



EDITORIAL

The Director

I am pleased to present the second Directorate of Policy Planning newsletter and to share with you the latest news about recent and upcoming policy planning activities.

Since 2010, the Directorate of Policy Planning (DPP) strives to build a culture of co-operation with relevant partners, in order to be able to suggest responses to new challenges by conducting thorough research and analysis. Crisis situations in particular require thoughtful and structural solutions, on a European or a global scale.

This approach has led to many successful partnerships initiated by DPP, inside as well as outside the Council of Europe. The first joint Council of Europe - Harvard University Conference held in September, and our collaboration with European think tanks are recent examples of joint efforts for addressing specific questions, and for reaching mutual understanding.

In-house reflection and strategic thinking are important keywords for the Directorate of Policy Planning: over 40 'ALER-T' meetings (informal intersecretariat theme-based policy discussions), as well as several 'European Identity' debates and 'Open Thoughts' papers have contributed to developing middle and longer term policy scenarios for the Council of Europe and will continue to do so.

The Schools of Political Studies, supported by DPP, are fully functioning and are, indeed, thriving; they reflect our efforts and act as a major player in disseminating the core values of the Council of Europe, in and also beyond Europe. The Council of Europe will make every possible effort to continue promoting the Schools and to support them in fulfilling their mission, today and in the future.

Ambassador Piotr Świątalski



The Directorate of Policy Planning continues its collaboration with European think tanks

Building contacts with major European think-tanks and reviewing academic work on relevant topics facilitates exploration of new approaches and fresh ideas, which can be used in the Council of Europe's daily work. Since 2012 a joint programme between the Council of Europe and major European think tanks has been developed and several task forces created with the European research community.

On 27 June, the task force on **'Smart Power & Ways of Enhancing the Council of Europe's Impact'** met in Munich, hosted by the Center for Applied Policy Studies (C.A.P.). Bringing together eminent members of several European think tanks, the task force reflected on the 'Smart Power'-concept (strategic use of diplomacy, persuasion, capacity building, influence) and its applicability to the Council of Europe.

Contact: Dr. André Haertel



First joint Council of Europe – Harvard University Conference on Human Rights

On 23 September, a joint conference of the Council of Europe and Harvard Law School was organised in Cambridge, MA/USA, in co-operation with the Center of European Studies and the Weatherhead Initiative for Global History.

Under the title **"Divided by a common Heritage: Human Rights in Europe and the United States"**, experts and academics from both sides of the Atlantic reflected on key human rights issues and discussed on different views and interpretations in a high level dialogue.

The conference series is aimed at exposing participants to different viewpoints, and to facilitate a greater understanding of human rights perspectives, practices and standards in Europe and the United States.

A second conference is foreseen to take place in Strasbourg in the spring of next year.

Contact: Dr. Michael Remmert

ACTIVITIES

European Identity Debates (contact: Piotr Walczak)

Fourth European Identity Debate: 'Europe is stronger than you think – if we reinvent ourselves' with President Martti Ahtisaari



On 20 June, former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari presented his perception of a Europe struggling with an existential crisis. According to him, the challenges - economic and political - are severe but can be overcome. In times of crisis, not only the weaknesses of Europe must be considered but also its qualities should be highlighted; this enables European leaders to reinvent Europe ([Video recorded](#)).

Fifth European Identity Debate: "Georgia and the region's European aspiration : building the future on a vibrant past" with Professor David Lordkipanidze



On 10 October, Professor Lordkipanidze, Director General of the Georgian National Museum, offered his views on Europe's common heritage. He explored how Europeans have evolved since ancient times, and shared his reflection on what we could learn from our common past to help us preserve Europe's unity. He also referred to the history and the future of the Caucasus region and the perspectives for its European aspirations ([Video recorded](#)).

'Awareness Lab for Early Response' (ALER-T) meetings (contact: Alberto Maynar Aguilar)

"Drug e-Trafficking and Human Rights" – 16 September 2013



A quickly expanding non-public encrypted internet and the propagation of drug trafficking by means of this medium is a threat to human rights. The 'darknet' is complex and embeds criminal activities in an illicit network. Urgent responses and effective action by all Council of Europe member states are called for.

"Policing Demonstrations and Human Rights" – 7 October 2013



Policing and Human Rights is a potentially controversial and still crucial part of the Council of Europe's activity. Recent events, showing strong action against demonstrators by the police in Madrid, Paris or Istanbul have yet again highlighted the importance that the right to hold public demonstrations has for democracy. The Council of Europe can play a strategic role in providing good policing practice. It also has standard-setting instruments, monitoring and assessment activities which facilitate and encourage co-operation and best practices with member states and neighboring countries.

'Open Thoughts' papers (contact: André Haertel)

DPP's series of Open Thoughts Papers offers topical notes based on publications and research results of the academic community to stimulate conceptual and forward-looking thinking within the Council of Europe Secretariat



Paper n°11: **The European Union and the Council of Europe** (Jul)

Paper n°12: **Recent developments in Human Rights systems in Latin America** (Jul)

Paper n°13: **A fundamental law of the European Union** (Oct)

Paper n°14: **The Council of Europe and Kosovo** (Oct)

Paper n°15: **Secessionism in Europe** (Nov)

Paper n°16: **The Council of Europe and co-operation with Civil Society** (Nov)

INFORMATION



The 2013 World Forum for Democracy: “Re-wiring Democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age”

The 2013 World Forum for Democracy, taking place in Strasbourg from 27 to 29 November, brings together elected politicians and civil society leaders to discuss the impact of developments in information and communication technologies on established democratic structures and institutions.

In addition to the main Forum event, the Directorate of Policy Planning has prepared a specific programme for the Schools of Political Studies that enables the participants from the 19 Schools to exchange ideas and experiences with their peers and with representatives of different parts of the Council of Europe.

The Schools are also present with a stand at the Democracy Innovation Fair and at other side events, highlighting their work in fostering human rights, democracy and the rule of law in their home countries and regions.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy/home>
http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/sps/default_EN.asp

Inauguration of the Visegrád School of Political Studies

On 18 September, the new Visegrád School of Political Studies was inaugurated in the presence of Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Radosław Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

The Visegrád School is a joint venture of the European Academy of Diplomacy and the Council of Europe, also receiving support from the International Visegrád Fund. It aims to bring together young minds from the political as well as social spheres in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic, in an effort to encourage the construction of a well-functioning democracy, facilitate the exchange of practical knowledge and skills and strengthen co-operation among the four Visegrád States.

http://www.coe.int/t/policy-planning/default_en.asp
http://www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu/news_article/106.aspx



UPCOMING EVENTS

Schools of Political Studies

27 November 2013: Bi-annual Meeting of Directors of the Schools of Political Studies

International Conferences & Events

Spring 2014: Second joint Council of Europe – Harvard University Conference on Human Rights

International conference on *“Europe-Asia Identities and values”*

More information needed?

More information on [Policy Planning Activities](#)

More information on the [Schools of Political Studies](#)

More information on [Council of Europe activities](#)

For current News & Views, visit the [Council of Europe Web TV](#)

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 / your organisation’s name (if relevant) and your profession.

CONTACTS

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POLICY PLANNING IN BRIEF

The Directorate of Policy Planning (DPP) was set up in 2010 in order to provide the Secretary General, the Committee of Ministers and Major Administrative Entities (MAEs) of the Council of Europe with conceptual and strategic analyses about relevant political and societal developments in Europe and beyond.

Its work is based on research and on topical exchanges with internal and external networks. The objective is to enhance the Organisation’s ability to anticipate major trends and challenges facing member states and to offer coherent short- and long-term responses within its statutory mandate.

The Directorate plays also an important role in hosting the Schools of Political Studies (SPS) and in supervising their network.