

EDITORIAL

by Ambassador Piotr Świtalski,
Director of Policy Planning



I am pleased to share with you the news about the main activities of the Directorate of Policy Planning in 2014.

The present time in Europe is probably the most challenging of any period over the past twenty-five years. In the last few months, we have witnessed the most serious political tensions since the end of the Cold War. The idea of one single Europe without divisions has been put into

doubt. The threat of a new dividing line looks very real: some call it geopolitical, some value-related, some even - civilisational.

Our analytical work aims at responding to these threats by providing food for thought and policy proposals in a middle and longer time perspective.

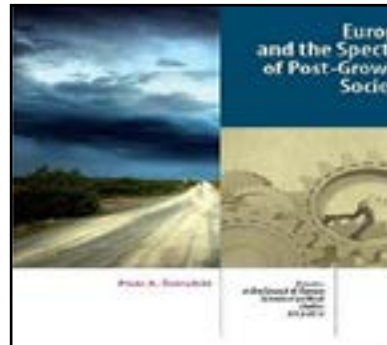
We are pleased to submit for your attention a publication: 'The Pursuit of Undivided Europe' containing three reports prepared at our request, by a group of outstanding scholars from several Council of Europe member states. This project was one of the main elements of our efforts to develop closer links between the Council of Europe and the think-tank community.

We also worked on strengthening the Council of Europe's co-operation and synergies with the academic world, especially higher education institutions. A meeting with representatives from major European universities, who work in departments involved in teaching and researching Human Rights, European Affairs or International Relations, took place at the beginning of December. Our discussions focused on how to make human rights and democracy a prominent topic in teaching and research, as well as a part of universities' general approach to education.

I should also like to let you know that my secondment to the Council of Europe will end this December. These past four years have been a great pleasure and source of inspiration for me.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

'Europe and the Spectre of Post-Growth Society'



What role can the Council of Europe play in providing creative solutions to the present and future challenges? How can we embody the idea that Europe is bigger than the European Union and that the European agenda is richer and deeper than the economy and politics?

With this collection of essays, based on debates held in the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies in 2012 and 2013, Ambassador Piotr Świtalski, Director of Policy Planning of the Council of Europe, analyses major societal concerns facing Europe and explores the relevance of the European project and its capacity to address the threats to democracy.

To buy the book, visit the Council of Europe online Bookshop.
(<https://book.coe.int/eur>)

'We need to talk about Europe'

European Identity Debates at the Council of Europe 2013-14



This publication contains lectures presented by eminent personalities within the series of the Council of Europe European Identity Debates. The debates were organised in co-operation with the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in Strasbourg.

The debates on European identity featured 10 eminent personalities from politics, civil society and the intellectual and academic world. We were very fortunate to welcome the distinguished speakers: Karsten Alnaes, Yuri Andrukhovych, Viktor Erofeev, Martti Ahtisaari, David Lordkipanidze, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Robert Salais, Tzvetan Todorov, Ana Palacio and

The debates on European identity featured 10 eminent personalities from politics, civil society and the intellectual and academic world. We were very fortunate to welcome the distinguished speakers: Karsten Alnaes, Yuri Andrukhovych, Viktor Erofeev, Martti Ahtisaari, David Lordkipanidze, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Robert Salais, Tzvetan Todorov, Ana Palacio and

Adam Daniel Rotfeld. They addressed in an original manner the complexity of issues relating to European identity. The search for the roots of European identity served as a springboard to explore its multiple meanings and representations. The debates provided a catalyst for political ideas and concepts of Europe and thereby strived to open new intellectual perspectives and contribute to thinking on constructive European identities.

To read the publication, visit the DPP website (www.coe.int/t/policy-planning).

‘Understanding Ukraine’, a debate with Daniel Beauvois and Andrew Wilson

On 26 June 2014 the Directorate of Policy Planning and the



Permanent Representations of Ukraine and Poland organised a debate to shed light on the background of the current crisis in Ukraine. The debate provided relevant information about its complex history and origins, the issues and challenges, and possible outcomes to the crisis, including European perspectives for Ukraine.

The debate was organised as a panel discussion with two experts; Daniel BEAUVOIS, French historian, scholar and author, and Andrew WILSON, British historian and political scientist from the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR).

Watch video recording on youtube: <http://youtu.be/F-lyFalkIYc>

Closed Informal Seminar ‘European Institutions and Eastern Europe after Maidan’

This seminar on the policies of European institutions in Eastern Europe provided an opportunity for staff members of the Council of Europe to hold an open and frank exchange of views on the current situation in the Eastern Partnership region and on aspects relating to the role of the Council of Europe in the region.

The seminar took place in June 2014 and was chaired by Ambassador Piotr Świtalski, Director of Policy Planning. Ms Katarzyna Wolczuk, Reader in Politics and International Studies, Centre for Russian and East European Studies (University of Birmingham), and Ms Madeleine Majorenko, European External Action Service, introduced the topic from both an academic and an institutional perspective.

‘The Pursuit of Undivided Europe’ Council of Europe and Think Tanks

How can the Council of Europe remain and thrive as the continent’s main reference point in terms of human rights, democracy and the rule of law? Is there a way for Strasbourg to more successfully accomplish the major task of protecting the human rights of European citizens? How can the Council of Europe, in an ever more multipolar European order, become an indispensable tool for the realisation of the pan-European idea and a unified Europe from Reykjavik to Moscow? In what ways does the Organisation have to change in order to take into account the new dynamics at work in our societies over the last two decades? What strategic new tasks does it have to take on and should it modernise itself as an international body? Finally, what can it do to become a “club of democracies” again?



Since 2012, the Directorate of Policy Planning has co-operated actively with 14 renowned analysts from major European think tanks in order to explore possible responses to the questions above and to address other significant issues about the Organisation’s continued relevance, credibility and visibility. As a result of this cooperation in 2014 three advisory reports have been issued on:

- ‘Smart Power – Ways of Enhancing the Council of Europe’s Impact’
- ‘The Pan-European Dimension: Ensuring the Use of the Council of Europe’s Wider European Membership’
- ‘The Council of Europe and Challenges to European Societies: Identifying Major Risks and Finding Innovative Policies’.

These three reports took the form of the above-mentioned publication which is designed to provide a solid intellectual basis for the Council of Europe’s decision makers and future strategy development.

To read the publication, visit the DPP website (www.coe.int/t/policy-planning).

SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

New Schools in Turkey and Greece

A Pan-European Leadership Academy: a new School project in the pipeline



The Network of Schools is expanding, as two new Schools opened their doors in 2014: a School for Turkey in Istanbul and a School for Greece in Thessaloniki. These welcome additions reflect our ambition to broaden the Network into all European regions. In the same vein, the Council of Europe and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin have been developing a concept for a Pan-European Leadership Academy.

With this initiative, which is presently in the initial fundraising phase, the Council of Europe seeks to further broaden the geographical scope of the Schools and to share and extend the benefits of the unique framework provided by the Schools to the Western part of the European continent. The project seeks to bring together around 25–30 young people in an annual training cycle with leadership potential from countries with more established democratic traditions, as well as those from younger democracies, to work together on the challenges facing today's Europe.

It is hoped that each year the Leadership Academy will initiate 5 to 7 innovative and viable projects generated to build upon a network of young professionals trained in governance and leadership skills.

First International Meeting of the Alumni of Schools of Political Studies



For the first time, in June 2014, the Directorate of Policy Planning has brought together more than 50 distinguished alumni from Schools of Political Studies in more than twenty countries to discuss the theme 'Harnessing young people's potential for building a democratic

future'. It addressed two issues: 'The marginalisation of today's young generation: Is the pact between the generations broken?' and 'Can young people bring about an agreed set of common values for the future?'. It ended with a brainstorming round table on the development of the Schools' Network, in particular its alumni dimension.

The outcomes of the discussions are expected to be of use to the participants in their respective professional or civil society functions. The meeting also contributed to the 2014 session of the World Forum for Democracy held in early November this year on the theme 'From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?'

. Watch video clip with impressions by participants (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dt-bEjkWgg0&-feature=youtu.be>)

. Watch video clip including messages by participants to the World Forum for Democracy (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKAZjTUE5iQ&-feature=youtu.be>)

Confidence-building workshop brings together participants from seven countries of the Black Sea region

The Council of Europe has responded to the alarming situation in Ukraine with a package of immediate measures funded by voluntary contributions.



The Ukrainian School of Political Studies and other partner organisations are contributing by organising confidence-building activities in eastern and southern Ukraine and throughout the region. In October 2014,

the Directorate of Policy Planning, together with the Central European University, organised a special confidence-building workshop in Budapest. This innovative course format and the Kyiv School's capacity to respond rapidly and concretely to the crisis illustrate the dynamic role the Council of Europe's Schools of Political Studies Network is able to play in situations of crisis.

Read more on the Central European University website

EVENTS

World Forum for Democracy 2014 - From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?

The third edition of the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg, 3–5 November 2014) engaged with young people, decision-makers and opinion formers in a reflection on the patterns of youth exclusion and involvement. The participants had the opportunity to explore new ways of engaging the youngsters in re-visioning the democratic arenas of today.

As every year, the participants of the Schools of Political Studies have actively participated in the Forum's discussions, shared ideas and experiences with other Forum participants and planned future co-operation. For the first time, intakes from the two new Schools in Turkey and Greece have joined the event, as well as representatives of civil society from Kyrgyzstan and Cyprus as a first step towards the Network's possible expansion to these regions.

The Council of Europe and University Chairs Meeting 'Towards an Enhanced Role of the Council of Europe in University Teaching and Research'



In order to strengthen the relationship with universities, the Directorate of Policy Planning organised a meeting on 3 December with representatives of leading European institutions of higher education. These include the University of Oxford, Istanbul Bilgi University, European University Institute (Florence),

University of Sarajevo, Central European University (Budapest) and the European Humanities University (Belarussian University in exile, Vilnius). The meeting brought together European academics, in particular those working in the fields of Human Rights, European Studies and International Relations, as well as representatives of Council of Europe bodies, including the European Court of Human Rights and the diplomatic community.

The brainstorming meeting was designed to explore how to make human rights and democracy a prominent topic in teaching and research as well as in the universities' general approach to education. In his speech the Secretary General of the Council of Europe emphasised that in the context of a growing crisis of values among Europeans, and especially young Europeans, education, and in particular human rights and democracy education, is a paramount task. The perspectives of academic institutions and the Council of Europe were presented and discussed and potential avenues for future mutual co-operation were explored during three sessions:

1. 'Learning Human Rights and Democracy: The Council of Europe in University Teaching'
2. 'The Council of Europe as a Subject of Academic Research'

3. 'Towards Innovative Joint Projects: Strengthening Co-operation between the Council of Europe and Academia'.

Participants considered ways in which the Council of Europe could open up so as to enhance academics' understanding of the work of the Organisation and how, inversely, Council of Europe bodies could benefit from academic research to support their standard-setting and monitoring activities. It was underlined that when it comes to the research dimension of universities, an important element from the perspective of the Council of Europe is that universities play a key role in advising governments and international organisations about how to address the manifold and dynamic problems of democracy and human rights. A number of innovative projects for future co-operation between the Council of Europe and academia were put forward.

OPEN THOUGHTS PAPERS

DPP 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°17: Global Challenges and their Impact on Human Rights (December 2013)

Paper n° 18: The Curious Case of the fall in Crime: The Rise of Human Rights? (January)

Paper n°19: Big Data: a Blessing or a Threat to Human Rights? (March)

Paper n°20: 'The influence of the European Court of Human Rights on human rights' policy making in Europe' (May)

Paper n°21: 'The right to food: Should Europeans care?' (May)

Paper n° 22: 'Democracy in the Western Balkans: slipping towards a model of managed democracy?' (October)

Paper n°23: 'The Role of Experts in Decision-making and the Council of Europe?' (October)

To read the Open thoughts Papers, visit the DPP website (<http://www.coe.int/t/policy-planning>).

Where to find more information

- on Policy Planning Activities: www.coe.int/t/policy-planning
- on the Schools of Political Studies: www.coe.int/t/dgap/sp/
- on Council of Europe activities: www.coe.int

For current News & Views, watch on CoE welcome page



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.