



TEPSA

the Trans European
Policy Studies Association

News from TEPSA - September 2007

We encourage all our member institutes to send us information regarding your activities, projects and publications at tepsa@tepsa.be to be included in the newsletter.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Dear Friends,

After the holiday break we are glad to present our fourth newsletter of 2007 with news, plans and activities.

Headlines of this newsletter:

- News of TEPSA members
 - Board Meeting in Brussels, 17 October
 - Pre-Presidency Conference and General Assembly in Ljubljana, 3-4 December
 - Interview with Krassimir Nikolov from BECSA, our Bulgarian member institute
 - Briefings for the European Parliament made by TEPSA
 - Monitoring by TEPSA of EU Calls for Tender
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- **News of TEPSA members**

Mathieu Briens and Yvonne Nasshoven, who also contributed to this newsletter, have recently joined TEPSA's Secretariat in Brussels. Our two new Research Assistants, coming from the College of Europe, Bruges, have a relevant experience in the areas of European civil society, European external Policy, EU Neighborhood Policy, as well as International and European Union Politics, History and Business Law. Their academic background and personal skills will aid the development of TEPSA's activities.

They can be contacted at the following email addresses: mathieu.briens@tepsa.be and yvonne.nasshoven@tepsa.be.



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- **TEPSA Board Meeting in Brussels, 17 October**

The next Board Meeting will take place on October 17th in Brussels, at the Fondation Universitaire, from 15 o'clock to 18 o'clock, with Professor Wolfgang Wessels as Chairperson.

- **TEPSA Pre-Presidency Conference and General Assembly in Ljubljana, 3-4 December**

The theme of the Pre Presidency Conference will be:

COMPETITIVENESS, GLOBALISATION AND COHESION: PRIORITIES OF THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY.

The event will take place on 3rd and 4th December 2007 in the Hotel Union, Ljubljana, starting on Monday at 9 a.m. and concluding after lunch on Tuesday.

It will be followed by TEPSA's General Assembly on Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

The Conference is organised by TEPSA's Slovenian member institute CIR (Centre of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana), in cooperation with TEPSA and the EU-CONSENT network. Organizer of the conference is Prof. Dr. Marian Svetlicic, Director of CIR.

The sessions will concentrate on:

1. "Presidency Priorities", to be presented by Slovenia's Foreign Minister
2. "Integration of South-Eastern Europe", with the participation of politicians and experts from Western Balkan countries
3. "Enhancing Competitiveness by Investing in Education and R&D", with the participation of Janez Potocnik, Member of the European Commission
4. "New Financial Perspectives", with the presentation of the report of the Slovenian task force on Financial Perspectives
5. Concluding session on "The EU's New Treaty: the Way Forward"

The draft program of the conference will be available soon on the website of the Centre of International Relations (<http://www.mednarodni-odnosi.si/cmo/>), the local organizer of the conference, and also on the website of TEPSA (www.tepsa.be).



• **Interview with Krassimir Nikolov, Secretary General of BECSA**

- 1) Professor Nikolov, presently you have a Jean Monnet Chair of Political Science at Varna Free University and Secretary General of the Bulgarian European Community Studies Association (BECSA). Could we say that your life is invested in academic research and in key issues of European Integration? Please tell us, how did your cooperation with TEPSA start?

My life is invested in my family and friends, and in my profession, which is indeed, invested in European integration.

My interest for EU integration dates back to 1991. There were few people like me in Bulgaria at that time, and we could not afford the luxury of just teaching or doing research, but had to be prepared to do everything that was associated with “Europe”. I was part of the “Villa Faber” group that made proposals on the involvement of the then candidate countries in EU constitution-making, and I took part in the development of the Bulgarian government’s communication strategy on accession to the EU. My contact with political life, with the nitty-gritty of public administration, and my encounters with the man-in-the-street have complemented my research nights, when I sit all-alone in front of the computer and write on the number of commissioners, comitology, or “joint ownership” of the ENP.

My involvement in TEPSA’s activities came about partly because Professor Wessels was my thesis supervisor at the College of Europe, Bruges, and later around 2002 I made the acquaintance of Professor Christian Franck and other key TEPSA members in a project on EU institutional reform, which involved me, personally and institutionally, in the TEPSA family.

Today, I find TEPSA membership to be a micro-model of Bulgaria’s membership in the EU. Sometimes, when I teach a simulation game on EU Council negotiations at the university, I say to myself: since I cannot bring my students to watch a real EU Council negotiation, I could perhaps bring them to attend one of TEPSA’s General Assemblies, and they will learn as much.

- 2) This year the European Union welcomed Bulgaria and Romania as new Member States: what do you think Bulgaria has to offer Europe as “added value”? What in your opinion are the main problems that Bulgaria is facing as a member?



I am convinced about three possible contributions of Bulgaria to the EU: knowledge of the neighbourhood, the quality of being a reliable partner at critical junctures, and a positive attitude towards “Europe”.

Yes, we do understand, know and feel the enlarged Union’s new neighbours a bit better than other fellow Europeans, and the EU should build on that. Yes, Bulgaria can be a staunch ally at critical moments. Yes, we are pro-European. We will be even more so after we saw “Europe” bringing our compatriots, the Bulgarian nurses and doctors, back home from the Libyan prison last spring. In a time when the EU badly needs pro-European sentiment, it offered a proof of European solidarity, which we shall not forget.

The main problem I see as a Bulgarian=European citizen in my country’s real integration in the EU is the rule of law. I won’t elaborate on this but I have to say it upfront, so that our fellow Europeans know we are aware of it.

- 3) Your university promotes teaching and debate, particularly through the organisation of interdisciplinary and trans-university debate activities on EU developments. What do your students think of the EU’s new Treaty?

My students don’t think about it at all. In 2001-2004, when the buzz-word was “constitution”, we succeeded in provoking the thought and imagination of students and young people in Bulgaria about the future “European construction”. We even created an “Academic Network for the Future of Europe” gathering seven Bulgarian universities, which was quite active in the period. But this time everything is being treated so technically (on purpose) that it is difficult to initiate discussion even in an “enlightened” university audience.

- 4) You have contributed to TEPSA’s briefings for the European Parliament on European Neighbourhood Policy and on the Black Sea Region; these topics which are important in your academic activity. What are in your opinion the opportunities and limitations for the EU in this field?

One facet of the problem of exploiting the EU’s transformative power is seen in the case of Black Sea regional cooperation – the problem of process (inclusiveness) versus results (tangible achievements). An interesting institutional question is whether we shall witness “differentiated integration”, which is so over-studied and so under-practiced in the EU, being applied in different policy fields in the case of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation (BSEC) driven by the expected intensive EU-BSEC cooperation.



- 5) The Bulgarian European Community Studies association (BECSA) of which you are the Secretary General is leading a joint project with TEPSA entitled “Networking for Citizens and Neighbours – Networking Europe”: what results do you expect?

It is a classic networking project. We aim at making Bulgarian researchers and their viewpoints better known in European academic circles, and in the TEPSA network in particular. And vice versa, we hope to bring representatives of TEPSA member institutes to Bulgaria in order to involve them in the Bulgarian academic debate on “Citizens’ Europe” and “Caring for Our Neighbourhood”. So far, we’ve had very productive collaboration with our colleagues in London, Tallinn and Prague. We plan to do more – two conferences in Sofia followed by publications, and a concluding debate at TEPSA in Brussels. I’m very grateful to TEPSA’s secretariat and to Graham Avery for developing interest in this project and helping us to get TEPSA member institutes open-minded on it.

- 6) Do you think that a better knowledge of Bulgarian culture, history and tradition in the other Member States of the EU would foster the process of “Europeanisation” of Bulgaria?

Yes, of course. For small countries, culture and history are life-vests in the era of globalization, helping them to internalize the big rules of the big game on which they have little influence. Small countries should receive positive signals from rule-makers about the value of their cultures and traditions. “United in diversity” should not be an empty phrase.

Let me give an example from the negotiations on the Reform Treaty. A linguistic and orthographic problem becomes suddenly part of the negotiation puzzle. We Bulgarians are being told that we should not pronounce or write the name of the European currency in the Cyrillic alphabet as we have always done – that is “EVRO” (with a ‘v’). We have always lived in “EVROPA”, spoken about and written on “EVROPA”. Nonetheless, the European Central Bank and the Commission want us to pronounce and write “EURO” in Cyrillic (with a ‘u’), which sounds and looks awkward (and wrong) in the Bulgarian language. What is, in fact, more important for the EU – to encourage strict financial discipline that would lead to a smooth introduction of the “EVRO” in Bulgaria, or to impose an awkward spelling in the Cyrillic alphabet of a word that has never existed?

Our alphabet, created by St. Cyril and St. Methodius in the middle of the 9th century, is a cornerstone of Bulgarian culture and identity. We are probably unique in having established an official holiday (on 24th May) dedicated to the alphabet. If we didn’t need to invest so much energy in fighting for cultural symbols, we would employ it in better applying the *acquis communautaire* in Bulgaria – which I think is the true interest of the Union.



- **Briefings for the European Parliament**

Under its framework contract with the European Parliament, TEPSA, with the support of its member institutes is in the process of delivering various reports on the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Black Sea Region and the Western Balkans for the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. In total, 13 reports have been commissioned.

So far, 8 briefings and studies have been submitted to the European Parliament:

1. "The case for opening the Turkish-Armenian border"
The lead author is **Nathalie Tocci**, *Istituto Affari Internazionali* in Rome, with co-authors **Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann**, **Liciana Simao**, and **Nicolas Tavitian**
2. "The Cost/Benefit Analysis of the ENP for the EU's Eastern Partners"
The lead author is **Petr Kratochvíl**, *Institute of International Relations* in Prague with co-author **Barbara Lippert**.
3. "The Eastern EU neighbourhood - an area of competing policies: shared neighbourhood between the EU and Russia"
The lead author is **Piret Ehin**, *Estonian Foreign Policy Institute* with co-author **Graham Avery**.
4. "The ENP: visibility and perceptions in the partner countries"
The author is **Annegret Bendiek**, *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik*, Berlin.
5. "The Eastern EU Neighbourhood: How to enhance the EU's partners' ownership of the ENP"
The author is **Krassimir Y. Nikolov**, *Bulgarian European Community Studies Association*.
6. "The Russian economic penetration in Montenegro"
The lead author is **Matija Rojec**, *Center for International Relations of the Faculty of Social Sciences* in Ljubljana, with co-authors **Mojmir Mrak**, **Tamás Szemplér**, and **Tamás Novák**.
7. "The Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the Black Sea Region"
The author is **Vladimir Shopov**, *Bulgarian European Community Studies Association*.
8. "Black Sea Regional Policy Approach: a potential contributor to European energy security" The author is **Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann** *Center for European Studies at the Middle East Technical University* in Ankara.

Another 5 reports are to be delivered soon:

1. "Regional Cooperation in the Black Sea Area: Analysis of the Opportunities to Foster Synergies in the Region"



- The lead author is **Krassimir Y. Nikolov**, *Bulgarian European Community Studies Association*, with co-author **Burcu Gültekin-Punsmann**.
2. “Ensuring Democracy and Effective Human Rights Protection in the Black Sea Region”
The author is **Elitsa Markova**, *Open Society Institute* in Sofia.
 3. “A Cost/Benefit Analysis of the ENP for the EU's Southern Partners”
The lead author is **Michele Comelli**, *Istituto Affari Internazionali* in Rome with co-author **Maria Cristina Paciello**.
 4. “The EU presence in a post-status Kosovo -challenges and opportunities”
The lead author is **Tamas Szemlér**, *Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences*, with co-authors **Reljic Calic**, **Tamás Novák**, and **Peter Schmidt**
 5. “The Constitutional reform process in Bosnia-Herzegovina”,
The lead author is **Tomislav Marsic** *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik* in Berlin and **Joseph Marko**.

If you want to see any of these reports, please contact Mathieu Briens (mathieu.briens@tepsa.be)

We hope that the summaries of the reports will be soon available on the TEPSA website (www.tepsa.be).

- **Calendar of events:**

- TEPSA Friends event "**Europe at the crossroads**":

In the framework of the TEPSA Friends programme, a conference is being organised in cooperation with the Groupe d'Etudes Politiques Européennes and the Fondation Universitaire. The speaker will be Philippe Maystadt, former Belgian Minister and President of the European Investment Bank.

The conference will take place on Monday, 8th October 2007 at 18.00 at the Fondation Universitaire, rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels.



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More information is available on our website www.tepsa.be where you can download the invitation and the registration form.

- **Conference of CIFE, Rome, 13 October 2007**

The Centre International de Formation Européenne will hold a colloquium on 13 October 2007 in Rome in cooperation with TEPSA and La Sapienza University on the theme “Integrating Europe – The future of the constitutional process and Europe’s political aims”.

The programme includes a number of distinguished speakers such as Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg & President of Eurogroup, TEPSA’s Chairperson Wolfgang Wessels, and TEPSA Board Member Gianni Bonvicini.

We encourage you or your colleagues to participate in this interesting event, which is also an opportunity for you to get to know CIFE as a prospective member of TEPSA

Information on the Centre International and its activities is at <http://www.cife.eu>. Its Director General Prof. Hartmut Marhold is well known to the TEPSA network.

More information is available on our website www.tepsa.be where you can download the programme both in English and in French.

- **Conference of IIRPS, Vilnius, 16 November 2007**

In view of its prospective membership of the TEPSA network, The Institute of International Relations & Political Science, Vilnius University, with the Lithuanian Political Science Association will hold an annual conference at Vilnius University on 16 November 2007.

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Rome Treaty, the theme of the conference will be .The EU’s Impact on the Changing Political and Cultural Identities of the Member States.

Speakers are expected to include TEPSA Board Member Gunilla Herolf and Secretary General Graham Avery

Further information will be shortly distributed to TEPSA members, but in the meantime contributions and enquiries may be sent to Dr. Algimantas Janauskas, Research Director (algimantas.jankauskas@tspm.vu.lt).



- **Monitoring by TEPSA of EU Calls for Tender**

The TEPSA secretariat has revived the service of monitoring calls for tender for the information of the TEPSA network. Recently a request has been sent out to our member institutes asking you to tell us about your priorities and initiatives and to inform us which topics are of special interest.

TEPSA envisages three forms of action:

- Information to our member institutes to improve your access to calls for tender of the European institutions and enable you to take an initiative
- If the call for tender or proposal would be interesting for a group of member institutes or researchers, you can contact the TEPSA office to find possible collaborators, or in certain cases make a collective initiative coordinated by TEPSA
- In case you have ideas for a project funded by the EU, or from national sources or organizations other than the EU, TEPSA may be contacted in order to look for partners; we will send the call via our mailing list to member institutions and ask for participation.

A first mailing with current calls for tenders has already been sent out to the TEPSA network in September. If you have further suggestions or wish to be included on the mailing list, please contact Yvonne.Nasshoven@tepsa.be.

- **Conferences**

TEPSA will be represented at the Commission seminar “The EU as a global actor” by Dr. Paul Luif of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs and Professor Simon Duke of EIPA, Maastricht. We would like to thank the network for the many expressions of interest we received, and will keep you informed both of the results of this seminar and further conferences.

At the EUROMESCO Annual Conference in Lisbon from 3-4 October 2007 TEPSA will be involved through the participation of its Board member Gunilla Herolf. The conference is focusing on the topic “A common agenda against Intolerance: Human Rights as a Shared Concern” and aims at a dialogue between the EUROMESCO network and a broad range of political and economic actors with regard to current developments in the Euro-Mediterranean area.



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- Europe for citizens

As an active member of the European Commission's programme "Europe for citizens", TEPSA took part in a meeting of organizations involved in the project with representatives of the Commission in Brussels on 11th September. Besides the launching of a structured dialogue with European organizations taking part in the programme for the promotion of Active European Citizenship, and an exchange of views on the implementation and simplification measures introduced, information was given on the future development and the upcoming European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. A conference in this framework will be held on 8 November 2007, bringing together more than 400 representatives of civil society organizations, research institutes and local authorities.

Another meeting with representatives of the Commission will take place on 11th October.

We draw your attention to the call for proposals concerning "Structural support for European public policy research organisations and for civil society organisations at European level 2008 – 2009" which was recently published on the Commission's website at <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index.htm>

- **Ongoing Projects**

- EU CONSENT Plenary conference, Brussels 18/19 October 2007

Once again on behalf of EU-CONSENT you are kindly invited to participate in the third EU-CONSENT Annual Plenary Conference in Brussels from 18th to 19th October.

This year's plenary conference will host the EU-CONSENT Annual Lecture given by Robert Cooper (Director General for External Economic Relations & Politico-Military Affairs, Council of the European Union), Thursday evening at 6 pm

All necessary information regarding registration, agenda, speakers, travel arrangements etc. is accessible at the plenary section of the website www.eu-consent.net which will be updated constantly.

For questions still remaining after consultation of the website, please contact Alessio Ruta (alessio.ruta@tepsa.be) at TEPSA or Funda Tekin (funda.tekin@uni-koeln.de) at University of Cologne.

The EU-CONSENT plenary conference organisation team is looking forward to seeing you in Brussels!



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- Agora Platform

At the June 2007 European Summit EU leaders agreed on a mandate to finalise the text of a new Treaty to reform the EU's institutions. This 'Reform Treaty' is to be adopted by the European Council in late autumn 2007, and it has given new impetus to the debate on the European Constitutionalisation and integration. The analysis and assessment of the 'Reform Treaty' will be taken up by the EU-CONSENT cross-cutting topic 'Deepening: Constitutional and institutional change'.

We would like to announce that the EU-CONSENT Discussion Forum 'Agora' has recently been re-opened with the three-fold aim of:

- 1) Overall academic discussion on the general position of the 'Reform Treaty' in the European Constitutionalisation process.
- 2) Analysis and assessment of the 'Reform Treaty' compared to the Nice Treaty and the Constitutional Treaty.
- 3) Examination of the implications of the 'Reform Treaty' on the future integration of the European Union.

The initial contributions will serve as an inspiration and point of reference for the open discussion in the EU-CONSENT Agora. Thus, you are invited to visit the EU-CONSENT Agora and in case you are interested to contribute to the discussion as described above please contact Gaby Umbach (gaby.umbach@uni-koeln.de)

- **Publications** : Nathalie Tocci, "Conditionality, Impact and Prejudice in EU-Turkey Relations"

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