



ACTIVITIES DIARY

Key Forthcoming Events:

5-7 May, Thessaloniki:
FONSI Workshop on Re-thinking EU's strategy in the Western Balkans in collaboration with The Bertelsmann Foundation and the Balkan Trust for Democracy & with the support of the German Marshall Fund of the US, EFG EURO BANK and the Stability Pact, Thessaloniki

15 May, Athens:
Lecture by H.E. the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shaukat Aziz on "Caught between globalization, political Islam and regional instability: the challenge for Pakistan"

25 May, Athens:
Conference on **"Europe in the globalised economy"** organized with the Austrian EU Presidency and the Institute for the Study of Greek-German Relations

3 June, Athens:
Conference on **"The European Court of Human Rights and the protection of civil rights: state compliance, minorities and domestic political reform"** organized in collaboration with the University of Kingston and the University of Sienna and with the support of DG Education and Culture, EU Commission (Jean Monnet Action)

12-16 June, Thessaloniki:
Visit of the American Marshall Memorial Fellows

21-25 June, Spetses:
Halki International Seminars 2007 "Europe: Mind the Gaps" with the support of the European Commission, the National Bank of Greece, EU-ISS (Paris), General Secretariat for Youth, and the collaboration of Bilgi University and EU-CONSENT

Europe arrives late and tends to be overshadowed by the EU...

A study of national media debates on Europe in the post-war period

News! Latest research at ELIAMEP:

Research undertaken by the EMEDIATE Research Consortium in 13 EU member states* suggests that the media of most European countries were not interested in the idea of Europe nor in issues of European importance until after the fall of the Berlin wall.

Ideas or conceptions of Europe as a geographical or historical entity or as a distinct culture were largely overshadowed by reports and debates on the EU.

This was the case in Austria, Britain, Germany (both East and West until 1989), Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia (and former Yugoslavia), Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden. The only exception to the rule was France: Europe was at the heart of French media debates since the 1950s.

Interest in European issues increased as the countries got more involved in the EU integration process. EU membership gradually replaced Cold War concerns with European security. Peace, democracy and prosperity remained important buzzwords in media debates throughout the post war period.

'There is an important similarity between southern European countries' notes Anna Triandafyllidou from ELIAMEP.

'The media debates on Europe in Greece and Spain stress political stability as an important feature of "belonging to Europe". This has no doubt to do with the authoritarian regime experiences of the two countries in the post war era.' Moreover, in both countries Europe or the EU for that matter are non-issues until the 1990s.

'Media debates on Europe were triggered by important events' writes Michal Krzyzanowski. 'However it must be borne in mind that those debates referred to nationally specific events, not to events that we would define today as pan-European, such as the 1968 protest movement in Paris and Prague'.

Media debates on European issues or on European values are largely absent from the countries whose (western) 'Europeanness' is taken for granted such as Austria, Britain, Germany, Sweden or Italy. French exceptionalism, however, is once again confirmed: debates on European issues and values thrive in the French 'heart' of the continent.

Debates on what Europe is or what it stands for were also prominent in the national media of Central Eastern European countries such as Poland or Slovenia, who re-claimed their 'belonging to Europe' after 1989.



The study concludes that there is always a national filter applied to media debates: Europe is important only when it matters for national developments. Greek media debates confirm this view. In the mid 1990s, the Greek media discourse emphasizes that the 'national interest' (such as the controversy over the naming of FYROM) should remain independent from European views that fail to recognize the historical specificity and traumatic national experiences of Greece in the Balkans. However, in recent years, Greek media portray Europe as part of the national self in the context of the value debates.

In conclusion, media debates increasingly stress European values with a universal appeal such as peace, democracy, prosperity, human rights, and to a lesser extent, social solidarity.

* For more on the EMEDIATE project and to download project reports please see: ELIAMEP's website or <http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/research/EMEDIATE/Index.shtml>

EMEDIATE is funded by the *European Commission Research DG, Sixth Framework Programme, Thematic Priority 7*



EU Membership negotiations with Turkey were opened on 3 October 2005

“Europe:

A Community of Values”

ELIAMEP has published information booklets on the EU and European values. These are now available in **Greek, Albanian, Bulgarian and Russian!**

Electronic copies can be downloaded from our website and print copies are available from ELIAMEP's library.

Discussion on political developments in Turkey and EU-Turkey relations with Prof. Ahmet Evin, Sabanci University

Athens, 27th April 2006

Prof. Evin concentrated on Turkey's current political environment and the country's future relationship with the European Union.

He underlined that the Cyprus issue and the debates surrounding proposals for a 'privileged partnership' will most likely remain contentious points in the course of the membership negotiations.

Emphasis was laid on the fact that public debates on EU enlargement are no longer concentrating solely on the Copenhagen criteria. Rather, questions are raised as to whether Turkey is adequately

European, or European at all and thus if Turkey shares European values; whether Europe has the capacity to absorb Turkey; and, where do the borders of Europe end? Moreover, there is indecision as to whether Turkey should be a bridge, buffer or border for Europe towards the Islamic world

It is clear that the resolution of these issues depends on both Turkish and EU political will. There is limited evidence of the latter in the current crisis the EU is going through (relating to the ECT, immigrant integration challenges, etc). It was, however, noted that intensified European question-

ing on the validity of Turkish membership is likely to disenchant Turkey's pro-European political elites. Such a development would be reflected in internal Turkish politics.

Developments over the coming years will be largely influenced by Turkey's Parliamentary and Presidential pro-election politics while it is expected that the European question will re-emerge in importance in Turkey's post election arena.

Finally, the discussion concentrated on current international developments in the Middle East, and notably the situation in Iraq and Iran.

Presentation by Dr. Laza Kekic, Economist Intelligence Unit, on:

“Kosovo: a messy denouement

Athens, 4th April 2006

With international status negotiations on Kosovo approaching, Dr. Laza Kekic, Regional Director of the Economist Intelligence Unit, discussed some of the core challenges for the region and for international affairs with a group of Greek journalists and experts on the Balkans.

Mr. Kekic assessed the international implications of the

various scenarios and the motivations of the key actors involved. He focused on the recent increasing facility in the use of the term 'independence' that seems to be characterizing international officials' discourse but also highlighted the key issues that will have to be addressed for any viable, negotiated solution.

The role of Russia was exten-

sively discussed as were the consequences of these negotiations on Serbia's domestic political scene. Possible scenarios as regards political developments in Serbia and Kosovo were also discussed in this context.

The full text of Laza Kekic's presentation is available from ELIAMEP's website: www.eliamep.gr

Discussion with representatives of Greek NGOs and immigrant associations

Athens, 30 March 2006

In the context of the project Communicating EU values in Greece, ELIAMEP organized an open discussion to identify core challenges in three areas: the social, economic and cultural inclusion of immigrants in Greece; the role of the EU in developing an active civil society and European citizenship, and issues of discrimination based on racism and xenophobia in today's changing European societies.

The aim of this initiative was to include the insight and input of NGO and immigrant representatives on current migration and integration challenges in Greece, and to engage in a discussion on European values and the future of the EU with third country nationals that reside within the EU member states.

The comparative findings of the POLITIS project on active civic participation of immi-

grants in EU25 were also presented [see www.eliamep.gr for more on POLITIS project]

Approximately forty experts, civic activists, academics, PhD students and journalists participated in this extremely interactive day-long debate that was held at the premises of the Representation of the EU Commission in Athens. The event was organized with the support of DG Education and Culture, EU Commission.

JURISTRAS: The Strasbourg Court, democracy and the human rights of individuals and communities: patterns of litigation, state implementation and domestic reform

The project is co-ordinated by ELIAMEP and includes Kent University at Canterbury, the University of Sienna, Boltzman Institute for Human Rights in Vienna, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Centre for Liberal Studies in Sofia, Bielefeld University, Free University of Brussels, and Yildiz University in Istanbul.

JURISTRAS comparatively explores processes of human rights litigation in the European Court of Human Rights judgments, and its effects in national legislative reforms and policy making in a number of EU member states and As-

sociate Candidate States.

JURISTRAS seeks to explore domestic processes of implementation of Strasbourg Court judgments and their impact on the legal norms, institutional structures, politics and policy-making of these states that are parties to the Convention.

The project examines under what conditions Strasbourg Court judgments that find state authorities to have breached Convention provisions promote broader domestic reform or policy-change and expand justice for individuals and communities. It explores the hypothesis that patterns of state com-

pliance and national implementation of Court judgments depend on and are mediated by domestic processes of societal mobilization, public support and elite learning.

Researchers will formulate recommendations concerning the rights of religious, ethnic and immigrant minorities, the combating of discrimination, and protection of personal privacy, as well as the establishment and improvement of national- and EU-level mechanisms for addressing human rights claims and resolving disputes between individual rights and state interests.

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Duration:
1 Sept. 2006- 31 Aug. 2009

Funded by:
EU Commission Research DG,
6th Framework Programme

EMILIE: A European approach to multicultural citizenship: Legal, political and educational challenges

This interdisciplinary project is a response to the current 'crisis of multiculturalism.'

ELIAMEP is the co-ordinator of the EMILIE consortium that includes: University of Bristol (UK), INED (France), European University Viadrina - Frankfurt (Germany), CEDEM - Universite de Liege (Belgium), Universitat Pompeu Fabra -Barcelona (Spain), Centre of Human Rights and Ethnic Studies (Latvia), Aarhus University (Denmark) and the Center for International Relations (Poland).

EMILIE focuses on 9 EU countries with different experiences of migration and integration. It involves a critical review of current public debates on integration and multiculturalism. Three case studies in each country will focus on: (i) educational challenges posed by migration related diversity, including multicultural education and faith schools; (ii) legal challenges with special reference to discrimination protection in the workplace; and (iii) political challenges with special reference to voting rights and civic participation.

These national experiences will be critically reviewed to consider: how integration challenges are accommodated, to what extent each country offers a distinctive 'model' of immigrant incorporation and on what value discourses this model is based on.

EMILIE shall identify the European dimensions of integrating diversity (value discourses, points of tension, best practices) and elaborate an empirically grounded theoretical model of multiculturalism appropriate to the EU experience and the current crisis.

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New ELIAMEP Publications

Occasional Papers (in Greek)

OP06.01 Η ραγδαία πολιτική και οικονομική άνοδος της Κίνας και οι επιπτώσεις για την παγκόσμια οικονομική και πολιτική σκηνή
Αντώνης Χριστόπουλος

Postgraduate Notes (in Greek)

PN06.06 Το Παλαιστινιακό ζήτημα: Ιστορικές, νομικές και πολιτικές διαστάσεις
Ιωάννης Σασόπουλος

PN06.05 Οι σχέσεις της Τουρκίας με τις πρώην Σοβιετικές Τουρκογενείς δημοκρατίες
Γιώργος Λαλιώτης

PN06.04 Ο εκδημοκρατισμός του αραβικού κόσμου ως μείζον ζήτημα της σύγχρονης διεθνούς πολιτικής
Καρολίνα Σχισμένου

All publications may be downloaded for free from our website
www.eliamep.gr

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Following the ERMIS programme which started on 2004, ELIAMEP launched a new initiative for private sector entities, diplomatic representations in Greece, business associations and other institutions, aiming at creating a wide network of institutional members as well as securing financial support for our work and providing a solid basis for our activities.

With an annual subscription we offer our institutional partners periodic briefings on our work as well as privileged access to the wide variety of events we organise. Our wish is to encourage a more inter-active relationship through an open network of institutional members.

If you are interested in becoming a member of ELIAMEP's institutional partnership network please contact Ms. Christianna Karageorgopoulou, Development Coordinator, ELIAMEP
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Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies Forthcoming issue (Vol.6: 2, June 2006)

Guest Editor: Panagiota Manoli

Includes articles by:

Thanos Veremis "The Involvement of the International Center for Black Sea Studies in the Policy-making & Cooperation process within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Framework: The Role of a Think-tank in the BSEC Region"

Roberto Aliboni "Globalization and the Wider Black Sea Area: Interaction with the EU, Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East"

Marius Vahl & Sergiu Celac "Ready for a Breakthrough: Elements for a EU Strategy Towards the Black Sea Region"

Sergiu Celac & Panagiota Manoli "Towards a New Model of Comprehensive Regionalism in the Black Sea Area"

John M. Roberts "The Black Sea and European Energy Security"

Nikos Efthymiadis "The Experience of the Private Sector in Doing Business and Investing in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea"

Ahmet Imre "Financial Cooperation within the Black Sea Region: The Experience of the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank"

Vsevolod Samokhvalov "Ukraine and the Orange Revolution: Democracy or a 'Velvet Restoration'?"