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Economic Forum - Krynica-Zdroj, Poland



Billed as the *Eastern Davos*, the Krynica-Zdroj Economic Forum marked this year its 25th anniversary. The anniversary edition titled “*How to build strong Europe? Strategies for the future*” was organised between 8 - 10 September with an attendance of over 3000 delegates from Europe, USA, China and Japan, among others.

In keeping with the previous editions, six plenary sessions and around 180 panels, seminars and round tables provided the setting for open debates, where viewpoints were sustained and opinions presented not only by governments and coalition parties, but also by experts, analysts and consultants in various fields.

The Forum agenda included plenary sessions and debates registered under several thematic groups: International Politics, State... [p.2](#)

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publications _____

Romanian Journal of European Affairs – Autumn Issue 2015

In the Autumn issue of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs, the contributors bring forward topics concerning: rethinking the European Union – from unity in diversity to diversity in unity; the national construct of the European concept in the political and cultural life of Romania in interwar times; a comparative analysis of minimum income guaranteed schemes within the member states of the European Union; the changing nature of security in Europe; Ukraine in the WTO; a review of *Europolity* Journal and a book review of the “Two-speed world: emerging powers and developed countries”... [p.9](#)





...and Reforms, EU and its Neighbourhood, Europe and the World, Business and Management, Macroeconomy, New Economy, Health Care, Innovations, Energy Forum, Europe of the Carpathians Forum, Regions Forum (with two components: Economy and Society), Security Forum (with an extended agenda due to the new challenges confronting Europe in the area of security, in connection with the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, the expansion of the Islamic State, instability in Northern Africa and the increased inflow of immigrants).

The inaugural session on 8 September, *Towards a Resilient Europe. Strategies for the Future*, moderated by Zygmunt Berdychowski, President of the Council for the Economic Forum, was attended by Andrzej Duda, the President of Poland, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, the President of the Republic of Croatia and Gjorge Ivanov, the President of the Republic of Macedonia.

the fragile Eurozone and the war in Ukraine. Regarding the future he distinguished three basic pillars - unity, security and freedom - which support a good future for Europe. The president stated also that he saw a great development potential in Europe "(...) Also in terms of enlargement of the EU with subsequent candidate states aspiring for membership. However, I think that we should return to our roots. The EU should be the union of sovereign national states, a union based on partnership, where we recognize mutual interests trying to act towards our neighbours on the basis of understanding in all issues related to Europe, its individual states. The principle *nothing new without the common consent* should be respected across entire Europe".

According to the statement of the president Andrzej Duda, the biggest problems for Europe are demography,

For the fourth consecutive year, the European Institute of Romania (EIR) had the honour to be a partner of the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies based in Warsaw, in organising a panel session in the Forum's program.

This edition's theme was **Europe 2020 Strategy: an interim evaluation of key targets from the CEE countries perspectives**. The featured speakers were: *Olga Algayerova*, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the International Organizations in Vienna, *Balázs Rákossy*, Minister of State for the Utilisation of EU Funding, Ministry of National Economy, Government of Hungary, *Codrin Scutaru*, former Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, Romania and *Pawel Szalamacha*, Member of the Parliament (Sejm), Poland.

The event was moderated by Mrs. *Gabriela Drăgan*, Director General of EIR and took place on the third day of the forum (10 September 2015).

The debate opened with a presentation by the moderator on the current context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and an invitation to the representatives of the member states participating in the panel to answer, during their speeches, to the following questions:

1. A brief assessment of the main challenges concerning the achievement of Europe 2020 targets/indicators in your country (focus on the most relevant indicators for your country);
2. According to the 2015 CSRs, what should be done in your country in order to respond to the punctual EC recommendations (focus on the most relevant measures for your country);
3. In the context of this year Europe 2020 mid-term review, a "new deal" among member states is needed in order to reinforce the Strategy. In your opinion (or in your Government's opinion), what should be done to improve the overall efficiency of Europe 2020 strategy? New targets, new flag initiatives, a new way to ensure the governance of the strategy (maybe more responsibilities for member states)?

Olga Algayerova, permanent representative, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the International Organizations in Vienna:

- By 2012 Slovak Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in non-ETS sectors had gone down by almost 10%. The country thus remained well below its long-term commitment of limiting the increase in emissions to 13% by 2020;
- Slovakia had already been meeting its target on early leavers from education and training since 2009 and the steady rise since 2010 eventually put the country 0.4 percentage points above its target in 2013;
- Despite an 11.1 percentage point improvement in the share of 30 to 34 year olds with tertiary educational attainment since 2008, by 2013 the country still deviated substantially from its respective target, by 13.1 percentage points;
- The employment rate followed the EU trend and fell considerably after the crisis began in 2008. From 2011 to 2013 the rate remained at around 65 %, maintaining a seven percentage point gap to the national 2020 target;

- In contrast, the country was closer to its targets on renewable energies, R&D expenditure and poverty and social inclusion than the EU average.
- The most relevant measures to attain the strategic objectives for 2020 will be taken in: fiscal policy and public finance, employment and social inclusion, health care, education, research and development, modernization of the public administration and the business environment, ensuring transparency at the level of society and law enforcement.
- What should be done to improve the overall efficiency of Europe 2020 strategy?



- ✓ simple, comparable outcome/result indicators (not all indicators satisfy this condition); it is necessary to take effort to compile good outcome indicators for all priority areas at the EU level;
- ✓ flexibility and consideration of the specific situation of each Member State to determine its objectives can be seen as a significant contribution; setting national goals should be the result of a dialogue but should also take into account national particularities and the possible time lag in implementation and impact of reforms;
- ✓ a strong partnership between the EU and the Member States should be one of the underlying principles of the new strategy; the current peer-review process, however, is too inoperative and needs reformation; countries are not sufficiently motivated to act objectively in the evaluation of other Member States;
- ✓ a bi-annual horizon for issuing new recommendations would be more suitable (annual approval of CSR does not provide sufficient room for an adequate response of governments);
- ✓ predictability of fund management and credibility of adopted Partnership agreements and programmes; consistency and synergy of CSR is desirable at least in the medium-term in order to achieve the objectives of the ESIF 2014-2020.

Balázs Rákossy, Minister of State for the Utilisation of EU Funding, Ministry of National Economy, Government of Hungary:

- Out of the nine indicators, Hungary has a substantial progress in six areas and has further measures and activity to invest in three areas;
- As for the target on the employment outlined as 25% of unemployment, Hungary accepted this target on the national level as well; for the last five years an indicator of employment between 60-70% was registered and the last years the number increased by 7%, and now the level is at 67.5%; where the 7.5% target can be achievable by 2020.
- Hungary has made investments in the R&D areas from the amount of 1.1% of its GDP in the last years to 1.4% of GDP for the last year; the Government is very optimistic about achieving the 3% target at national level, and will implement all the actions needed in order to do it;
- As regards the implementation of energy from renewables and increase of energy efficiency, Hungary is having substantial evolution towards the target of 20% by 2020;
- Social exclusion and poverty - the actions are concentrated on achieving the Europe 2020 target;
- The reason of less progress is the economic and financial crisis that had and has a huge impact on all the Member States, Hungary as well; and of course it has an effect in the economy and the society as well;
- Substantial progress on the level of employment, Research&Development activity and on climate change and energy sustainability regarding GHG emissions as well as the fight against poverty and social exclusion; these targets are on the priority list of improvement in the national strategies that will be adopted by the Government;
- The Europe 2020 Strategy is a very good initiative but at the same time it is not very easy though.
- The main target of the Europe 2020 Strategy is to obtain and to reach sustainable and inclusive change for the European Union and that is the final target which could be achieved by the five general objectives.
- In five years the Europe 2020 Strategy will become more successful.
- There is an optimistic approach and work is in progress to implement the needed reforms on every level.

Codrin Scutaru, former Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly, Romania:

- Lack of clarity/overlapping of relevant legislation, e.g. concerning pensions, where a new law on the fourth pillar is expected by the end of the year;

- Lack of effectiveness of legislation concerning petty corruption, which can compromise growth on the medium and long term;
- However, concrete steps have been taken recently, denoting the Government's strong will to progressively tackle existing issues;
- One of the most interesting examples is the recent adoption of a new law implementing a new system of social tickets for low-income parents, in order to encourage them to send and keep their children in kindergarten. While this has been previously criticized as "bribing" parents, statistics have shown that the pilot-programme "Fiecare Copil in Gradinita" ("Every Child in Kindergarten") has been a success, prompting its extension at national level, via special legislation;
- Four Country-Specific Recommendations for 2015-2016:
 - ✓ Take all necessary measures to complete the financial assistance programme;
 - ✓ Limit the deviation from the medium-term budgetary objective in 2015 to a maximum of 0,25 % of GDP as specified under the 2013-15 balance-of-payments programme and return to the medium-term budgetary objective in 2016. Implement the comprehensive tax compliance strategy, strengthen verification control systems in order to tackle undeclared work, and push ahead with the equalization of the pensionable age for men and women;
 - ✓ Strengthen the provision of labour market measures, in particular for unregistered young people and the long-term unemployed; establish clear guidelines for setting the minimum wage transparently; introduce the minimum insertion income; increase the provision and quality of early childhood education and care, in particular for Roma; take action to implement the national strategy to reduce early school leaving;
 - ✓ Adopt the law on reforming corporate governance of state-owned enterprises.
- While it is absolutely clear that some sort of a New Deal is needed, in order to reinforce the Strategy, this initiative would naturally fuel a wide debate, focused on the ways and means allowing for this objective to take shape and make sense;
- For many years now, we have been living in a world whose most basic lines have been drawn as a part of one of the most formidable collective projects in History - the European Union; its rules and regulations have such an immediate and constant influence on European citizens lives, that the question of its capacity to adapt in the future, in order to respond to the European citizens' expectations cannot be compromised in sterile talks;
- The Strategy has been drafted and discussed by the Member States in the context of a very serious economic crisis; it is aimed to foster and consolidate not just growth in numbers and indicators, but a sustainable growth, that would and could and should be useful to the men and women of Europe;
- The link between employers and employees needs perhaps to be adjusted, in order to better tackle and respond to the trends and issues of the labour market, that call for more flexibility, while this reality also needs to be reconciled with a strong need for social protection and prevention;
- On the medium and long term, the refugees' issue will also show how credible and how efficient our entire social model is, especially when it comes to adapting itself to such challenges as unpredictable moments of humanitarian crisis;
- And now, it is time to help and show compassion and understanding. "Tackling the refugee crisis should be the first priority", said President Juncker at the latest State of the European Union debate, in the European Parliament. May it also be a fruitful and responsible moment to reflect on what we all have achieved, despite History's challenges, since 1945, and most of all, on what we can all do, together, tomorrow.

Pawel Szalamacha, Member of the Parliament (Sejm), Poland:

- The national targets as set out in the National Reform Programme (April 2015):
 - ✓ Employment rate: 71%
 - ✓ R&D (in % of GDP): 1.7%
 - ✓ Emissions reduction target: 14%
 - ✓ Renewable energy: 15%
 - ✓ Energy efficiency: 96.4 %
 - ✓ Early school leaving: 4.5%
 - ✓ Tertiary education: 45%
 - ✓ Reduction of population at risk of poverty or social exclusion: 1,500,000 persons.
- The efficiency and the results of the reforms, when we discuss about the implementation of the Strategy, have to take into account the country specific issues;
- The business environment must be involved in this process along with the public administration;
- To reach the objectives it is important to stimulate the investments (both national and foreign) by proper government incentives and a good tax system;

- The Commission has made four country-specific recommendations to Poland to help it improve its economic performance; these are in the areas of: public finances, pensions and taxation, labour market and investment in rail;
- The Government takes actions to meet financial parameters (financial targets and public expenditures in terms of infrastructure);
- The objectives within the Strategy should be more country specific; the Eurozone countries can reach the targets easier than other member States.

The Economic Forum agenda also included a debate entitled *Lobbyists and Lobbying in the EU Legislative Process. Is "Lobbying" a Dirty Word?*, with the participation of PhD Prof. Alina Bârgăoanu, Prorector of the National University of Political Science and Administration and President of EIR's Administration Board. The debate was moderated by the journalist Dan Cărbunaru, Director of Caleaeuropeana.ro.

Romania was also represented in various themed panels by: Daniel Ioniță, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Maricel Popa, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy; Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu, Director, Foreign Intelligence Service; Bogdan Chirițoiu, President, Competition Council; Veronica Anghel, Foreign Policy Advisor, Presidential Administration; Antonia Colibășanu, Stratfor Romania, among others.

We thank our colleagues from the Institute for Eastern Studies in Warsaw for their cooperation, trust and support for the Romanian participants in the Economic Forum!

For further information, please visit the official website of the event: <http://www.forum-ekonomiczne.pl>



Florentina Costache

opinion

The Black Sea Region: The Geostrategic and Security Evolutions



Ambassador Paraschiva Bădescu

A career diplomat; she attended, as a member or Head of Romanian Delegations, different bilateral or multilateral negotiations on security and cooperation in Europe and on regional level. She was Chargé d’Affaires of the Romanian Permanent Mission to the International Organisations in Vienna; member of the Romanian OSCE Chairmanship’s Taskforce (2001); Ambassador, Head of the OSCE presence in Turkmenistan (2002-2004) and Montenegro (2005-2010); Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the November 2013 presidential election in Tajikistan. In 2004, she was awarded the Romanian diplomat of the year working in an international organisation, and in 2012 the OSCE Medal. She is author of numerous studies and articles.

Abstract: *The article provides an analysis related to the geostrategic and security evolutions, geostrategic importance, risks and challenges in the Black Sea Region; impact of the crisis in Ukraine and Russia’s annexation of Crimea for the security environment in the Black Sea Region; perspectives and role of different actors.*

1. The Black Sea history knew different evolutions and fights for influence, hegemony and control. After the end of the Cold War, the Black Sea area faced radical political, military, economic and geostrategic changes; the power politics’ logic of confrontation was replaced by cooperative relations, opening the perspective for the Black Sea to become an area of good neighbourhood, cooperation and understanding among riparian States. Dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty and emergence of new independent States after disintegration of USSR reduces Russia’s (as its proclaimed heritor) direct control over the region.

With the end of the Cold War, Black Sea changed its status from a closed sea into an open one. In this respect, an encouraging factor was the opening of the Main-Danube navigation channel (1992), establishing the direct links between the Black Sea and the North Sea. The geostrategic position of Romania became obvious. Also, there was a significant change related to the foreign presence in the area, both of individual states and alliances: NATO increased its direct presence in the region, following the enlargement process and institutionalised relations with riparian States. The EU enlargement process and Eastern Partnership also have a significant impact. OSCE remains, also, an important actor in the region, given its role in conflict prevention and crisis management. At subregional level, some initiatives have been developed, such as BSEC and BLACKSEAFOR. The EU and NATO are close strategic partners, but their influence in the Black Sea is performed in different ways¹.

Analysing the present security dynamics in the Black Sea region, the following areas of security challenges could be mentioned: conflicts in the context of post-Soviet nation-building; corruption and organized crime; institutional development and rule of law; energy security; military and weapon systems (preventing arms race); naval and maritime security.

The Black Sea region encompasses not only a variety of risks and challenges, but also opportunities to solve them. The UN, EU, NATO, the CoE and OSCE are present in the region through specific mechanisms and programs. However, the resolution of the protracted conflicts is lagging behind, separatist forces are more and more active, economic difficulties and political tensions are seriously affecting democratic development.

The Black Sea region is an area characterised by the collision of strategic interests, marked by fast geopolitical modifications. The geopolitical and security evolution in the region, its geographic position, the risks and challenges to stability in the area - are aspects attracting and justifying an increased interest of the international community. The fight against terrorism remains the issue on which the main actors are still inclined to work together. Meanwhile, coping with protracted conflicts, fighting transnational organised crime and preventing the threat of Russian military intervention remain region-wide concerns.

European Union is involved in the Black Sea area, by promoting and financing national and regional projects aimed at consolidation of the reform processes in the region. However, despite a variety of approaches, instruments and agreements, the EU does not yet have a strong presence in the Black Sea area. Furthermore, the internal financial turmoil over the Eurozone and Greek crisis is not serving the EU role. Europe will be increasingly vulnerable to Russian aggression if its links to Greece are substantially loosened. Greece is a crucial gateway to and from several seaboard. Along with the crisis in Ukraine, it might seriously affect Europe's geopolitical position toward Russia.

2. The Ukrainian crisis and its security impact for the region. The current crisis in Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia clearly show that the end of the Cold War did not lead to a single security order based on commonly shared norms and principles. The evolutions in the Black Sea region highlight increasing economic competition, cultural challenges, shifting power relations and geopolitical evolutions. The very basis of international society and basic principles of international relations such as sovereignty and independence are at stake². From a security perspective, Russia has demonstrated once again its ability to gradually use its hard power to promote and protect its interests in its so-called „sphere of influence”. Moscow has stepped up its maritime power in the Black Sea. The annexation of Crimea by Russia affects three main areas of the Black Sea security architecture: maritime security, energy security and the ability of the main stakeholders to contribute to the stability of the region³. The Black Sea maritime landscape has been reshaped, and Russia's Black Sea maritime power and naval potential are set to increase. Also, the Black Sea is likely to face an enhanced Russian-Turkish security condominium over the region. Turkey fears that an increased US or NATO military presence in the Black Sea could increase tensions with Russia.

The annexation of Crimea has shifted the military balance in the Black Sea region more strongly in Russia's favour and significantly increased Russia's strategic footprint in the region. In addition to acquiring Sevastopol, Russia also acquired the former Crimean Ukrainian naval bases⁴. The expansion of the Black Sea Fleet will strengthen Russia's ability to project power in the region and enable Moscow to exert influence over the Eastern Mediterranean, Balkans and Middle East. An important question is how Russia will use that power; there are worries that Russia will increase its pressure and influence in the region. Among the Black Sea riparian States, only Turkey is in the position to contest the maritime superiority of the Russian fleet. However, Turkey's relations with Russia have improved markedly, especially in the economic field, and its views on maritime security in the Black Sea area are closer to Russia's than to those of the US⁵. Moreover, Turkey is worried that NATO initiatives could lead to the erosion of the 1936 Montreux Convention, which regulates access to Bosphorus and Dardanelles and is a cornerstone of Turkish foreign policy. Ankara is strongly opposed to any initiative that might imply a change in the status of the Convention in the Black Sea region⁶.

The military challenges in this complex European security environment will require the development of creative approaches and investment strategies.

Because of the crisis in Crimea, it has become clear that Russian troops will not be withdrawn from Transnistria. On the contrary, Russia will maintain its military presence in the region even with more insistence.

¹ *Strategic Balance and Security Challenges in the Black Sea Region*, Position Paper. Institute for Regional and International Studies, Bucharest, 2011.

² *Reshaping the International Order - Power, Conflict and change in the Black Sea Region* - Dr. Erik Heine.

³ *The Ukrainian Crisis and Security in the Black Sea Area* - by Dr. Igor Delanoé, Atlantic Voices, vol.4, issue 4.

⁴ *The Future of the Black Sea Fleet*, John C.K. Daly, Jameston Foundation, May 22, 2014.

⁵ *Turkey's New Geopolitics*, F. Stephen Larrabee, Survival, vol.52, no.2.

⁶ *No Change Wanted on Turk Straits Convention*, Umit Enginsoy, Turkish Daily News/Istanbul, August 28, 2008.

3. The West's influence has been diminishing in the Black Sea region since 2008. The Ukraine crisis galvanised NATO into boosting defences along its eastern edge. NATO has enlarged its multinational response force, created a new force that can be mobilised quickly and established a chain of outposts in the Eastern Balkans called “force integration units”, which could serve as command centres during a conflict⁷.

At the same time, fighting in Ukraine prompted the EU to prioritise its Southern Corridor natural gas project, which would bypass Russian energy giant Gazprom in the European energy market and reduce Europe's reliance on Russia. In addition, the West strongly discouraged Bulgaria from participating in Russia's South Stream project. When Bulgaria opted out, Russia cancelled the project in December 2014.

Initially, Russia did not see the EU as a threat to its interests. Most of its attention was devoted to trying to block the NATO enlargement. However, Russia's attitude began to change with the development of EU's Eastern Partnership, designed to increase cooperation with six states in the ex-soviet space: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. However, the Eastern Partnership never had the full support of the strongest EU member states, particularly Germany, which feared that the initiative could have a negative impact on its intention to deepen relations with Russia. One could say that the European Union is suffering from the lack of ambition of its Eastern Partnership, as well as from doubts about further enlargement. The EU should regain the initiative and contribute to shaping a security environment. For the EU, two important interests are at stake: first, the stabilisation of a zone of instability and turmoil on its Eastern periphery, and second, respect for the principle that European borders cannot be changed by force. This has been a core principle of EU policy since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, and it was violated by Russia's annexation of Crimea. Thus, the EU's credibility as a united and important international actor is on the line. The Black Sea area is a region combining various interests of considerable importance for EU. In defining EU policy in the area, main goals have to be ensuring peace, democracy, security, stability, regional cooperation and sustainable prosperity.

A realistic goal for the Euro-Atlantic community could be to launch a comprehensive process of regional stabilisation including: conflict management and resolution, economic development and consolidation of democratic institutions, strong assertion of the rule of law, based on the universal values, standards and principles. EU, NATO and OSCE have instruments and structures which can and are used to increase the stability and security in the enlarged Black Sea Region.

Romania's positioning into the security equation of the extended Black Sea region is very important for its national security. It supports NATO's and EU's efforts in the process of stabilisation in South-East Europe and the need of encouraging the democratic option of the countries, thus contributing to the peaceful developments in the area, consolidation of democracy, security and stability.

Ambassador Paraschiva Bădescu

⁷ *The Problems Foreign Powers Find in the Balkans*, Stratford, May 19, 2015.

in focus

Romania took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of the BSEC

Starting July 1, 2015, Romania took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), running a 6 month term¹. The history of this organization starts with the year 1992, when 11 Heads of State and Government signed the “Summit Declaration on Black Sea Economic Cooperation” and, thus decided to establish a framework that would be suitable for the dialogue and the boosting of mutual trust between the member states, preparing for a possible viable involvement in launching and supporting intergovernmental initiatives of a higher degree of complexity.



From that moment on, Romania held the Chairmanship-in-Office 5 times, and this position handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided our state with the opportunity of lobbying for new priorities on the agenda. For the current term, the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Mr. George Ciamba, presented Romania's priorities in Istanbul², at the Permanent International Secretariat office:

¹ Romania took over the Chairmanship-in-Office of OBSEC, Press release, 07/01/15, available online at <http://www.mae.ro/node/32707>, accessed at 28/08/15.

² The presentation held by the Secretary of State for European Affairs, George Ciamba, that outlines Romania's priorities as the holder of the BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, Press release, 07/06/15, available online at <http://www.mae.ro/node/32777>, accessed at 28/08/15.

- Continue the development of the regional intergovernmental economic cooperation within the Organization, with strong emphasis on developing the priority areas established through the strategic bill passed at the BSEC Summit of 2012 - The BSEC Economic Agenda - Towards an Enhanced BSEC Partnership ³;
- Strengthen the interaction between the European Union and the BSEC member states (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Republic of Moldova, Romania, The Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine);
- Continue the process of increasing the Organization's efficiency on a consensual basis and boost the activity on all levels, by promoting concrete projects in areas of interest for the BSEC member states.

Therefore, the general domains taken into consideration for the cooperation between the 11 member states are: agriculture, the finance & banking sector, fighting crime, culture, customs matters, emergency assistance, education, energy, environmental protection, exchange of statistical data and information, healthcare & pharmaceuticals, IT&C, institutional renewal and good governance, science & technology, SMEs, tourism, economic development and trade, transportation. For the current term meetings will be held on topics such as transportations, fighting crime, energy, etc.

As mentioned by our Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, "Our country regards the regional cooperation within BSEC as utterly important", and this format might represent the platform needed to amplify the dialogue among the member states, especially in the context of uncertain political relations.

Concerning the events organised at national level for promoting the priorities of the current presidency, it is to be mentioned that on 18 September 2015, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a new session under the format of "Dialogues@MAE". The core subject regarded the Presidency-in-Office of Romania at Black Sea Economic Cooperation. The special guests who attended this meeting were: the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Bogdan Aurescu (who is also chairing the Presidency-in-Office of BSEC), H.E. Ambassador Michael Christides, Secretary General for International Permanent Secretary of BSEC and Professor Dan Dungaciu, head of the Political Sciences and International Relations Institute (Romanian Academy) and President of the Black Sea University Foundation.

Eliza Vaş

³ For more details: http://www.mfa.gov.tr/the-bsec-economic-agenda---towards-an-enhanced-bsec-partnership_-26-june-2012_-istanbul.en.mfa.

event

Sandanski – The Reunion of Youth from Bulgaria, Greece and Romania

Between 13 and 17 July, 2015, Sandanski (Bulgaria) hosted the "Paving Youths' Way International Academy" Seminar. The event focused on the diversity of points of view young people have on Europe and the question "Is my Europe the same as yours?" laid the foundation for the discussions to follow. The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) from Sofia (Bulgaria) and Hanns Seidel Foundation were the organizers.

As stated by EPI's Executive Director, **Yasen Georgiev**, the "Paving Youths' Way International Academy" Seminar brought 30 students and graduates from 3 EU member states (Bulgaria, Greece and Romania) together at the same table giving them the opportunity to discuss and exchange their views on the topic. By organizing this international training, the Economic Policy Institute aims to meet the need for communication and regional cooperation between the younger generations from the aforementioned countries, acting like a platform that allows the expressing of the wide variety of opinions and views on the perceptions that exist inside the European Union.

Throughout the 5 days, among the discussions that took place, several of them were related to the **Romanian-Bulgarian-Greek cooperation**. When it comes to the **Romanian-Bulgarian cooperation**, the participants found out that the 2 countries' common border amounts to 608 km, that the Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was



founded in 2003, and that the cooperation on commerce and business, especially in the cross-border area is intense. Concerning the relationship between **Romania and Greece**, the session's facilitator mentioned the 2 EU member states are close partners of commerce and Greece is one of the main foreign direct investments suppliers for Romania, ranking 8th at the end of 2013¹ with a total value of 1,935 million euros.

Besides the engaging intellectual activities, the organizers offered the chance of a debate on a trending topic on the

¹ FDI for Romania in 2013, National Bank of Romania, National Institute for Statistics, 2014, p. 12, available online, accessed at 27/08/15, <http://www.bnr.ro/DocumentInformation.aspx?idDocument=18513&idInfoClass=9403>.

European Union's agenda: the negotiations on signing the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**. The session was conducted in the British Parliamentary format and at the end the team that prepared arguments against continuing the negotiations was the front runner. Some of the issues raised by the 2 teams were: the transparency of the negotiations, protecting the investments, food safety, support for SMEs and environmental standards.

Another interesting aspect of the event was the individual presentations delivered by the participants, on the topic **"My Country in My Europe"**. Each had chosen a subject and a means to illustrate it and the surprising discovery was that the perspectives were different but complementary, at the same time. Also, in the last day of the event, there were presentations by professionals invited from Romania (**Ovidiu Nahoi**, journalist at Dilema Veche), and respectively Greece (**Antonis Klapsis**, professor at Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy). The first speaker argued the way the European Union is perceived in Romania, at the same time giving a rundown of the most important moments in Romania's history. The second speaker offered the audience a clear picture of what caused the Greek crisis, expanded on the course of events that led to the (then) current situation and offered possible solutions. Also, professor Klapsis will appear in the December issue of **Romanian Journal of European Affairs** with an article on the economic crisis in Greece.



The main idea this seminar conveyed is that the participant countries have an enormous potential to deepen the multilateral cooperation. To build on this potential, the tourism industry will need to develop jointly, by supporting the interaction between citizens and the organizing of international youth exchanges for Bulgarians, Greeks and Romanians (Yasen Georgiev).

Eliza Vaş

publications

Romanian Journal of European Affairs – Autumn Issue 2015



In the Autumn issue of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs, the contributors bring forward topics concerning: rethinking the European Union – from unity in diversity to diversity in unity; the national construct of the European concept in the political and cultural life of Romania in interwar times; comparative analysis of minimum income guaranteed schemes within the member states of the European Union; the changing nature of security in Europe; Ukraine in the WTO; a *review of Europolity* Journal and a *book review* of the "Two-speed world: emerging powers and developed countries".

Florin Bonciu, PhD, University Professor and Vice-president for Research with the Romanian-American University in Bucharest, envisions a new approach of the European integration model by offering a long term perspective of the current European Union crises interlaced with both the characteristics and the consequences of globalization. Concluding, the article stipulates that Europe needs to come to terms with the new dynamics of its own realities by accepting diversity in its existing unity rather than enforcing unity upon diversity.

Mihai Sebe, post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of World Economics, Romanian Academy and expert within the European Institute of Romania, addresses the development of the European idea in the early 1920s, in a time of great intellectual debate for the Romanian elites over the concepts of national ideal and nation-building and whether they should be involved or

not in discussing the creation of a European construction. The discussions on a European construct focused either on a potential regional project centred on Danube or a broader initiative with a strong continental approach.

Simona Maria Stănescu, PhD, senior researcher at the Research Institute for Quality of Life, Romanian Academy, makes a comparative analysis of the minimum income guaranteed schemes within the member states. The paper analyses the last safety net for the most vulnerable people. The presented results are diverse ranging from countries that changed their regulations several years before their accession to EU to those that changed them after accession occurred. The article concludes that the assessment of the social security arrangements should be continuous in order to promote a decent life standard and free movement of labour across the EU.

Katerina Veljanovska, Professor of Political Systems at the Faculty of Security, Criminology and Financial Control at MIT University, Skopje, the Republic of Macedonia, offers an overview on the existing threats to the EU's CSDP bearing in mind the role Russia plays in Ukraine's crisis, connecting with NATO's role as a security provider. The article draws attention upon the necessity of a new strategic framework in Europe, given the dissonance between Russia and the West.

Elena Anatolyevna Bessonova, Doctor in Economics, Professor, and Head of the Department of Accounting, Analysis and Auditing, Southwest State University, Russia, Oksana Yurevna Mereschenko, postgraduate, Southwest State University, Russia and Nina Sergeevna Gridchina, Master's Degree student at the same university, evaluate Ukraine's situation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Both negatives and positives are to be expected from the analysis of the past six years since Ukraine became a WTO member. Multiple sectors of the Ukrainian economy, mostly the innovation-oriented industries involving high technologies, suffered certain losses. On the other hand, the nation achieved, through accession to WTO, the possibility to conduct equitable dialogue with foreign trade partners, an enhancement of competitive advantages of the major producers in the real sector, the provision of incentives to harnessing new technologies and an improvement of the production quality in order to enhance the competitiveness on the global market. Ukraine's experience is portrayed in order to also outline some lessons for the Russian WTO membership.

Gheorghe-Octavian Roșca, MA student in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at the National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest reviewed the journal *Europolity - Continuity and Change in European Governance*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2015, issued by the Department of International Relations and European Integration, within the same University. His review shows a significant coverage of diverse subjects ranging from the strategic significance of the Asia-Pacific region, the transforming Czech economy to a Polish view on the relations CEE-China.

Bogdan Mureșan, expert at the European Institute of Romania within the Studies and Analyses Unit, reviewed the book *Lumea cu două viteze. Puterile emergente și țările dezvoltate* (Two-Speed World: Emerging Powers and Developed Countries) written by Professor Paul Dobrescu, from the National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest. According to the reviewer, the author of the book challenges his readers to think outside the box in regard to the subject of the two-speed development world, characterized by a shifting centre of gravity from the West to the East. A rather grim picture of the things to come is offered by the author, in the context of a society dominated by consumerism and a European Union project deeply affected by the financial crisis.

Oana Mocanu

Guide on Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights - Right to a fair trial (criminal limb)

The *Guide on Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights - the criminal limb of the right to a fair trial* was presented by the Strasbourg Court on 1 September 2014. This Guide is intended to provide information for legal practitioners concerning the key principles of the concept of "fair trial" in criminal proceedings, as well as detailed aspects especially concerning relevant case-law developments in the field of procedural safeguards, the right of access to a court, the presumption of innocence and the rights of the defence.

The Guide sets out the key principles developed by the Court's case-law, as well as relevant precedents. The case-law cited is selective; it comprises leading, significant and recent judgments and decisions. In fact, the Court's judgments serve not only to decide those cases brought before the Court but, more generally, to elucidate, safeguard and develop the rules of the Convention, thereby contributing to the observance by the States of the engagements they undertook as Contracting Parties. The purpose of the Convention system is to solve, for the public interest, public order issues, thereby raising the standards of protection of human rights and extending human rights case-law throughout the community of the Convention States.

The Guide is structured in 4 chapters, systematically dealing with the applicability of the provisions in Article 6 of the Convention. Thus, Chapter I deals with the scope of the notion of "criminal charge", setting out the guiding general principles in this field and examines the applicability of the criminal aspect of Article 6 based on three criteria: classification in domestic law; nature of the offence; and severity of the penalty that the person concerned risks incurring. Chapter II sets out the general guarantees, i.e. the right of access to a court (examining especially the limitations on this right which may result from parliamentary immunity, procedural rules etc.),



institutional requirements (independence and impartiality of the court, assessment criteria) and procedural requirements. The latter subchapter examines the fairness of proceedings based on the equality of arms and adversarial proceedings, the reasoning of judicial decisions, the right to remain silent and not to incriminate oneself, the use of evidence obtained unlawfully etc., as well as the public character of hearings and reasonable time. Chapter III sets out the specific guarantees by examining the presumption of innocence and certain aspects of the rights of the defence. Finally, Chapter IV deals with the extra-territorial effect of Article 6 and certain violations of the provisions in this article, such as the flagrant denial of justice. In the last part of the Guide there is a list of cited cases and an annex comprising 46 legal summaries, indicating the identifiers and keywords for each judgment; these summaries cover a wide and varied scope of the specific matter.

Costin Leonard Fălcuță

The right to liberty and security – a right for all persons regardless of their country of origin

The Guide on Article 5 is the first in a series of guides developed in 2012 by the Research Division within the European Court of Human Rights regarding the articles of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms that are the most appealed to in the applications submitted by the nationals before the Court. Several other guides with reference to Articles 4 and 6 of the Convention are currently available.

Surely the present Guide was the first one among its series because Article 5 is referring to an essential right for the mankind that is the right to liberty and security. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe stated on September 1st 2015¹, on the matter of the Syrian refugees, that all migrants are protected by all fundamental rights as any other person, mentioning the case of *Khlaifia and Others v. Italy*² where the Court of Strasbourg held the violation of several paragraphs of Article 5 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The current version has been reviewed by the Research Division in 2014, including the most recent case-law of the Court up to June 2014: *Krupko and Others v. Russia*, no. 26587/07, 26 June 2014, *Shcherbina v. Russia*, no. 41970/11, 26 June 2014, *Ilgar Mammadov v. Azerbaijan*, no. 15172/13, 22 May 2014, *Ovsjannikov v. Estonia*, no. 1346/12, 20 February 2014, and *Petkov and Profirov v. Bulgaria*, nos. 50027/08 and 50781/09, 24 June 2014.

This Guide is structured in four main chapters as follows: Scope of Application, Lawfulness of the Detention under Article 5, Authorized Deprivations of Liberty under Article 5 § 1, Guarantees for Persons Deprived of Liberty, to which an extended annex is attached including the legal summaries of the Court case-law referring to the Article 5.

Among the persons that can resort to the protection of Article 5³ are those in prisons who haven't been informed in short time about the reasons and charges of their arrest or detention, the persons found in psychiatric centers, persons placed in confinement in airport transit zones, the individuals subject to police questioning at the police stations, the persons being searched by the police officers and the individuals placed under house arrest.

The guarantees that Article 5 requests from the authorities when taking the measure to deprive someone of their liberty are the obligations to comply to the legal certainty, to avoid the arbitrariness and to base their decisions on a court order.

In order to provide an easy and quick access to the materials developed by the experts within the European Court of Human Rights, the European Institute of Romania translated into Romanian *the Guide on Article 5* that can be read and downloaded from the following link: <http://www.ier.ro/activități/coordonare-traduceri/jurisprudența-cedo/materiale-de-informare.html>

Daniela Rădulescu

¹ <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/migration-crisis-poses-serious-threat-to-the-respect-for-human-rights>

² <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf?library=ECHR&id=003-5158713-6376747&filename=Khlaifia%20and%20Others%20v.%20Italy%20-%20Detention%20and%20expulsion%20of%20Tunisian%20migrants%20following%20Arab%20Spring.pdf>

³ http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf, page 5.

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