



FOLLOW-UP: CLIMATE CHANGE
COP 21: AN ANNOUNCED FAILURE...OR A
LAST MINUTE AGREEMENT?



THE SPECIAL GUEST:
IED welcomed EU Commissioner



THE FIRST WINTER ACADEMY:
"BEYOND THE GLOOMY PRESENT: YOUR
DEMOCRATIC IMPULSE!"

GETTING TO KNOW OUR WORK



EDITORIAL

2015 has been a very fruitful year for the numerous activities of our Institute, both in terms of topics discussed and for the dynamics of the events organised with our partners in Europe. This newsletter relates some of these nice moments with a special mention to the first Winter Academy of the next generation.

In 2016, the Institute of European Democrats will expand its activities and will continue to promote the European project in a context which has never been so challenging. A good reason to be more convinced that the European Union is the best tool we have to find appropriate and efficient common policies.

Luca Bader
Chief Executive Officer

The follow up...COP21: an announced failure or a last minute agreement?

IED in partnership with the French political party, Mouvement Démocrate (MODEM), organised on 15th October 2015 a public conference to understand *the background as well as the challenges of the Paris Climate Conference COP21*. MEP Marielle de Sarnez, Yann Wehring, spokesperson of MODEM for sustainable development issues, and Jacqueline Gourault, Vice-President of the Senate, hosted the conference at the French Senate. Experts, high-level civil servants and activists tackled the topic from different perspectives assuming that climate change is an irreversible and very dangerous phenomenon if governments and citizens do not take quickly the appropriate measures. Brice Lalonde, former Minister and former UN Ambassador on Climate, pointed out that one first important solution would come through the non-use, as soon as possible, of fossil fuels. As they were at the basis of the economic growth and human development, modern societies are far from that goal. Other alternatives have to be firmly explored, hoping also that technology may provide in the long run some solutions to capture the Co2. Mathieu Orphelin, spokesperson of the Nicolas Hulot Foundation, reinforced this statement reaffirming the necessity of establishing a price on carbon, since it is the principal source of pollution. Concerning the EU, Davide Triacca, Scientific Coordinator of "Centro per un Futuro Sostenibile", think tank based in Roma, mentioned how the European Commission was for some years a "champion" setting in that field and seems losing its pace for different reasons. Riccardo Valentini, Professor at the University of Tuscia and member of IPCC (Nobel Prize 2007), proclaimed that acting now is more than a need and stressed the importance of the forests. Kamel Ben Naceur, from the International Energy Agency, highlighted some objectives which should be shared by all, such as the five years revision, the comprehensive agreement with all stakeholders and the same metrics for all to better compare the national commitments. Francesco Rutelli, Co-President of the EDP and former Major of Rome, and François Bayrou, President of MODEM and Co-President of the EDP closed the debate recalling that some of the decisions that we will need to take during the COP21 could also be seen as a matter of Civilisation. Beyond the possible agreement among the 195 countries, much more need to be done to preserve our earth in a sustainable condition for human beings.

The special guest: IED welcomed EU Commissioner Marianne Thyssen



The Institute of European Democrats co-organised a debate with MEP Marian Harkin on 13th November 2015 at the Maynooth University, Co Kildare (Ireland) on ***Free Movement and labour Mobility across the EU***. Opening the event, the Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, ***Marianne Thyssen*** rolled out Europe's Vision for fair labour mobility, ahead of the Commissions Mobility package to be soon released. The Commissioner stated that the free movement of persons is a cornerstone of the European Union. Labour mobility promotes

knowledge transfer, innovation and human capital development, which are essential in a context of quick technological change and global competition. It creates interaction between EU citizens, and – if the conditions are right – it can improve mutual understanding and contribute to making European societies more tolerant and inclusive. Taking into consideration these remarks, the European Commission will no cease its effort in promoting labour mobility based on equal treatment but considering *de facto* the increasing challenges: social dumping, discrimination concerning wage conditions or welfare access among others.

Following the Commissioner's speech, MEP Harkin moderated two panels representing EU policy makers, academics and economists that examined first the ***myths and realities*** around free movement in the EU and the second one a ***wider EU perspective*** from countries such as the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Poland. The first panel underlined the emotions that arise when dealing with free movement of people because most European citizens ignore the factual content and implications of this right. This is the obligation of politicians to fill such gap. The second panel drew the attention to some specific aspects and consequences of work migrations from Central and Eastern Europe. It was highlighted that free movement is an asset for rural environment since they will get remittances but, of course, there are some consequences: brain drain and ageing of the population.



Few days before the event, David Cameron, UK Prime Minister sent a letter to Donald Tusk, President of the European Council outlining the four areas (economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty and migration) in which he would like to negotiate a new settlement for his country. The ***Brexit*** debate and the potential consequences have been capturing presence in media and think-tanks. The final panel has discussed its side-effects for the Irish labour market and the EU. John Bruton, former Taoiseach, and Dick Roche, former Minister for European Affairs engaged in a stimulating exchange of opinions emphasising the necessity for a profound dialogue searching for a mutual understanding.

The First Winter Academy: “Beyond the gloomy present: your Democratic impulse!”

The IED and the Young Democrats for Europe – EDP Youth (YDE) co-organised the first edition of the Winter Academy: “Beyond the gloomy present – your Democratic impulse!” on 18th and 19th December 2015 in Brussels. Young assistants with diverse backgrounds, coming from 15 European countries had the opportunity to gather together in an analytical environment and discussed current and pivotal EU issues: youth employment; climate change, Ukraine and the Eastern Partnership as well as the migration including the Syrian war.

The working method of the Academy allowed high-level experts to introduce the topics and afterwards the participants could engage in the debate. The *Youth employment* situation in Europe was addressed by MEP Claude Rolin, and Henri Malosse, former President of the European Economic and Social Committee. Both made emphasis on the emergency of drafting a European framework concerning the labour and young people. The exchange of experiences and the mobility should drive that common project.



Marinella Davide, Researcher in the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Programme of Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Wilhelm Bargum, Policy adviser on environment from ALDE Group, introduced the *COP21* conference elucidating on what objectives and upcoming developments were discussed in Paris. The debate centred the attention on the EU initiatives and more particularly the Energy Union Package. The omission of the possibility of a global carbon tax that could help to achieve the decarbonisation of our societies was mentioned as a negative result of the Paris agreement.

As Federica Mogherini submitted the last revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy on 18th November 2015, the *Eastern Partnership* along with the *Ukrainian crisis* have been discussed in the third session of the Academy. Stepan Berko, MP assistant and Head of the legal department, Samopomich political group at the Verkhovna Rada, and Mihai Sebe, Expert in Romanian and European Politics, stressed the importance of the Eastern borders of the EU. Both underlined that the 28 Member States cannot ignore the claim from the Ukrainian government for establishing stronger ties with the EU and the conflict provoked by the Russian intervention is far from being stabilised. The High Representative’s last communication proposed some potential decisions to revitalise the mutual relations.



After the Arab Spring, the winds of democracy have led to an area of instability and insecurity. Mathieu Baudier, EDP adviser for Central Europe and Levant, and Jeremy Van Gorp, Parliamentary assistant of MEP Louis Michel, explained the current situation in *Syria* and the migration pressure on the *Schengen* area. In some countries, the humanitarian crisis pushes the authorities to non-cooperative supranational behaviours and exposes the EU to potential and dangerous decisions for the freedom of movement.



Check the video of the event!

Our last Events:

TTIP-facts, opportunities and risks-implications for our society

IED Conference in collaboration with Sabino Arana Foundation

Bilbao, 27th November 2015

The event was co-organised by the IED and the Sabino Arana Foundation with the participation of MEP Izaskun Bilbao. The Conference intended to *clarify the status of the negotiations as well as to point out the main difficulties* to obtain a deal between the EU and USA. Another aim was to provide a platform for debating on the advantages and risks the entry into force of the TTIP could bring in the European economies.



A point of view:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: Is the TTIP of interest to Europeans?

Prof. Juan José Álvarez Rubio, Chair of Private International Law, University of the Basque Country

Although the citizens are getting aware of its presence little by little even in a silent approach, the TTIP, whose negotiations opened in July 2013, is progressing in its process of conclusion. In this negotiation many issues are at stake such as: our model of European society; protection of consumers; protection of our standards regarding health matters; food safety; regulation of financial services; conception of public services or environment protection among others. Are we conscious of the scope of this future agreement? Can we be blind before the immense amount of 119,000 billion euros that the conclusion of the TTIP would provide? Taking into account that the majority of European companies are of small size, will the TTIP strengthen or weaken their situation? Will the legal instrument foster the liberalisation of public services that would cut down rights of citizens in fields such as health or education? Will it mean a victory of markets over States? Will this agreement erase the net of protection that the crisis has evidenced necessary in order to stop abuses and deviant behaviours emanating from the fact of leaving market law to regulate the economy in a quasi-absolute form?



These and other questions shall be answered during the process of negotiation. To demonise or to enthrone an agreement, without holding all the exhaustive info and “small letter”, supposes certain rush in the judgment. Therefore, we, as citizens, and the European institutions, as guardians of our social system, have the right and obligation to know the content in order to complete a value judgement in full critical awareness. The credibility of the institutions are at stake because if they opt to forfeit our rights, achievements of our social model and guarantee of basic principles for the construction of a pacific and reasonably harmonised trade, in favour of the liberalisation of the transatlantic commerce, citizenship will oppose due to that fact that they will not understand the benefits of that so-called trade liberalisation. The key lies in setting imperative red-lines that cannot be overcome under any claim in pro of the market freedom. Many uncertainties will be only clarified with the formulation of the agreement. And the first political measure has to be focused on obtaining all plausible information in order to deepen and analyse its effects on future generations. ***There are too much at stake!***

Cyprus and the geopolitical development of the Eastern Mediterranean

IED Conference in collaboration with Citizens' Alliance
Nicosia, 4th December 2015

Contribution of Marina Demetriou

President Women Alliance



The new Cyprus party Citizens' Alliance has recently become an official member of the European Democratic Party and of the Institute of European Democrats. This important conference was held in Nicosia to signal the beginning of a solid and successful membership. This event gave the opportunity to the participants to *exchange views and ideas around security concerns and how the vision and values of the European Union can apply today in the region vis-à-vis the geopolitical developments*. It was particularly interesting that this event took place in a EU Member State in the Eastern Mediterranean region that for the last 41 years has 37 % of its territory under Turkish military occupation. The unprecedented refugee crisis, which has seriously

affected the Eastern Mediterranean countries, has given all of us the opportunity to put down a number of questions and possible consequences of the events in the region.

-The civil war in Syria and the instability which followed has created a massive vague of refugees in to Greece and Italy mainly, coming from the shores of Turkey. This human crisis is now changing the social and economic conditions and influences the European demographic balance. In all this, Europe was proved to be unprepared and unable to foresee what was coming which in fact was the result of foreign intervention in the region.

-The role of Turkey in this regional crisis must be questioned, as Turkey is aspiring to become member of the European Union. The deep Islamic ideology of President Erdogan and his party as well as the «deep state» power within the country show clearly Turkey's ideological position which can only destabilise the region. The Northern part of Cyprus is under Turkish military occupation, Kurds are under oppression and war, Democratic Turkish citizens are being punished for expressing their views. To where is EU going with Turkey? The inevitable question which was put down during discussion was how can EU reward Turkey when it is obvious that Turkey is not working positively towards the regional peace and security?



This article will close with the epilogue of Yiorgos Lillikas intervention: «At this critical moment of history we bear witness of geopolitical changes which will inevitably affect the future of the Mediterranean peoples and the future of the peoples of the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. This is an additional reason why the solution to the Cyprus problem must above all be just and ensure a democratic, functional and viable state».



From the Eurozone to a “Euro Union”

IED-EuropaNova

Proceedings of the International Workshop in
Luxembourg, 26th-27th June 2015.

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