

Message from the Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe

I am delighted to share with you information about our recent and forthcoming policy planning activities in this Newsletter that you will be receiving every three months. As you probably know, a **Policy Planning Seminar** was held last April at the Council of Europe's Headquarters in Strasbourg to discuss the state of play and new challenges regarding the democracy support policies and activities.

Our new series of **Debates on European Identity** was launched in March and a series of '**Open-Ended Debates**' was also initiated in order to address the dilemma facing the Council of Europe as the values and standards promoted by the Organisation are challenged by new political, economic and social trends.

Since the beginning of this year the activities of the Council of Europe's **Schools of Political Studies** (piloted by our Directorate) are becoming more and more dynamic. Whilst the Moscow School just celebrated its 20th Anniversary (4 April), three new Schools have opened this year, respectively the Tunisian School (January) the Moroccan School (March) and the Visegrád School of Political Studies (March), a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Academy of Diplomacy in Warsaw.

Let me also share with you some of our analytical work – the latest **Open Thought Papers** – in which reflections on topics such as 'Challenges and Opportunities for Europe in an Interconnected and Polycentric World' as well as challenges to our values and possible sanctions for violating them were developed. I hope you will share with us your reflections and comments and we will enter into discussion to broaden our minds.

Finally, I submit for your perusal, an overview paper prepared on the basis of the discussions held in the **Awareness Lab for Early Response - Team (ALER-T)** intersecretariat meetings where we discuss future challenges for the Organisation.

Ambassador Piotr Świtalski

EUROPEAN IDENTITY DEBATES

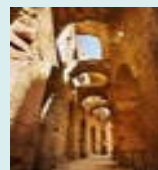


'Russian and European Souls – Can they walk Together?' with Victor EROFEEV, a Russian writer
(28 May 2013) [Audio recording](#)



'Europe: Culture on the Edge of the World, or Who are the Losers?' with Yuri ANDRUKHOVYCH, a Ukrainian Poet and writer (9 April 2013)
[Watch the video](#) - [Read the speech](#)

SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES



The inauguration of the Moroccan School of Political Studies took place on 14 March 2013 in Rabat. The School was created with the financial support of the EU/CoE Joint Programme 'Strengthening Democracy Reform in the Southern Neighbourhood' and the Norwegian Government



'Roots of European Identity – Challenges and Threats' with Karsten ALNAES, a Norwegian historian (12 March 2013)

[Watch the video](#) - [Read the speech](#)



The inauguration of the Tunisian School of Politics took place on 8 January 2013 in Tunis. The Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe delivered a [speech](#) on the occasion (French only)

OPEN THOUGHT PAPERS

- *The Council of Europe and Sanctions*
- *European Standards of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and the so-called 'Asian Values'*
- *Global Scenarios until 2030: Citizens in an Interconnected and Polycentric World: Determining the Challenges and Opportunities for Europe*

OPEN-ENDED DEBATES



'The Rights of Animals and Human Obligations', by Prof. Peter Singer, an Australian moral philosopher, Professor at Princeton University, and a Laureate Professor at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the University of Melbourne (23 May 2013)
Listen to [Audio recording](#)

AWARENESS LAB FOR EARLY RESPONSE - TEAM

Please read [report](#) presenting the summary of the policy proposals made by the ALER-Team – comprising representatives of all MAEs – since June 2011 to April 2013.



'The City by the Yardstick of great Anthropological Changes', by Professor Philippe Breton, a laureate of the Institut de France, University Professor at the University Centre of Media Studies, University of Strasbourg (14 February 2013)
Listen to [Audio recording](#)

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH US

Please send any comment you may have to suzette.saint-marc@coe.int. Please insert 'Newsletter – Sharing thoughts' at the beginning of the "Subject" field - followed by your country/organisation's name

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