (Oslo) and vice president of the International Association of Constitutional Law.

A frequent visiting professor, etc. in many foreign countries, he has published extensively on major fields of domestic, comparative and European public law, including the position of national parliaments in European integration, procedural as well as substantive administrative law, independent administrative agencies, governance and political responsibility, constitutional cultures, the relationship between law and democracy, judicial review of legislation, freedom of speech, constitutions as political instruments and the relationship between Parliament and the executive. He publishes mainly in English, French and Norwegian.

More information here:
<http://www.jus.uio.no/ior/english/people/aca/esmith/index.html>

unilaterally broken up by Norway in 1905 makes people believe that independence dates back to that year only.

Such factors may be resumed by the word "sovereignty", in fact a main argument against membership in the EEC or EU respectively. But even more "real" arguments linked to the country's geographical position played a considerable role. Agriculture is marginal within a European context, but important in a National perspective: how could EU policies meet the needs of small scale farms run under "arctic" conditions? The ocean and the continental shelf have always been utterly important elements in the Norwegian economy, but also in the collective identity: why should we abandon national control over access to the enormous resources that nature has put under Norwegian control?

In your view, has the EU properly responded to the challenges of the recent economic and financial crisis? How did this crisis impact on Norway's economy and what measures did the Norwegian authorities implement in order to minimize its effects?

I have no basis for judging the EU leadership. However, it seems to me that the Euro itself provides a major reason for the present crisis. If that gives sense, the way out seems doubtful in the absence of a proper financial union (that does not seem to have sufficient popular support) and under the enormous social distress that the present economic restrictions are themselves producing.

So far, Norway's economy has not been heavily hurt by the crisis, unemployment remains around 3% and many citizens from other European countries have helped filling the needs of the labor market. But the appreciation of the national currency entails growing problems for what remains of the traditional export industry. In the long run our dependence on the European markets is clearly commanding continued efforts in ship-shaping the still flourishing state finances.

Within the present turbulent economic climate, there seems to be a revival of the debate on *widening vs. deepening* in the EU at the level of policy-makers, academia and media. Would you share with our readers your opinion on this dilemma?

As already hinted at (regarding the Euro), my impression is that the leaders' political ambitions have been far too high in comparison not only with the enormous economic disparities between EU countries but even with the popular support so crucial for the success of the integration project in the long run.

The EU should *not* be seen as a bicycle bound to always move forward, but rather as a car that from time to time needs service (and some rest for the driver) ... and is *not* likely to fall if left in peace for a week or ten.

In this view, the *widening vs. deepening* perspective becomes more acute than ever: why not realize that the EU construction has already achieved a lot? Why not move further only with those who are really willing - and able - to cope with new demands?

Interview by *Oana Mocanu, Ana-Maria Nia*

event

Krynica Economic Forum – Accounts from the Eastern Davos

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As in the previous years, Krynica, also called the *Eastern Davos*, gathered at the sessions of the Economic Forum over 2500 high officials and representatives of important institutions and companies in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the US. The forum program included over six plenary sessions and more than 120 panels, workshops and round tables on macroeconomics, business and management, international policies, regional development, energy, innovation and sustainable development, state reforms, neighbourhood policy, health care system, society etc.

The European Institute of Romania (EIR) had the honour to be ISW's partner in the organisation of a debate on the **Management of Structural Funds in Central and Eastern Europe**. The event was held on 6 September 2012 and was chaired by Mrs Gabriela Drăgan, PhD Professor, Director General of EIR. The interventions, delivered in front of a numerous audience (around 40 participants per session), pointed out the following aspects:



Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, Vice-Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank, former Minister for the Management of Structural Funds (Poland):

- negotiations for the New Multi-annual Financial Framework (NMFF) are very important; NMFF must sustain the economies of EU Member States; there are hard times ahead, but Member States must make efforts in order to balance the EU budget; economic and social cohesion and regional development continue to be priorities, especially for Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, but also for the other new Member States;
- the cohesion policy must be used to reduce regional gaps (including by capitalising on competitive advantages of less developed areas), increase competitiveness, develop infrastructure, generate sustainable growth, based on creating new jobs and improving the level of training for the labour force; these must be the main priorities that the new EU Member States and EU Member States in general must take into account in the context of the NMFF negotiations;

• as regards the absorption of Structural and Cohesion Funds, at the end of the 2007-2013 financial period, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, among other countries, will have to be able to present the best examples in order to continue to benefit from appropriate funding in the future financial perspective.

Radostina Angelova, Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for EU Funds Management, Bulgaria:

- challenges: lack of experience and administrative capacity; the procedures were established at the beginning of the programming period; a major problem is related to the co-financing of projects (both for their preparation and for their implementation);
- contradiction: increasing the level of absorption, while maintaining an appropriate control;
- actions: optimising public procurement procedures; simplifying selection processes and payments; introducing electronic forms; unifying procedures; unifying payment deadlines etc.

Eugen Orlando Teodorovici, State Counsellor, the Government of Romania:

- a real reform of the system is necessary; the starting point should be precisely the paradoxical situation in which Romania finds itself at present, having only a 10% absorption level after 5 and a half years from its accession, while the Pre-Accession Funds had an absorption level close to 100%;
- the experience acquired during the pre-accession period must be used;
- decentralisation at the level of contracting authorities and strategic approach to programs;
- rebuilding the system for Structural and Cohesion Funds management at the level of the EU.

Carlos Puente Martín, member of Team Europe, European Commission (Spain):

- since its accession to the EU, the financing that Spain received through Structural and Cohesion Funds is impressive; unfortunately, these funds were not efficiently spent;
- the causes are both the rigidity of the procedures for the management of structural instruments and the inability to change them, which led to a low efficiency and reduced effectiveness;
- the n + 2 rule resulted in an accumulation of funds;
- difficulties were experienced in implementing environmental programs (drinking water, water treatment etc.).

Krzysztof Hetman, Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, Marshal's Office of the Lubelskie Voivodeship (Poland):

- the Lubelskie Voivodeship is the poorest region in the EU; through Structural and Cohesion Funds, about 4 billion EUR were invested and three times as much would be necessary to cover all the needs;
- a major problem is the lack of co-financing; there are projects waiting to be implemented, but which cannot be started without co-financing;
- it is important to establish an appropriate model for the implementation of Structural and Cohesion Funds;
- there are three elements that can guarantee success; very clear procedures, special control, flexibility and mobility;
- at the level of the voivodeship, the main preparations that were made were the institutional ones: a "positive bureaucracy" was promoted, the members of the staff are young, with special training, open and friendly with potential beneficiaries, but, at the same time, they have a pragmatic attitude;
- last but not least, society needs to be mobilized, being aware of the advantages and changes for the better that can be brought about by successfully implementing the projects.

The excellent collaboration we have had with our colleagues at ISW in Warsaw also extended to the partnership. Thus, PhD Prof. **Gabriela Drăgan**, accepted the organisers' invitation to also chair the session with the topic *Crisis Equals Springboard for Enterprising People*, an event held on 5 September.

EIR's participation as partner in the organisation of this event was an important step towards strengthening the institutional relation with institutions and think tanks in the European Union.

We thank our colleagues at ISW in Warsaw for their fellowship spirit, trust and support offered for the successful organisation of this action!

Note: Other participants on behalf of Romania, with interventions at the Economic Forum were: Mr Dan Petre, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*What are the limits of the State's Control? Security and Rights of the Individuals*), Mrs Aurora Martin, Adviser within the National Council for Combating Discrimination (*CEO Champions. The Role of Women's Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Times of Crisis*), as well as representatives of the Cluj County Council, UTI Group, KPMG, Bursa newspaper etc.

For further information on the Krynica Economic Forum, please visit the official page of the event:

<http://www.forum-ekonomiczne.pl>



“European Perspectives” Debate Series – European Union at a Crossroads?

On 19 September 2012, the Representation of the European Commission in Romania organised the round table entitled “European Union at a crossroads?”. The event was logistically prepared by the European Institute of Romania, the winner of this summer’s tender for providing technical assistance for the organisation of two national conferences and ten monthly round-tables for the Representation of the European Commission (REC) in Romania. This project will be implemented over the course of one year.

This first debate opens the series of monthly events, “European Perspectives”, launched by REC in 2009 with a view to stimulate the debate on the priorities of the European Union, reflecting at the same time the national public agenda in Romania.

The event was opened by Mr **Niculăe Idu**, Head of the Representation of the European Commission (REC) in Romania, and was honoured by the presence of Mr **Leonard Orban**, Minister for European Affairs, in the opening session. The following participants were invited to speak: H.E. **Marek Szczygiel**, Ambassador of The Republic of Poland to Bucharest, Ms **Andreea Paul**, founding member of the National Council for Competitiveness (CoNaCo), lecturer at the Academy of Economic Studies (ASE), Mr **Florin Bonciu**, Prorector of the Romanian-American University, Ms **Gabriela Drăgan**, Director General of the European Institute of Romania, Mr **Radu Carp**, PhD Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest, Mr **Florin Dănescu**, Executive President of the Romanian Banking Association, and Mr **Florin Cițu**, Florin Cițu Advisory.

We present only a few ideas developed during the debates (the topics approached by all speakers can be found in the summary of the event, which will soon be fully available on EIR’s website, at the section **Communication and Marketing/Communication Projects**).

In the opening, Mr **Niculăe Idu** outlined the framework for discussions, mentioning the need to strengthen the European Union as a more competitive and more democratic entity at regional and global level. The general context of the debate was offered by the annual speech on the state of the Union, delivered by the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, at the plenary session of the European Parliament, held on 12 September, this year. An important contextual element is also the way in which Romania connects to the current vision on the future of the European Union presented by the President of the European Commission. At the core of this vision lies the concept of a *federation of nation-states*, created *for* and *together* with Member States and *not against* them. The deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union, the need for more democracy and a real Europeanisation of public debates were the main pillars of the speech.

Mr **Leonard Orban**, Minister for European Affairs, brought up a series of recent developments that have been taking place at EU level: the strengthening of movements supporting independence in certain regions of Europe, the discrepancies between the East and the West, the gap between Northern and Southern states, as well as the intensification of the population’s feeling of distrust. In a more and more globalised world, even the strongest states in the EU cannot handle current challenges



by themselves, which is why the solution remains a deeper integration (“more integration”). The theme of a federation of nation-states is not at all inappropriate. Beyond building a vision, specific projects at European level are needed. Integration must begin with the political dimension and then pass to the economic dimension. Mr Orban also referred to the reaction of certain states, such as Sweden and Poland, which expressed their discontentment over the coverage area of the bank surveillance system proposed by the Commission and over the impossibility to participate in a series of important decision-making processes in the euro zone, which affects them too. At the level of Member States, there is resistance to the idea of coordinating fiscal policies, not to mention their harmonisation. The Political Union, as well, is difficult to accomplish due to its complex character, considering the fact that certain states continue to reject the sharing of additional powers with the EU. In this context, these states are expected to call for the organisation of national referendums. Referring to Romania’s position on certain files, the guest thinks that the Economic and Monetary Union must be strengthened and redefined, with a view to correct initial design errors. For Romania, it is essential to consolidate the euro zone and to maintain the integrity of whole the EU (not only of the Internal Market).

H.E. **Marek Szczygiel**, Ambassador of Poland to Bucharest, expressed the support manifested among experts for the idea of “more Europe”, presented by Mr Barroso. In this context, he mentioned the relevance of the *Report of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe* in a meeting recently held in Warsaw, which represents a statement of support for the concept of “more Europe”. The document proposes, inter alia: enhanced coordination of the Monetary Union and the Fiscal Policy by monitoring national budgets, and the call for a larger inclusive area, encompassing states aiming to join the euro area, such as Poland and Romania; strengthening European External Action Service, which is currently dispersed under the coordination of different commissioners or European bodies, and the approach to EU’s democratic deficit.

Ms **Andreea Paul** started her intervention by provoking the audience with a question which came up in the context of the re-emergence of debates related to the flexible integration scenarios, namely “How many speeds does Europe actually have?” The EU’s speed of development is dictated by the fastest and the most competitive states, not by the slow ones.

The guest raised the problem of labour productivity deficit in Romania, despite the great number of weekly working hours. Ms Paul thinks Europe made some progress at each turning point in its history and the future belongs to those states that know how to use creativity and their research and innovation capacity.

Mr Florin Bonciu referred to three possible solutions, all involving a series of changes: the transition from producing “with no limits” to producing “within certain limits”; the transition from producing with high energy consumption to producing with low energy consumption and, lastly, in the context of the debate on the 2014-2020 budget programming, transferring certain allocations from agriculture to research and innovation. Mr Bonciu, portraying himself as “euro-stoic”, pronounced himself in favour of the concept of Member States, rather than nation-states, and emphasized their extremely heterogeneous nature, the need for greater coordination being imperative.

Mr Radu Carp completed the previous interventions on President Barosso’s speech, mentioning that the current economic crisis has significant political consequences at EU level. Thus, few of the Prime Ministers in office at the beginning of the crisis still exercise their functions. Mr Carp expressed a few of the options available at political level, including whether it is convenient or not to create bigger political parties, which would have their own candidate for the European Commission Presidency.

Ms Gabriela Drăgan emphasized the fact that the extent of the crisis concerns both Europeans and other world regions. In her turn, she addressed a question to the audience, namely “Can the EU be an important global actor, as it wishes, as long as it acts at individual level?” The guest thinks that the debates held in Romania, which are, in general, predominantly metaphoric or excessively technical, should be transposed into a pragmatic register, able to respond to the current needs of society.

Mr Florin Dănescu holds that the fundamental resort for correcting the errors manifested from the beginning of the crisis until the present moment is to regulate the banking sector. The speaker found with regret that political dialogue does not usually involve practitioners.

Mr Florin Cițu mentioned the situation of certain EU Member States that are severely affected by the economic crisis, such as Greece, Portugal and Spain. The guest thinks these states were not prepared for the accession to the EU, this having long-term consequences on their ability to manage development and to use the resources allocated by the EU. They found themselves forced to use European Funds to cover their economic deficiencies and not to stimulate investments, which could have generated a sustainable economic development.

At the end, Mr Idu concluded that the successive waves of crises brought to the surface the need for institutional reforms. The solutions developed in time, among which, the ones related to introducing the Banking Union and the Monetary Union, generated debates right from the start and met the opposition of certain states.

Diversifying and consolidating the framework for debates, as well as disseminating European ideas among citizens, are extremely necessary for the advancement of the EU project.

For more information, please visit REC’s website:
http://ec.europa.eu/romania/news/agenda/19092012_perspective_europene_ro.htm

Oana Mocanu

Projects

Teachers’ Professional Training on European Themes – training course in Cluj - Napoca

„I feel very good and I want to mention how important this course is for me. I have understood from the training activity one thing which will help me a lot. I have realised how important team work is. Tomorrow at school, I will communicate to my colleagues the story with the six group members, the six objectives, methods and also six activities. We are 5 primary school teachers and two kindergarten teachers in our school. If each of us has an objective, a method and a determination in our activity, we will certainly succeed in bringing our children to school, helping them find a place in society and we will be able to say, in one year from now, «we have succeeded». This will happen due to you and to the team of trainers you are working with. I want to thank them as well for their dedication in everything they do.”

Primary school teacher in a school for Roma children

As a training programs’ organiser, you mostly wish to know you have brought an added value to the participants’ time, the time spent with you and the course trainers. The messages transmitted by the teachers in Cluj give us joy and confirm that we have found a very good course formula which combined the theory with the practice and the lecture with the experience exchange.

The fact that the trainers in Cluj (Mihaela Dumitrescu, Lucia Copoeru și Rodica Păun) were the ones who contributed the most to the concept of the course as we delivered, it was visible and it led to an exceptional course, very much appreciated by the audience.



At the closure of the project, I would like to thank our trainers - Mihaela Dumitrescu, Lucia Copoeru, Lăcrămioara Iordăchescu, Rodica Păun, Adriana Sofronea and Mihai Manea - for participating in our initiative to train trainers in European Affairs in the Romanian schools.

The course was held in three cities, over a period of 18 days and was attended by 277 teaching professionals from all over the country - 65 teaching in rural schools and 212 in towns and cities. There were teachers from special needs schools and from isolated areas, where the resources of the teaching staff are scarce.

I would like to thank the teachers for their interest in the course and for the determination shown in drawing up the teaching plans during the course and during their spare time.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Alina Arhire and Elena Podar, who helped me in my travels to Iasi and Cluj and to all the colleagues and trainees at EIR who have been involved in the project - giving a hand in transporting materials, organising the files or making payments to suppliers.

I would like to thank Diana Popa, our colleague who is no longer with us, with whom I have started this project and with whom I would have liked to finish it. I hope that she is content with the way the project was developed and that she knows we have tried to make it perfect, as she wanted it to be.

The project *Teachers' Professional Training on European Themes* was carried out by EIR in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports. The purpose of this project was to deliver 9 training sessions for 305 teaching professionals from all over the country, in sessions held in Bucharest, Iasi and Cluj-Napoca, in the field of European Affairs. The contract has a value of EUR 59 469 for the period October 2011 - September 2012. The project was submitted following the tender PN/2011-11/BUC launched by the Representation of the European Commission in Romania.

Cornelia Predoiu

EIR

The translation into Romanian of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights by the specialised unit of the European Institute of Romania

Although it has been more than five years since Romania's accession to the European Union, there are many of you who most certainly remember that the European Institute of Romania [EIR] coordinated the vast process of translating the Community *acquis* into Romanian.

Benefiting from both the necessary regulatory framework and the experience of its experts, EIR continued the tradition of translating into Romanian the legal documents in the field of European law, laying the cornerstone of an extremely valuable database, made available to the general public, in which there are translations into Romanian of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights [ECHR].

The first step to that end was the conclusion of a collaboration protocol between EIR and the Superior Council of Magistracy (Consiliul Superior al Magistraturii), which provided for the translation and the linguistic and legal revision of judgments and decisions of the ECHR, selected by the latter institution.

Three years later, on 6 April 2011, EIR concluded a new collaboration protocol with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Superior Council of Magistracy, under which the activity of translating into Romanian the judgments and decisions of the above-mentioned European court continued, but this time based on the common request made by the two partner institutions; thus, the goals of avoiding the overlapping of translation efforts and using public money effectively were sought.

It is important to mention that the translation and revision of ECHR judgments and decisions is performed in compliance with the rules laid down in the "Guide for the translation into Romanian of the case-law of ECHR", drawn up by the Translation Coordination Unit of the European Institute, focusing at the same time on terminological unification (according to its regulatory act, the EIR is to ensure terminological unification). ECHR judgments and decisions translated and revised by the EIR are selected and endorsed

¹ In this context, it is important to emphasise the fact that, according to its regulatory act, EIR's objectives include: to improve access to Community law, to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and to the Romanian law relevant for the field of European Affairs, as well as to improve the understanding and implementation of them [Article 2 (c) of Order No 15/1998 on EIR]. In order to achieve the objective of improving access to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, EIR ensures the translation into Romanian and the linguistic and legal revision of judgments and decisions of the European court [Article 3 (1) (c) of the above-mentioned regulatory act].

² On the date when this article is being written, there are about 500 judgments translated into Romanian and legally revised in EIR's database.

³ http://www.ier.ro/documente/Glosare/ghid_cedo.pdf. If you want to buy this publication, please go to our dedicated section of the website.

by the Government Agent for ECHR, in order to be published in the Official Gazette (Monitorul Oficial).

In this connection, we draw attention to the fact that the judgment delivered in *Case Panaitescu v. Romania* (Application no. 30909/06), as well as the judgment delivered in *Case Jarnea and Others v. Romania* (Applications no. 36268/02, 25416/04, 25500/04, 43454/06, 24717/07, 16297/08 and 17068/08) were translated in June in order to be published in the Official Gazette.

Finally, we must emphasize the fact that what makes the translations performed by EIR different from other published translations are their official nature, the manner in which this activity is organised and performed, using computer assisted translation softwares, as well as offering access also to ECHR judgments and decisions in cases versus states other than Romania.

Ana-Maria Georgescu

EIR invites you to read



The Documentation Centre of the European Institute of Romania can take pride in owning one of the largest collections of books in the field of European Affairs in Romania. Here, the book lovers may find more than 2500 works, many of them edited in major world languages like English, French, Spanish, German or Italian. The Romanian authors, specialists in various fields of the European integration, are not neglected.

The Documentation Centre enables the access to books for those interested to borrow and all the titles in the library will soon be found on the EIR website in an online catalogue. Moreover, the Institute does not charge any fee for borrowing and beneficiaries can borrow at most 3 books for a period of three weeks.

The books displayed in the library are classified according to the subject and the field to which they belong. Each volume or newspaper has its own quota, designed to help finding the work as quickly as possible. The library has publications in the

fields of Economic and Monetary Union, internal market, general policies, European institutional affairs, legislation, political science, international relations, economics, dictionaries.

A substantial part of the works in the field of **Economic and Monetary Union** deal with a current topic for the global economy: the survival of the European single currency and the dangers to which the Euro area is exposed; some of the most representative books are: the *European Monetary Integration: Past, Present and Future* (Etic J. Pentecost and André van Poeck); *The Euro: The First Decade* (Marco Buti, Servaas Deroose, Vítor Gaspar and João Nogueira Martins); *Integrarea României în structurile Uniunii Monetare Europene (Romania's integration into the structures of the European Monetary Union)* (Mihaela Tofan).

In the field of **institutional affairs**, several copies of the sixth edition of the work *Policy-Making in the European Union*, coordinated by Helen Wallace, Mark A. Pollack and Alasdair R. Young are available, a book of reference for all experts in the field of European Affairs. EIR takes pride in this editorial appearance because it was translated and published by the Institute last year. Those interested can consult, borrow or buy this book.

The **international relations and political science** section of the library is comprised by many titles of reference in the fields, of which one can mention *Tratate ale Consiliului Europei (Treaties of the Council of Europe)* or *A History of Power in Europe: Peoples, Markets, States* (Wim Blockmans), a book approaching in an original manner the variations of the balance of power for over 1000 years and the way in which they have permanently changed the history and the destiny of Europe.



The **economic field** is represented by a considerable number of books and dictionaries of specific terms, many of them written in English. From a Romanian perspective we can mention as works of reference for this category: *European Economic Integration:*



With a Romanian insight (Radu Șerban), *Economia României în complexitatea integrării* (Romania's Economy in the complexity of the integration) (Gheorghe H. Popescu) and *Sfârșitul economiei iluziei: Criză și anticriză. O abordare heterodoxă* (The end of the economy of illusion: Crisis and anticrisis. A heterodox approach) (Liviu Voinea).

Last but not least, every person who comes to the library of the European Institute of Romania will immediately notice the four volumes of the work *Timpul dărâmării, timpul zidirii* (Time to take down and time to build up) written by the former president of Romania, Emil Constantinescu. Each volume has a significant subtitle: "Cele două fețe ale zidului" (The two sides of the wall), "Pietre de încercare" (Stumbling blocks), "Lumea în care trăim" (The world we live in) and "Cărțile schimbării" (Books of change).

On the shelves of the Documentation Centre, besides books, one can also consult dictionaries, as well as international publications such as *Financial Times*, *Le Monde diplomatique* or *The Economist*.

Besides the mentioned volume dedicated to European policy-making, the edition translated into Romanian, all the other publications issued by EIR or under the aegis of EIR can be bought here. These publications cover various themes, some of them in English-Romanian bilingual edition.

Thus, the collection of four *Strategy and Policy Studies SPOS 2011* offers in-depth analysis for national policies in the fields of agricultural policy, fiscal policy, public finances and social policy. The four studies are: *The Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy in the Context of the Post-2013 Budgetary Perspective*; *Euro Plus Pact Adoption: Implications for Romania's Fiscal Policy*; *The European Semester and ensuring sustainable economic growth through the recovery of public finances. Lessons for Romania from the public finances' sustainability point of view*; *The analysis of the evolution of EU social policies during the past three years - supplementary/private pensions and the impact of an ageing population*.

Those interested can also buy from the centre the *Romanian Journal of European Affairs*, a Romanian work of reference focused on the European integration process and on Romania's role in the European Union, edited by EIR since 2001.

The publications of the Translation Coordination Unit are also available for sale: *Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon*; *Legal Glossary*, II edition, *Stylistic guide for translation into Romanian for the use of translators of the Community acquis*, 5th edition; *Guide for the translation into Romanian of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights* and case-law reports (*European Court of Human Rights Reports - recent cases against Romania*, tome 1 - 2, *Historical Case-law of the Community Courts - reports of summaries*, tome 1 - 5).

We gladly invite you to the European Institute of Romania. The Documentation Centre is open for the public every day from Monday to Friday, between 10.00h - 14.00h. For details on borrowing or purchasing publications at EIR, you can write us at the following addresses: biblioteca@ier.ro or sales@ier.ro

Diana Dumitrescu

EU

State of the Union in 2012¹

President Barroso calls the Member States towards the completion of the economic and monetary union, on the way to a federation of nation states

On 12 September 2012, in the plenary session of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, delivered a speech on the State of the Union. The focal point was the outline of a new way of thinking for Europe, with a view to mitigating the crisis and keeping the sovereignty in a globalizing world.

The European Union is facing a systemic crisis and a crisis of trust, for the resolution of which bold decisions have been taken during the past four years, he showed. It is a multifaceted crisis: economic and financial, social and also political. It originated in irresponsible practices in the financial sector, unsustainable public debts and faulty competitiveness. The challenge addressed to the Member States involves the

¹ For details, please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/archives/2012/09/20120912_1_en.htm

development of a new way of thinking and the promotion of instruments adequate to the questions of the future. The states need to accept the common character and the interdependence of the European interests which require the development of common accountability and solidarity. The globalisation imposes more unity at European level that is more integration, which translates to more democracy, according to President Barroso.

The response to the present situation is a “Decisive Deal for Europe”, by which values, liberty and prosperity would be promoted in the future. This deal will stabilise the economic and monetary union, it will stimulate sustainable growth and it will restore competitiveness. The Decisive Deal “requires the completion of a deep and genuine economic union, based on a political union”.

In deepening the economic union, the completion of the single market is required. Progress in this direction requires a banking union around the Central European Bank, as a strong federal institution in the euro zone, but also a fiscal union, as well as the relevant institutional and political mechanisms.

Europe 2020 remains the way to “modernise and preserve the European social market economy”. The Commission also envisages other measures, concerning the professional training of the youth or supporting the poor population of Europe.

The completion of the economic and monetary union requires the strengthening of the political union and of the European



Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/european_parliament

democracy. The complementarity and cooperation between the European Parliament and the national parliaments require the consolidation of the European political parties, according to the Commission's proposal for a better statute thereof.

President Barroso called for the creation of a federation based on the sharing of the nation states' sovereignty in order to strengthen the sovereignty of the EU at the global level. Finally, Mr. Barroso asked for the reinforcement of the unity, of the institutions and of the Community method, as the “European Union is stronger as a whole”.

Julian Oneaşcă

EP

Economic crisis and democracy

EP Session 10 – 13 September 2012, Strasbourg

Subjects as the economic crisis and democracy have dominated the EP plenary session, as a result of the speech on the **state of the Union** of the European Commission President, José Manuel Durão Barroso on 12 September 2012. This subject was discussed in the previous article.

The participants at the plenary session discussed the text of a new directive approved by the Parliament, with 611 votes, which guarantees the **victims of crime committed abroad** that they can benefit of the same basic rights during the investigation procedures and that they will have access to justice, to the victim support services and to compensations. MEPs consider that crimes of all kind, from robbery to terrorist attacks, are on the rise due, among other factors, to the economic crisis, about 75 million people being victims of crimes every year in the EU. The directive will ensure a special protection to the victims, depending on the personal characteristics (age, gender, race etc.).

Present at the debates on the **budget for 2013**, the budgets commissioner Janusz Lewandowski stated that if most of the severe reductions were made in the field of competitiveness, growth and cohesion, more reductions must be also made as concerns that administrative expenses, yet without affecting the efficiency of administration.

A field that can bring substantial savings is the field of energy. MEPs consider that a **reduction of the energy consumption** by 20% may generate savings of 50 billions Euro per year. The directive on energy efficiency adopted in plenary session aims at saving energy by the renovation of public buildings, by energy-saving schemes for utilities and energy audits for companies, all these measures becoming mandatory.

A report of the European Conservatives and Reformists group in UK submitted for debate the proposal that **stem-cell donation** be voluntary and take place in a transparent, non-profit environment.

MEPs have adopted a resolution by which they bring to the Member States' attention the fact that the projected **banking union** is very necessary and that some Member States risk to send a wrong message about their preferences on this theme.

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

Mariana Bara

TRAINING IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT EIR – November 2012 –

GENERAL TRAINING IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

5 - 7 November

Contact person: Mariana Bara, Training Unit, phone: 021 314 26 96, extension: 114

Registration for this session is over. We invite you to this course in 2013.

The topics are diverse: a brief history of the EU, its institutions and the decision-making process, the internal market, the Economic and Monetary Union, the cohesion policy, the monetary policy, the social policies and the employment policy. The objective of the course is to present the basic notions of the concept of European Union necessary for the understanding of the functioning mechanism and the policies at the European level. The trainers offer a synthetic vision in an interactive approach.

L'ÉVALUATION DES PROJETS FINANCÉS PAR LES FONDS STRUCTURELS

22 - 23 November

Contact person: Gigi Mihăiță, Training Unit, phone: 021 314 26 96, extension: 134

Registration for this session is open until 16 November 2012.

The program is organised by the European Institute of Romania, in partnership with Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the French Embassy in Bucharest and the French Institute in Bucharest.

This course is part of the TRAINING PLAN FOR ROMANIAN CIVIL SERVANTS FOR 2012, financed by the International Organisation of Francophony (OIF).

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