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Editing: Anthony Antoine & Claire Roche-Kelly
Pictures courtesy of IES

Congratulations!

On 2 October, the Faculty of Law of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* awarded IES researcher **Stephen Sevidzem Kingah** the title of **Doctor in Law**. Stephen defended his PhD on "Access to affordable HIV/AIDS medicines in SADC - Coherence of EC rules and policies" before his jury and the public. After careful deliberation, Stephen's doctoral committee (*photo below - from left to right: Stefaan Smis, Sebastian Oberthür, Erik Franckx, Serge Gutwirth, Karin Arts and Dean of the Law Faculty Guido Van Limberghen*) had no problem in awarding him his degree. The IES is very proud of its first doctoral success and wishes Stephen a sunny future ! Stephen currently works at the European Commission and will continue to be associated to the IES.

In his thesis, Stephen addresses the question to what extent the rules and procedures of the European Community (EC) are coherent with the goal of access to affordable HIV/AIDS medicines in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This question implies a number of sub-questions that the thesis implicitly pursues, including: Does the EC pursue the aforementioned goal? If so, how effective are its efforts in this respect and to what extent are different EC rules and policies (including decisions of the European Court of Justice) aligned to contribute to this goal? To what extent do related EC efforts fall on fruitful ground in SADC itself or do SADC-specific factors hinder/undermine their effectiveness?

The thesis provides a detailed and knowledgeable analysis of relevant EC rules and policies, including

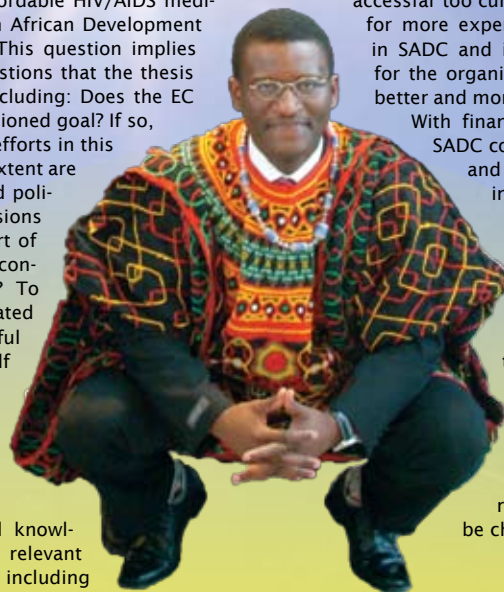
EC-SADC relations, as well as of the conditions within SADC.

Stephen concludes with a number of policy implications and suggestions for the European, the African and the International community (specifically the WTO) to improve access to affordable HIV/AIDS medicines in the SADC region. At EC level, Stephen calls, inter alia, for more coherence between the different Commission DGs that are involved in the process (Development, Trade, Enterprise, ...). He also embraces the growing involvement of the European Parliament in these matters.

At SADC level, Stephen regrets the low awareness level of the possibilities that exist to gain affordable access to HIV/AIDS medicines. Conversely, he finds the current procedures of the TRIPS and EC frameworks that allow that access far too cumbersome. He thus calls for more expertise (especially on IPR) in SADC and its member states, and for the organisation to come up with better and more aligned policy papers.

With financial help from the EC, SADC could even engineer a tax and subsidy plan that gives incentives to employers to medically treat their sick workers infected with HIV/AIDS.

Finally, at WTO level, Stephen argues that the tight conditions set for applicant countries to use the TRIPS system that could give them affordable access to medicines is a real burden and should be changed.



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Senior(s) Corner

SRF
Lewis
in India

At the beginning of November 2008, King Albert will make a state visit to India accompanied by a large delegation. This will include a substantial academic component from a number of Belgian universities, amongst which the VUB and more particularly the IES.

In preparation for the visit, Senior Research fellow **Richard Lewis** made a five day visit to New Delhi with the objective of initiating collaboration between the IES and one or more Indian research institutions. Richard is no stranger to India having been the desk officer for South Asia at the European Commission from 1980 to 1985. Since that time, India has experienced a liberalization of its economy and as a result a high growth rate, currently at 9% per annum. In addition the country is at the forefront of a number of high tech industries including space research, IT and medicine related technologies.

Richard visited a number of organizations in New Delhi to gain background and insight into the current academic scene. These included the Belgian and European Embassies, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

At Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) School of International Studies, Richard also gave a lecture on European immigration issues entitled "The New Europeans" and talked to Professor R.K. Jain and Dr Anil Bhatti, Vice Rector for International Affairs about the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the IES and JNU for the exchange of researchers and common research activities as well as sending Indian students to the IES Summer School.

As a result of this visit, it is anticipated that IES will be able to launch collaboration with one or more of these institutions during the King's visit. IES will be strongly represented, with Senior Researchers Richard Lewis and Theo Jans joining VUB Rector Paul De Knop and BICCS researcher Jonathan Holslag in New Delhi, where an IES-initiated conference on EU-India relations is scheduled.

SRF Eva Gross at the EUISS

Having been selected for a prestigious visiting research fellowship at the EU Institute for Security Studies last year, SRF **Eva Gross** spent part of the spring in Paris where she conducted an in-depth study of the EU's contribution to Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Afghanistan. The stay at the EUISS was immensely profitable on account of the available intellectual and policy resources both as they concerned Afghanistan and EU foreign policy more broadly. Apart from the opportunity of spending an extended period of time in Paris and therefore in highly agree-



able surroundings, Eva was also able to take full advantage of the networking opportunities that presented themselves as well as the opportunity to gain an insight into the internal workings of the EU's own policy think tank. Eva's stay at the EUISS concluded with a research seminar in which she presented her ongoing work and preliminary conclusions. The paper, which is tentatively titled 'SSR in Afghanistan - the EU's contribution' is currently under internal review and is scheduled to be published as an EU ISS Occasional Paper this Autumn.

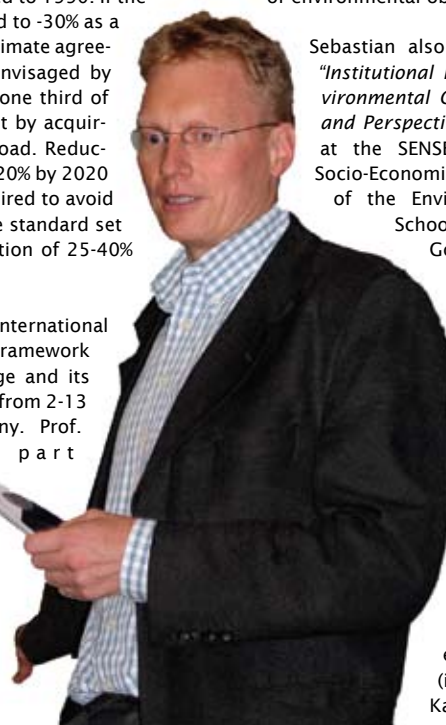
IES Academic Director on Climate Change ...

IES Academic Director **Sebastian Oberthür** attended the conference "Energising Europe" organised by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES) in London on 17 and 18 May 2008. Prof. Oberthür had specifically been invited to deliver a presentation on the panel "EU Policy on Climate Change - Critiquing the Acquis". In his intervention, Prof. Oberthür highlighted the progress made by the EU in the development of its internal climate policies especially since 2000. EU climate policies have increasingly contributed to limiting and reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases in the EU member states. In this respect, the climate-and-energy package of legislative measures presented by the European Commission in January 2008 would, if implemented, constitute another big leap forward. The new legislative measures could account for up to three quarters of the effort required to implement the European Council's commitment to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020 compared to 1990. If the EU commitment were increased to -30% as a consequence of a new global climate agreement under negotiation (as envisaged by the European Council), about one third of this commitment could be met by acquiring emission credits from abroad. Reducing domestic EU emissions by 20% by 2020 could fall short of what is required to avoid dangerous climate change: the standard set by scientific advice is a reduction of 25-40% in industrialised countries.

Sebastian also attended the international negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol that took place from 2-13 June in Bonn, Germany. Prof. Oberthür formed part of the German delegation to the climate negotiations that focus on elaborating a global climate change agreement for the period after 2012. These negotiations are to be concluded in December 2009 in Copenhagen. The negotiating session in Bonn brought

countries somewhat closer to this goal but did not achieve any major breakthrough. Further negotiating sessions are scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana in August and in Poznan in December of this year.

On 12 and 13 June 2008, Prof. Oberthür participated in the third conference of EPIGOV in Stockholm. EPIGOV is a coordination action on environmental policy integration and multi-level governance under the EU's 6th Framework Programme for Research. The IES is one of the nearly 20 partners participating in EPIGOV. Sebastian presented a research paper on "Managing the Interaction of International Institutions: Options for Environmental Policy Integration". The paper provides a systematic framework for analysing the management of the fragmented system of international institutions and identifies a number of options for advancing this management so as to enhance consideration of environmental objectives.



Sebastian also delivered a lecture on "Institutional Interplay and Global Environmental Change: State of the Art and Perspectives for Future Research" at the SENSE (Research School for Socio-Economic and Natural Sciences of the Environment) PhD Summer School 2008 on "Earth System Governance: Theories and Strategies for Sustainability" organised by the Institute for Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam from 24 - 31 August. It brought together a distinct international group of about 25 highly qualified PhD researchers working in European and international environmental governance in more than 10 different countries worldwide (including IES researcher Katja Biedenkopf).

5th edition of the IES Summer School

Between 7 and 18 July, the Institute for European Studies worked together with the Diplomatiscche Akademie Wien and the University of Vienna to organize the 5th edition of the Summer School on the European Decision-Making Process. With 29 participants selected from over 70 applications, the Summer School was a tremendous success. Participants traveled from 20 different countries



to study in Brussels between 7 and 13 July and in Vienna between 14 and 18 July. The transfer between the two cities was facilitated thanks to a



grant from the European Commission, DG Education, Jean Monnet Programme.

The Summer School, which has been led by Senior Research Fellow **Richard Lewis** and Executive Director **Anthony Antoine** since its inception, brings together academic experts and practition-

ers to teach about all aspects of European decision-making. Mixed with study visits to the European institutions and to the Belgian Federal Parliament, the Summer School aims to combine theory with practice. It finishes in Vienna with a simulation exercise on European foreign policy.

With the valuable assistance of IES staff Prof. Dr. **Maarten Theo Jans**, Dr. **Eva Gross**, **Ruben Lombaert** and **Alexandra Mihai**, the Summer School gained high academic standing. The IES was furthermore delighted to draw upon the expertise and contributions of **Pascale Lefevre**, **Jonathan Faul** and **Deborati Sapir**. In Vienna, at the Diplomatic Academy, Austria's finest experts gave further insight through full-day seminars. For the fifth time,



we were fortunate to welcome Prof. Aurel Schubert (Austrian National Bank), Gerhard Hafner (University of Vienna) and Hubert Isak (University of Graz). Richard Lewis and Ruben Lombaert engaged in the simulation exercise.

This Inter-University Summer School could not have taken place without the enthusiastic support of **Laila Macharis** at the IES and **Barbara Hoja** at the Diplomatic Academy, and all their colleagues who contributed to this programme.

Ben on the move !



On 6 May 2008 IES researcher **Ben Van Rompuy** attended the seminar 'The role of economic analysis in intellectual property law: implications for competition law', which was part of the UCL / Howrey Competition Law & Intellectual Property Lecture Series and focused on the growing importance of antitrust cases related to IPR and the growing role of economic analysis in antitrust law doctrine.

Ben also attended the 'Vertical restraints in comparative competition law' conference in Paris, on 23 May. The conference, jointly organized by the *Institut de droit comparé* (Paris) and the *University College London*, tackled current issues in EC competition policy towards vertical arrangements. It proved to be an interesting forum for Ben, who is also dealing with (vertical) anticompetitive agreements in his research on the resolution of conflicts between the goals of EC competition law and other public policy concerns under Article 81 EC.

A first roundtable addressed the implications of the traditional horizontal/vertical agreements dichotomy for so-called 'hybrid' agreements. A second roundtable explored the difficulties of finding a balance between the different objectives of EC competition law, in particular consumer welfare and market integration. A third roundtable discussed the law and economics of resale price maintenance in the US and in Europe. Professor Eleanor Fox (NYU School of Law) illustrated how the US Supreme Court, by adopting a rule of reason approach in the recent *Leegin* case (2007), overruled the hundred-year-old precedent of prohibiting resale price maintenance per se. In the following debate, a comparison was made with the treatment of resale price maintenance as a hardcore restriction in EC competition law. A fourth roundtable, finally, critically assessed the coherence of EC competition policy (Article 81, 82 and merger control) towards vertical relations producing anticompetitive foreclosure effects

Ben was also invited to give a presentation at the Brussels offices of Howrey LLP, an American law firm specialized in the areas of antitrust and intellectual property rights. During a work lunch meeting on 4 June, Ben first briefly introduced his doctoral research on the role of non-competition considerations (e.g., cultural diversity, universal services, industrial policy) in the application of the European antitrust rules in the audiovisual and telecommunications sectors. After this, he put forward three thought-provoking statements that acted as a starting point for an interesting discussion: (1) "It might be legitimate to pursue various non-competition considerations, but not within Article 81 EC", (2) "Article 81(3)'s direct applicability presupposes the absence of discretion in applying this norm" and (3) "If non-competition considerations play a role in an Article 81 EC assessment, this should be expressly stated and clearly specified". The exchange of views with Howrey's antitrust lawyers on these statements proved to be a very valuable input for Ben's research.

Finally, Ben obtained a grant from the FWO allowing him to continue his research for six months at New York University. He will be leaving for the States at the beginning of January and return to the IES in June. IES Management wishes him good luck!

PILC Graduation



The 35th year of the advanced Master programme on International and European Law (formerly known as the Programme on International Legal Cooperation, or 'PILC') ended in September when the second exam term came to an end. Of the record number of 42 students last academic year, 32 students passed. Three students graduated with the grade of *greatest distinction*: Mockaityte Indre, Mikita Erin and Sud Juh. Tim Graewert, Meital Goor, Dan-

iel Rewolinski, Aurore Touwaide and Melanie Jung graduated with great distinction. 14 students obtained *distinction*, while nine others passed satisfactory. The IES wants to congratulate all and wish them success in their further career ! We also want to extend our wishes for success to the 36 students of the next academic year. We hope to see them at the graduation party next June !

Alumni News

Former PILC student **Jan Werts** recently published a new book on 'The European Council'. Werts, one of PILC's first alumni, wrote the first doctoral dissertation on the European Council. His book is a must-read and can be ordered from <http://eubookshop.com>



Rethinking European Media and Communications Policies

Between February and May, the IES organised a lecture series on 'Rethinking European Media and Communications Policies'. Under the auspices of Prof. Dr. **Caroline Pauwels** (VUB), IES Senior Research Fellow Prof. Dr. **Harri Kalimo** and Prof. Dr. **Jukka Mähönen** (University of Turku), the IES Spring Lecture Series proved to be an enormous success.

On 16 April, three distinguished speakers addressed a packed lecture theatre on the topic of



'Public Service Broadcasting, Film Funding and State Aids in the New Media Environment'. Panelists were Mr. **Pedro Dias**, case handler at DG Competition; Mr. **Ross Biggam**, Director General of the 'Association of Commercial Television in Europe' (ACT), and; Ms. **Jeanne Brunfaut**, Chargée de mission for the Centre du cinéma et de l'audiovisuel of the French-speaking community of Belgium. Completing the panel were Caroline Pauwels and Harri Kalimo, who jointly chaired the lecture.

The presentations of the speakers provided various viewpoints on the issues of funding with regard to public and private broadcasters and the film industry in the context of the new media environment, stimulating much discussion and many questions from the audience. Mr. Dias presented a background to European involvement in issues of funding for public broadcasting services, dwelling on the current review of the broadcasting communication. Some of the objectives of this review, as Mr. Dias outlined, include increasing transparency and legal certainty, future-proofing the new framework, as well as implementing shared competencies between the European Commission and the Member States. Mr. Biggam then gave his presentation from the point of view of private broadcasters, calling for a clarification of the remit of public broadcasting, as well as supervision for the delivery of funds. He emphasised the continued unresolved structural issues, and the lack of legal certainty as presenting difficulties for the private broadcasting industry. The final presentation from Ms. Jeanne Brunfaut focused on the film industry, and on funding for filming. After giving some background into the policy documents governing funding of the film industry (such as the cinema communication of the European Commission), Ms. Brunfaut highlighted the necessity for transparency in funding, and of improving the coherence of European policies with international policies, from UNESCO, for example.

The audience was enthusiastic throughout the discourse - an indication of the informative nature of the lecture, and it was with some regret that time did not allow for all questions to be answered.

On 7 May, the IES lecture series had as guest speakers **Carole Tongue** (Associate Director, Sovereign Strategy) and **Emmanuel Cocq** (Policy officer, DG Information Society and Media) to touch upon the interrelationship between WTO trade policy and cultural policies.



At the outset, Carole Tongue expressed her concerns about the way in which the application of the WTO rules to the audiovisual sector could undermine the sovereignty of nations to adopt support measures to further cultural diversity. After highlighting the inherent tensions between the basic premises of the GATS and cultural policy objectives, she continued by stressing the importance of the adoption of the 'UNESCO Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity and cultural expressions'. According to Tongue, the Convention should be seen as a strong political recognition of the need to preserve cultural identities that will help the dialogue between economic and cultural actors involved in the debate.

Emanuelle Cocq, on the other hand, was doubtful whether the UNESCO Convention would be that useful. He emphasized how the special characteristics of the film and media sector, such as the concentrated distribution channels, renders it vulnerable to market imperfections. These imperfections risk diminishing cultural diversity in Europe. Thus, active intervention in certain parts of the sector is essential. Yet this is a poor excuse to make the World Trade Organization the scapegoat for ailing cultural policies: the WTO has to a great extent recognized the shortcomings of a purely economic model, and is not in conflict with active cultural policy.

To further explain his point of view, Mr. Cocq used the example of the French film industry. The French cinema had since the end of 1980s started rapidly losing markets in France and beyond, despite the French authorities drastic policy interventions. In fact, methods such as certain "automatic support" by the government had, for example, only reinforced the negative trend. Only a few well-established parts of the French film industry had received most of the support. While these parties' efforts in competing with imported cinema through

similarly large-scale productions had failed miserably, the culturally diverse smaller scale productions had at the same time been deprived of their means of survival. Thus, cultural policy had in fact turned into a camouflage for industrial protectionism. By rooting out this type of protectionism, the WTO can actually play an important role in protecting cultural diversity. It addresses static policy arrangements, whose complex nature hides favoritism for a few and leaves the effects on others into obscurity. Mr. Cocq therefore concluded that in the



global era, where the "nationality" of films is often neither clear nor relevant, cultural diversity should be addressed through other means. Convergence may offer important tools in striving towards genuine cultural diversity.

With these lectures, the lecture series on European Media and Communications Policies came to an end. The next lecture series will be on Climate Change, and will start in October 2008. Further info, including the programme, can be found at the end of this newsletter or on the IES website at <http://www.ies.be/>

IES Lectures on NATO TV



In the period from 10 April to 26 June 2008 the IES hosted a series of lectures by Dr Jamie Shea, Policy Planning Director in the Private Office of the NATO Secretary General. Talking about NATO's role past and present, Dr Shea gave the IES summer school students and various others a remarkable insider's view of the international political arena. All lectures were recorded on camera and are being broadcast on NATO's online television channel. For details, see the NATO website at <http://www.nato.int/>

New Publications from our Institute

IES Working Papers

Over the past few months, the IES published three new IES Working Papers that can be downloaded from our website <http://www.ies.be/publications/>

In **New Europeans. New Identities**, IES Senior Research Fellow **Richard Lewis** examines issues relating to the integration of immigrants, particularly Muslim immigrants, into European societies. It first contemplates whether a true European identity really exists. Building on the different conceptions of (European) identity, the paper claims that a sense of belonging is crucial in helping immigrants integrate into Europe. The paper also argues that identity is, actually, most relevant when it is under threat. The paper therefore looks at the nature of Muslim society in Europe and some of the reasons for disaffection in that population. While doing this, the paper compares the various models of integration in, for example, the United States, Canada and Israel with the attempt by a number of EU Member States to find satisfactory integration strategies. Also, the efforts of the European Commission to forge an acceptable integration framework through the principles elaborated following the Hague declaration in November 2004 are discussed. The paper concludes that integration is best approached by creating cohesive communities and loyalties at the local level.



In IES Working Paper 2, on **Swiss Banking Secrecy: the erosion of an institution**, former PILC student **Marie Lamensch** focuses on a central reason behind the success of the Swiss banking sector: the institution of banking secrecy, deeply enshrined in the Swiss history and tradition. The rapid development of international markets that eventually gave rise to a "group structuration process" has, however, progressively eroded Swiss banking secrecy. It has had to bend before the duty of transparency within the groups in order not to promote financial criminality through accelerated asset inflows. Switzerland has also had to develop a comprehensive legislative frame to tackle financial criminality, and to enter into international agreements providing for mutual assistance. This process has undoubtedly and irremediably weakened the Swiss banking secrecy. Most importantly, nevertheless, the questionable ethical and socio-economic grounds of this controversial institution could and should also start to erode it from within.



The WTO and Female Labour Rights in Developing Countries is a third IES Working Paper in which former PILC student **Viktoria Balciunaite** argues that the impacts of the WTO on women's labour rights in developing countries have been raised to the international agenda by various nongovernmental organizations. On the one hand it is assumed that international trade policies are gender neutral. On the other hand a number of authors hold the view that the negative impacts of WTO policies are more pronounced for female than for male workers. This paper takes a critical look at these claims. It argues that the impact of the WTO system, the driving force of trade liberalisation, on women's labour rights in developing countries is a complicated issue, because the effects have been both negative and positive. In support of this claim, this paper first briefly reviews the international framework for the protection of women's labour rights. Next, the WTO agreements and policies are analysed insofar as they are relevant for the protection of women's labour rights. The analysis covers, for example, the use of the trade policy review mechanism and restrictions of trade on grounds of violation of public morals. Finally, a case study is conducted on the situation of female workers in Bangladesh and Pakistan, countries that have recently undergone a liberalisation of trade in the textiles and clothing sectors. It is concluded that the increase of international trade in developing countries has created many work opportunities for women, has helped them to become more independent and has allowed them to participate more actively in society. However, it is at the same time posited that, in order to comply with its own objectives of raising standards of living and full employment, the WTO should engage itself in active policies to overcome the negative aspects of trade on female workers in developing countries.

Articles and other publications

Next to the three IES Working Papers, IES researchers (names in bold) recently published articles in various academic journals:

Karen Donders & Caroline Pauwels (2008) Does EU Policy Challenge the Digital Future of Public Service Broadcasting? An analysis of the Commission's State aid approach to digitization and the public service remit of public broadcasting organizations. In: *Convergence: the International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*, Vol. 14, Nr. 3, 295-311.

Eva Gross, 'EU crisis management in the Western Balkans' in *The European Union and Crisis Management Policy and Legal aspects*, p 311-325, T.M.C. Asser Instituut, Den Haag 2008

Sebastian Oberthür and **Claire Roche Kelly**, EU Leadership in International Climate Policy: Achievements and Challenges, in: *The International Spectator* 43: 3 (September 2008), 35-50.

Sebastian Oberthür, Die Vorreiterrolle der EU in der internationalen Klimapolitik: Erfolge und Herausforderungen, in: *Politische Bildung* 41: 2 (2008), 39-57.

Thomas Gehring and **Sebastian Oberthür**, Interplay: Exploring Institutional Interaction, in: Oran R. Young/Leslie A. King/Heike Schroeder (eds.), *Institutions and Environmental Change: Principal Findings, Applications, and Research Frontiers*, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press 2008, 187-223.

Sebastian Oberthür and Thomas Gehring, Disentangling the Interaction between the Cartagena Protocol and the World Trade Organization, in: Oran R. Young, W. Bradnee Chambers, Joy A. Kim and Claudia ten Have (eds.), *Institutional Interplay: Biosafety and Trade*, Tokyo: UN University 2008, 94-127.

Gonzalez Fuster, Gloria, De Hert Paul and Gutwirth Serge (2008), "SWIFT and the vulnerability of transatlantic data transfers", *International Review of Law, Computers & Technology*, 22(1), pp. 191-202.

Gloria Gonzalez Fuster and Serge Gutwirth (2008), Data Protection in the EU: Towards 'Reflexive Governance'?, *REFGOV Working Paper Series*, FR-19, available on-line: <http://refgov.cpdr.ucl.ac.be/?go=publications>

Gloria Gonzalez Fuster and Serge Gutwirth (2008), "Privacy 2.0?", *Revue du Droit des Technologies de l'Information*, Issue 32, pp. 349-359.

Ben Van Rompuy, Case comment: Implications for the Standard of Proof in EC Merger Proceedings, *Bertelsmann and Sony Corp of America v. Impala* (C-413/06), ECJ, *European Competition Law Review*, nr. 10, September 2008.

Ben Van Rompuy & Caroline Pauwels, "The European Commission's re-examination of the Sony BMG merger: a precedent-setting attempt to jump the fence", *GCP Online Magazine for Global Competition Policy*, July 2008, nr. 2.

Researchers also presented papers at various conferences, and published opinion papers in Belgian leading newspapers:

Alexander Mattelaer (with Jonathan Holslag) in *De Standaard* (12/08/08) "De terugkeer van de geopolitiek" and in *De Morgen* (27/08/08) "Voor een ernstig debat over buitenlandse operaties"; and **Karen Donders** in *De Standaard* (27/08/08) "Eubemoeienis?"

ASCEE

On May 29, the IES hosted an expert workshop on sustainable consumption policy in the framework of "ASCEE," a EU-funded research project. This event brought together experts and professionals from a wide array of fields, including public administration, research, the private sector and civil society. The diversity of participants and speakers not only brought together diverging views, but also deepened the discussion so as to cover the usual disciplinary blind spots. The lively discussions and comments produced valuable input and contributions to the further work and finalisation of the ASCEE project.

The IES organizers (Prof. Dr. **Harri Kalimo**, **Katja Biedenkopf**, **Ólöf Soebeck** and **Bruno Turnheim**) and the rest of ASCEE Team were very pleased with the workshop, as were the representatives of the European Commission, who financed the Project. Presentations and discussion were structured around the major outcomes of the ASCEE project: a summary report of 16 months of European-wide investigation on policies to address sustainable consumption and a set of practical policy recommendations. The Project findings will be further refined as a consequence of the valuable inputs in the workshop.

Following a welcoming note by the IES Academic Director, Sebastian Oberthür and by Nicole Dewandre, Head of the Sustainable Development Unit, DG Research of the European Commission, the workshop was split into 4 sessions and a concluding session organized as follows:

- Session 1: Setting the scene: European SCP policies
- Session 2: Selected results of the ASCEE project
- Session 3: Views of external commentators and open discussion

Session 4: Views of external commentators and open discussion
Concluding considerations
Dr. Frieder Rubik, IÖW, Heidelberg

A useful and successful day

The input from participants, apart from the extremely valuable presentations, comments and discussion, was also collected with the help of a questionnaire that was to be filled in by all participants.

Participants, including delegates from the European Commission, acknowledged the usefulness of this workshop, and of the project's work to date. The liveliness of the discussion is just one indication of the interest and novelty of such research in contributing to the debate towards what could some day be a comprehensive sustainable consumption policy.

The sole disappointment was the delay of the presentation of the Commission's Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan. On the other hand the postponement further attests to the complexity of SCP as a policy issue, just as the situation has been framed by ASCEE. Indeed, the ASCEE workshop had originally been planned to focus also on the SCP Action Plan. Thus, as the discussion could, regrettably, not cover the issue, it is hoped that the outcomes of the workshop will feed into the currently heated debate on a common EU SCP strategy.

For further information on the ASCEE project, see <http://www.ies.be/ascee>

A more detailed version of this article, with the proceedings of the workshop and downloadable material is available at <http://www.ies.be/>

New research network

The IES has become a member of the European Concerted Research Action on "The Transformation of Global Environmental Governance: Risks and Opportunities (TGEG)" (COST Action ISO802). The COST Action was initiated by the Institute for Environmental Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and so far assembles researchers and institutes from six different European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom). The Action receives funding through the European Science Foundation (ESF) for its networking activities. It will become operational with the first meeting of its management committee at the end of October 2008 and is scheduled to run for a period of four years. IES Academic Director Sebastian Oberthür will serve on the management committee of the Action, that remains open to further interested members.

The COST Action on TGEG addresses the current transformation of global environmental governance that is characterised by (i) increasing trans-nationalisation, that is, the growing relevance of public and private actors beyond national governments; (ii) increasing supra- and trans-governmentalisation, that is, growing relevance of transnational and supranational institutions; and (iii) increasing fragmentation, that is, increasing segmentation of the policy process through additional layers of decision-making and parallel regulatory systems. The Action is designed to enable researchers in the field to form a network for concerting their ongoing research so as to advance knowledge about the causes and consequences of the transformation of global environmental governance as well as about its effectiveness, legitimacy and robustness. The Action is also intended to increase the ability of policy-makers, business representatives and civil society to understand and influence current environmental governance.

IES obtains FWO project

Under the title "Governance through Regulatory Complexes: The International and European Management of Genetic Resources", IES Academic Director **Sebastian Oberthür** obtained a contract from the Flemish Science Fund (FWO). Under his supervision, PhD researcher **Justyna Pozarowska** (photo) will pursue the research for the next four years, herewith strengthening the IES research cluster on Environment and Sustainable Development.

The project itself aims at advancing research on international and European governance by exploring the evolution and combined effects of regulatory "complexes" in the area of access to and benefit sharing from genetic resources (ABS). Whereas research has traditionally focused on the creation, development and effects of individual



international institutions and European legislative instruments, the proliferation of these regulatory frameworks increasingly calls for a more integrated investigation of institutional/regulatory complexes.

Due to the advances of modern biotechnology, Access to and Benefit Sharing from genetic resources (ABS) is a topical and dynamically evolving issue-area that is co-governed by various international institutions and European legislative instruments. ABS covers a broad range of issues and aspects, including domesticated and wild genetic resources (ex situ/in situ) of plants, animals, and micro-organisms. Wild genetic resources are particularly relevant for "white biotechnology" (pharmaceutical and chemical industries). It is therefore co-governed

by various international and European regulatory frameworks (among the most important international frameworks regulating ABS are: CBD, WTO-TRIPS, WIPO, FAO, UPOV, Directive 98/44/EC).

Building on previous related research, the project will contribute both conceptually and empirically to this cutting-edge area of research. The research aims to explore the evolution and combined consequences of regulatory "complexes" governing access to and benefit sharing from genetic resources (ABS). It will thus make a twofold contribution to existing knowledge. First, the project will generate general knowledge about, and further develop the conceptual framework for analysing, the interplay and co-governance of international institutions and European legislative instruments. Second, the project will create systematic and detailed knowledge about the institutional/regulatory complexes that govern ABS.

Muslim integration in Brussels and Detroit

New Report highlights possible improvements of Muslim prospects in Brussels: More effort needed in education and social services

The IES working with the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University in Detroit has published its long awaited report on issues relating to the integration of Muslim immigrants in the two cities. The study was prepared for and financed by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and was presented officially to the public at a press conference at IES premises on September 11th.



Detroit has a Muslim population estimated at 300.000, the largest urban concentration of Muslims in the United States, and Brussels, 170.000 (or 17% of its population). There are therefore sound practical reasons for researchers in both locations to work together.

The report's outcome is based on the findings of a field trip that took place in March of this year to the American and Canadian mid west. They are founded on the observations of experts working at grass roots level in various fields of immigrant (and particularly Muslim) integration in both Brussels and Detroit. There was also a field trip to the Canadian city closest to Detroit, Windsor, Ontario. A range of fields was discussed, including anti-racism and anti-discrimination policies, policing, housing policy, cultural exchange and education. The project has succeeded in forming teams of field workers and academics on both sides of the Atlantic who are enthusiastic about continuing contacts and working together on a topic which has major social and political implications.

In spite of the clear differences in the history, geography and the socio-economic conditions in these cities, as well as prevailing political cultures, both sides considered that here was much to be learnt from each other. Recent studies by other American research centres have revealed that

Muslim-Americans are economically better off and better educated than their European counterparts, including in Brussels. Muslim immigrants in Brussels tend to be from rural areas of North Africa or Turkey rather than from the Middle East, as in Detroit. Muslim-Americans attain a higher educational level than their counterparts in Brussels with a greater proportion earning university degrees than the general US population. This is helped by the fact that their education levels are higher upon arrival in America, but also reflects the more rapid upward economic mobility of immigrants in the United States. This upward mobility seems to be the key to success in making Muslims in the United States feel that they have a stake in society and helps promote loyalty to their new country.

The meetings revealed that the issues that Muslims face are not very different from those of other immigrants but that they face discrimination and hostility to their religion and culture, especially after the events of September 11th 2001 and the London and Madrid bombings. Muslims also have special needs in the practice of their religion which leads to the conclusion that there needs to be more flexibility in the work place to accommodate them.



The report highlights that the emphasis should be on the education and training of young Muslims to permit their insertion into the work place and remove economic disadvantages. The private sector, as the economic motor on both sides of the Atlantic needs to become more involved. In addition the report emphasises that there are no policy formulae to be applied for immigrant integration to succeed, but that a bottom-up approach and working at the local level in the local community and neighbourhood stands the best chance of success. The report recommends amongst other things the continuing exchange of immigrant integration specialists between Brussels and Detroit.

The report can be downloaded from our website.

IES VACANCIES

Events Co-ordinator: The events-co-ordinator will help organise various events and academic services of the Institute for European Studies. He or she will be responsible for planning (room reservation, logistics, ...), the creation and dissemination of information and publicity, and the overall organization of events. He/she will support management in the daily functioning of the Institute. Under the auspices of the Executive Director and within the team of the Management Secretariat / E-learning and Training Unit, the events-co-ordinator will organize training sessions, lectures, conferences and colloquia and design and disseminate promotional material (posters, folders, website, mailings, ...). The IES seeks dynamic people who are energetic and punctual, creative, and ICT-literate (ie can work with MS Office, Filemaker, Indesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver). Candidates with a diploma of (minimum) higher education and a background in marketing, PR or events-organisation can apply before 20 October 2008.

Office/financial manager: The office manager will be responsible for the daily acquisitions of the Institute for European Studies. He or she will be responsible for the financial follow-up, the bookkeeping and the internal planning (rooms, logistics, acquisitions). The incumbent will support management in the daily working of the Institute. Under the auspices of the Executive Director, the Office Manager will assume the general (daily) acquisitions for the IES and its staff, input and follow-up of orders (acquisitions), payments and invoicing and adaptation of the bookkeeping, and preparation of administrative and financial reporting and other internal publications. The IES seeks a dynamic person who is responsible, energetic and punctual, has notions of bookkeeping and bookkeeping programs, is fluent in ICT (Internet, MS Office, Filemaker) and wants to work fulltime. Candidates with a diploma of (minimum) higher education and a background in bookkeeping / secretariat / management and/or useful work experience can apply before 20 October 2008.

More information and application forms can be found on our website:

<http://www.ies.be/iesvacancies/>

New faces @ the IES



At the beginning of October, IES' management assistant **Laila Macharis** started her maternity leave. Laila, who is expecting a baby early November, will be replaced in her absence by **Michiel Foulon**.

Michiel Foulon, who recently graduated from the Hogeschool Universiteit Brussel (HUB). He holds a professional BA in business management from KHLeuven and a BA and MA commercial science from EHSAL/HUB. Michiel will be assisting management for (at least) the next four months.

Assistance at the secretariat is also ensured through three new students who will be working at the IES throughout the next academic year. **Lawrence Steenstra**, a VUB student Applied Eco-

nomics (Toegepast Economische Wetenschappen) and **Stijn Callewaert & Ashley Hennekam**, two VUB students Adult Education Science (Agogische Wetenschappen) started working at the IES secretariat in October.

Over the summer, the IES has further enjoyed the help of students **Stijn** and **Elisabeth De Vleeschshauer** (History and Communication Sciences), **Basiel Vinck** (History) and of PILC-student **Melanie Jung**. Thanks to all for your support !

New lecture series on Climate Change

Climate change has taken centre stage in European and international politics. The fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), released in 2007, confirmed that climate change is one of the most serious threats to international security and the well-being of human kind. At the European level, climate change has become a major agenda item regularly discussed by the European Council. Internationally, the issue has become one of "high politics". Since 2005, it has been a top priority of the G-8 Summits, and both the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly placed it high on their agendas in 2007. World leaders are rallying to achieve a new global deal for combating global warming under the UN Framework Convention

on Climate Change by the end of 2009. Overall, there is hardly any high-level political encounter in which the issue is not discussed.

The European Union has established itself as the most prominent international leader on the issue. It has been one of the most fervent supporters of

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and it is currently again striving to assert its leadership in the ongoing efforts to reach a new global agreement by the end of 2009. The EU has increasingly underpinned its international leadership position with domestic action. Most prominently, it introduced a greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme in 2005. In 2007 and 2008, the European Commission furthermore tabled major legislative proposals to implement the EU's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% increasing the share of renewable energies to 20% by 2020.

das, there is an increasing demand for information, analysis, discussion and reflection. The news media now regularly address climate change and climate policy has been presented as an important driver and rationale for advancing European integration. However, comprehensive overviews of the most relevant European and international regulatory frameworks and policies – and the interconnections between them – remain rare. What are the prospects for the EU keeping its international leadership and brokering a new global deal? How do international and domestic climate policies of the EU relate and are they mutually supportive? Are domestic climate policies sufficient to meet the environmental, economic and political challenge posed by global climate change?

These and other issues will be addressed in our **lecture series on the role of the EU in the fight against global climate change**. We are happy to be able to present top-level speakers of various backgrounds, who will elaborate on the EU's international and domestic climate policies and their interrelations. In this way, the lecture series will enhance understanding and contribute to further discussions on the current and potential role of the EU in the fight against climate change. Support by the European Commission through its Jean Monnet Programme is gratefully acknowledged.



With the growing prominence of climate change on the international and European policy agen-

The IES Calendar of Events 2008

The IES is organizing a lecture series entitled "The EU and the fight against global climate change". Starting 2 October 2008, we are inviting experts in the field to participate in a two-hour lecture on various aspects of the EU's climate policy. The lectures take place (in principle) every week in lecture theatre D.0.05 of the VUB. Please register via the IES website.

Wednesday 29 October '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change "The EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Internal and External Dimensions", by Jorgen Wettestad (FNI) and Yvon Slingenberg (EC)
Tuesday 04 November '08 IES 'Rome' Room, 15:00	IES Research Colloquium "Online Research Techniques", by Jamal Shahin (IES)
Wednesday 05 Nov '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change "The EU and Adaptation to Climate Change: Internal & External Dimensions" by Rosario Bento Pais (EC) & Saleemul Huq (IIED)
Wednesday 12 Nov '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change "The EU, Climate Change and the Promotion of Renewable Energy" by Jason Anderson (IIEP) & Piotr Tulej (EC)
Wednesday 19 Nov '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change - "The Prospects for a New International Agreement on Climate Change" by Michael Zammit Cutajar (Amb. on Climate Change, Malta) and Joyeeta Gupta (Inst. for Environmental Studies, Vrije Univ. Amsterdam)
Wednesday 26 Nov '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change - "The EU as an Actor in International Climate Policy: External Competence, Internal Procedure and Actual Practice" by Nuno Lacasta (Climate Change Commission) and Louise van Schalk (Clingendael)
Wednesday 03 Dec '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change "Transatlantic Politics of Climate Change", by Miranda Schreurs (Univ Berlin) and Alexander Ochs (CCAP)
Wednesday 10 Dec '08 VUB Aula E.0.05, 18:00	IES Lecture Series on Climate Change "The EU, Russia and Climate Change", by Wybe Douma (TMC Asser Institute) and Mikhail Kozetsev (Moscow State Univ)

If you wish to register for one of the events described above, please write to ies@vub.ac.be or contact us directly on +32(0)2/629.1222 (or fax +32(0)2/629.1809)
Conversely, if the IES can co-operate in an EU-related activity, please let us know!
Updated information can be obtained from our website, at <http://www.ies.be/>