

Activity Report 2008

TRANS EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES ASSOCIATION



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Foreword

2008 has been an intense and crucial year for the European Union, What started off with the hopes of having a new treaty in place by the date of the European Parliament Elections 2009, ended with the question of having a new treaty at all. In this context similar questions and research issues were posed as after the failure of the referenda in France and the Netherlands in 2004: How to explain these result and assess strategies to remedy problems especiall with the engagement of citizens The European Parliament elections in 2009 will yet again be another test case for our efforts to understand to the raltion between the citizens and the European Union



2008 also marked the beginning of the financial crisis, a development showing the sensitivity and interlinkage of our markets. Although economic and trade policies have always been at the heart of the European Union, a response to the challenges evoked by the economic and financial crisis is still to be found.

Also in terms of foreign affairs, 2008 has been a relevant year. The Georgian crisis as well as the military actions between Israel and the Palestine Authorities have once more shown the need for a coherent approach of the European Union towards crisis management.. The European Neighbourhood Policy, which has been complemented by the Union for the Mediterranean and the Eastern Partnership to be launched in May 2009, will thus have to prove its efficiency.

TEPSA's mission: Analysis, Assessment and Advice

TEPSA has in 2008 accompanied the developments in the European Union, stimulated debate and encouraged thinking "outside" established boxes. Dialogue between the research community, be they think tanks or universities, between policy-makers, politicians, civil society and interest representatives has therefore been at the core of TEPSA's work. Especially the two Pre-

Presidency conferences in Paris and Prague have consequently been able to go beyond the usual Brussels circles and to involve national actors.

Therefore it is my pleasure to thank all those who have contributed to making 2008 a successful year for TEPSA. First, these thanks have to be addressed to TEPSA's member institutes all over Europe, which have actively shaped TEPSA's orientation. Special thanks go to TEPSA's Secretary General, Graham Avery, who has left his post in December 2008 to continue his own research path. With his comprehensive knowledge, his experience, much time and commitment Graham Avery has well-positioned TEPSA in the Brussels' think tank arena and beyond.

TEPSA in 2009 thus starts with a new team. The General Assembly in Prague has appointed Prof. Jean-Victor Louis as new Acting Secretary General and, in addition to the confirmation of the Board members, elected Carlos Rubens as Treasurer. Yvonne Nasshoven, previously Assistant Secretary General, has been appointed Executive Director and together with Anne Schmidt, Research Assistant, completes the core team of TEPSA.

On the financial side, TEPSA can also base its work on solid structures. Since 2008, TEPSA benefits from the multiannual framework of the European Commission's "Europe for citizens" programme. Together with its work for the European Parliament, its collaboration with other research projects such as EU-CONSENT or THESEUS, and other supporters – first and foremost its member institutes – TEPSA has thus diversified its budget. Due to the complexity of Commission funds and rules of Belgian accounting this structure may also sometimes cause work which is not necessarily linked to our core tasks. However, the long-lasting cooperation between many of our partners and TEPSA shows impressively that all sides perceive it as highly beneficial to cooperate. TEPSA has therefore won the support of most of its partners also for 2009.

Drawing on this sound setup, TEPSA in 2009 will continue to take a critical stance on the developments within the European Union, to bring together different actors and to analyse, assess and advice on solutions for challenges to European integration. Also we are preparing to celebrate TEPSA's 35th anniversary. TEPSA thus hopes to bring about fresh ideas and new ways of thinking for issues that are of relevance for the European societies.

Brussels, 21 January 2009

W. Wessels

About TEPSA

TEPSA has been established in 1974 with the goal to “study or organize research on problems relating to the development of European integration, based on human rights and democracy, to propose solutions, and to promote their taking into consideration by institutions, both private and public, at national or Community level, and to diffuse the results of its work.” (Article 3 of the statutes of the Trans European Studies Association)

TEPSA is a multinational network comprising 29 members. It aims at accomplishing its goals of analysis, assessment and advice, which have been the major guidelines for the activities of the TEPSA network in the past years. Following this approach, TEPSA provides high quality research on European integration in order to stimulate discussions on policies and political options for Europe.

A bottom-up approach to European governance

The main channel for transferring ideas and results of research from the national to the European level and vice versa is TEPSA's member institutes which operate independently but in line with TEPSA's goals on the national and transnational level. The Trans European Policy Studies Association exemplifies the 'bottom-up' approach to European governance, contributes to the EU's dialogue with citizens and reaches out to an informed debate in member states and applicant countries.

The activity of the TEPSA network has been accompanied over the past decades by a broad and target-group oriented communication and dissemination strategy. This includes a regular newsletter, publications and the TEPSA website. Also TEPSA's member institutes contribute with their own communication policies to the efficient dissemination of TEPSA's work.

TEPSA especially benefits from the “Europe for Citizens” Programme and therefore puts emphasis on the creation of stronger links between the European Union, its citizens, and the contribution of research and think tanks to this process by stimulating debate.



Executive summary

TEPSA in 2008 has contributed to discussions on the topics of the future of the European Union and its basic values, on Active European Citizenship, and on the impact of European policies in societies. Further subjects addressed included people's well being in Europe, employment, social cohesion and sustainable development and the enlargement rounds of 2004 and 2007. TEPSA has fulfilled these objectives by involving its member institutes and associate members throughout the European Union, bringing the debate to the capitals and regions. At the same time, TEPSA has sought to cooperate with the European Institutions, especially the European Commission and the European Parliament, and with the Council of Europe as non-EU institution. Thereby TEPSA has been able to bring together practitioners, academia, citizens and civil society, and to stimulate discussion between those different actors.

TEPSA's key activities in 2008, has been focusing particularly on the following priorities:

- **Pre-Presidency Conferences in Paris and Prague**

These flagship events of TEPSA have taken place one month before the respective countries have taken on the EU's Presidency. Leading politicians, academics, civil society and media representatives have here come together to discuss the priorities of the upcoming Presidencies.

- **TEPSA Training**

This newly established programme has been launched in 2008 and will run until the Swedish Pre-Presidency Conference in Stockholm. Around 15 junior researchers obtain within this programme training on presentation and media skills, writing policy briefs and EU funding.

- **TEPSA Guest Lecture Series**

TEPSA Guest Lectures manifest TEPSA's aim to bring the European debate to the national capitals. They "match" speakers from TEPSA institutes with hosting members and stimulate public discussion on current topics of interest.

- **Briefings for the European Parliament**

TEPSA in 2008 has continued its work for the European Parliament's committee on foreign affairs and provided expertise on a range of topics. A large number of TEPSA experts have also been invited to present their findings at hearings of the committee.

- **TEPSA's activities within EU-CONSENT**

EU-CONSENT, a network of excellence funded by the 6th Framework Programme has in 2008 continued to be the anchor point of many of TEPSA's

activities. Comprising a huge number of TEPSA's member institutes, EU-CONSENT has provided the framework for research on deepening and widening in Europe.

TEPSA's main goal has been to act as catalyzer for dialogue, and to analyze, assess and advice on topics of interest for the European Union, its member states and the well-being of its citizens. In addition to the two Pre-Presidency conferences, two key highlights have been the organization of a conference on the Effects of the EU's enlargement, and on the European Parliament elections.

From a topical point of view, TEPSA has covered a range of subjects. The institutional development of the European Union, its core values, especially the promotion of human rights, the economic development and the foreign policy dimension have constituted a rich framework for action and discussion.

At the same time, TEPSA has engaged in disseminating its activities to the public mainly via its newsletter and its website. TEPSA has also been an active member in the Structured Dialogue organised by the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. By these activities TEPSA has been able to contribute to the shaping of debates, and to continue its rich tradition on enhancing European integration.

TEPSA's activities in 2008

The following sections give a detailed overview of TEPSA's activities and their timeframe in 2008, according to the topics mentioned and including a presentation of TEPSA's communication strategy.

TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conferences

The two TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conferences discussed the upcoming Presidency and their priorities in order to give TEPSA's input into the half-year programme and formulate recommendations.

12-13 June 2008, Paris

The French Pre-Presidency Conference

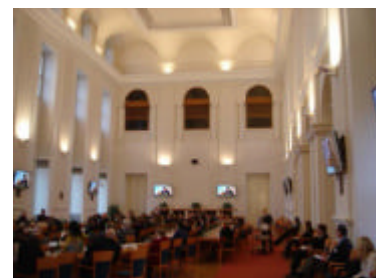
On 12-13 June 2008, the traditional Pre-Presidency Conference was held at Sciences-Po, Paris, under the title "La France en Europe: un acteur pas ∞ mme les autres?" The event was organised by the Centre for European Studies of Sciences Po, TEPSA's member in France, in partnership with TEPSA and EU-CONSENT. After a presentation of the programme of the upcoming French Presidency of the EU by Jean- Pierre Jouyet, France's State Secretary for European Affairs, and a first assessment of the Slovenian Presidency by Marjan Svetlicic, Director of the Centre of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, the conference addressed three issues which have given rise to misunderstandings between France and its partners: economic reform policies, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the role of politics in European integration.



4-5 December 2008, Prague

The Czech Pre - Presidency Conference

Under the title "Priorities and Prospects for the European Union" TEPSA's Pre- Presidency Conference took place on 4 and 5 December 2008



in the premises of the Czech Foreign Ministry in Prague. The conference, which was organised by TEPSA's Czech member, the Institute of International Relations (IIR), welcomed a broad audience of local politicians, representatives of local organisations and researchers from almost all EU member states and beyond.

The following recommendations were presented by Nikos Frangakis, member of the Board of TEPSA, to the Presidency:

1. TEAM PRESIDENCY

France, the Czech Republic and Sweden are the 2nd pre-established group of Member States to hold the current 18-month "Team Presidency". The world financial crisis that occurred during the French Presidency has no doubt disrupted any previously drafted team programme. Nevertheless, the very idea of "Team Presidency" presupposes a joint *strategic framework* followed by a list of *priorities* and, finally, a *comprehensive programme* of objectives and actions for the three Presidencies; an idea instrumental to the new concept of institutional checks and balances aimed at moderating differences between consecutive holders of the office, thus ensuring stability and continuity for the Union.

The strategic framework of the present Team Presidency should maintain in its general features the so-called two-track approach to the development of the Union: (1) addressing existing and new challenges facing the EU and (2) taking forward the reform process. Under the circumstances, to lead the EU's policy agenda is not an easy task, especially while the institutional future of the Union remains unsettled after the Irish referendum. Like in every team, divergences exist between the three countries. Each of them naturally has specific interests, but it is essential that they all, bigger and smaller states alike, act in concert in an effort to deliver on the EU's key policy challenges, thus proving that the Team Presidencies' concept offers more than the previous solitary model.

2. BUDGET

The EU budget review, scheduled for 2008/9, has made only slow progress, with the consultation phase taking six months longer than originally planned. The review offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-shape the budget, last substantially reformed in 1988, to meet the aims of the EU of today and tomorrow, rather than yesterday. But it risks running out of time if early action to advance it is not taken. We therefore urge the Czech Presidency to accelerate the review and to ensure that it has real substance.

3. ENERGY

EU energy policy has to reconcile conflicting aims in bringing together a package that simultaneously offers a coherent response to climate change, while assuring security of supply and competitive prices for energy. The

second strategic energy review published in November 2008 put forward many valuable new ideas, but does little more than set out the many challenges that will have to be confronted beyond 2050. The Czech Presidency could, while continuing resolutely to implement the medium-term agenda of Kyoto and the 20-20-20 policy, advance longer-term obligations the EU has to face by taking early steps to develop the 2050 roadmap proposed by the Commission and by linking Neighbourhood and Energy policies more explicitly.

4. AREA OF SECURITY, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

The Czech Presidency has committed itself to the development of the area of security, freedom and justice as a goal of common interest of the EU, with the emphasis on internal security. Care should be taken, though, to keep the necessary balance between the security and freedom of European citizens and to observe the principle of proportionality when their privacy is at risk.

5. EU NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

In the end the safety and prosperity of all of Europe is only won through openness rather than barriers towards neighbouring areas. The ultimate prospects for each neighbourhood country may not be the same, since there are crucial differences between the northern and the southern dimension of the ENP and, again, in the South the totally different situation of its European / W. Balkan flank from the S-E Mediterranean / mostly Muslim part. In any event the Czech Presidency should strive towards creating a European policy, characterised by freer movement and liberalised trade as well as further efforts aimed at the removal of religious and cultural prejudice.

6. UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Union for the Mediterranean, one of the priorities of the outgoing French Presidency, is now taking shape on the basis of the guidelines approved by the Euro-Mediterranean foreign affairs ministers a month ago. Since its newly created co-presidency entails an active role for the EU Presidency, the (non-Mediterranean) Czechs have an excellent opportunity to promote the strategic priorities of this initiative in general and to develop its trans-European significance in the ambit of a wider notion of the ENP. The Middle East peace process is the main priority to be dealt with and certainly requires a more significant EU involvement in terms of peace-keeping presence and crisis management.

7. TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

Taking into account both the fact that transatlantic relations are among the top priorities of the Czech Presidency, and the new US Administration, the Presidency should seize the opportunity for developing and strengthening the relations between the EU and the US. These should be furthered at Union level instead of continuing the old bilateral relations between single EU member states and the US or using NATO as a vehicle for transatlantic relations. One way of strengthening the EU-US relations is to institutionalise them to a greater extent than has previously been the case. Also, a EU strategy on transatlantic relations could be appropriate to delineate what the EU's goals

and ambitions are in this respect. The recent joint efforts to tackle the global financial and economic crises offer a good example of what the two sides should do together on a more systematic basis.

8. RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

Russia and the neighbourhood are central for the Czech Presidency as they are for the EU as a whole. While not neglecting the current political processes, such as the negotiations on a new agreement with Russia, fresh emphasis should be put on the increase of free movement - as also put forward in the presidency motto "Europe without barriers" - as well as exchange possibilities for students, academics and journalists between the EU and Russia in order to nurture people-to-people and society-to-society contacts and ensure a firmer anchoring of relations between the EU, its members and Russia.

9. CREDIT CRISIS

The unfolding of the financial crisis has revealed severe shortcomings in the quality and reach of prudential supervision of financial intermediaries. One of the solutions now on the table is to move towards EU level prudential supervision of those financial intermediaries that present the greatest threat of systemic problems. We call for the launch of a process to establish such a supervisory body at EU level. It is clear by now that nation-centric efforts to fight a global crisis of such magnitude are not sufficient.

These were our recommendations regarding the priorities to be dealt with during the next semester. There is no doubt that the Czech Government has done its best to prepare well for the country's first Presidency. But as for any other country, the Czech Republic will need a certain amount of luck to be successful. The plans and priorities of any Presidency can be turned upside down at any moment by unforeseeable events on the international, the European or even the domestic scene. That is why flexibility and versatility is probably a priority that should never be underestimated if one wants to be ready to respond to all challenges.

Citizen's Europe, the Future of the European Union and enlargement

Conferences organized by TEPESA

10 March 2008, Brussels

"Human Rights in Europe today"

TEPSA Friends meeting with Terry Davis

On 10 March 2008 Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe spoke at the Fondation Universitaire on the topic of "Human Rights in Europe now." Main points of his speech included the relationship between the European Court of Human Rights and the European Commission, the necessity for the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and the common efforts of the European Union and the Council of Europe to promote Human Rights. The full speech of Terry Davis is available at http://www.coe.int/t/dc/press/News/20080310_disc_sg_speech_en.asp.

4 June 2008, Brussels

"The European Parliament and the Common Foreign and Security Policy"

Meeting with Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the EP Foreign Affairs Committee, Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP) and Professor at the University of Lodz.

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski on this occasion presented the European Parliament's report on the "Annual report from the Council to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP", prepared by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The Report focuses on the 'state of art' of the Common Foreign Security Policy and offers recommendations on how to enhance its future development.

The newly defined cross-cutting issues of the CFSP thereby are, according to the report, climate change, migration, energy security and human rights. Enlargement is considered to be an important and successful instrument of EU Foreign Policy.

Jacek Saryusz-Wolski called for a 'qualitative jump' of the CFSP which would foster the development of the EU as a 'hard' power and not only as a normative power. In this regard, he recalled the Saint Malo agreement and the need to pursue in that direction towards the establishment of an EU army. The talk was attended by representatives from the European Commission, Permanent Representations, the NGO sector, NATO, ESDA and research institutes.



30 June 2008, Brussels
TEPSA Friends meeting: 'Enlargement as an Instrument of EU Foreign Policy', with Commissioner Olli Rehn

This meeting, where the European Commissioner for Enlargement discussed the role of the enlargement policy in the context of the EU's Foreign Policy was organized in cooperation with the THESEUS Summer School for Young Leaders.

The Commissioner stressed, that enlargement policy was a very successful part of the EU foreign policy and of domestic policies in the last 10-15 years. The no-vote of Ireland on the Lisbon Treaty (similar to the case in 2005) presented a challenging situation concerning enlargement – especially in the case of the candidate countries Croatia or Turkey. After his speech the Commissioner answered questions from the audience, most of them regarding the future of the candidates and especially the Western Balkans.



2 July 2008, Brussels
TEPSA Friends meeting: 'Europe's Future Foreign Service: What next?', with Brian Crowe

Brian Crowe, Deputy Chairman of Chatham House, London, was formerly Director General at the Council of Ministry.



TEPSA, in cooperation with THESEUS, organized on 2 July a talk by Sir Brian Crowe, Deputy Chairman of Chatham House, London. The talk was chaired by Antonio Missiroli, EPC Director of Studies, and with Graham Avery, Secretary General of TEPSA as discussant.

Brian Crowe's speech was based on his briefing 'European External Action Service: What next?', recently published by Chatham House, which describes the structure of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its relation with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign

Affairs and Security Policy (EUHR) as foreseen by the Treaty of Lisbon. He explained that the purpose of the EEAS is to assist the EUHR in his broad area of activities. Taking into consideration that the EUHR combines in one person the posts of the President of the Council, the HR for CFSP, and Vice - President of the Commission the responsibilities are considerable. Nevertheless, the Treaty gives little guidance on how the service will function in practice and what the structure will be. Despite the negative result of the Irish referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon, Brian Crowe stressed that the innovations foreseen by it are necessary for a more coherent functioning of foreign policy in Europe.

Representatives from interest groups, Permanent Representations of member states, and the participants of the THESEUS Summer School took part in the event which was organized in the framework of TEPSA Friends.

3-5 and 7-8 July 2008, Greece Hydra and Spetses International Seminars

Organised by the Institute of International Relations of Panteion University (Athens), with the cooperation of TEPSA

Hydra International Summer Seminar 2008

The Institute of International Relations of Panteion University (Athens), in cooperation with the Hellenic Observatory of the London School of Economics, the Center of Southeast European Studies of the University of Oxford, TEPSA and the Greek Center of European Studies & Research (EKEME), has been organizing this International Summer Seminar on 3-5 July on "The Integration of Western Balkans into the Euroatlantic Structures".

16th European Summer Academy in Spetses

This European Summer Academy is annually organized by ECSA-Greece. Participants have a unique opportunity to attend two high-level research workshops and meet and discuss with an international faculty of renowned academics and experts. The 16th Annual Session of the European Summer Academy in Spetses aimed at developing a deeper understanding of the conceptual and structural properties of "Normative Power Europe".

Brussels, 26 November 2008

Conference: "The Elections of the European Parliament: the Way ahead".

On 26 November 2008 the Trans European Policy Studies Association organized a conference on the topic of the upcoming European Parliament elections in June 2009. The audience ranged from representatives of the European institutions to civil society organizations and think tanks. Panels included challenges faced by European Political Parties and their cohesion as well as role, the perspectives for a common European electoral system and an EU public space.



The conference thus addressed a range of issues linked to the upcoming EP elections. With its intention of stimulating discussion at an early stage and providing also a forum for civil society and institutions to exchange their views, the TEPSA conference could also bridge the positions between practitioners and academics.

Brussels, 4 December 2008

"Europe, Quo Vadis"

Lunch-debate with Minister Wilfried Martens, President of the European People's Party, on "Europe, Quo Vadis", organised by the Fondation Universitaire in cooperation with TEPSA.

Impact of policies on societies and people's well-being

23.01.2008, Brussels

The Future of European Universities, Fondation Universitaire

In the framework of the TEPSA friends meeting, this lunch debate in cooperation with la Fondation Universitaire hosted a series of distinguished people from the European academic sector. Speaker was Mr. Pieter Vanderheyden, Directorate General for Education and Culture in the European Commission, who introduced a discussion on the resolution of the Council of 23rd November 2007 on the modernization of universities for Europe's competitiveness in a global knowledge economy. Discussant was Philippe Van Parijs, Professor at UCL and Harvard, Hoover Chair for economic and social ethics, with contributions from Baron Pierre de Maret, honorary Rector of ULB, and Prof. Ludo Melis, Study Director at KU Leuven.

10 June 2008, Brussels

"The Governance of the European Institutions"

Lunch-debate with Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgian Minister of State and Member of the European Parliament

This conference, which took place within the series of "TEPSA Friends" was organized by the Fondation Universitaire Stiftung in collaboration with TEPSA.



24 June 2008, Brussels

TEPSA Friends meeting: "From Why to How: Reflections on the Lisbon Agenda post-2010"

TEPSA, in cooperation with the European League for Economic Cooperation (E.L.E.C) organized on 24 June at the Fondation Universitaire a talk on the topic of the Lisbon Agenda by Ann Mettler, Executive Director of the Lisbon Council. Ann Mettler's speech was based on her recent briefing "From Why to How: Reflections on the Lisbon Agenda post 2010". In the Briefing she advocates

more vigorous and far reaching reforms to be introduced in the Lisbon strategy in order to speed up the process.

Ann Mettler underlined that the reform process in Europe is limited by a poor knowledge of ordinary citizens about basic economic instruments and by the traditional European fear of competitiveness and far reaching reforms. Above

all, national governments play often a vicious game by calling for reforms while being in opposition and pursuing a care taker policy while in power. The talk was attended by representatives from the European Commission, Brussels-based interest groups, Permanent Representations of member states, students and trainees.

This TEPSA Friends event was attended by a good number of younger people, bringing thus the debate of EU policies and politics to the next generation of policy makers.

Brussels, 22 - 23 October 2008 **Conference: Effects of EU Enlargement**



TEPSA, in collaboration with its member institutes, organised on 22/23 October 2008 at the Fondation Universitaire in Brussels a conference on "Effects of EU Enlargement".

Participants included representatives from TEPSA's member institutes in the new member states (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia) and the old member states (Austria, Finland, Germany, Netherlands) as well as from 3 new member states not yet represented in TEPSA's network (Malta, Slovakia, Romania). Also present were officials from the European Parliament and the European Commission, as well as a number of diplomatic missions and other organizations.

The first part of the conference analyzed vertical effects of accession on the new member states, particularly in the economic, social and foreign policy fields, and tried to synthesis them. The second part of the conference referred to horizontal effects of enlargement on the EU's polity and policies from an academic and policy-making perspective. The final session included a presentation of the recently published book "Institutions of the Enlarged European Union".

The interdisciplinary conference succeeded in its main goal to bring together researchers and practitioners working on the issue of EU enlargement. Speakers from the new member states presented first research results with regard to effects of accession on their respective home countries. Interestingly, a certain accession "fatigue" in the new member states was identified which was explained by the fact that EU membership was a goal itself and a post-accession strategy was mostly not developed. With regard to the European level it was argued that enlargement did not constitute a 'critical juncture' for the EU's institutional framework.

However, it was made clear by all speakers that it is difficult to draw cause-effect links with regard to enlargement and thus to differentiate between enlargement, transformation and adaptation processes. Many global and

domestic factors should be taken into account as potential explaining variables as well. Furthermore, it was stressed to differentiate both between short-term, mid-term and long-term trends and country-specifics. For the future, more specialized studies are needed to measure effects of enlargement on specific economic sectors, policies or domestic institutions in the new member states but also in the old member states and the EU's polity and policies. Future challenges will be to analyze impacts of enlargement both on the domestic and European level in order to learn lessons for future policy-making with regard to EU enlargement and for the EU's finalité as well.

Brussels, 23 October 2008

Lunch-debate with Baron Lamfalussy, Professor emeritus at the Université Catholique de Louvain, on "La crise financière en Europe", organised by the Fondation Universitaire in cooperation with TEPESA.

Looking at one key topic of current European and global policies, this lunch debate focused on analysis, consequences and possible solutions to tackle the crisis.



Speeches of TEPESA representatives at conferences (selection)

25 February 2008, Helsinki

Open seminar: EU Foreign Policy and the European External Action Service

Speaker: Graham Avery, Secretary General of TEPESA

The external dimension of the 1957 Rome Treaty was limited to trade and development assistance. It is noteworthy that the word "foreign policy" was not mentioned in the Treaty. It was not until the Maastricht Treaty (1992) that the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was created, and the post of the High Representative for CFSP was established in the 1997 Amsterdam Treaty. Thus, the present system includes two 'pillars': community policies, managed by the



Commission and CFSP, managed by the High Representative. The whole framework consists of multiple actors including the Presidency, the High Representative and the Commission. Problems of this present system include rival agencies, duplication of work in Brussels and multiplicity of voices speaking on behalf of the EU. Thus, there is a need for more coherence, cost-effectiveness and visibility.

17 and 18 April 2008

Conference on Civil Society at the European Commission

The Conference "Civil Society Development in Southeast Europe: Building Europe Together" took place on the 17th and 18th April in Brussels. The Conference was organised by DG Enlargement and aimed to be a platform for representatives from Civil Society Organizations of the region to exchange ideas, enhance networking but also to get guidance and support from the European Commission.

Graham Avery (Secretary General of TEPSA) and Višnja Samardžija (IMO, Croatia), represented TEPSA at the Workshop "Effective networking: finding strategic partners" on the 18th April. Yvonne Nasshoven and Ingrid Bozin of TEPSA's secretariat participated in a number of sessions of the conference.

Ms Samardžija took the opportunity to present the book "Communicating Integration Impact in Croatia and Ireland" co-published by IMO and IIEA (Ireland).

The book is edited by her and Alan Dukes and includes contributions from Wolfgang Wessels and Yvonne Nasshoven.

4 November, 12 November and 03 December 2008

Speech for group of students European Academy North Rhine-Westphalia

On 4 November 2008, Yvonne Nasshoven gave a speech to students of the European Academy North Rhine Westphalia on "The European Union and the Treaty of Lisbon".

Brussels, 2 December 2008

"What prospects for the Western Balkans?"

This lunch-debate with Graham Avery, Secretary General of TEPSA and Honorary Director General of the European Commission was organized by the Fondation Universitaire in cooperation with TEPSA and CIFE.

3 December 2008

"Europe at work in Brussels"

On 3 December 2008 Yvonne Nasshoven gave a speech to students of the University of Cologne on "The role of think tanks in Brussels".

Participation of TEPESA representatives in other conferences (selection)

23 – 24 May 2008, The Hague Congress of Europe

On 23-24 May Yvonne Nasshoven participated for TEPESA in the Congress of Europe in The Hague, which celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the European Movement. Participants included amongst others MEPs Andrew Duff, member of the TEPESA Board, Jo Leinen, Elmar Brok, the President of the European Movement, Pat Cox MEP, José Barroso, Javier Solana, Janez Janša, and Hans-Gert Pöttering, MEP



President of the EP. Also the Chairmen of the four big European Political Parties, EPP, SPE, European Greens and ELDR took part in the congress.

After discussions of civil society representatives in three workshops on Economic and Social Europe, Political Europe, and Educational and Cultural Europe, the following issues were strongly debated with the representatives of the European Institutions: To make the issue of energy a common policy, to create a stronger CFSP, to have the ERASMUS programme not only accessible to university students, to enhance women's rights, and for the European political parties to nominate who is running for the office of the President of the European Commission for their political family.

"Young science and Europe" Berlin, 29 – 30 May 2008

On 29-30 Mai 2008 Yvonne Nasshoven took part in the conference "Young science and Europe", organized in Berlin by the German Hanns Martin Schleyer Foundation.

The event focused on the possible effects of the Lisbon Treaty on European integration and, more specifically, the conditions for economic dynamics.

In four workshops the participants discussed key topics like energy, the Lisbon Agenda and politicization in the EU from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The concluding discussion on Europe's role in the world included a keynote speech of Prof. Herfried Münkler, Humboldt-University Berlin and as discussants, amongst others, John Kornblum, former ambassador of the United States in Germany, Prof. Dr. Xinyu Song, Beijing and Alexander Graf Lambsdorff MEP. The conference thus enabled to shed light on current European topics not only from different scientific disciplines, but also with a multicountry perspective, integrating the views of the US and China on the EU.

TEPSA Guest Lecture Series

« TEPSA Guest Lecture Series » is a new initiative, encouraging TEPSA member institutes (“hosts”) to invite other TEPSA members (“guests”) to give lectures on European topics to researchers and the wider public, and therefore contributing not only to reinforce the research community, but also to disseminate reflection and information on key issues of European policies.

17 June 2008, Budapest “The Baltic and Russia Relations”

One of the pioneers grasping the opportunity for the newly established TEPSA Guest Lecture Series was the Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences which, on the 17th of June organized a round table discussion on the topic of “The Baltic and Russia Relations”, held by Andris Spruds from the Latvian Institute of International Affairs.

The lecturer started with a short historical overview, underlining the earlier historical importance and influence of the Baltic states. After regaining freedom and independence in the beginning of the 1990s the three countries had common interests, nevertheless, they did not always pursue a common strategy. Since the early 1990s the most important common feature of the three Baltic States has been nation-building and identity-building. To this exercise closely belongs their foreign policy strategy: all of them have applied to both EU and NATO. After having gained membership in both organizations one could have expected a “relief” and a faster improvement of the mutual relations with Russia – but this did not happen. On the contrary: in the Russian public opinion the three Baltic states are among the “most unfriendly” nations. Nonetheless, there are very close economic ties with Russia and the three countries.

The TEPSA Guest Lecture was attended by researchers, students and the media.

9 October 2008, Ljubljana Multilateral negotiations within the EU

On October 9th, the Centre of International Relations from the University of Ljubljana, under its Director Prof. Dr. Marjan Svetlicic, hosted a TEPSA Guest Lecture on the topic of European Negotiations. The lecture by Dr. Paul Meerts, Advisor to the Director of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael, was attended by about 70 participants.

Among other things he emphasized the specific characteristics of multilateral negotiations within EU, as compared to other multilateral negotiations, differences among countries approaches and characteristics of diplomatic vis à vis business negotiations. Explanations were given on how to prepare for such negotiations, what skills are needed and



which factors are decisive in determining outcomes. The lecture triggered off many questions by the auditorium.

14 October 2008, Helsinki Denmark's opt-outs

On October 14th, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs organized a TEPSA Guest Lecture on Denmark's opt-outs and what will happen to them. The results of a report on the subject, commissioned by the Danish Parliament, were introduced at the event. Dr Ian Manners, the Senior Researcher and Head of EU unit at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), presented the findings of the report. Minister of Labour, Tarja Cronberg, and Tiia Lehtonen, researcher of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, gave commentary speeches. The event was chaired by Dr Hanna Ojanen.



TEPSA Training

18 June 2008, Brussels

Meeting of the TEPSA Training Steering Group

TEPSA Training is a special programme for a small group of early stage researchers, primarily from the member institutes of the TEPSA network. Its objective is to prepare and train young professionals in think-tanks and academic institutions to improve their skills for work in the transnational environment. The focus lies especially on developing capacities for analyzing, assessing, advising and administering EU related issues and projects.

The TEPSA Training Steering Group focused on discussing the outline of the first workshop, taking place in Brussels in October 2008.

First workshop, 5-7 November 2008, Brussels



From 5 to 7 November 2008 the first TEPSA Training workshop on “Communication with policy-makers” took place in Brussels. With the aim of bringing together young researchers and practitioners, the 12 participants from different European research institutes or think tanks were introduced to the demands and needs of the European Institutions with regard to expertise and trained on how to best access relevant information and how to draft policy briefs for policy-makers.

Follow-up 2009

The 2nd and 3rd workshop of the TEPSA Training Programme in 2009 will be dedicated to the topic of Communication with media and applying for EU funding and will let the participants take part in one of TEPSA’s Pre-Presidency Conferences with the aim of letting the young researchers contribute to TEPSA’s policy-recommendations to the Presidency.

For more information please contact Anne Schmidt (Anne.Schmidt@tepsa.be).

Cooperation with other projects and networks of excellence

THESEUS



01.02.

THESEUS Board Meeting

The Steering Group met to discuss the framework of the first THESEUS Summer School for Young Leaders 2008, organised jointly by TEPESA and THESEUS.

29 June - 5 July, Brussels

THESEUS Summer School: "The EU's role in the world – what priorities?"

The THESEUS Summer School asked main political decision-makers, civil servants and experts about current and future priorities for external action of the European Union - such as Gianni Bonvicini (Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome), Geoffrey Edwards (Cambridge University), Gunilla Herolf (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) or Elfriede Regelsberger (Institut für Europäische Politik).

About THESEUS

Emerging from a Franco-German initiative, THESEUS considers itself as European network of thinkers, actors and ideas, whose aim is to promote the mutual understanding of societies in Europe. THESEUS is striving for an open and constructive dialogue about the future challenges of Europe.



The THESEUS Summer School looks each year for 20 excellent young professionals and researchers to tackle together with speakers and high-level experts from international organisations, research, business, politics and NGOs one of the internal and external challenges which Europe faces.

EU-CONSENT

As partner within the FP6 Network of Excellence 'Wider Europe, deeper integration? Constructing Europe Network' (EU-CONSENT), TEPSA has continued to contribute to the Joint Programme of Activities of this Network of Excellence.



About EU-CONSENT

The project integrates a broad range of research communities, including individual experts, universities, research institutes and networks involved in research on widening and deepening of the European Union. The open network aims at improving the understanding of key European processes and challenges, but also to create a forum, easily accessible for researchers, students and a broader public on all major dimensions of the EU integration process.

A particular focus is on the relationship between widening and deepening of the Union and a reflection on the Union's ultimate capacity to enlarge. To this aim scenarios for the future shape of the EU are being discussed.

EU-CONSENT, which was initiated by TEPSA in 2004/2005, integrates a broad range of research communities, including individual experts, universities, research institutes and networks involved in multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional and multi-national research on "widening" and "deepening" of the European Union.

In terms of EU-CONSENT's character as 'network of networks', TEPSA contributed to enhancing the network's coherence. Due to its Brussels location TEPSA has been responsible for organizing the annual EU-CONSENT plenary conferences. The 3rd annual plenary conference has been successfully organized in October 2007.

Almost all of TEPSA's member institutes are involved as partners within EU-CONSENT, which represents a mutual benefit to both networks in

the sense of a catalyzer, and initiating functions for common activities.

EU CONSENT General Assembly in Paris

In the context of the TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conference "La France en Europe, un acteur pas comme les autres?" on 12 and 13 June 2008 in Paris, EU-CONSENT will hold a General Assembly entitled "Horizontal integration and network sustainability: EU-CONSENT's third annual reporting" prior to the commencement of the TEPSA event.

The Assembly will take place in Paris on Thursday 12th June 2008 from 12:00h to 13:00h at Maison Heinrich Heine (Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris, 27c Bd. Jourdan, 5014 Paris).

SInAN

“Promotion of the Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Turkey”

Within the framework of Universities Grant Scheme “Promotion of the Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Turkey” the Center for European Studies – Middle East Technical University, Ankara, and the Jean Monnet Chair of Political Science at the University of Cologne, launched the project “Strengthening and Integrating Academic Networks - SInAN” funded by the European Commission. Under the joint responsibility of Prof. A. Eralp and Prof. W. Wessels it aims to create synergies between academic networks in Turkey and the EU through strengthening their collaboration and integration.

TEPSA has in this project been involved in organizing the kick-off conference, which took place in Brussels in November 2008.



PHARE

PHARE Conference: “Integrating Bulgaria in EU Politics and Policy: Focus on the Citizens and the Neighbours” Brussels, 29-30 May 2008

This conference organized with the Bulgarian European Community Studies Association (BECSA) in the framework of the joint BECSA -TEPSA project “Networking for Citizens and Neighbours – Networking for Europe” build upon the results of this joint project. It sought to encourage debate on Bulgaria’s role in EU policy-making and political processes and gathered EU officials, experts, academics and civil society actors in two discussion panels focusing on “The neighbours of the enlarged Union and Bulgaria’s contribution”, and “Europe and the citizens: Bulgarian perspectives”.

Briefings for the European Parliament

As in 2008, TEPSA delivered a series of briefings to the European Parliament's Committee of Foreign Affairs. A number of authors was also invited to present the results of their research in hearings.

Workshop: "The European Neighbourhood Policy: Challenges and Prospects"

Brussels, Fondation Universitaire, 4 April 2008

The object of this workshop was to discuss the results of the briefings delivered by TEPSA to the European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs in October 2007.

Briefings delivered to the European Parliament:

Religious freedom in Turkey: situation of religious minorities

Coordinating author: Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann

Co-authors: Cengiz Günay, Riva Kastoryano, Kivanç Ulusoy

February 2008

Social Dialogue and its contribution to social cohesion in Turkey

Coordinating author: Giorgos Glynos

Co-authors: Michael Kaeding, Ayse Idil Aybars

February 2008

The influence of turkish military forces on political agenda-setting in Turkey, analysed on the basis of the Cyprus Question

Authors: Sait Aksit & Costas Melakopides

Editor: Graham Avery

February 2008

Visa Facilitation versus Tightening of Control: Key Aspects of the ENP

Coordinating editors and authors: Jérôme Boniface, Mara Wesseling

Co-authors: Kevin O'Connell, Ariadna Ripoll Servent

February 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for Albania

Coordinating author: Visnija Samardzija

Co-author: Henriette Riegler

July 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Coordinating author: Tamás Szemlér

Co-authors: Mladen Stanicic, Sandro Knezovic

July 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for Croatia

Coordinating author: Tom Lynch
Co-author: Visnija Samardzija
July 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Coordinating author: Dr. Florian Trauner
Co-author: Tom Lynch
July 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)

Coordinating Author: Henriette Riegler
Co-author: Filip Tesar
July 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for the Republic of Montenegro

Coordinating author: Filip Tesar
Co-author: Marcus Delacor
July 2008

Analysis of the 2007 Annual Action Programme for the Republic of Turkey

Coordinating author: Dr. Mladen Stanicic
Co-author: Dr. Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann
July 2008

Assessment of programmes funded under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

Coordinating author: Dr. Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann
Co-authors: Tomislav Maršić, Dr Dušan Reljic, Dr Florian Trauner
July 2008

Property restitution in Albania

Coordinating author: Nikos Frangakis
Co-authors: Eda Gemi, Michaela Salamun
September 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: Analysis of the EU's assistance to Azerbaijan

Coordinating author: Jérôme Boniface
Co-authors: Heidi Maurer, Jost-Henrik Morgenstern, Mara Wesseling
October 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: analysis of the EU's assistance to Georgia

Coordinating author: Piret Ehin

Co-authors: Burcu Gültekin-Punsman, Andres Kasekamp
October 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: analysis of the EU's assistance to Russia

Coordinating author: Piret Ehin
Co-authors: Matjaz Nahtigal
October 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: The difficulties of implementing the ENPI in Belarus

Coordinating author: Alena Guedes Vieira
Co-author: Giselle Bosse
October 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: Analysis of the EU's assistance to Armenia

Coordinating author: Burcu Gültekin
Co-author: Graham Avery
October 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: Analysis of the EU's assistance to Moldova

Coordinating author: Andris Spruds
Co-authors: Vadim Kononenko, Renars Danelsons
October 2008

Implementation of the ENPI: Analysis of the EU's assistance to Ukraine

Coordinating author: Zsuzsa Ludvig
Co-authors: Tamás Szemler, Michal Koran
October 2008

EU-Russia Common Spaces: Space on Economy

Author: Constantinos Filis
November 2008

EU-Russia Common Spaces: Space of Justice and Home Affairs

Author: Piret Ehin
November 2008

EU-Russia Common Spaces: Space of External Security

Author: Vladimir Shopov
November 2008

EU-Russia Common Spaces: Education and Culture

Author: Krassimir Nikolov
November 2008

Meetings of TEPSA's constitutive bodies

TEPSA Board

- 16 April 2008 Meeting of the TEPSA Board
- 10 September 2008 Meeting of the TEPSA Board
- 11 November 2008 meeting of the TEPSA Board

Board members of TEPSA:

Chairman of the Board

Prof. Wolfgang WESSELS

Professor at the University of Köln and at the College of Europe, Bruges and former Chairman of the Institut für Europäische Politik, Bonn.

Secretary General

Graham Avery

St. Anthony's College, Oxford

Prof. Iain BEGG

Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics, London

Prof. Gianni BONVICINI

Executive Vice President, Istituto Affari Internazionali, Rome

Dr. Andrew DUFF

MEP, Former Director of the Federal Trust for Education and Research, London

Dr. Gunilla HEROLF

Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Stockholm

Dr. Nikos FRANGAKIS

Director of the Greek Centre of European Studies and Research (EKEME), Athens

Dr. Hanna OJANEN

Senior Researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs - FIIA (UPI), Helsinki

Prof. Jacek SARYUSZ-WOLSKI

MEP, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the European Parliament

The General Assembly of TEPSA has met in June 2008 in Paris, and in December 2008 in Prague at the occasion of the TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conferences.

Communication Strategy

The TEPSA newsletter and website have been able to reach out to a number of different target groups and people, disseminating TEPSA's activities throughout Europe.

a) TEPSA newsletter

The TEPSA newsletter, accessible to all citizens through the TEPSA-website, has been published on a bi-monthly basis and has been enabling an overview of the various activities of TEPSA in Brussels, as well as of its national member institutes in the European capitals. Interviews with key persons of the TEPSA network have also contributed to a lively picture of TEPSA's activities.

By enhancing its distribution lists, the TEPSA newsletter has been reaching out to the members, to participants of TEPSA discussions, to policy-makers and civil society.

In 2008, five newsletters have been disseminated to TEPSA members:

- January 2008
Interview with Nikos Frangakis, President and Director of EKEME, Athens
- April 2008
Interview with Hanna Ojanen, Programme Director at FIIA, Helsinki
- July 2008
- September 2008
Interview with John Pinder, a founder of TEPSA
- November 2008

b) Website

The TEPSA website has been relaunched in 2008 in order to give a more attractive and concise view on TEPSA's activities. The site has been modernised and restructured and is updated regularly. Sections include the announcement of events and reports thereof, publications and briefs, as well as discussion papers.

TEPSA has furthermore revised its brochure which was published in 2008.

All Newsletters and a copy of the homepage of TEPSA can be found in the Annex.

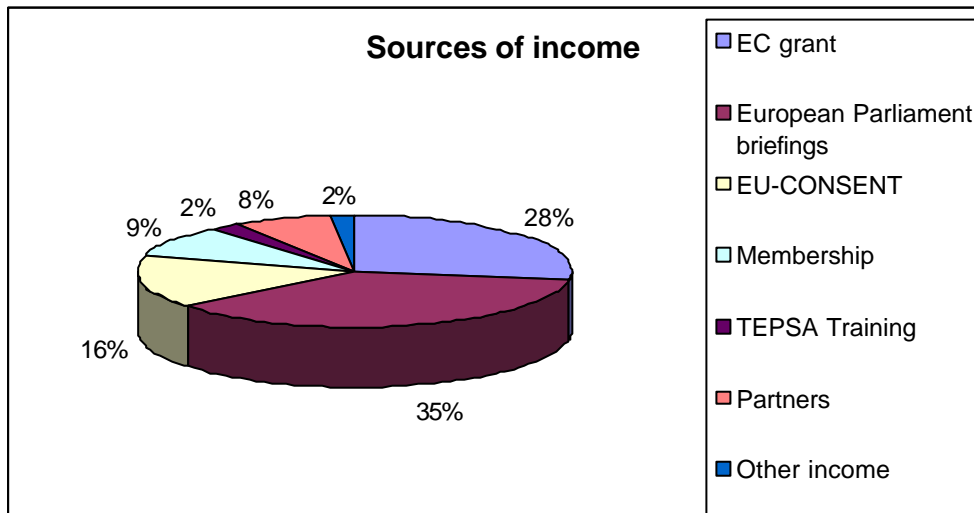
TEPSA Brief

TEPSA Brief is a monthly policy brief, which informs concisely about current and ongoing policies and developments in the European Union.

- TEPSA Brief N° 1 summarizes the main findings and positions regarding the Eastern Partnership.
- The second issue is dedicated to the proposal for the establishment of an Agency for Cooperation on Energy Regulators.
- TEPSA Brief No. 3 summarizes the conclusions of the summit of 15/16 October 2008.
- TEPSA has a long tradition in offering recommendations to future Presidencies. TEPSA Brief No. 4 thus presents the recommendations from TEPSA Board members Iain Begg (LSE, London), Nikos Frangakis (EKEME, Athens), Gunilla Herolf (SIPRI, Stockholm) and Hanna Ojanen (UPI-FIIA, Helsinki) to the Czech Presidency.

Financial information

Overall, TEPSA has had a sound financial development during the year of 2008. Besides its work within the "Europe for Citizens" Programme of the European Commission, and its expertise for the European Parliament especially TEPSA's member institutes were of key importance. The long-lasting cooperation with the project "THESEUS", as well as TEPSA's activities within the EU-CONSENT Network of Excellence were also relevant pillars of stability for TEPSA's finances.



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