

EXACT Report on Dr. Regelsberger Course



Date: 26./27.10. ; 10.11.2010 ; 18./19.01. ; 01.02.2011

Authors: Leonhard den Hertog



'Professional approaches to foreign and security policy'

General description

The course taught by Dr. Regelsberger dealt with CFSP/CSDP in its full breadth. Special attention was given to the changes in this policy area brought about by the entry into effect of the Lisbon Treaty. Instead of taking a purely theoretical approach, the course took, as its title indicates, also a professional approach. This primarily amounted to speaking with experts in the field, both from the political realm as well as from the academic community. The course thereby also added to the development of the fellows' skills of interviewing, presenting and discussing. Dr. E. Regelsberger, a renowned expert in the field of CFSP/CSDP at the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) in Berlin, shared her knowledge and professional contacts with the fellows. Thereby they had great access to interesting experts in the field, both in Brussels as well as in Berlin. She was also present during the Initial Conference of the EXACT Programme where she gave excellent comments on current affairs in CFSP/CSDP during a round table on the first day. On the second day of the Initial Conference she commented on the fellows' research designs.

Overall course planning

Date	Time	Location	Activities
26 October 2010	10-17h	Brussels	Lecture on CFSP/CSDP Interviews with policy-makers
27 October 2010	10-17h	Brussels	Interviews with policy-makers Discussion on interviews and gained insights
10 November 2010	11-13.30h	Cologne	Preparatory talks on the Berlin Workshops
18 January 2011	13-21h	Berlin	Workshop on 'CFSP one year after the Lisbon Treaty'
19 January 2011	9-15.30h	Berlin	Workshop on 'CFSP one year after the Lisbon Treaty' Study visit to Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
1 February 2011	9-13h	Cologne	Examinations

Brief description of sessions

The first two days of the course took place in Brussels. Dr. Regelsberger started the off with a lecture on the institutional, legal and political structure of CFSP/CSDP after the Lisbon Treaty. She explained the development of the policy field over the years and the culmination of these changes into the current framework. She furthermore elaborated on the expected implementation of some of the innovations of the Lisbon Treaty. Subsequently, and drawing from this background knowledge, Dr Regelsberger and the fellows jointly prepared for the interviews which were to be conducted during the rest of the study visit to Brussels. Special attention was thereby given to the novel allocation of competences and the build-up of the EEAS. Over the course of the two-day visit Dr Regelsberger and the fellows interviewed five officials who prefer to remain anonymous. The first interview was conducted with a member of the Policy Unit within the Council of the rotating Presidency Member State (Belgium). The main topic of the interview was the way in which the Belgian Presidency operated under the new institutional framework. The following three interviewees were all Member States' ambassadors to the PSC. The most important topics in the discussions with them were also the new institutional structure for the PSC, concrete political priorities for CFSP, the set-up of the EEAS and the remaining role for the rotating Presidency. The last interviewee works within the Council and mainly highlighted the transition phase in which the CFSP operated. The Foreign Affairs Council and its post-Lisbon framework were also discussed. The visit to Brussels was rounded off by a discussion amongst the fellows and Dr Regelsberger to identify lessons learned. The fellows concluded that the interviews had been extremely helpful as they provided a rare inside view of CFSP/CSDP.

The second session consisted of a brief meeting on the set-up and division of tasks on the workshop in Berlin to be organised by the fellows and Dr Regelsberger. Topics discussed were the titles and topics of the workshop and its different sessions. All fellows were allocated a task as presenter, chair or discussant in the workshop's different sessions.

The two-day workshop in Berlin on 'CFSP one year after the Lisbon Treaty' consisted of several elements and was attended by a number of external academics. The keynote lecture was given by Dr Hans-Peter Jugel (European Correspondent of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in Berlin) who spoke about important developments within EU external action after the Lisbon Treaty. Subsequently, on the first day, the individual sessions prepared by the fellows were held around the theme of the EEAS. Three workshops focused on three different dimensions of this topic: the EEAS's relations with other EU institutions, its internal structure and set-up and its role in the external representation of the EU. The last speaker of the day was Mr Klaus Wolf (German Ministry of Home Affairs) who has worked on CDSP missions for many years. The main topic of the lecture was the recruitment and training activities for these missions. The second day consisted of two more workshop sessions on CSDP and strategic partnerships. Lastly, overall workshop conclusions were provided by Andrew Byrne, one of the EXACT fellows, and by Dr Regelsberger. After the end of the workshop the fellows and Dr Regelsberger visited the 'Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik'

(SWP), a renowned German think tank, and spoke with its Director of Studies, Ms Barbara Lippert. Main issues of discussion were the interaction between the SWP and policy-makers and the thematic and geographical focus of the SWP.

Evaluation

Based on an informal evaluation process with the fellows the following general conclusions can be drawn: The fellows appreciated the fact that they were truly able to participate in the course by interviewing experts and presenting their papers in the workshops. They highlighted thereby in particular that they found it highly interactive and innovative. The interviews with experts were seen as an exceptional chance to meet policy-makers in the field and this added greatly to the fellows' knowledge and experience. The fellows were also pleased with the open and flexible approach taken by Dr Regelsberger and felt that the level of the course was appropriate for PhD students. Points for improvements were also mentioned. In some ways, the interviews could have been prepared better by doing more research on the experts' work. The workshops could have improved if more external academics would have taken part. Furthermore, a more in-depth background lecture would be welcomed by the fellows. However, all in all the fellows surely enjoyed the course and found that the course helped them to further advance in their professional and academic development.