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NEWSLETTER

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What Kind of Parliament? – A Comparative Perspective on the European Parliament

Arthur Benz, Technische Universität Darmstadt

When we consider the formal structure of the European Parliament (EP), we find an organization similar to what we observe in most other parliaments: the Parliament is headed by a President supported by a Conference of Presidents and a Secretariat. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are organized in party groups, and the plenary can delegate work to standing and special committees. Yet in many respects, the EP constitutes a distinct kind of parliament. In order to understand how the Parliament works, it is important to take into account these particularities. Moreover, in the course of the integration process, the structures and modes of operation have changed significantly (Judge and Earnshaw 2008). The Lisbon Treaty marks a further stage in this evolution.

Before it was directly elected in 1979, the EP existed as an assembly of delegates of national parliaments. In those days, legislative powers in the EU remained with the Council of Ministers. While the Parliament

had limited rights to participate in legislation, it emerged as a deliberative institution influencing politics by expressing opinions on salient issues. In this way, it increasingly attracted attention and acquired strength in the inter-institutional politics of the European Community.

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Due to the rising demands for democratization, member state governments had to concede legislative powers to the EP (Rittberger 2007). The Lisbon Treaty declared “co-decision,” which gives the Parliament a veto right as part of the ordinary procedure in EU legislation. Nonetheless, no

parliamentary system (as it exists in Canada) resulted from this process. The EP does not elect a responsible government depending on the support of majority parties. Despite the fact that it now participates in the election of the Commission and can pass a vote of non-confidence against an incumbent Commission, a duality between a majority supporting a government and an opposition has not evolved.

The EP may also be compared to the American Congress, a legislature in a presidential system. Each house of the US Congress follows a different “style.” While the Senate is oriented towards national issues, members of House of Representatives strongly depend on their local electorate. The European system of governance constitutes a similarly divided “two-chamber” system. It combines a supranational institution, the EP, and an intergovernmental body, the Council.

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The EU Strategy for Central Asia

Numan Qardash, Carleton University

Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) has been a part of the European Union’s (EU’s) greater projects such as Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS) and Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with the new independent states of Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia including Russia. However, until recently the region, almost twice the size of Western Europe, has been left out of the EU’s main policy agenda. Europeans came late to Central Asia as the EU had first to deal with the normalization of its post-communist neighbours (Efegil 2010). The war against terrorism and the growing significance of energy security has made Brussels consider the region more seriously (FRIDE 2007). In 2007, the European Council adopted a new Central Asia Strategy and for the first time Central Asia, as a region, received special attention from the EU. Moreover, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the EU strategy, the EU-Central Asia Monitoring (EUCAM) was launched in 2008.

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UPDATES FROM EU CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN CANADA

Centre for European Studies, European Union Centre of Excellence, Carleton University

Selected past events at Carleton's EUCE this spring include:

- March 9, 2011: **Reducing the Democratic Deficit: Lessons from Scandinavia and Europe.** Speaker: Henry Milner (visiting Professor at the University of Umea in Sweden, and a member of the Chair in Electoral Studies, Université de Montréal). Prof. Milner discussed his latest book: *The Internet Generation: Engaged Citizens or Political Dropouts.*
- March 3, 2011: **Canada-Europe Public Lecture: Rebuilding Local Food Systems in an Era of Empire and Globalization: Lessons from the EU and Beyond.** Speaker: Jan Douwe van der Ploeg (Professor of Rural Sociology, Wageningen Universiteit, the Netherlands). This lecture drew on European experience to consider prospects for local production of food and services, along with new marketing structures.
- Feb. 16, 2011: **EU Policy Towards the Broader Middle East: The Impact of the Events in Tunisia and Egypt.** Speaker: Costanza Musu (University of Ottawa). This lecture focused on both current and past EU policy towards the broader Middle East.
- Jan. 18, 2011: **The Impact of Enlargement on the European Union: Lessons Learned.** Speaker: Giovanni Di Girolamo (First Counselor/ Head of Political and Public Affairs Section, Delegation of the EU to Canada). This talk assessed the impact of the 2004/2007 accessions on the EU in a number of policy areas such as environmental legislation, consumer protection, asylum policy, judicial co-operation, and regional policy.

The **EU Learning Project** marked the start of 2011 with the launch of an upgraded website and a successful workshop for high school teachers. The website now offers improved functionality and easier navigation. On Feb. 18, 2011, nine local teachers attended a daylong workshop on how to incorporate and teach the EU in their classrooms. EURUS faculty provided expert knowledge which facilitated the exchange of valuable information. As in previous years, the EU Learning Project team continues to make classroom visits.

Since 2006 Carleton's Centre for European Studies (CES) has been designated by the European Commission as an EU Centre of Excellence and Network Coordinator for the EUCEs in Canada. The Centre is housed jointly in the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies and the Department of Political Science and includes colleagues from the University of Ottawa and Queen's University in Kingston. Carleton's Faculty of Public Affairs, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, and the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International) offer support to this interdisciplinary effort.



www.carleton.ca/ces

European Union Centre of Excellence, Dalhousie University

- March 18, 2011: **Risk Attitudes and the Incidence of Informality among Workers: Evidence from a Transition Country.** Speaker: Melanie Khamis (Institute for the Study of Labor, Germany). Joint work with Thomas Dohmen and Hartmut Lehmann.
- Jan. 7, 2011: **Euthanasia in the Netherlands: Medical Practice and Societal Control.** Speaker: Dr. Hans Van Delden (Faculty of Medicine, Utrecht University, the Netherlands). The talk was co-sponsored by Dalhousie EUCE, Health Law Institute and Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs.
- Nov. 22, 2010: **Electromobility.** Speaker: Prof. Hartmut Schmeck (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany). The lecture outlined how cities needed to be re-configured for the foreseeable future where a large proportion of cars are electricity-driven. It also dealt with energy-saving measures in the home.

Brown Bag Lunch Talk Series

- March 25, 2011: **EU Copyright Reform.** Speaker: Graham Reynolds.
- Feb. 18, 2011: **Europe's Climate and Energy Policy: Lessons for Canada in Sharing the Effort of Emissions Reductions.** Speaker: Anders Hayden.
- Jan. 21, 2011: **International Retirement Migration in the EU: Citizenship and Aging Reconsidered.** Speaker: Liesl Gambold.

Created in 2006, the EUCE at Dalhousie University aims to integrate existing research and teaching activities concerning the EU to establish a framework for facilitating and promoting further EU activities. Two primary ways of accomplishing this have been the expansion of European Studies through the creation of a B.A. Honours in European Studies and by recruiting research chairs in the field. The Centre carries out research in EU-Canada relations and comparative public policy, constitutionalism, and federalism.



www.euce.dal.ca

European Union Centre of Excellence, Université de Montréal/McGill University

Since the last edition of the *EUCE Newsletter*, the EUCE has organized and sponsored more than 20 conferences, roundtables and colloquiums. For the complete list, please check our website: <http://www.centreurope-montreal.ca/en/events-news/past-events/>.

The EUCE organised two international colloquiums:

- Jan. 7-8, 2011: **Pluralisme et radicalisation: Regards croisés sur les expériences françaises et canadiennes.** Organized by the Canada Research Chair on Religious Pluralism and Ethnicity (Université de Montréal) in collaboration with the EUCE, the CÉRIUM and the CCEAE. For the complete programme, please go to: www.centreurope-montreal.ca/fr/activites-nouvelles/activites/articles/pluralisme-et-radicalisations-regards-croises-su/.
- Nov. 12, 2010: **Does Minority Government make a Difference in Westminster Systems?** Co-organized by the EUCE, the Canada Research Chair in Citizenship and Governance. The Honourable Jack Layton was guest of honour of this event. For the complete programme, please go to: www.centreurope-montreal.ca/en/events-news/events/articles/does-minority-government-make-a-difference-in-west/.

UPDATES FROM EU CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN CANADA

...Continued: EUCE Université de Montréal/McGill University

In addition, the EUCE organized, as part of its outreach activities, a seminar with the Honourable Pierre-Marc Johnson, Former Premier of Quebec and current Quebec Government Chief Negotiator, where they discussed the potential comprehensive agreement between Canada and the EU. Mr. Johnson talked about the benefits of the agreement for Canada and Quebec in front of Montreal's business community on Jan. 19, 2011. Last but not least, the Université de Montréal/McGill University EUCE is now on Facebook and Twitter! It is also possible to subscribe to the EUCE's RSS feeds. To stay in touch go to our new bilingual website at: www.centreurope-montreal.ca/en/.

The Université de Montréal/McGill University EUCE was created in 2006. It is composed of three units: the Université de Montréal/McGill University Institute for European Studies (IES); the Chaire Jean-Monnet en Intégration européenne de l'Université de Montréal; and the Jean-Monnet Chair in Law of International Economic Relations. The two chairs are in charge of teaching, training, and outreach, while the IES is responsible for research activities.



www.centreurope-montreal.ca

European Union Centre of Excellence, University of Toronto/University of Victoria

The University of Toronto/University of Victoria EUCE has been busy with a number of activities this past winter.

University of Toronto:

- March 11, 2011: **Sociolinguistic Regimes and the Management of "Diversity": New Europe and Old Europe**. Speaker: Susan Gal (University of Chicago). This talk was part of an on-going speaker series on the Anthropology of Europe, a joint initiative of UofT/UVic's EUCE and UofT's Dept. of Anthropology, made possible by generous support of the European Commission. Her talk attracted a capacity crowd of faculty and graduate students from the Departments of Anthropology, History, Gender Studies, and Political Science, as well as CERES.
- Nov. 4, 2010: **Skewed Competition in Established Democracies: The Rise and Fall of Dominant Part Regimes in Europe**. Speaker: Steffen Schneider (University of Bremen).

University of Victoria:

- Oct. 20, 2011: **Women in the Welfare State, 1900-1970s: Sweden in Comparative Perspective**. Speaker: Dr. Ann-Katrin Hatje (University of Umea).
- Oct. 14, 2011: **Imagining War and Keeping Peace? European military cultures and force employment in the NATO mission in Afghanistan**. Speaker: Chiara Ruffa (Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government).
- Oct. 4, 2010: **Theoretical and Empirical Challenges to the Concept of "Civilian Power Europe" in the 21st Century**. Speaker: Dr. Stelios Stavridis (Senior Research Fellow, University of Zaragoza). Dr. Randall Hansen, who holds a Canada Research Chair at the University of Toronto, presented on: **Do Europeans Hate Immigrants? Public Opinion in the EU**.
- UVic's EUCE sent four undergraduate students representing Estonia and Austria to compete in the West coast model EU at the University of Washington and UVic won the award for Best Head of State for Estonia.

Two Canadian universities specializing in the study of the European Union joined together to form a new European Union Centre of Excellence, launching a three-year program of public outreach, educational and research activities. These activities are designed to deepen the understanding of European integration in Canada both within and outside of academia, and showcase EU-Canada relations.



web.uvic.ca/europe/

www.utoronto.ca/europe/

European Union Centre of Excellence, York University

EUCE York has overseen a busy schedule of events this academic year. Highlights from the program have included:

Several contributions to the Centre's new lecture series **EUROPEAS: EUCE Seminars in European History, Culture and Society**:

- Nov. 17, 2010: **Global History, Regional Integration and the Politics of Exclusion in the Case of Turkey's Accession to the EU**. Speaker: Prof. Sakis Gekas (Department of History, York University).
- Oct. 6, 2010: **Latin American Integration and the EU Model**. Speaker: Prof. Joaquín Roy (Director, EUCE, University of Miami).

Two talks given in the lecture series **EUCE Lectures in Law and Governance**:

- Nov. 23, 2010: **Rescaling Europe through Law – The European Project in the 1960s and 1970s**. Speaker: Mr. Timo Petzold (M.A. candidate, Geography, Goethe University, Germany).
- Nov. 3, 2010: **Good, Bad, or Ugly? International Regimes and Narratives of Democratic Legitimacy in Academic and Public Discourses**. Speaker: Dr. Steffen Schneider (TranState Research Centre, University of Bremen, Germany).

In addition to the above activities, EUCE York has been making preparations for faculty and student conferences as well as the visits of two visiting scholars during the winter and summer semesters. Details on these activities are found in the Newsletter's Recent and Upcoming Events section.

From 2009 to 2012, York University's EUCE will organize academic research conferences, offer competitive research grants, facilitate the development of new courses on the EU and EU-Canada relations, and incorporate EU material into existing courses. York University's EUCE will also offer entrance scholarships to promising graduate students, host visiting scholars, offer lectures and roundtables and other activities, working together with colleagues from other EUCes and EU-funded institutions in Canada and abroad to deepen recognition of the EU and EU-Canada relations.



www.yorku.ca/euce

SPOTLIGHT ON: NEW FACULTY AT THE EUCES

Helge Dedek McGill University

Dr. Helge Dedek teaches at the Faculty of Law at McGill University. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Bonn (Germany) and a LL.M. degree from Harvard Law School that he obtained in 2004 as a Langdon H. Gammon Fellow. Before completing his graduate work, he practiced with the Chamber of Civil Law Notaries in Cologne, Germany, primarily in the fields of corporate law and real estate transactions. Dr. Dedek is interested in and has published in the areas of comparative law, legal history, Roman law, and private law. He is responsible for the legal and institutional consolidation and unification research axis at the EUCE. For more info: people.mcgill.ca/helge.dedek/.



Dr. Magdalena Dembinska est professeure au département de science politique de l'Université de Montréal. Elle a fait ses études en relations internationales à l'Université de Varsovie (Pologne) et a obtenu son doctorat en science politique à l'Université de Montréal en 2007. Ses recherches portent sur les politiques identitaires, les conflits ethniques, la réconciliation et l'intégration interethniques en Europe centrale et dans l'espace post-soviétique. Parmi ses publications récentes, citons : «Building Trust: Managing Common Past and Symbolic Public Spaces in Divided Societies», *Ethnopolitics* (9:3, 2010) et «Adapting To Changing Contexts of Choice: The Nation-Building Strategies of Unrecognized Silesians and Rusyns», *Revue canadienne de science politique* (41:4, 2008). Plus d'informations: www.pol.umontreal.ca/personnel20%/dembinska_magdalena.html.

Magdalena Dembinska Université de Montréal

Eléonore Lépinard Université de Montréal

Titulaire d'un doctorat de l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris), **Dr. Eléonore Lépinard** est professeure au département de science politique de l'Université de Montréal. Ses recherches portent sur les politiques d'égalité des sexes et de lutte contre les discriminations et les politiques multiculturelles dans une perspective comparée (Europe-Canada), ainsi que sur les mouvements et la théorie féministe. Elle a publié un livre, *L'égalité introuvable* (2007 Presses de Sciences po, Paris) et plusieurs articles dans des revues telles qu'*American Behavioral Scientist* et *La Revue Française de science politique*. Eléonore Lépinard est responsable de l'axe de recherche «Immigration, diversité et multiculturalisme» au CEUE. Plus d'informations: www.eleonorelepinard.com.



Dr. Heather MacRae is a member of the core faculty team of the EUCE at York University, Toronto. An Assistant Professor in York's Department of Political Science since January 2008, Heather earned her PhD from Carleton University in 2005. While working on her

dissertation, she taught comparative politics and international relations at both Carleton University and University of Victoria. Since coming to York, Heather has taught several courses on both the European Union as well as graduate level seminars on the government and politics of both the EU and West European Politics. At present, she is translating a textbook by Prof. Ingeborg Tömmel (Political Science, University of Osnabrück) entitled *Das politische System der EU (The Political System of the EU)*. Heather's current research focuses on gender politics in the European Union. She has two main projects on the go: the first looks at the influence of multi-level governance on the activities of the German women's movement and the redefinition of parental leave benefits. Her second area of interest examines the unintentional gender consequences of supposedly "gender neutral" EU policies. Her recent publications include a book chapter entitled "Women's activism and multiple policy scales in German parental leave policy" in *Gender Politics and Multi-Level Governance in the Twenty-First Century: New Challenges* (with Melissa Haussman, Marian Sawer, and Jill Vickers, eds., Ashgate, 2010). She has refereed articles in the *Journal of Common Market* (2010) and *West European Politics* (in press).

Heather MacRae York University

Crina Viju Carleton University

In 2009 **Dr. Crina Viju** became an Assistant Professor at Carleton University's Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies. Dr. Viju was born and raised in the southern part of Romania. After she received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Business Data Processing from the University "Babes-Bolyai" of Cluj-Napoca (Romania), she attended the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH) (Greece), where she obtained a M.Sc. in Economic and Management Science. In 2008, she completed a PhD in Agricultural Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. For a period of 2 years, from 2007 to 2009, Dr. Viju worked as an Assistant Professor at Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy (University of Regina). Dr. Viju has a strong background in applied economic theory and contemporary quantitative methods. Her main research interests include the economic effects of different trade policies applied within the US, Canada, and the European Union; European economic integration; economies in transition and EU enlargement.



SPOTLIGHT ON: NEW FACULTY AT THE EUCES



Dr. Ruben Zaiotti joined the Department of Political Science in July 2010. He holds a PhD from the University of Toronto, a Master of Studies from the University of Oxford and a BA from the University of Bologna. His main areas of interest include international relations theory, international security, border control, and European Union politics. He is currently working on two research projects. The first looks at the transatlantic partnership over issues of homeland security. The second examines the challenges of European Union foreign policy after the signing of the Lisbon Treaty. For the academic year 2010/2011 he will be teaching the following courses: **POLI 3565 - Contemporary Security Studies, POLI 3321 - Politics of the European Union, POLI 5520B - Theories of International Relations, POLI 3493 - Political Inquiry II: Philosophy of the Social Sciences**. Recent publications include the monograph *Cultures of Border Control: Schengen and the Evolution of European Frontiers* (University of Chicago Press) and articles for *Review of International Studies*, *Journal of European Integration*, *International Journal of Refugee Law*, *Cultures & Conflicts*. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of International Law and International Relations*.

Ruben Zaiotti
Dalhousie University

COMMENTARY: BEYOND THE EU

The EU Strategy for Central Asia

Numan Qardash, Carleton University

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Europeans have been critical of the democratization process led by Central Asian leaders. Despite the adoption of a western style constitutional system, violation of human rights, the use of child labor, lack of rule of law and widespread corruption are still major issues that have not been addressed seriously by Central Asian governments. Hence, it was not an easy step for the EU to adopt a single strategy since Europeans have been divided about Central Asia. While Germany pushed for an "interest-based approach focusing on energy and security," the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Sweden were hesitant about Germany's position and instead supported "a value-based approach that stressed the importance of human rights and democratization" (Graubner 2008). Despite this division, the *EU and Central Asia: Strategy for a New Partnership* was adopted in June 2007 under the German Presidency of the EU.

That document outlines security and stability as strategic interests of the EU in the region and highlights that this cooperation aims to be mutually beneficial. As means of achieving its goals, the EU uses different types of cooperation agreements and initiatives, and intends to engage in political dialogue with individual states. Most importantly, Brussels, through the new strategy, supports the improvement of human rights, rule of law, good governance, and democratization in Central Asia.

The proponents of a value-based approach stress that "the EU should not offer further legitimization to the Central Asian leadership regimes in order to serve its energy in-

terests, but should try to engage these governments through institutional support for good governance while trying to foster an independent civil society" (FRIDE 2007). On the other hand, I argue that the continued neglect of Central Asia might be costly for the EU, given the fact that China and Russia are taking advantage of the region's natural resources without engaging in serious discourse about democratization and human rights. Instead of being skeptical about the region, it might be fruitful at this point to start short-term cooperation in order to create room for long-term value-based partnership.

Another beneficial option may include the adoption of different types of partnership in a variety of areas. For instance, it is obvious that economic cooperation with Central Asia requires a regional approach since the import of energy resources demands cooperation of several countries at a time. However, as pointed out by a German expert, Michael Laubsch, a strategy in relations with the region is a good thing, but a unified strategy that would put Kazakhstan (soft authoritarian) and Turkmenistan (hard authoritarian) in the same category would be short-sighted and hardly productive (Deutsche Welle 2009). Thus, when dealing with Central Asia in terms of human rights, rule of law and democratization, it is more effective to cooperate on a bilateral basis rather than multilaterally, given that the level of willingness for reforms in each country varies.

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Biography

Numan Qardash is a Master's student in the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University. He works as a Research Assistant at the Centre for European Studies and is interested in ethnic conflicts in Central Asia and the EU's foreign policy toward the region.

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However, powers of the executive and legislative institutions of the EU are not clearly separated. The institutions have to cooperate in policy-making. With the Commission setting the agenda, it is up to the EP and the Council to come to a joint decision.

In contrast to the Westminster type of parliament and the American Congress, the EP is less influenced by party politics. MEPs are organized in factions formed by European parties. Nonetheless, voting behaviour is not only determined by affiliation with these groups, but is also influenced by national parties or governments (Rasmussen 2008; Withaker 2005). Party discipline is limited. However, with the extended use of the co-decision procedure, party membership has an increasing impact on the negotiation process, on the allocation of powerful committee positions (rapporteurs) and on voting behaviour. In this context, scholars have revealed an increasing impact of the traditional left-right cleavage (Hix, Noury, and Roland 2007), although others have pointed out the fragmentation and multidimensionality of the party system (Coman 2009; Maurer, Parkes, and Wagner 2008). Moreover, national orientations continue to play a role, though MEPs increasingly support European against national interests. Therefore, the structure of the Parliament has generated a kind of consensus democracy.

Consensus democracy requires that majority coalitions have to be negotiated for particular issues both in the EP and between the Parliament and the Council. As a consequence, the deliberative mode of policy-making in the EP has turned into a bargaining mode. When it lacked significant legislative powers, the Parliament had to publish reasoned opinions, mainly debated in the plenary and decided regardless of opinions of the Commission or the Council. This has changed. Since legislative tasks dominate the agenda, the EP has to coordinate its decisions with the Council and the Commission. In this context, committees play a decisive role. As a consequence, coordinators representing party groups and policy experts in committees, in particular the "rapporteurs," have gained power (Benedetto 2005; Costello and Thomson 2010). These actors are responsible for forming coalitions in the Parliament and for coordinating opinions with the other legislative institutions. The power of committees has become more significant with the tendency to end legislative processes by "early agreements" after the first reading (Rasmussen and Toshkov 2011). As

research has revealed, the tasks of rapporteurs for salient issues are distributed among party groups in a process of competitive voting. Inside groups, coordinators select individual members whom they expect to maximize party coherence regarding the legislation at stake (Hausemer 2006; Yordanova 2011). Nonetheless, policy specialists in the EP act in multiple relations to parties, to special interests often advanced by lobbyists, to national parties or governments, and to the respective Council committee (Yordanova 2009).

Decision-making inside the Parliament will continue to be influenced by party politics, national groups, and specialists in committees.

A further particularity adds to the complexity of structures and processes. In contrast to other types of parliaments, the EP is part of an emerging multi-parliamentary system. Relations between national parliaments and national groups in the EP have developed during the 1990s. Some national parliaments have included MEPs in their European Affairs Committees. With the subsidiarity control procedure introduced by the Lisbon Treaty these inter-parliamentary relations arguably have become more significant (Crum and Fossum 2009), in particular since the EP negotiated an inter-institutional agreement with the Commission requesting that both institutions cooperate on legislative initiatives and coordinate their relations with national parliaments. The emerging inter-institutional and inter-parliamentary relations can strengthen national groups as well as policy experts in the EP. To which extent this will counterbalance the relevance of European party groups is an open question.

Thus structures and processes in the EP clearly differ from what we can observe in national parliaments, regardless of which type of parliament we consider. Inside the Parliament, majorities on policy issues have to be negotiated in structures which are characterized by fluctuating and cross-cutting cleavages. The Lisbon Treaty increased the external linkages to institutions outside the Parliament. Co-decision with the Council became the ordinary procedure in legislation. The EP is also engaged in cooperation with the Commission. Finally, the new subsidiarity control can boost relations with national parliaments. Given these increasing tasks and the interlinked patterns of internal and external negotiations, parliamentary work has become more and more commit-

tee work and a matter of policy specialists. Yet, for these specialists, support from national parties and European party groups is highly important.

Since its first direct elections in 1979, the EP has turned from a deliberative, policy-influencing assembly into a policy-making parliament. Still, it constitutes a particular kind of parliament. There are no indications that changes caused by the Lisbon Treaty will bring the EP closer to one of the types we find at the national level. Decision-making inside the Parliament will continue to be influenced by party politics, national groups, and specialists in committees. The impact of these different patterns varies from policy to policy. But the relevance of all three dimensions of interaction structures has increased. Those who communicate with the Parliament have to take into account the complexity and variability of these structures.

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Biography

Arthur Benz is a Professor of Political Science at the *Technische Universität Darmstadt*, Germany. He is currently serving on the Advisory Board of the Centre for European Studies (EU Centre of Excellence) at Carleton University. In 2007/2008, Prof. Benz was the John G. Diefenbaker Scholar at Carleton University, Ottawa. Multilevel governance, comparative federalism and the role of parliaments are at the centre of his research. His publications include: *The Europeanization of Parliamentary Democracy* (2005, ed. with Katrin Auel) and *Governance and Democracy* (2006, ed. with Yannis Papadopoulos). He has published several articles in *Publius*, *West European Politics* and *Regional*

and Federal Studies. He has contributed to empirical and theoretical research on the effectiveness and legitimacy of national and European multilevel governance.

This article was produced for the policy workshop "The Expanded Powers of the European Parliament: Implications for the EU and Canada," held at Carleton University on March 28, 2011. The workshop was an activity of the Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue (www.canada-europe-dialogue.ca) housed by Carleton's Centre for European Studies. Presenters discussed the implications of the empowered European Parliament for the EU and its relations with third countries. Workshop materials will be available shortly on the website of the Canada-Europe Transatlantic Dialogue at www.canada-europe-dialogue.ca/publications

Commentary: Beyond the EU

EU Policy Towards the Broader Middle East: The Impact of Events in Tunisia and Egypt

Lauren Tognela, Carleton University

On February 16, 2011, Costanza Musu gave a talk at Carleton University's EUCE on **EU Policy towards the Broader Middle East: The Impact of Events in Tunisia and Egypt**. She is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. Here we provide a summary of her comments. In opening her talk, Professor Musu clarified that in using the expression "Broader Middle East" she refers to a region that includes the Middle East and North Africa.

The events in Tunisia and Egypt have left the rest of the world wondering what else is possible in the Arab world. These political events first started when Tunisia's protestors encouraged the stepping down of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, which resulted in a ripple effect felt in Egypt and now Libya (McKay 2011). While the initial grievances in Tunisia and Egypt were based on economics, including food, inflation, and high unemployment rates, they quickly turned into concerns over poor governance, corruption, and lack of democracy. The dramatic events in these countries may have strong implications for the EU's policies and interests in the region.

The presentation limited the discussion to the Mediterranean region as this area includes both EU member states and Arab countries. The EU has been interested in the broader Mediterranean region because of its geographi-

cal proximity to EU member states, historical ties, migration concerns, and the clear North/South divide in relation to economic development. There is also a fear that these countries might become a breeding ground for terrorism, which could affect European stability.

The bulk of Professor Musu's presentation focused on specific EU policies including: the Barcelona Process (1995), the first Common Strategy towards the Mediterranean (2000), the Quartet for Peace in the Middle East (2002), the first Security Strategy (2003), the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) (2004), and the French Presidency's Union for the Mediterranean (2008).

One of the most intriguing aspects of the presentation was the comparison of the ENP with the Barcelona Process. The Barcelona Process was created as an effort by EU member states to rebalance the focus on Eastern Europe and try to conceptualize European interests in the region. The Barcelona Process was a multilateral approach and allowed little flexibility in dealing with individual Arab countries. In contrast, the ENP is based on a bilateral mechanism, allowing the EU to adjust its policies and approaches, depending on each country's situation. Neither policy, however, gave prospects for EU membership for the African countries involved.

Professor Musu concluded her presentation by focusing on the hesitant reaction of the

EU to recent events in Tunisia and Egypt. Although the reaction has been slow, Professor Musu noted that this was typical of the way other countries responded as well. There is a paradoxical problem of how external countries should react but still not interfere with the country's domestic policies. Ultimately Professor Musu concluded that Europe now has to focus on endorsing democratic transition but also come to terms with the role of political Islam in the region. She noted that Western states are not used to dealing with Islamic groups, and often tend to view them as a uniform actor, failing to see the nuances in their political platforms and approaches.

References

McKay, Emad. 2011. "Europe is not Tunisia, But..." *Inter Press Service News Agency*, January 15, 2011. Accessed February 17, 2011 from <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54143>.

Biography

Lauren Tognela is a Master's student in the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at Carleton University. She works as a Research Assistant at the Centre for European Studies and is interested in minority rights and EU integration in the Western Balkans.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

CARLETON UNIVERSITY www.carleton.ca/ces

Conference

Taking Stock of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

Date: April 12th, 2011

Location: 55 Laurier East, Desmarais Building, Room 3120, University of Ottawa

Conference

The European Union, Canada, and the Arctic: International Policy on the Arctic

Date: September 22-23, 2011

Time: All day

Location: Senate Room (6th floor), Robertson Hall, Carleton University

Deadline for Call for Papers: April 10, 2011

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY www.euce.dal.ca

Workshop: Migration Parallels between the EU and Canada: Trajectories of Policy and Power

Date: April 8, 2011, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Location: Kenneth C. Rowe Management Bldg, Room 5053, Dalhousie University, Halifax. This event is co-sponsored by the Citizenship and Social, Cultural, and Civic Integration of the Atlantic Metropolis Centre, the EUCE, and Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

EUCE Fifth Annual Research Conference

The EU and Transatlantic Relations: Security and Political Economy Issues.

Date: April 10-12, 2011

Location: Room 1020, Kenneth Rowe Management Building, Dalhousie University, 6100 University Avenue, Halifax, NS

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL/McGILL UNIVERSITY

www.centreurope-montreal.ca

30 ans de politiques européennes urbaines et environnementales : quel bilan?

Date: April 5, 2011

Speaker : Prof. Patrick Le Galès, Centre d'études européennes, Sciences Po, Paris

What performance? From economic performance to corporate citizenship in Europe and North-America: the changing nature of corporations and its impact on the role of directors and officers.

Date: April 21, 2011

International colloquium organized by McGill University's Centre for Intellectual Property Policy, Université de Montréal's Centre de recherche en droit public, with support from EUCE and other research units.

The first week of May, the EUCE will welcome the Brussel's based journalist, Jean Quatremer, author of *Les coulisses de Bruxelles*, a blog located at the following address: bruxelles.blogs.liberation.fr/

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO/UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

www.utoronto.ca/europe/index.html

<http://web.uvic.ca/europe/euce.php>

University of Toronto:

Fifth Annual Workshop

European Union for Secondary School Students

Date: April 6th, 2011.

Judicial Politics and the Governance of Religious Diversity

EUCE co-sponsored event

Date: April 29-30, 2011.

University of Victoria (please check website for details):

Lingering Death, Absorption and Replacement: Why Older Parties Rarely Fade Away

Date: April 20, 2011

Speaker: Dr. Steven B. Wolinetz (Visiting Professor)

The University of Victoria is also looking forward to welcoming a Visiting Scholar for the Summer 2011 Session, Dr. David Howarth, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Political Science at the University of Edinburgh and the Jean Monnet Chair. He will be teaching **POLI 433/ECON 485: Europe and the Global Crisis.**

YORK UNIVERSITY www.yorku.ca/euce

Faculty Conference

Adversarial Legalism à l'Européen

Dates: April 28-29, 2011

Location: Glendon Campus, York University

This conference is being convened by Prof. Dagmar Soenneken (School of Public Policy and Administration, York University) and will include contributions from scholars based in Europe, Canada, and the United States. For more information, please write soennec@yorku.ca

EU Affairs Seminar

Making Multi-Level Public Management Work: Lessons from Europe and North America

Dates: June 21-22, 2011

Location: Glendon Campus, York University

This event is being convened by Prof. Ian Roberge (Political Science, Glendon Campus, York University) and Prof. Denita Cepitku (EUCE York Visiting Scholar/Political Science, University of Rome). For more information, please write iroberge@glendon.yorku.ca



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