



Institute for European Studies  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel



VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Institute for European Studies

# Activity Report

2004

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A stylized, textured map of Europe in shades of brown and gold, serving as a background for the year '2004'.

2004



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# Background



The Institute for European Studies was created within the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in accordance with article 169quater of the Universities Decree, added by the decree of 20/04/2001 (GG 13/07/2001), amended by the decree of 07/12/2001 (GG 12/2/2002), amended by the decree of 21/12/2001 (GG 29/12/2001) - coming into force on 01/01/2001. Its core task is determined as follows by article 169quater§3:

“The task of the IES is to organise and provide post-initial education, to carry out scientific research and to provide scientific services in the area of European Studies, amongst other things by making use of virtual education platforms”.

As far as education is concerned, on 17 May 2002 the Flemish government decided that the VUB can issue the Master in International and Comparative Law diploma for the IES starting from the academic year 2001-2002.

Further provisions concerning the objectives of the IES, its rights and obligations were stipulated in a management agreement between the VUB and the Flemish government. The agreement was signed by the Minister on 22 March 2002.

The management agreement determines that the IES must compile a policy plan that sets out the guidelines for education, research and scientific services for the duration of the management agreement. The policy plan was compiled in the spring of 2002 and approved by the IES on 22 May 2002 and after a recommendation by the VUB Planning and Budget Committee by the Board of the VUB on 25 June 2002

and transferred to the Minister. The policy plan determines the emphases for research (Globalisation, Fundamental Rights and Security) and the most important initiatives for the coming years in the area of education and scientific services were recorded (the semestrial lecture series; the EU summer conferences; the biannual Euro-Atlantic Dialogue Conferences and an additional Masters course).

After a recommendation by the Planning and Budget Committee, the budget for the financial year 2004 was approved on 21 October 2003 by the Board of the VUB and ratified in an amended version on 26 October 2004. On this basis, the IES presents its annual accounts.

The structure of this annual report is analogous with that of the policy plan. It consists of (1) the report on the education, the research and scientific services rendered by the Institute, (2) the report about networking and contacts with academic institutions in Belgium and abroad, (3) the report on the personnel (and the policy), the number of employees and the deployment of personnel for education, research and services and (4) the report about the structure and general functioning of the Institute. Following the report by the external evaluation committee and at the explicit request of the Minister, a fifth section was added in which a report is given of the way in which the recommendations of the evaluation committee were handled, about the measures that the IES has taken and the effects they have had.

# Introducing the IES 2004 Activity Report



There has been a continuing rise in the activities of the IES themselves with the successful series of lectures on the European Constitution and one on Sustainable Development; the first Summer School on European Decision-Making (together with the University of Vienna and the Diplomatische Akademie of Vienna); the partnership in two networks of excellence of the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission (GARNET and REVGOV); the extension of the research potential; the further consolidation of the PILC.

2004 was an extremely important year for the IES. After all, in the autumn the Institute was subjected to the critical quality assurance provided for in the Management Agreement that was the precondition for the discussions on its renewal in 2005.

Strengthened by the constructive evaluation by the visitation team and the increasing interest in our activities within and outside the VUB, the Institute for European Studies is looking forward to its further broadening with confidence.

In the extensive and very thorough report (see page 49) a number of significant weaknesses in the policy and management were pointed out that needed remedying. This criticism and encouragement led the Board and the management of the IES to draw the necessary conclusions to guarantee suitable remedies to guarantee new dynamism as from 2005.

*Bart De Schutter, President*

# Executive Summary



In 2004, the IES continued on the chosen course of the past years. The educational programme was consolidated whilst in the area of research the current projects were continued and an additional new project was started up with own resources. In 2004 the IES was also faced by major changes. Three Senior Research Fellows were recruited by mid 2004. They strengthen the research component of the Institute and in time can canvas additional research funds. With regard to the content of the research, a new research strategy was elaborated that further specifies the areas of research of the Institute and places the emphasis on interdisciplinary prospects. The research plan will be presented to the Board of the IES in the spring of 2005. In addition, the Senior Research Fellows collaborated in the organisation of the Summer School and in the preparation of the lecture series.

In the area of **education**, the IES continued its efforts with regard to the Programme on International Legal Cooperation. As in previous years, the PILC programme was organised under the auspices of the Law Faculty of the VUB, and in accordance with the decision of the Flemish government of 17 May 2002 led to the diploma of Master in International and Comparative Law - a diploma that was awarded to 43 students in 2004. The content of the PILC programme did not change in 2004. The PILC did welcome a new lecturer, but the curriculum remained the same in 2004. The two lecture series organised by the IES were part of the programme in 2004 under the auspices of the PILC director.

The IES also made an effort to organise a summer school for the first time in 2004. The Summer School on the European Decision-Making Process was organised in July for one week in Brussels and one week in Vienna in cooperation with the Universität Wien and the Diplomatische Akademie Wien. With support from the European Commission (Jean Monnet programme, DG Education) the programme could be offered to the students at a very democratic price whilst the majority of the organisational costs were borne by the Commission. Thanks to this financial input, the IES - together with its two partner institutions - can also provide such programmes in the future.

In the area of **research**, the IES started one new project (European Policy towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan Africa. A legal analyses of its formulation, implications and implementation) on its own budget and it approved another two that will start in the spring of 2005 (more about this in the next annual report). On top of this, the Institute managed to attract various external projects, so that two additional researchers were employed at the IES for a minimum of one year. One project (Individual Rights in European Community Environmental Law), that normally would have been extended in May 2004, was discontinued due to the premature departure of the researcher in question.

In the **scientific services** area, the IES continued its efforts to organise lecture series every semester. In 2004 both the one on the "European Convention" and the one on "Sustainable Development" were very succesful. The lecture series should give rise to two new books in the IES publication series (to be published

A few figures:

- In 2004, the IES started one new research project on its own budget and approved another two (starting in 2005) so that the total number of projects the IES has initiated itself and is working on in this financial year comes to 8. With the additional 3 external projects, in 2003 the IES worked on a total of 11 different studies.
- The IES employed 18 full-time equivalents - in total 36 different collaborators of which 20 were on the IES payroll.
- 25 % of the resources originated from extra-government sources.
- 3 external projects were entrusted to the IES; 1 by the Ministry of Justice, 1 by the Liaison Office Brussels-Europe and 1 by the Scientific Policy department of the Belgian federal government.
- The Institute strengthened its interuniversity network with the United Nations University, the Universität Wien, the Diplomatische Akademie Wien and Kent University.
- The IES organised 29 events of which four were conferences and one Summer School.
- 43 Masters students graduated in 2004, whilst 32 new students from 20 different countries started their studies in the Programme on International Legal Cooperation.
- 2 researchers started their doctoral research in 2004, whilst 7 others (of which 2 were external) have been supported by the IES since 2002 or 2003. One researcher prematurely terminated here research during the course of 2004.

in 2005). The latter started in 2004 with the publication of two volumes: "About Globalisation" (De Schutter / Pas eds.) and "De Nieuwe European Unie" (Youri Devuyt).

The IES organised a total of 29 scientific events in 2004. In addition it collaborated in the organisation of three colloquia in cooperation with other institutions and in one Euro-Atlantic Dialogue Conference.

A total of 11 externally financed projects were carried out by the IES, whilst the Institute was successful in obtaining

financial support starting from 2005 in the Network of Excellence "GARNET" in the 6th framework programme of DG Research.

**Financially** speaking, the expenses of the IES remained within budget and the Institute was able to round off the year with a limited surplus. The personnel costs remained under the assumed 70% whilst on the income side the Institute managed to obtain 25% of its resources from income other than government subsidy.



# Education



# Education



## a. Available courses

In accordance with the decision of the Flemish government of 17 May 2002, the VUB issues the diploma of "Master in International and Comparative Law" for the Institute for European Studies. Since September 2001, the IES has been commissioned by the Management Agreement of the Flemish Government to take over the *Programme on International Legal Cooperation* - course that leads to this Masters degree.

As a result of the retirement of a number of professors the programme underwent small changes in comparison with 2002-2003. Since the Decree of 4 April 2003 the weight of courses was also rearranged slightly.

## b. Influx / efflux of students

Candidate students for the PILC programme submit their application by 15 February of the year in which they wish to commence their studies. The PILC board (i.e. the members of the teaching staff) make a selection of the applications on the basis of academic background, academic letters of recommendation, motivation of the candidate and knowledge of the English language (*more on this in point c. Enrolment fee and policy*).

As stated in the annual report 2003, 145 potential students applied for the academic year 2003/2004. Of these, originally 61 were selected. After the exams of the June period the dossiers of the Belgian candidates were reviewed and another 3 students were accepted. In the end 46 students enrolled.

The group is made up of 26 female and 20 male students who come from 27 different countries.

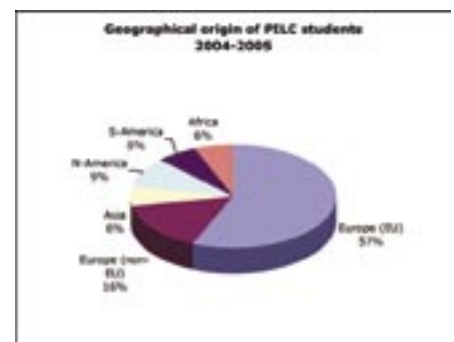
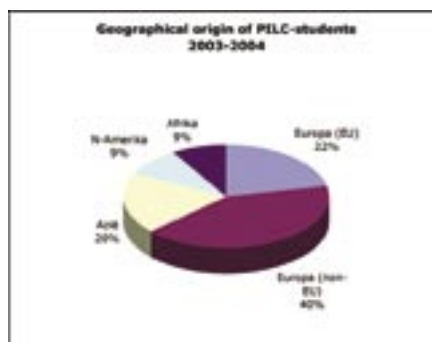
During the 1<sup>st</sup> examination period, 38 students passed. 6 students failed or did not take the exams. They were referred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> examination period, in which eventually another 5 students passed.

This meant that during the academic year 2002/2003 a total of 43 diplomas were issued of which:

- 12 with great distinction;
- 16 with distinction;
- 15 with satisfaction.

Thus the IES fulfils its obligation (in accordance with article 2.5 of the management agreement) to issue at least 30 diplomas.

For the academic year 2004/2005 142 applications were received. 67 dossiers were selected. 32 students enrolled.



The group is made up of 21 female and 11 male students who come from 21 different countries. In 2004-2005 the share of students who come from EU countries was greater than the year before. This is logical as the enlargement of the EU is also accompanied by an increase in EU students (the 10 new member states were previously categorized as "non EU").

In this group, the majority of the students was born between 1972 and 1982. Only students with a prior education of 'licentiaat [Master degree] in law' or equivalent legal diploma were accepted.

**c. Trends**

Despite a growing number of applications and a larger number of selected students, the number of effective enrolments fell in the last academic year. The proposed measures of the IES-PILC to collect the enrolment fees earlier and thus better monitor the influx of students and intervene in time by calling up reserve candidates at a later (but still timely) time could not be implemented by the VUB in 2004-2005. Enrolment fees will have to be collected even earlier in 2005, whilst agreements will be made with VUB in order to prevent the technical problems of the previous academic year.

**d. Enrolment fee and policy**

Already last year, in 2003, it was decided to add the additional sum for teaching

materials and study trips to the official enrolment fee. As a result, in 2004 the cost of participating in the Programme on International Legal Cooperation is € 1,500.00 (all-in).

As indicated in the 2003 annual report, in 2004 the IES dropped the option of collecting an additional fee for teaching materials on top of the tuition fees. The experience that no guarantees could be obtained from the students with regard to prompt payment and that no action could be taken in case of non or part payment of the teaching materials led to both sums being combined. In addition, the one-off collection was a reduction in the administrative work.

Besides: the IES wanted to collect the PILC enrolments earlier than was previously the case. As potential students are already informed in April of their acceptance in the programme, earlier collection would offer a guarantee not only of the payment itself but also of the student's commitment to actually come to Brussels. From 2004/2005 we tried to work with a list of reserves so that a number of 40 students could remain guaranteed.

However, the possibility of centrally collecting enrolment fees in advance could not be agreed to by the VUB for technical reasons.

For 2005/2006 the collection will be started earlier on an account of the IES



Geographical origin of PILC students (2001-2004)

specially for this, whilst an arrangement will be reached with the VUB with regard to on the one hand registering students earlier on the other hand immediately offsetting revenues and payments.

Globally speaking, the recruitment policy of the PILC for 2004-2005 remained the same, i.e. the aim is for as great a geographical spread of the origin of the students as possible, whilst only students with a "law" degree are accepted. Only by way of exception and with special motivation by the candidates can the PILC Board deviate from this. However it did not do so in 2004/2005.

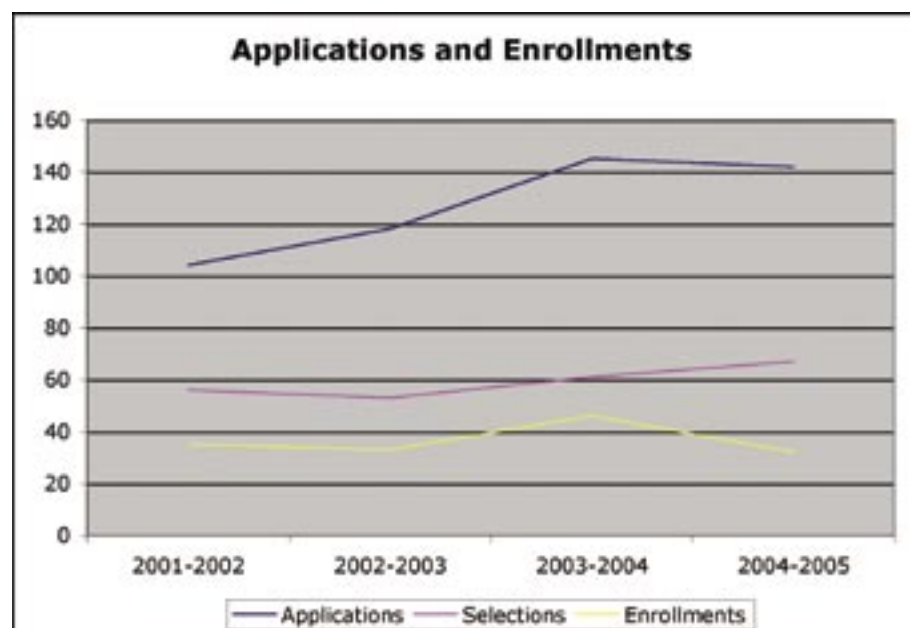
When selecting the candidates, their knowledge of languages (they need to prove that they have command of the English language, for example by presenting TOEFL results), their prior study results (corroborated by letters of recommendation by academics or former employers) and their motivation are taken into account. All the dossiers are prepared by the PILC secretariat and screened by the PILC director and members of the PILC board, after which the most feasible candidates are selected by the PILC board. A maximum of 45 students is aimed for. However, for reasons of experience, a larger number is selected where possible with regard to quality - on

average 35% of the candidates selected subsequently decide not to register, or cannot do so for administrative or social reasons (visa, scholarship, ...). regardless of the above.

As in 2003 PILC made itself known to a larger public than previously aimed at. The attempts to by means of advertisements and specific participations in study fairs attract potential students fit in this context. Thus the IES cooperated with the other English-language academic and Europe-oriented courses at the VUB to be present with an information stand at the "study-fair" of the Economist / The European Voice on 14 February 2004. The Study Fair attracted over 300 interested students.



Specifically targeted advertisements were placed in a special study supplement of the European Voice and the International Graduate, whilst the posters for the PILC were distributed to about 1000



universities and law schools in Belgium and (above all) abroad.

**e. Summer School**

In cooperation with the Diplomatische Akademie Wien and the Universität Wien, in the summer of 2004 the IES launched a Summer School on the European Decision-Making Process. This first Summer School was supported financially by the Jean Monnet Programme of the European Commission - DG Education. The Summer School was held between 18 and 31 July; the first week in Brussels, the second in Vienna.



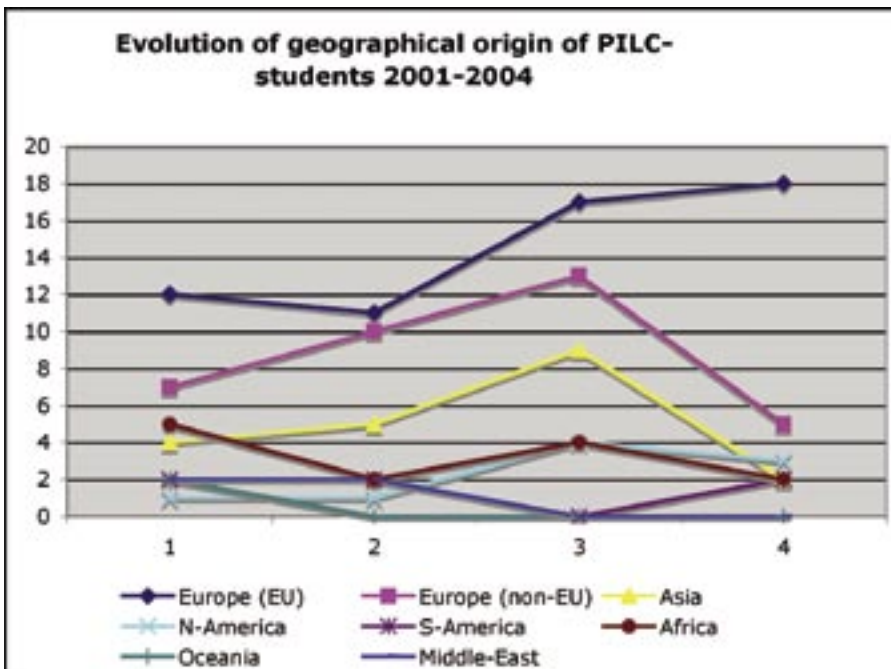
Thirty students participated in the Summer School (a maximum had been set of 34) coming from 9 different countries. They were selected from 42 candidates on the basis of their diploma, background,

study results and motivation. As within the framework of the Jean Monnet Programme the emphasis lay on the (potentially) acceding (non-EU) countries, the large majority of the students came from countries neighbouring the EU (Poland, Romania and Turkey).

The aim of the programme was to provide an overview of the different decision-making processes within the European Union, and to do this within the so-called three "pillars". Students had to have a background in European affairs (European law, European politics, European economics, European history, ...) and were only admitted with at least three years' study experience (min. BA level). At the end of the Summer School all participants received a certificate signed by the rector magnificus of the Universität Wien, the principal of the Diplomatische Akademie and the Director of the IES. Only one participant did not receive the certificate due to too little participation in the workshops.

*Feedback*

In order to rank the Summer School qualitatively, feedback forms were drawn up which were filled out by almost all the



participants (25).

The student survey yielded very positive feedback, although it was indicated that technical legal subjects in general were appreciated less. The study background of the students and the nature of the Summer School perhaps made this more likely. The results of the survey will be taken into account when compiling the programme for the 2005 Summer School.



In general and with regard to organisation, the Summer School scored very highly with the students.

**f. Doctorates**

Two researchers started their doctorates in 2004. More in particular, the doctorate scholarship student Stephen Kingah (project "European Policy towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan Africa. A legal analyses of its formulation, implications and implementation" with Prof. Dr. Stefaan Smis as his tutor), and the externally financed researcher Aaron McLoughlin (project "The role of public authorities in integrated product policy: regulators or coordinators? - Legal issues")

with Prof. Dr. Marc Pallemerts as his project tutor). Mr McLoughlin is enrolled at the Imperial College in London (thesis tutor Prof. Dr. Zen Makuch).

**g. Further developments**

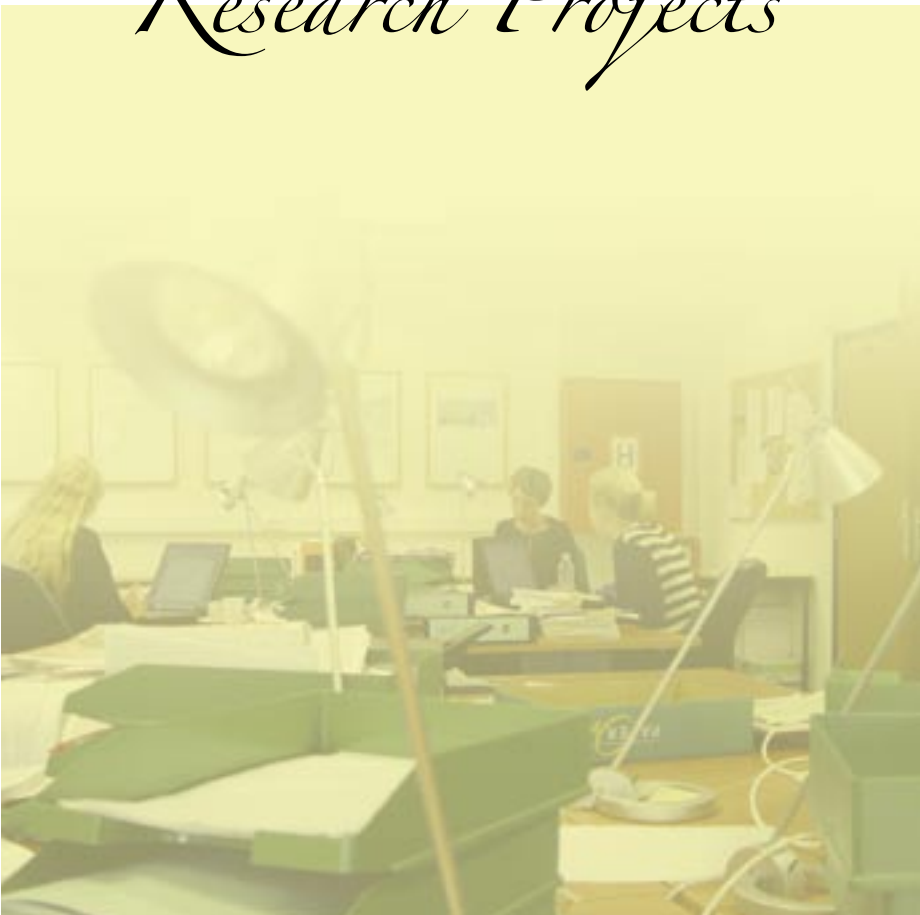
Further developments in the area of education above all concern a number of joint ventures with other universities. Thus in 2004 the IES started an inter-university Summer School (see above) with the Diplomatische Akademie Wien and the Universität Wien, and it collaborated with the latter in the COBRAW network (universities of Copenhagen, Brussels, Amsterdam and Vienna) in order to research the possibilities of setting up joint MA programmes in European Studies. However, the incompatibility of the Flemish Masters structure hinders smooth cooperation. In most European countries the BAMA structure is arranged as 3 Bachelors years + 2 Masters years. The "3+1(+1)" structure of the Flemish universities presents a problem for joint programmes at Master level.

Initially the IES appointed an academic coordinator to follow up the development of the programme for the MA in the study of Globalisation that was to be organised in cooperation with the University of Kent and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. At the beginning of 2004 the University of Kent - the official organiser of the programme - took over the coordination. In August 2004 Kent decided to suspend the programme as too few feasible candidate students had applied.

*PILC students 2004-2005 visiting the European Court in Luxembourg*



# Research Projects



# IES Research Projects

## a. General

The IES underwent a number of changes in the area of Research. Three Senior Research Fellows were recruited and following their arrival and the comments in the report on the visit by the government the Institute's research strategy was adapted.

The research strategy proposal that was presented to the Board of the IES in 2005, reads as follows:

"Since the early 1970s, in parallel with the ongoing processes of deepening European integration and enlargement, the EU has increasingly asserted its role as a global actor in the broader international arena. Conversely, the internal development of the Union and its policies is to an ever more significant extent being influenced by global events and processes, such as economic globalisation and the changing environment of international security. The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe aims, inter alia, to consolidate and further expand the EU's global role by providing a stronger institutional foundation for the Union's external action in such areas as common foreign and security, common commercial policy, development cooperation policy, economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries other than developing countries and humanitarian aid. The Constitution establishes ambitious objectives for the EU "in its relations with the wider world", namely to "uphold and promote its values and interests", to "contribute

to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights", and "to the strict observance and the development of international law". It sees the EU as an actor with a global mission, with "responsibilities towards future generations and the Earth", as "a special area of human hope" with a dedication "to strive for peace, justice and solidarity throughout the world".

Against this background, the study of EU institutions, policies and legal framework can no longer adequately be undertaken in isolation from the broader international context. The major focus of IES research therefore is on the study of EU institutions, policies and law within the context of globalisation and international and comparative law and politics.

Research projects share a common focus on the role of the EU as a global actor and on the interaction between the internal and external dimensions of EU policies and between EU policies and the policies of other international organisations. To this end, the Institute aims to develop an interdisciplinary approach, involving not only legal and institutional expertise but also economic, social and political analysis. It focuses on forward-looking research and aims to produce policy-relevant results of interest to national and European decision-makers and the international academic community."

The new research strategy focuses on the role and place of the European

Union in an international context of globalisation and so replaces the more broadly formulated research strategy (mission statement) from the 2002 policy plan 2002. An important added value is the emphasis on interdisciplinary research method.

The current core topics (globalisation, environment, European integration and security) still applied for 2004, but on approval of the new research strategy by the IES Board will be fitted in amongst other things by means of interdisciplinary extension.

### IES Financed Projects

Project & Promoter	Start/End date	Researchers
Access to Information in an era of Globalisation and the role of Europe (Koen Byttebier)	April 2002 April 2004	Johan Kaes Kristien Hendrickx
European Aspects of the legal responsibilities of Internet providers (Ralph De Wit)	June 2002 June 2004	Katia Bodard
Globalisation, solidarity and taxation (Spruyt, Denys, Van Thiel, Wille)	Sept 2002 Sept 2004	Mark Delanote
Individual rights in European Community environmental law (Marc Pallemmaerts)	May 2002 May 2004	Stéphanie Dodeller
The impact of globalisation on the European Community's environment and development law (Marc Pallemmaerts)	May 2003 May 2005	Rhiannon Williams
Redefining the Common European Fisheries Policy (Erik Franckx)	January 2003 January 2005	Koen Van den Bossche
Public-Private Partnerships (Koen Byttebier / Kaat Leus)	Sept 2002 Sept 2004	Sven Baeten, Piet Van Doolaege, Johan Vandendriessche
European Policy towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan Africa (Stefaan Smis)	January 2004 December 2005	Stephen Kingah

### Commissioned Research Projects

Project & Financer	Start/End date	Researchers
The role of public authorities in integrated product policy: regulators or co-ordinators? (Federal Science Policy)	January 2004 December 2005	Aaron McLoughlin
Corruption in/and the business world II (Federal Government Service Justice)	March 2003 March 2004	Véronique Hameeuw
Corruption in/and the business world III (Federal Government Service Justice)	March 2004 March 2005	Véronique Hameeuw
Regional Representations in Brussels (Theo Jans / Kris Deschouwer / Bart De Schutter)	January 2004 December 2004	Michel Huysseune

## b. Research Progress

The various IES projects were until recently placed in the four categories stated in the policy plan (globalisation, environment, European integration and security). In light of the new scientific strategy, these categories will be adapted during the course of 2005 but still apply for 2004.

### *Progress in the pillar "Globalisation"*

In the project "Access to Information in an era of globalisation and the role of Europe" this year's attention was on following the developments of the "proposal by the Commission for a directive by the European Parliament and the Council concerning the patentability of the inventions implemented in computers". Furthermore, it studied the foreign policy of the EU with regard to intellectual property rights, more in particular the bilateral treaties that it enters into and in which higher standards than the international TRIPS demand. The EU's decision to apply a new tactic to strengthen this further with the use of bilateral and multilateral sanction mechanisms was given special attention. As EC Competition Law changed drastically during the course of 2004, the researchers had to make serious efforts to include these changes in their research. The results of their research yielded a few publication in 2004 but the bulk of their preparations will led to the publication of an article in 2005.

### *Progress in the pillar "Environment"*

Research was continued within the "Impact of Globalisation on the EC's Environment and Development Law" project that started in 2003. The researcher focussed on the Country Strategy Papers and on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Above all with regard to the latter various requests for information were submitted to the European Commission, which for the time being rejected them, whereupon the researcher in question took legal steps with the Court of the First Instance. Further research was carried out into the EC Tariff Preferences, checking whether they were compatible with WTO regulations.

In addition, in 2004 the IES started an externally financed project on "The role of public authorities in integrated product policy: regulators or co-ordinators? - legal issues" for which a postgraduate researcher was recruited. During the course of 2004, various workshops were held within this project (see also in Scientific Services) whilst an interim colloquium was held in the autumn of 2004 in cooperation with the VUB and FUSL.

The project "Individual Rights in European Commission Development Law" terminated in May 2004 due to the premature departure of the researcher in question. The biennial extension of this project was not sought.

All the projects in the pillar "environment" are coordinated and promoted by Prof. Dr. Marc Pallemaerts, Senior Research Fellow at the IES.

### ***Progress in the pillar "European Integration"***

The two existing IES-projects in the pillar "European Integration", namely "Redefining EC Fisheries Policy" and "Public-Private Participation (PPP)" were continued. A new project "European Policy towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan Africa started in 2004. A legal analyses of its formulation, implications and implementation" that is being executed in cooperation with UNU-CRIS.

In the first project, the 'present-day' functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) was analysed. Attention was paid to the changes brought about by the 2002 reform. The current legal framework of the CFP is complex, requiring an 'overall' approach. As a result, the scope of the research could be defined more clearly during the second year of research. The crux is formed by the analysis/question of: Who may fish what and where? In other words the subject of access to fishing grounds, the division of authority between EU and member states and the discussion about property rights of natural marine sources.

This analysis is placed within the context of the rights and obligations ensuing from the maritime law treaty of 1982, so that an assessment can be made of the EU as a regional fishing organisation. In addition, the relation between Community law and international public law is discussed. The doctorate of the researcher in question will consist of two parts. In the first part, the focus is on the Community waters whilst the second part deals with external European fishing policy (on the high seas, agreements with third countries, analysis of relevant legal instruments, etc.). During the second year of research a few papers were presented and publications prepared. The first section (international legal framework) and second section (legal analysis of access to fishing grounds) of part I were finished.

In the "Public-Private Participation" project, various subaspects of PPP were examined in detail. A workshop was held in the autumn in cooperation with the Economic Law department and a number of publications were prepared. In light of the infringement procedure by the European Commission with regard to emancipation of local authorities, the legal framework of government orders was studied in more detail. However, a lot of work was carried out with regard to "the choice of the private partner in the various different forms of PPP possible (contractual / participating). In addition, the researchers in question studied aspects of public-private partnership and European competition law and the reference in the European draft constitution to services of a general economic interest as a basic right. The latter may become increasingly important in the future and could define the limits with competition law. In 2005 a draft text will be written in this connection and defended at an international conference in Athens.

The project "European Policy towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan Africa. A legal analyses of its formulation, implications and implementation" started in the spring of 2004. The efforts of the researcher in question bore fruit in the form of scientific publications and participation in conferences. Preparations were made for the contributions to the UNU-CRIS book "The European Union and the Global South" (eds. Söderbaum and Stalgren, to be published in 2005), whilst a study visit to southern Africa mid 2005 was prepared.

**Progress in the pillar "Security"**

In 2004 the third and last part of the externally financed project "Corruption in/and trade and industry" started. The interim report by the researcher in question was well received by the Belgian Federal Government Department (FPS) of Justice and funds were provided to finance the third part. The researcher in question started her court training in October 2004, so that her activities lapsed to 50%. However she has guaranteed that the final report will be finished by the deadline set.

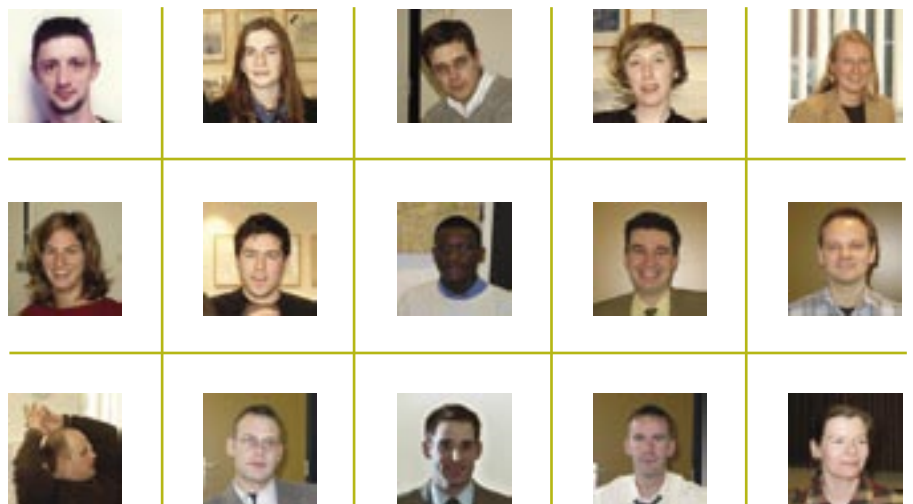
In cooperation with the Political Sciences department of the VUB, the IES was also able to start up externally financed research into "Representation of local and regional authorities in the European Union" commissioned by the Brussels Capital Region and the Liaison Office Brussels-Europe. The objective of the research was to offer a reply to a series of questions and problems set by the contractors concerning:

- a) the history, types and composition of the representations;
- b) the functioning of these offices;
- c) their problems with establishment.

The research comprised

- a) a literature survey;
- b) a written survey of all the representations present in Brussels;
- c) interviews with the people in charge at the representations;
- d) a workshop to present the results of the survey to the representations and to formulate recommendations for the Brussels Capital Region and the Liaison Office Brussels-Europe;
- e) a final report in which the results of the aforementioned phases were synthesised.

*IES Researchers Sven Baeten, Katia Bodard, Mark Delanote, Stéphanie Dodeller, Véronique Hameeuw, Kristien Hendrickx, Johan Kaes, Stephen Kingah, Ruben Lombaert, Aaron McLoughlin, Johan Pas, Koen Van den Bossche, Johan Vandendriessche, Piet Vandoolaeghe, Rhiannon Williams*



In addition to these research projects, in 2004 the IES also continued to work on the education-supporting e-learning project "Educational Modules in the field of European law and European institutions".

In 2004 the project was subjected to rigorous external examination. To this end, a mixed audience of experts in the matter, experts in e-learning and the target audience, were asked to look at the modules. The researchers asked the evaluators not to place the emphasis of their evaluation on the content of the modules, but on criteria such as user-friendliness (simplicity was strived for), the structure of the course, the graphic design and the navigation system, the "rich content" used and the completeness. In addition, they were above all asked to look at what, in their view, constituted gap in the content. In view of the diversity in the background of the evaluators this yielded various replies. The results of these evaluations made it possible to make improvements to the modules and to gain insight into what the target audience of the courses expects.

In addition to improvements in the form the content was also kept up to date as the European Union evolved greatly in 2004.

At the end of 2004, it was decided to create a third module. This module, "European Information Sources" will be further elaborated during the course of 2005 and focuses on concrete questions that the Institute sometimes gets about obtaining information. Apparently there is an enormous need for a concrete methodology for looking up information about European legislation, projects, efficiently. Although almost all the information can be found, even via the Internet (on the sites of the various institutions), the know-how for finding the right information within a reasonable amount of time is often still a matter

for specialists. As more and more people have to work with European information, it was decided to add a module that will consist of an overview of the relevant and available sources of information as well as a number of practical exercises to test the knowledge acquired.

In 2004, the researchers working on the Educational Modules project also participated in a number of international conferences, such as Educa Online Berlin, Rechtsinformatik Symposium Salzburg and the Technology-enhanced learning (TEL) information day (organised by the European Commission, DG Information Society) in Luxembourg, where IES' know-how about e-learning was further extended by means of contacts with other parties responsible for e-learning.

During the course of 2005, the 3 modules will be finished. The idea is to be able to offer the modules to the VUB students starting from the academic year 2005-2006 as a free subject in addition to their own programme. At the same time preparations will be made to offer the modules externally too, both via the Internet and on CD-ROM.



### c. The Senior Research Fellows

Back in 2003 it was decided to recruit at least two Senior Research Fellows in order to increase the Institute's own scientific capacity and in time attract more externally financed scientific projects. This process, that started in 2003, gave rise to the appointment of Prof. Dr. Marc Pallemmaerts, Dr. Giovanna Bono and Richard Lewis. In January 2004 they were selected by the Board of the IES from a shortlist of 25 candidates on the basis of external screening and ranking by the Research Council of the VUB.

#### ***Prof. Dr. Marc Pallemmaerts***



Prof. Dr. Marc Pallemmaerts has been associated with the IES as a senior scientific fellow since June 2003 and in April 2004 was appointed Senior Research Fellow. In addition, as a part-time lecturer he is charged with education assignments for international and European environmental law at the ULB and for the international environmental policy at the department of Human Ecology of the VUB. In addition to Marc's various own research work that connects with these education assignments, within the IES Marc Pallemmaerts is charged with leading and coordinating research projects in connection with the internal and external policy of the EU with regard to sustainable development.

In this capacity he acted as the promoter of two IES projects, each with one full-time researcher: "Individual rights in European Community environmental law" (project that was terminated on 1 May 2004 due to the premature departure of the researcher) and "The Impact of Globalisation on the European Community's Environment and Development law (and vice-versa?)" (project that started in May 2003 that one researcher with a doctorates scholarship is working on).

He also took the initiative for an externally financed research project in cooperation with the Political Sciences department and the Centre d'étude du droit de l'environnement of the FUSL that is supported by the Federal Science Policy within the framework of the "Plan voor wetenschappelijke ondersteuning van een beleid gericht op duurzame ontwikkeling" (PODO II - Plan for scientific support for a policy aimed at sustainable development-Plan for scientific support for a policy aimed at sustainable development) and coordinated by IES with the use of one full-time researcher. This interdisciplinary project, on the topic "The role of public authorities in integrated product policy: regulators or coordinators?", started on 16 February 2004 and will run until the end of 2005.

In addition to leading these research projects, the scientific activities of Prof. Pallemmaerts in 2004 focussed mainly on the external environmental policy of the EU (amongst other things on the field of climate policy and the area of tension between environmental policy and trade policy) and on the relation between human rights and environmental protection and the issue of the rights of individuals and NGOs in environmental law at European and international level. He acted as a speaker on these subjects at conferences in Belgium and abroad several times, amongst other things at the invitation of the European Commission (DG Environment), the FPS Public Health, Safety of the Food Chain & Environment, United Nations University, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), University College London (Centre for Law and the Environment), Facultés universitaires Saint-Louis, KU Leuven, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Geneva Environment Centre, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (Berlin), Forschungsstelle für Europäisches Umweltrecht (Bremen), and the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment. These activities led to a number of publications in scientific journals and proceedings.

At the invitation of the Institut d'études européennes of the ULB he gave a seminar about "The Role of the EU in International Environmental Diplomacy". In August 2004 he participated as a guest lecturer in a summer course about "International environmental law-making and diplomacy", organised by UNEP in cooperation with the University of Joensuu (Finland). In November 2004 he himself organised an international colloquium at the VUB on the topic "Does the EU lead Europe on environmental policy? Supranationalism and intergovernmentalism in regional environmental cooperation" in cooperation with the European Centre on Sustainable Policies for Human and

Environmental Rights (ECOSPHERE) and UNU-CRIS. In the autumn of 2004 he organised the IES series of lectures on the topic "The EU and Sustainable Development: Internal and External Dimensions" with a dozen guest speakers from Belgium and abroad.

As an expert in international and European environmental law, in 2004 Prof. Pallemmaerts advised the federal and regional government departments. He was charged by the Belgian government to act as chairman of the executive committee of the meeting of the parties to the Treaty of Aarhus concerning access to information, participation in decision-making and access to the judge in environmental affairs. He also gave legal advice to the FPS Public Health, Safety of the Food Chain & Environment about certain aspects of the execution of the Kyoto Protocol in Belgium.

## Dr. Giovanna Bono



**Giovanna Bono** started her activities as Senior Research Fellow at the IES at the end of May 2004. Before her appointment at the Institute she worked as a Senior Researcher in the Peace Studies Department of Bradford University (UK). She was also a member of the ESDP and Democracy Network, a network financed by the European Commission (5th Framework Programme). She obtained her doctorate at the International Relations department of Kent University. She specialises in European security and foreign policy.

Shortly after starting work at the IES she collaborated on the preparation and content of the Summer School and led a session about European Security and Defence. Shortly after that, in August, she gave a lecture about the EU and NATO in the Jean Monnet Colloquium in Belgrade about "Internal and External Security of the European Union". In addition, Dr. Bono cooperated with S. Ulriksen (Norwegian Institute for International Affairs) to edit a special edition of *International Peacekeeping* that bears the title "The EU, crisis management and peace support operations" (*International Peacekeeping*, Vol. 11, No. 2, Autumn 2004).

Between September and December she conducted a series of interviews with British, French and Italian MPs (including chairmen of committees for foreign

relations and defence). This research was financed by the British Academy of Science and was part of a personal grant that she was awarded back in 2003 for her research on "Parliamentary Scrutiny of the EU's external engagement". The results of the research will be published in a number of publications, including *European Security* (Summer 2005): "National Parliaments and EU external military operations: is there any parliamentary control?" and *The Democratic Accountability of CFSP institutions*, (eds. E.B. Eide and A. Herraz, 2005) with the article "The British, French and Italian Parliaments and EU external military operations: a comparative analysis". Dr. Bono also contributed as a speaker or commentator to workshops on the relationship between the EU and the UN and lectured on the European Common Foreign and Security Policy at the VUB and the Brussels School for International Studies.

Together with her fellow Senior Research Fellows she worked on the new research strategy of the IES.

## Richard Lewis



Richard Lewis started his activities as a Senior Research Fellow at the IES in March 2004 on a part-time basis. As a former specialist in migration, immigration and asylum policy within the European Commission and in view of his considerable experience in foreign and security policy of the EU, he is ideally placed to reconcile his academic activities within the IES with the world of the policymakers. His first IES activities (i.e. the first nine months) were an essential preparation phase for 2005.

Richard Lewis is a member of the Centre on Migration Policy and Society (COMPAS) in Oxford. In March 2004 he wrote a short paper on European immigration and asylum policy on the COMPAS policy day and participated in the COMPAS Launch Conference as a panel member in July. Later that month he attended a seminar in Prague that was organised by the Oxford Refugee Studies Centre and gave a paper about the integration of migrants in European communities.

In July 2004 he helped with the preparations and successful execution of the IES Summer School that was held in Brussels and Vienna. He gave two seminars about migration policy and general foreign and security policy of the EU. Shortly afterwards, in August, together with other IES and UNU-CRIS he presented a paper about intergovernmentalism and supranationalism at a day seminar about the EU in the Romanian Institute

of International Affairs in Bucharest. In addition he occasionally lectured at the VUB and at other universities. In December he gave a lecture on the European identity for the World Affairs Council of West Michigan at the Wayne State University in Detroit.

Richard Lewis has also been active in the United Nations Global Commission on International Migration and attended meetings in Geneva and Budapest at which he contributed actively to the UN report of September 2005. He is also a member of the International Steering Committee of the Metropolis project that forms a network of academics and practical people in the field of migration worldwide.

In December Richard also presented a report to the International Organisation for Migration about the reorganisation of migration departments in Iraq, after a three-day workshop in Amman, Jordan. A follow-up to this project is expected in the course of 2005.

Richard Lewis spent part of the last trimester of 2004 preparing a series of lectures with the theme "Multiculturalism in Europe" by inviting prominent guest speakers in the field for the first trimester of 2005. He also to the initiative to edit a book based on the previous series of lectures about the European Convention. In addition, he started preparing a number of publications that would be published in the first half of 2005.

## New IES Research Strategy

### *Background*

The proposed key elements for the focus of our research are the following:

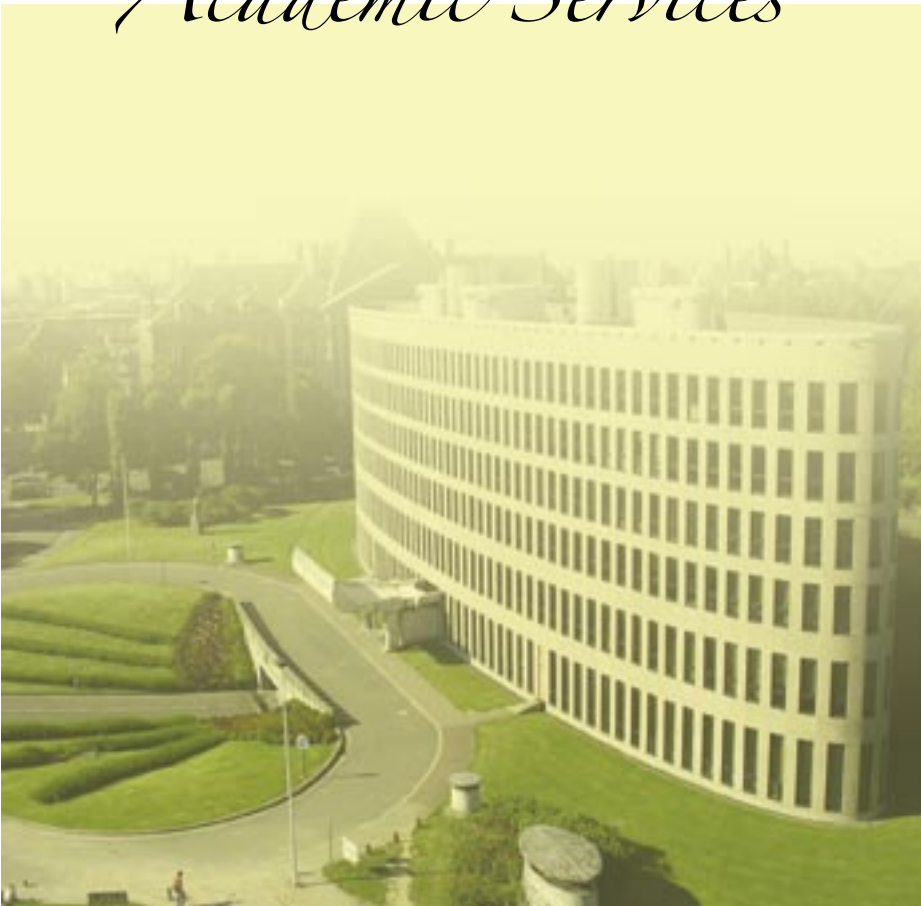
- **Role of the EU as a global actor**
- **Interaction between the internal and external dimensions of EU policies**

*This focus is described in the following terms:*

“Since the early 1970s, in parallel with the ongoing processes of deepening European integration and enlargement, the EU has increasingly asserted its role as a global actor in the broader international arena. Conversely, the internal development of the Union and its policies is to an ever more significant extent being influenced by global events and processes, such as economic globalisation and the changing environment of international security. The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe aims, inter alia, to consolidate and further expand the EU’s global role by providing a stronger institutional foundation for the Union’s external action in such areas as common foreign and security, common commercial policy, development cooperation policy, economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries other than developing countries and humanitarian aid. The Constitution establishes ambitious objectives for the EU “in its relations with the wider world”, namely to “uphold and promote its values and interests”, to “contribute to peace, security, the sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights”, and “to the strict observance and the development of international law”. It sees the EU as an actor with a global mission, with “responsibilities towards future generations and the Earth”, as “a special area of human hope” with a dedication “to strive for peace, justice and solidarity throughout the world”.

Against this background, the study of EU institutions, policies and legal framework can no longer adequately be undertaken in isolation from the broader international context. The major focus of IES research therefore is on the study of EU institutions, policies and law within the context of globalisation and international and comparative law and politics. Research projects share a common focus on the role of the EU as a global actor and on the interaction between the internal and external dimensions of EU policies and between EU policies and the policies of other international organisations. To this end, the Institute aims to develop an interdisciplinary approach, involving not only legal and institutional expertise but also economic, social and political analysis. It focuses on forward-looking research and aims to produce policy-relevant results of interest to national and European decision-makers and the international academic community.”

# *Academic Services*



# Academic Services

In 2004, the IES organised a number of lectures, conferences and colloquiums. Each fits into research area stipulated in the IES policy plan. Below, you will find a complete overview of the events organised by the IES:



**10 February** - Lecture: *"The Challenges for the EU"*. In the series of lectures "The European Convention", Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** spoke to a packed auditorium about the different problems that the current Constitutional Treaty is still facing: qualified majority voting, community model, the budgetary contributions by the various member states, ... The Prime Minister took a lot of time to answer the audience's questions, in particular about the EU as a global player, the problem of taking decisions with 25 member states, the possibility of letting Turkey join the European Union and the financial envelopes for developing countries after the enlargement of the Union.

**17 February** - Lecture: *"The Charter of Fundamental Rights"*. There was great interest from the audience when **Karel De Gucht**, Professor at the Law Faculty of the VUB, gave a lecture on *"The Charter of Fundamental Rights"*



where he defended the position that this Charter should be incorporated in the new European Constitution Treaty. Prof. De Gucht emphasised that in the future it would be necessary for the Union to endorse the Charter as a legal entity. The lecture ended with an interesting question and answer session with the audience.

**24 February** - Lecture: *"A True European Constitution?"* - The Auditorium was packed when ECJ Judge and Professor at the KUL **Koen Lenaerts** gave a lecture on the legal nature of the texts compiled by the Convention. Can we really call it a real "constitution"? Prof. Lenaerts



indicated that bringing together various texts and treaties from the past in one well-formulated treaty provides more clarity and that this can contribute to the idea of a constitution. The legal nature of this treaty is such that we can speak of a type of "constitution", even if constitutions per se are connected to states; for the time being (and perhaps never) it is not the intention to turn the EU into a state.

**2 March** - Lecture: *"The Institutions: towards a new balance?"*. **José Maria Gil-Robles**, MEP and former chairman of the European Parliament, spoke in the IES series of lectures about the Convention

on the powers of the institutions within the framework of the new constitutional treaty. He gave an overview of the

been approved (especially in the area of security and defence). Nevertheless, Dr. Vitorino observes that a lot of work still



“checks and balances” in the new treaty and was optimistic that the outstanding problems within the IGC would soon be solved at the coming Summit Meeting.

has to be done, especially in the area of Justice and Home Affairs.

**9 March 2004** - Lecture: “*Complexity and Diversity in the EU*”. In the series of lectures about the Convention, Prof. Dr. **Maarten Theo Jans** of the Political Sciences department of the VUB presented

**30 March** - Lecture: “*The Democratic Deficit of the Union*”. In the lecture “Democratic Deficit of the Union” Prof. Dr. **Kris Deschouwer** (VUB) argued that the convention, as a technique for consultation and taking decisions and as a change in the institutional architecture of the European Union that can be expected if the draft Constitutional Treaty is accepted, largely follows EU tradition. The problem of the democratic deficit as part of the EU tradition was present in the



the three most important challenges for the Union after the Convention: the complexity of the decision-making process, diversity and legitimacy. After an overview of the decision-making process of the Convention, Prof. Jans concluded that the Constitutional Treaty that is on the table is a step in the right direction, but that, with regard to the three challenges, there is still a long way to go.



draft of the Treaty and is still present in the functioning of future institutions. This is a major step forward and not a step back. It is a confirmation of the existence of a problem for which, until now, no other solution has been found except for the constant explicit consciousness of its presence

**23 March** - Lecture: “*Justice and Home Affairs*”. If we look at the past two years’ of constitutional work, European Commissioner **Antonio Vitorino** praises one of the events with the greatest impact in 2003, namely the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). He felt that the IGC would not be competent to continue with what is on the table today and welcomes the reforms that have already

**20 April** - Lecture: “*A view from without*”. Mr **Kyle Scott**, Minister-Counsellor for Political Affairs of the US mission to the EU investigated how the evolution of the EU was perceived by the United States. Mr Scott explained how the two constants in the EU/US relations are NATO support and EU integration as a mechanism for



European and also American prosperity. The USA closely follows the editing of the constitution as the USA wants to work at its partnership with Europe. It is particularly interesting what the consequences of these developments are for NATO, as EU integration threatens to come into conflict with what the USA perceives as the role of NATO: when it does, the USA's support for EU integration will decrease.

In America some people are sceptical about the competence of the EU to develop leadership skills. The EU and the USA have vital security relations. Mr Scott identified the dangers that we face together, such as weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and organised crime. They should be confronted together with the EU and the USA as allies. A lively and ambitious discussion followed.

**27 April - Lecture: "A view from within"**  
- **Guillaume McLaughlin**, assistant to MEP Andrew Duff (UK), ended the series



of lectures about the Convention with an overview of the latest developments concerning the Constitutional Treaty. His work within the European Parliament allow him to take a proverbial "look behind the screens" and make a prediction about the changes and activities that are on the agenda for the coming months.

**7-8 May - Euro-Atlantic Dialogue Conference.** The IES contributed to a successful conference in Pittsburg on "Private Law, Private International Law and Judicial Cooperation in the EU-US Relationship". This Euro-Atlantic Dialogue Conference was organised in cooperation with the European Union



Centre and the Centre for International Legal Education of the University of Pittsburgh, under the coordinatorship of Prof. Ronald Brand, principal of said centre and former visiting professor at the IES-PILC.

The conference enjoyed financial support from the Delegation of the European Commission in Washington.

In the recent past, quite a few initiatives were taken to arrive at a unified legal area in Europe, whereby unification and Gleichschaltung of laws and procedures on civil and commercial matters were strived for. These initiatives were successful within the European Union itself, but they were not always given the necessary attention in the international arena (especially with regard to relations with non EU states).

In the spirit of a real "transatlantic dialogue" attention was paid to this problematique. Specialists in international private law and legal cooperation started the first day of the conference by alternating to give an American and European perspective and looking for bridges between the two views. How further development of international private law should be coordinated was discussed on day two.

Prof. Dr. **Bart De Schutter** of the IES and PILC professor **Arnaud Nuyts** participated in the conference. Arnaud presented

his paper "Comparison between the European and American approaches towards judicial jurisdiction". He also spent part of the Saturday sessions on the input of institutional players (EC, US State Department) in the judicial cooperation debate.

**11 June - Colloquium: "Global Governance and Federalism"**. About 35 specialists in international security and politics from governmental, international and academic circles met at the invitation of the IES and the United Nations University (Comparative Regional



Integration Studies) on the topic of "Global Governance and Federalism". In particular, the first research results of the IES/UNU-CRIS project "The Interaction between Regional Organisations and the Security Council" were presented and discussed. This study, carried out by Dr. **Kennedy Graham** and researcher **Tania Felicio**, will be presented at a later date to the United Nations in New York. The results will also be included in an IES publication.

**18-31 July - Summer School on the European Decision-Making Process**. 30 students from Austria, Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain and Turkey participated in the inter-university Summer School on the European Decision-Making Process. The Summer School was part of a series of joint activities between the IES on the one hand and the University of Vienna and the Diplomatische Akademie Vienna on the other, that were supported by a Jean Monnet (DG Education) grant.

The Summer School combined lectures with workshops and study visits to thus shed light on the three pillars of the European decision-making process. Specialists in environmental policy,



monetary union, foreign policy, migration and defence supported the project and contributed to it with lectures or workshops. They were assisted in this by academics and EU civil servants.

IES Senior Researchers **Giovanna Bono**, **Richard Lewis** and **Marc Pallemarts** each contributed with lectures and seminars, whilst IES researchers **Ruben Lombaert**, **Aaron McLoughlin** and **Rhiannon Williams** were also involved in the organisation and support. IES-PILC Professor **Dirk Arts** joined Dr. **Dirk Van Nuffel** to shed light on legal aspects whilst other speakers, such as the former MEP **Magda Aelvoet** for example, gave a lecture at the European Parliament on the topic of the environment.

In Vienna, the education group consisted of UW-Rector **Georg Winckler** (monetary policy of the Union), DAK professors **Werner Neudeck** (international economics) and **Gerhard Loibl** (European environmental law) and Universität Graz professor **Hubert Isak** (EU after the Convention).

*See also above the section on Education*

**24 August - Colloquium: "Internal and External Security of the European Union"**. The IES organised a one-day symposium at the University of Belgrade, in cooperation with the Braca Karic University with which the IES entered



into a joint venture back in 2003. Under the chair of Prof. Dr. **Dersan Davidovic**, Principal of the School for Criminology of the University of Belgrade, various experts gave presentations. Contributions were made by IES President Prof. Dr. **Bart De Schutter**, who talked about "The fight against organised crime in the EU" and by Senior Research Fellow **Giovanna Bono**, who gave a presentation on "External security in the EU in the light of the Convention". De Schutter shed light on the initiatives that were taken by the department of Justice and Home Affairs of the EC in this regard (Anti-Terrorism Framework Decision, European Arrest Warrant, Schengen, Europol, Eurojust, ...) whilst Dr. Bono explained the relation between the EU and NATO and the European possibilities of contributing to security operations. Prof. Dr. **Marc Cools** (VUB & UG) sketched the social economic background of "Private Security in the EU".

**25 August** - Colloquium: "*Europe as a regional and global security player*". In collaboration with the United Nations University - Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) and the Institutul Roman de Studii Internationale (IRSI), IES organised a lecture at the



"Titulescu House" in Bucharest on "Europe as a regional and global security actor". Executive Director **Anthony Antoine** accompanied Senior Research Fellow **Richard Lewis**, together with UNU-CRIS research fellows **Kennedy Graham**, **Tania Felicio** and **Ana-Cristina Costea**, and Belgian Royal Institute for International Relations researcher **Sven Biscop**. The team was hosted by IRSI President and Minister Dr. Doru Frunzulica and joined by **Valentina Farcas** of the Romanian Journal of International Affairs. The colloquia on 24 and 25 August were part of the packet of programmes that enjoyed financial support from the Jean

Monnet Programme of DG Education of the European Commission.

**12 October** - Lecture "*The EU's Sustainable Development Strategy*". Mrs **Antonia Carparelli**, vice chef de cabinet of European Commissioner Wallström, and Mr **John Hontelez**, Secretary-General of the European Environmental Office opened the series of lectures on "The



EU and Sustainable Development". In her lecture on the sustainable development strategy of the EU, Mrs Carparelli looked back on the EU strategy as developed in Gothenburg 3 years ago and concluded that during this short period of time a lot has already been achieved. However she also pointed out that some problems are nowhere near being resolved. For example the strategies for producing electricity from renewable sources and the strategies for biologically sound fishing and ecological transport are not on the right track. Mr Hontelez was even more sceptical and amongst other things commented that unfortunately the EU still does not systematically take sustainable development into account in all its policy areas.

**13 October** - Brown Bag Lunch Series: "*Lessons for Europe from Belgium*". In the "Brown Bag Lunch Series" of the IES project "environmental product regulation", Mr **Filip Geerts**, president of RECUPEL-ICT Belgium, spoke about "Lessons for Europe from Belgium: the WEEE Directive".

**19 October** - Lecture: "*Sustainable Development and Political Union*". Former federal minister for public health **Magda Aelvoet** gave an extremely interesting lecture on "Sustainable Development and Political Union". Mrs Aelvoet, who is also a former MEP, recently participated in the EC Round Table on "A Sustainable Project



for Europe". She gave an overview of the findings of the Round Table, better known as the Strauss-Kahn report. Mrs Aelvoet regretted that the sustainable development policy of the EU still does not say anything about combating poverty. Nor is its implementation effective. There is still a long way to go but some achievements are worth mentioning. In the area of the environment, for example, the EU's policy goes a lot further than that of the WHO. The EU ensures that environmental clauses are included in its regional and bilateral free trade agreements and also provides for severe repercussions if the clauses are not respected. In contrast to the USA, the EU also finances sustainable evaluations of the countries in question (the evaluations by the USA are limited to the effects for the USA only). The lecture was rounded off with an interesting debate about questions raised by respondent Prof. Dr. Marc Pallemmaerts and the audience.

**26 October** - Lecture: "*Japan and Sustainable Development*". In our series of lectures about the EU and Sustainable Development, ambassador Kazuo Azakai of the Japanese Permanent Representation to the EU spoke about the Japanese - EU leadership and the cooperation in the field of conservation. According to him,



today Japan is the most energy-efficient developed country. He argued that the government's regulations and industry's

innovation have led to a dynamic "top runner" approach in which producers ensure that their products are equivalent to the most energy-efficient examples. And thus Japan works hard to comply with the Kyoto Agreement. In light of recent events, ambassador Azakai also welcomed Russia's steps to ratify the Kyoto Agreement.

**9 November** - Lecture: "*The EU as a global player*". Dr **Gerd Leipold**, executive director of Greenpeace, spoke on the role of the EU in sustainable development, above all on its capacity as a global player



and leader. He pointed out a number of shortcomings and the lack of clarity of the definition of sustainable development in the 1987 Brundtland report. From this he concluded that the current notion of sustainable development in the EU is unacceptable, that it does not succeed in protecting the environmental interests or the interests of coming generations.

By describing sustainable development as a myth in itself since the system in which we work limits its execution, Dr Leipold recommended that the concept be kept as something inspiring instead of as something to show us that we have not achieved.

To conclude, Dr Leipold recommends a strong global government system and alternatives for the current growth model. He proposed that the EU should provide more conditional aid for effective environmental protection, that eco taxes be introduced and that the EU takes the lead as far as the possible form of "development aid" is concerned. The lecture was followed by a lively question and answer debate.

**13 November** - Seminar: *"Does the EU lead Europe on environmental policy?"*.



On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Convention on cross-border air pollution over long distances, IES in cooperation with the European Centre on Sustainable Policies for Human and Environmental Rights (ECOSPHERE) and UNU-CRIS organised an international colloquium on the topic "Does the EU lead Europe on environmental policy? Supranationalism and intergovernmentalism in regional environmental cooperation". The aim of this activity, that was attended by about 90 participants, was to compile a balance sheet of European regional cooperation in the area of the environment and an analysis of the respective role of the EU and a number of specialised intergovernmental organisations in the development of environmental law and environmental policy in the larger Europe. It also examined the role of the Economic Committee for Europe (ECE) of the UN, which since the middle of the nineteen seventies has served as an important negotiation forum for pan-European environmental treaties concerning air pollution, water management, industrial risks, environmental impact statements and participation of citizens in environmental policy. The speakers were **Kaj Bärlund**, director of the Environment department of ECE, **Harald Dovland** (Norway), chairman of the bureau of the Geneva Convention, **Claire N. Parker** (UK), former secretary of the OSPAR Committee for the protection of the marine environment, Prof. **Jerzy Jendroska** (University of Opole, Poland), Prof. **Luk Van Langenhove** (UNU-CRIS) and **Peter Gammeltoft** (European

Commission). The "keynote speaker" was **Svend Auken**, deputy speaker of the Danish Parliament and former Danish Minister for the Environment and Energy. His very critical vision of the hardly ambitious policy of the new European Commission in the area of the environment gave rise to an animated debate, that was moderated by Senior Researcher Prof. Dr. **Marc Pallemarts**.

**16 November** - Lecture: *"The New Constitution: A Charter for Sustainable Development in Europe?"*. **Sir Ken Collins**,



Chairman of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and former Chairman of the European Parliament Environmental Committee, outlined the changes in the draft Constitutional Treaty with regard to environment and sustainable development.

**17 November** - Brown Bag Lunch Series: *"EU Batteries Regulation"*. Mrs **Rosalinde Van Der Vlies**, desk officer for Batteries in the European Commission, DG Environment, spoke to the researchers of the "product regulator" project on 17 November 2004 about "The EU Batteries Regulation".

**17 November** - Conference: *"Human Rights Protection in Africa"*. In cooperation with the Research Group on Human Rights (HUMR) of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, the IES organised



a conference on "Human right protector

in Africa: a new Court, new instrument and new developments. A European reflector.” The meeting, with numerous international guest speakers such as **Rachel Murray** (University of Bristol), **Mutoy Mubiala** (UN Geneva), **Roelof Haveman** (Leiden) and **Joerg Ketelsen** (European Commission), was chaired by **Bart De Schutter**, President of the IES. UNU-CRIS Principal **Luk Van Langenhove** was moderator, whilst **Stefaan Smis** and **Paul De Hert** (VUB) took care of introducing and closing off the discussions.

**22-23 November** - Colloquium: “*Issues of International Legal Trade Policy and Implementation: Challenges for the WTO*”. The Economic Law department in cooperation with the University of Hull and the IES organised a colloquium entitled “Issues of International Legal Trade Policy and Implementation: Challenges for the World Trade Organisation”. The Brussels Capital Region, Cameron May Publishers Ltd, the Federal Government Department for the Economy and the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research were co-sponsors.

The colloquium brought speakers together from various universities, the European Institutions and legal practice worldwide. Prof. **Williams J. Davey** (University of Illinois, US) started the two-day reflection with his keynote speech on “WTO at 10 Years”. There were various sessions on liberalisation of the services sector, technical barriers, WTO regulations in European and national legislation, competition remedies and trade and development. Attention was paid to the influence of GATS in various areas such as liberalisation of the legal professions and services, liberalisation of financial services in the EU and income tax. In the area of the environment attention was paid to import restrictions under the TBT treaty (to what degree can restrictive measures be taken to protect the environment?) and the compatibility of the EU-REACH proposal concerning chemicals with WTO regulations. Papers on other (non European) areas were also discussed (China, India, Third World, ...).

**23 November** - Lecture: “*Governance*

*in the EU*”. Dr. **Ingeborg Niestroy** of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils presented the results of her comparative study of national sustainable development



strategies in the EU member states. She focussed on government affairs that occurred in the development process and applied the strategies to intensive participation of all those involved. Her study showed that there is great diversity in the approaches to this process of the member states, with different results and achievements depending on the national political and administrative cultures. **Nadine Gouzée**, coordinator of the Sustainable Development Task Force of Belgium’s Federal Planning Bureau, shed light on a few of her experiences in the development and implementation of the federal plan for sustainable development in Belgium.

**24 November** - Brown Bag Lunches: “*The crying game between trade and environment*”. Mr **Candido Garcia Molyneux**, solicitor with Covington & Burling, Brussels, spoke about “The Crying Game Between Trade and Environment”.

**30 November** - Lecture: **Thomas Leysen**, CEO of UMICORE, a Belgian producer of metals and chemicals presented his view of sustainable development with the emphasis on the role of the private



sector in striving for more sustainable patterns for production and consumption. He illustrated this using experiences of his company, one of the global leaders in its sector. Like previous speakers, he also emphasised the ambiguities of the general concept of "Sustainable Development", that has a different outcome for different people. He emphasised the need for focussing on practical and measurable results by means of a pro-active approach based on the so-called "triple bottom line", whereby companies routinely weigh their performances using a series of economic, environmental and social criteria. Prof. **Ilse Scheerlinck** of Vesalius College and the VUB Department Business Administration acted as a respondent.

**1 December** - Brown Bag Lunch Series: "EU Packaging Regulation". **Otto Linher**, Desk Officer in the European Commission, DG Environment, spoke about "The EU Packaging Regulation".

**7 December** - Lecture: "Sustainable Development and the EU's new neighbours". Prof. Dr. **Albena Azmanova**, who lectures Political Sciences at Vesalius College and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris,



discussed sustainable development in the context of democratisation and economic transition from the perspective of the new EU member states and neighbouring countries. She emphasised the relevance for the weak performances of the former Communist regimes with regard to the environment and the role of the ecological concerns of the populations in the movements for democratic transition that brought about the important political changes in the nineteen nineties. According to her, these aspirations were not effectively met by the post Communist regimes. The focus was almost solely on a narrow agenda for

neo liberal economic growth. **Mara Silina** of the European Environmental Bureau, who acted as respondent, largely shared the opinion of the speaker.

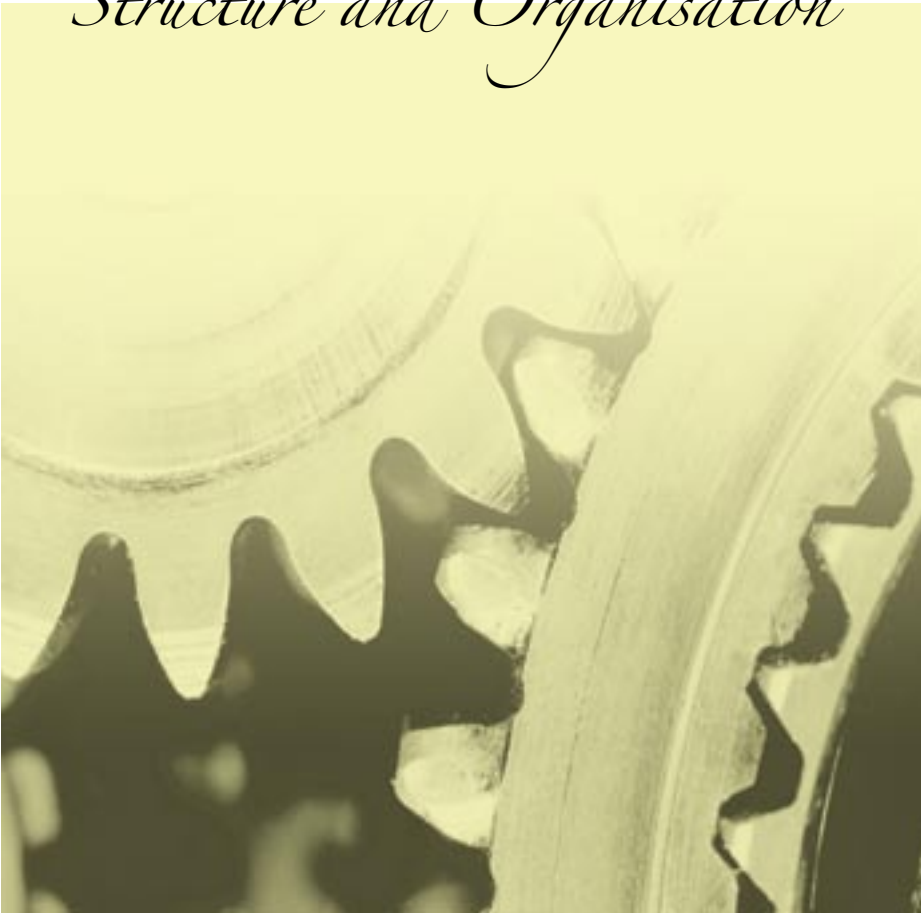
**14 December** - Lecture: "Belgium's role in the EU and the UN". Prof. **Bernard Mazijn**, policy director to the Belgian Secretary of State for Sustainable Development and Social Economics, **Els Van Weert**, spoke about Belgium's role in the EU and the UN. He discussed the challenges of effective participation in European and multilateral negotiations



about sustainable development and gave examples of Belgian initiatives within the framework of the EU and the UNO Committee for Sustainable Development. He also referred to the Belgian Federal Planning Process for Sustainable Development as a learning process for policy people and emphasised the importance of the involvement of all the ranks in determining national strategies for sustainable development, as agreed upon at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Prof. Mazijn was introduced by Prof. Em. **Rudi Verheyen**, former Rector Magnificus of the University of Antwerp and chairman of the MINA Board. He pointed out the role of this advisory board in contributing to the policy debate about sustainable development in Flanders and the EU.

## *Structure and Organisation*



# Structure and Organisation



The structure of the IES remained unchanged in 2004 in anticipation of a thorough reform expected in 2005. Reform deliberations were already held within the Board of the IES in January 2004. The Board members remarked that the scientific direction and basis of the IES was not strong enough. In this regard, initiatives were taken to recruit a Scientific Director. This decision was received very positively by the evaluation committee.

However, the reforms within the IES are not limited to recruiting a Scientific Director. The Board members cooperated with the Rector Magnificus of the VUB and the management of the IES to reform the entire structure and organisation of the IES and to arrive at an organic statute that would clearly define the tasks and relations vis-à-vis the University.

After the evaluation of the Institute in September, the reform deliberations were intensified and in light of the evaluation committee's proposals, conclusions were adopted (see also the section on the Evaluation).

In the area of finance, just like last year all the accounts and financial transactions were dealt with by the IES itself. The University decree after all provides for a *de facto* delegation of the financial policy to the IES, which was ratified by the Board of Governors of the VUB back in 2002.

## a. The IES Board

The composition of the IES Board changed slightly in 2004 due to the departure of two Board members, i.e. Marc Pallemarts and Wim Blonk.

Prof. Dr. Em. **Bart De Schutter** acted as President. The Board is assisted by the Executive Director, Mr **Anthony Antoine**.

The IES Board is responsible for approving the policy plan, budget and annual report and the auditing. The Board also decides on the research projects and the appointment of members of staff on the basis of a contract and for these matters reports directly to the Board of Governors of the VUB. In addition, the Board has competence in all matters for which in accordance with the management agreement of the University decree it is *de jure* authorised. In principle it meets every month.

The current Board is thus made up of the following people:

Prof. Dr. Koen BYTTEBIER  
(Faculty of Law)  
Prof. Dr. Hélène CASMAN  
(Dean Faculty of Law)  
Prof. Dr. Jean Pierre DE GREVE  
(Vesalius College)  
Prof. Karel DE GUCHT  
(Faculty of Law)  
Prof. Dr. Ralph DE WIT  
(Faculty of Law)  
Prof. Dr. Erik FRANCKX  
(Faculty of Law)  
Prof. Dr. Serge GUTWIRTH  
(Faculty of Law)  
Prof. Dr. Marc Jegers  
(Faculty of Economy, Sociology  
and Political Science)  
Prof. Dr. André SPRUYT  
(Faculty of Law)

As far as organising research projects is concerned, the IES decides on the policy to be conducted and associates the projects in the policy plan and the available budget. It entrusts the quality control of the content of the projects to the Research Council of the VUB, that in turn calls in external referees to screen the proposed projects. The Board of the IES takes a definite decision on the research projects to be remunerated on the basis of the Research Council's report.

In the area of education, the IES reports to the Law Faculty. The appointment of teaching staff occurs on the responsibility of the Faculty. Appointments of researchers are presented by the IES Board after a vacancy and on the basis of the report by the promoter and sent for further processing to the faculty. All the appointments are made final by the Board of Governors of the VUB.

#### **b. The day-to-day management**

The day-to-day management is taken care of by the President and the Executive Director of the Institute.

#### **c. Internal operations**

To strengthen the internal communication between the IES and its researchers, promoters, the faculty and the academic authorities, the IES started to publish a bimonthly "Newsletter" at the end of 2002. Four issues were published in 2004, 350 copies of which were distributed to researchers and professors within the relevant departments of the Law Faculty and ESP Faculty. Externally, the newsletters is sent electronically to a growing number of interested parties and to the PILC alumni.

In 2004 the IES also continued to organise staff meetings to which all the researchers and Senior Research Fellows were invited in order to guarantee greater transparency and interaction between the Board and the researchers.

#### d. Miscellaneous

The IES secretariat furthermore invites researchers of the Law Faculty to project presentations that are held regularly. The idea of these meetings is that one project at the IES is scrutinized periodically. The researcher(s) involved thus present their findings, so that (1) the other researchers and IES parties involved have a better overview of the efforts of their colleagues; (2) the researcher(s) involved are also given the opportunity to present their research in a structured way and (3) obtain feedback from their colleagues and any promoters present.

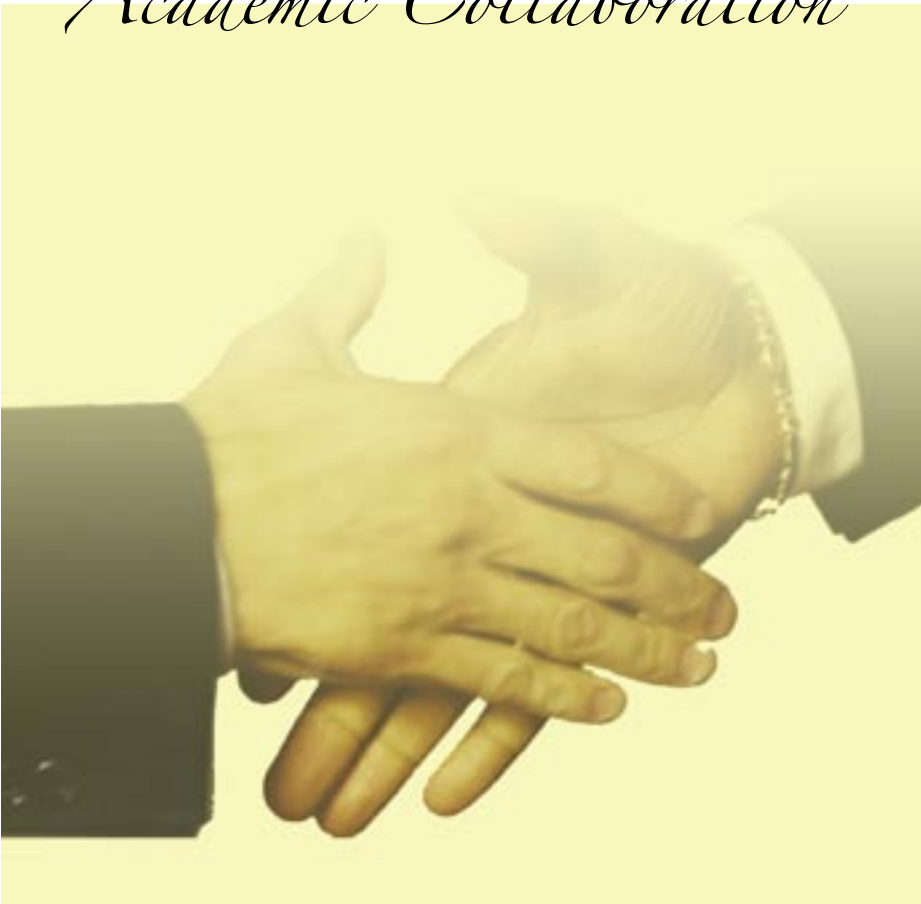
In 2004 the following researchers thus presented their projects or gave an overview of their activities:

- Marc Delanote: "*Globalisation, solidarity and taxation*" (16 February)
- Sven Baeten, Johan Vandendriessche and Piet Vandoolaeghe: "*Public Private Partnerships*" (19 March)
- Stephen Kingah: "*European policy towards regional integration in sub-Saharan Africa. A legal analyses of its formulation, implications and implementation*" (29 September)
- Ruben Lombaert: "*Educational modules in the field of European Institutions and European Law*" (20 October)
- Aaron McLoughlin: "*The role of public authorities in integrated product policy: regulators or coordinators? – legal issues*" (17 November)
- Rhiannon Williams: "*The impact of globalisation in the EC Environmental and Development Law*" (15 December)

A solution was found for the accommodation problems of the IES in 2004. In consultation with the General Board of the VUB possibilities on campus were considered, which translated into a concrete plan for converting available space in one of the VUB buildings into IES rooms on the basis of existing plans that the VUB Board had already had drawn up for other purposes. The architect appointed was asked to redraw the plans in order to adapt the existing ones to the needs of the IES. The cost price of this preliminary study was borne entirely by the IES. It is hoped that we can move into the new space by the beginning of the next academic year. Since the IES will rent this space from the VUB, the construction / alteration and financing order still has to be approved by the VUB Board.

In the long term, the IES would like to move into a "European House" or "International House" together with other internationally oriented institutes and programmes at or around the VUB. Talks with the Brussels School for International Studies and Vesalius College, were ongoing in this regard in 2004.

# *Academic Collaboration*



# Collaboration with other Institutions

The IES can pride itself on joint ventures with various different Belgian and foreign universities and institutes: more in particular with the Comparative Regional Integration Studies Institute of the United Nations University, Kent University, the Universität Wien, the Diplomatische Akademie Wien, the University of Göteborg and the Bracka Karic University Belgrade. There was also cooperation with the Facultés Universitaires Saint Louis and the Université Libre de Bruxelles within the framework of the research project on Trade and Environment.

A framework agreement was already signed by the directors of UNU-CRIS and IES in November 2002 within which a number of joint research projects are aimed at. Within this framework agreement, the project "the European Policy towards Regional Integration in Sub-Saharan Africa - a legal analysis of its formulation, implications and implementation"(promoter Stefaan Smis, researcher Stephen Kingah) started.

Within the same framework agreement, UNU-CRIS started the project "*Regional Security and Global Governance - the impact of regional organisations (i.e. the EU) on the decision-making process of the UN Security Council*". This project is being co-financed by the IES, that also granted its scientific cooperation to it in 2004. At the VUB an evaluation conference was held in June, whilst the findings of the research were also presented within the framework of the Jean Monnet colloquiums in Bucharest (for details see the section on Scientific services).

In addition, the IES is part of various international networks (RIGNET, GARNET) that work within the framework of UNU-CRIS on European Integration. The GARNET network, a network of excellence within the 6th framework programme of DG Research (EC), was remunerated by the European Commission and a framework agreement was drawn up for cooperation between the various partners in the network. Preparation meetings between the partners in connection with the budget to be awarded were held in Bruges and The Hague. The contract between the European Commission and GARNET is expected to be signed in the spring of 2005.

Together with colleague Serge Gutwirth of the Law Faculty of the VUB, the IES was also part of the REFGOV network, also a candidate for subsidy as a "network of excellence" within the 6th framework programme.

For the time being the extension of a Masters programme on "globalisation" with the University of Kent was forfeited for two reasons: on the one hand legal provisions prevent the VUB and the IES from starting up new MA programmes so that full responsibility for the programme had to be left to Kent. On the other hand the set quorum for enrolments was not achieved so that Kent decided to suspend the programme for the time being. The preparations for this programme extension did yield a workable method for organising joint educational programmes in the future.

Nevertheless, together with Kent's Brussels campus BSIS (Brussels School for International Studies) and Vesalius College, talks were held on setting up a joint education platform in English within which the three institutes could be active. In concrete terms this could be elaborated with a shared infrastructure, which if financially feasible, will be strived for in the new construction plans of the VUB. No definite answer had been given about this yet in 2004.

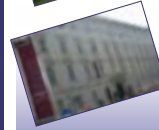
In 2004, the cooperation between the IES and the Universität Wien and the Diplomatische Akademie Wien resulted in the joint organisation of the Summer School, whereby one week was taken care of by the IES, and one week by Vienna (see also the section on Summer School in the Education section).



INTER-UNIVERSITY SUMMERSCHOOL

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*Registration fee is set at € 490 for students from candidate and accession countries, € 780 for other EU students, and € 1000 for overseas students or persons who graduated before 2003.*

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Organised by the Institute for European Studies of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the University of Vienna, with the kind support of the Jean Monnet Action (DG Education) of the European Union

# *Personnel Management*



# Personnel (-management)

The target of not letting the personnel costs exceed 70% of the budget was met again in 2004.

All the recruitments in 2004 occurred after external vacancies were opened. For the scientific staff the candidacies were ranked by the respective promoters and discussed by the IES board. The dossiers were sent on to the Law Faculty for further processing, after which the VUB proceeded with the appointments. Where possible, doctorate scholarships were called on, as the IES research projects should practically all lead to a doctorate thesis.

In 2003, the IES took on ten full-time equivalents so that the total number of IES employees at the end of the year came to 21.

Just like last year, the IES bore the remuneration of the PILC professors and the PILC secretariat. The cost of it was repaid by the VUB as a grant.

Prof. Dr. **Bart De Schutter** on the one hand and **Anthony Antoine** on the other hand were called in for the general management of the Institute, fulfilling the posts of President and Director of the IES respectively. The general IES secretariat is taken care of by Mrs **Nele Fasseel**. In light of the load on the IES secretariat after the appointment of the Senior Research Fellows and the increasing number of activities, a decision was taken at the end of 2004 to recruit an additional (part-time) secretariat staff member. The selection procedures for the appointment of this employee started back in 2004 but the vacancy will not be filled until 2005.

As stated above (see the section on Research) back in 2003 it was decided that at least two Senior Research Fellows be recruited in order to increase the Institute's scientific capacity and in time attract more externally financed scientific projects. This process resulted in the appointment of Prof. Dr. **Marc Pallemmaerts**, Dr. **Giovanna Bono** and **Richard Lewis**. In January 2004 they were selected by the Board of the IES from amongst 25 short listed candidates (of the 32 applications) on the basis of external screening and ranking by the Research Council of the VUB. Prof. Pallemmaerts, who already had a 20% task at the VUB and a 10% task at the ULB, was accepted as a Senior Research Fellow with a 70% task and commenced his tasks at the beginning of 2004. Dr. Bono joined the IES at the end of May 2004 and was appointed as a full-time Senior Research Fellow. Richard Lewis, finally, was given the title of Senior Research Fellow, but in view of his personal situation (retired European civil servant) he could not accept any stipend.

In 2004 the IES also started the procedure for appointing a Scientific Director. In order to attract as large an internationally qualified public as possible, additional advertisements were placed for this and a procedure was followed that was analogous to the recruitment procedure of the Senior Research Fellows. This means that the candidates were subjected to an external screening and that the Research Council transferred a selection proposal to the Board of the IES. The final selection of the Scientific Director will presumably occur mid 2005.

In 2003, the two part-time administrative staff from the PILC secretariat, **Annie Lodens** and **Liliane Debrouwer**, announced that they would retire by mid 2004. They left the VUB on 1 July and were replaced by Mrs **Marleen Van Impe**, who had already been closely following the work of the PILC for one day a week since September 2003 ("training cost" that was borne by the IES). The PILC secretariat was entrusted to her from July (with an 80% task).

Mr **Johan Pas** remained charged with inviting tenders for the projects and preparing research applications until the Senior Research Fellows who took over this coordinating role commenced. As the coordinator of the series of lectures on "Globalisation", he was charged with the co-editorship of the book on the same topic that was published in 2004. In addition he wrote a number of articles that were published by refereed journals.





# Quality Assurance



# Quality Assurance

Just like in previous years, the attention to and care for the quality of the education was organised by the University. After all, the VUB has a long tradition of monitoring the quality of its education, a tradition that predates the obligation ensuing from the University decree of 1991. A quality assurance framework is offered by the VUB and the IES tries to, only where necessary and/or possible, add additional measures to this.

In the area of education, the screening of the *Programme on International Legal Cooperation* occurs both pre and post factum: after an analysis of their scientific merits by an ad hoc committee, the candidacies of potential lecturers are presented by the Law Faculty to the Board of Governors of the VUB where the appointment eventually occurs. What is new, is that selected candidates also have to give a trial lecture on which the assessment is based. The entire procedure must occur in accordance with the university regulations concerning quality assurance. The IES Board makes a recommendation on the basis of the report by the faculty committee.

To make this procedure more transparent and to do something about the complaints of the evaluation committee, it is proposed that in the future the IES would be involved in the (now) faculty committee. The ad hoc committee would then be made up of delegates from the pro-

gramme, the faculty and the IES. Such a procedure is expected to be elaborated in the first half of 2005.

Internal control is furthermore guaranteed by the evaluation of the lecturers by the students of the PILC. At the end of the examination period of each semester, the Director of the PILC will immediately make the evaluation forms available to the students with the urgent request to react within the period agreed upon (usually one week). In view of the confidential nature of the student evaluations, they are collected anonymously by a student representative.

When they have been collected, the representative hands the evaluation forms to the Director. The Director makes an initial analysis of the functioning of the lecturers who in the semester in question rounded off their lectures with an exam and invites either one of the other lecturers or the Chairman of the Law Faculty or the Director of the IES to make the same initial analysis of the functioning of the PILC Director as a lecturer.

If there is no reason to assume that the functioning of one of the lecturers has led to serious problems, the lecturers are individually informed of the content of the student evaluations at the end of the academic year. Also, the PILC Board is informed in general terms of the content of the student evaluations. Where this is useful, the Director will make the necessary collective or individual recommendations.

Only if there is reason to assume that

the functioning of one of the lecturers has led to serious problems the lecturer in question is immediately informed of this. If necessary, the PILC Director can, in consultation with the lecturer in question and after consulting with other PILC lecturers (and other Faculty and University authorities if the nature of the student evaluation(s) so require), take the necessary action.

Quality measures were also taken for the Summer School organised in 2004. Thus the organisation and quality of the lecturers were subjected to a student survey (for more detailed information see the section on Summer School).

The quality of the research at the Institute is tested at various times as in previous years. The research topics are determined every year by the IES Board, whilst potential projects are screened by external referees assigned by the Research Council of the VUB. Any additional costs of calling in external reviewers is borne by the IES, as well as the costs of publishing vacancies in internationally distributed newspapers and journals, in order to appeal to a larger international potential of researchers. This procedure was used in 2004 for the selection of the two new research projects within the 2004 budget. External referees were requested by the Research Council to assess the 14 projects submitted. A ranking was then made by the Research department of the VUB and ratified by the Research Council. The IES Board then approved the two best ranked projects and invited candidates for the vacancies in question. More in particular, the projects "How real is CFSP? A retroductive

analyses of the EU's actorness in world politics" and "The EU after the constitutional treaty: effective and legitimate?" were selected by the IES Board as being the most valuable and after distribution of the vacancy 18 and 32 candidates respectively submitted applications. The candidates had still not been selected on 31/12/2004. The projects are expected to start in the spring of 2005 with two new doctoral students.

The IES regularly organised staff meetings at which each time one project is presented and commented on in detail by both the other IES researchers and the colleagues from various departments within the VUB (see also above). Since the primary responsibility for the quality of the research lies with the promoter in question, it is also ensured that researchers stay in touch with their promoters at regular intervals. The IES researchers in addition have to draw up a "road map" every year, in which they explain in detail what they have achieved in the past period and indicate which steps can be expected in their research in the next year. Every year, researchers also have to show their progress at the presentations within the framework of the staff meetings. The various publications of the researchers in books or magazines with editorial board already illustrate the quality of the research at the IES (see appendix).

Every year, the externally financed projects are tested by means of a report to the initiating authority and presented to the relevant support committees of the financing institution (Ministries or European Union). Thus in 2004 the interim report on the project "Corruption in/ and trade and industry" was approved by the Belgian Federal Government Department of Justice and the balance of the Jean Monnet projects (EC-DG Education) were awarded on the basis of the respective reports.

In the area of finance, the quality screening also occurs by external auditors (see auditor's report in appendix). In addition, the IES also has to account for the expenses made during the externally financed projects to the respective source of financing. Thus a detailed financial report had to be compiled for the EC-DG Education Jean Monnet Programme in order to obtain the balance of the two ongoing projects in 2004 and financial resources for government orders could only be released after extensive financial reports to the FPS in question.

# IES evaluation and overview of the measures taken

In accordance with the provisions of article 2.4 of the management agreement between the VUB and the Flemish government, in the autumn of 2004 the IES was subjected to an external evaluation. The evaluation committee, that carried out its work at the IES on 16 September, reported to the Minister for Education in December. In his letter of 14 December 2004, the Minister requested that the way in which the recommendations of the evaluation committee had been dealt with, the measures that the IES took and their effects, would be included in this annual report.

In addition to encouraging points, the evaluation report of the committee also states a number of criticisms that are discussed below. The committee emphasises "that the IES has already completed a significant process with regard to extending research and services" and it

says that "the ability to carry out interesting research is present" and that the research conducted until today could not have been carried out without the IES. "Without the IES undoubtedly less research would have started up and perhaps less structured services in the form of lecture series, Summer Schools, etc. would have been achieved.". With regard to the services it says that the Newsletters, the lecture series, the organisation and content of the Summer School offered, and the attempt to make a connection between these activities and the research, show that the Institute has the qualitative prerequisites to grow and to succeed in the future.

Nevertheless, the critical points of the evaluation report deserve our special attention. These are grouped per sub aspect of the evaluation report and discussed below.

## a. Order and mission

**Findings of the committee:** The evaluation committee judged that a strategy for the (medium and) long term is missing in particular for research, as a result of which it is not indicated where the IES wants to achieve its added value compared to other Institutes.

**Remedy:** The IES compiled a new research strategy. It was prepared by the Senior Research Fellows during the second half of 2004 and ratified by the Board of the IES on 22 March 2005. As stated above (see Research), the new research strategy focuses on the role and place of the European Union in an international context of globalisation. Significant added value is represented by accentuating the interdisciplinary methodology. The research strategy document also positions the IES in relation to other Institutes, which leads to a clearer profile. It furthermore has repercussions on the structure (Board members from other disciplines and external experts) and on the services activities (focus).

## b. Education

Findings of the committee: In the area of education the evaluation committee recommends that the evaluations of the lecturers on the basis of the forms filled out by the students be carried out by someone other than PILC president to make sure that the evaluation of the latter is independent. In addition, it recommends that the evaluations be presented to the students and the lecturers in question. The committee furthermore feels that it is strange that the IES has little formal say in the appointment, reappointment and dismissal of lecturers in the PILC programme - a programme which according to the management agreement it has full responsibility for. Finally, according to the committee a formal structure is also lacking to let the students exercise any influence on the content and organisation of the education.

Remedy: Since education at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel is organised by the faculties, the IES should embed its education activities that lead to a diploma in a faculty. The PILC should thus be organised by the Law Faculty. However, in order to increase the IES's participation in the PILC, it is proposed that appointments for the PILC and changes to the programme in the first instance be discussed by a mixed ad-hoc committee. The committee that would be made up of delegates from the faculty in question, delegates from the programme in question and delegates from the IES, would make a recommendation that would be passed on for further discussion to the respective policy organs of the VUB. Decisions that deviate from this recommendation will have to be motivated.

Evaluations by students are invited by the PILC president, but, as a result of the comments of the evaluation committee, the own evaluation of the latter is transferred to the IES president or the chairman of the Law Faculty for further follow-up.

Since the evaluation report could only be made public when the academic year had already been started, the IES could not do anything yet about increasing the decision structure for students. The PILC Board will have to discuss such a proposal beforehand at its meeting. In view of the one-year nature of the PILC as a post graduate course, the PILC director feels that an institutionalised influence of the students on the content and organisation of the education, for example by means of a student council or a student representative on the PILC Board, is difficult to achieve. However, there is very open consultation between the lecturers and students about the organisation of the education, and comments about the content and organisation that reach the PILC through evaluation forms can also be taken into account. What is more: every year the students are encouraged to elect one or two representatives that can at any time raise any questions, comments or suggestions about the education or the lecturers. In general this communication is open and suffices.

## c. Services

Findings of the committee: no comments

Remedy: none

#### d. Research

Findings of the committee: The evaluation committee observed that a fully-fledged research programme is missing and recommends that one be compiled in which a policy choice (mono disciplinary / multidisciplinary) should also be made. It also observes that a sound input/output analysis is missing. In addition the committee observes that the Senior Research Fellows do not have the possibility to submit research applications independently to the Law Faculty. It also requests a more structural embedding of the promoters in the IES.

Remedy: In the spring of 2005, the VUB foresaw the creation of specific ZAP mandates for experienced researchers (with a doctorate), in order to fully include them in the university landscape. The IES obtained permission from the Research Council to put forward its Senior Research Fellows for such 10% mandates. In the future this would allow the Senior Research Fellows to submit research projects independently and to act as a support MAs and/or Doctorates theses within their domain.

The lack of a fully-fledged research programme was partly already resolved with the composition of the new research strategy. In it, a clear choice was made for working with interdisciplinary teams. In the future the Senior Research Fellows prepare the annual research programme together with the Scientific Director before submitting it to the (reformed) Board of the IES.

In order to better support new researchers, new research topics are only remunerated if they fall within the guidelines of the new research strategy and in addition to the research promoter a Senior Research Fellow is also appointed to support the researcher in his research. The Board of the IES will in the near future furthermore discuss a proposal to increase the involvement of the promoters who are not part of the IES.

#### e. Facilities

Findings of the committee: The evaluation committee feels that the accommodation of the researchers is inadequate (too limited and no space to be alone).

Remedy: The IES, that started looking for more spacious accommodation back in the spring of 2004, in the autumn negotiated with the General Director of the VUB and with the head of the Technical Department on the possibility of obtaining a larger location on campus. This was translated into a concrete plan to convert the available space in one of the VUB buildings into IES rooms on the basis of existing plans that the VUB had drawn up for other purposes. In order to adjust the existing plans to the needs of the IES, the architect selected was asked to redraw them. The cost price of this study was paid fully by the IES. The plans now on the table make the research space three times as large and also provide rooms to which researchers can if necessary withdraw. It is hoped that it will be possible to move into the new rooms by the beginning of the next academic year. Since the IES will rent the accommodation from the VUB, the (re)construction and financing order has to be approved by the VUB board. The IES hopes that this will occur without delay.

#### f. Personnel policy

Findings of the committee: In the eyes of the committee, the possibility of exercising influence on the appointment of new researchers and lecturers is appropriate for an institute such as the IES. Structural agreements with the VUB within a strict academic framework must make it possible to conduct a smoother personnel policy.

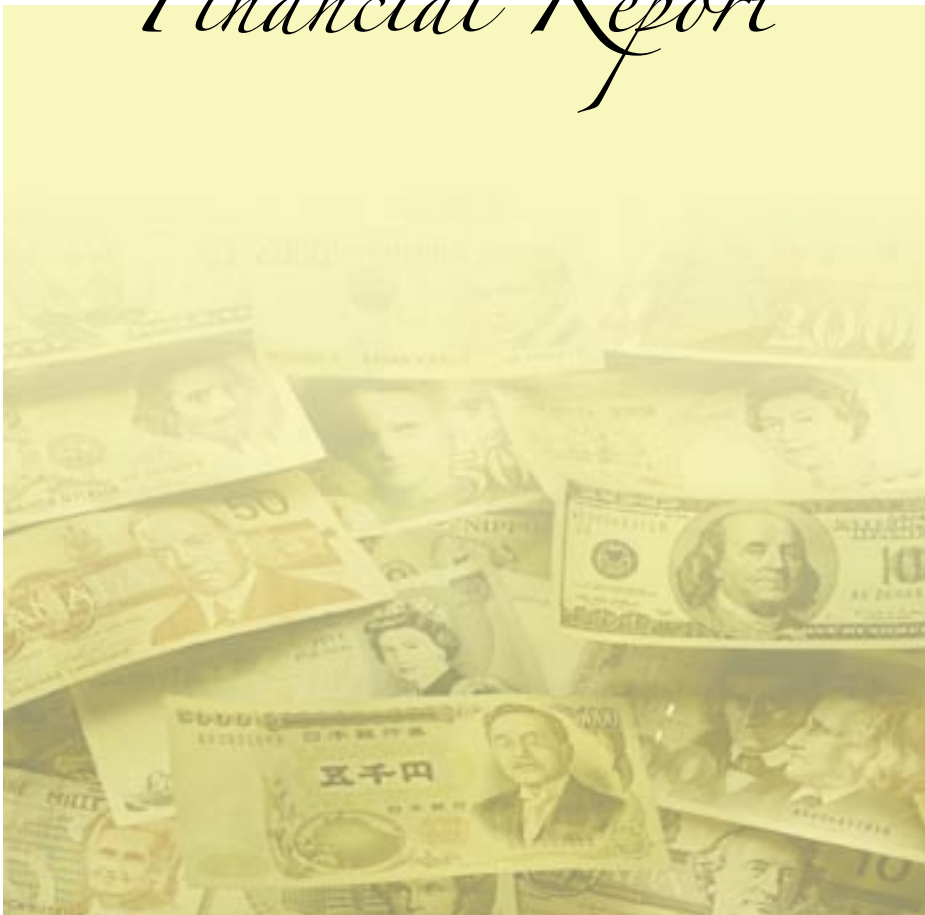
Remedy: Such structural agreements resulted in the drafting of statutes and by-laws and are currently being discussed by the IES and VUB (for more details see g. Institutional structure).

#### g. Institutional structure

Findings of the committee: This is the main point of the evaluation committee's criticism. The current decision model is hardly known and not transparent and the method is inefficient. In addition, according to the committee the composition of the IES Board with above all people from the Law Faculty is not the best possible choice. The VUB should furthermore consider whether it is useful to have two different departments in parallel that strive for the same thing as far as content is concerned. What is more: the PILC does not seem sufficiently embedded in the IES, so that the interaction between education and research is made difficult.

Remedy: Back in January 2004 the IES started a number of reform meetings in order to arrive at a better and more efficient internal structure. The meetings, that were also attended by the Rector of the VUB, in the autumn resulted in a consensus, at least on the main lines. In the spring of 2005 the Rector took the initiative to on the basis of the decisions of these reform meetings draw up an Organic Regulation and Bye-laws for the IES. A proposal was delivered by the legal department of the university in April 2005 which is now being discussed by the Board of the IES to be adopted by the Board of Governors of the VUB no later than the beginning of the new academic year. The Organic Regulation provides far-reaching autonomy for the IES, within which the composition of the Board is drastically changed and the decision-making procedure is adapted. The proposal also regulates the relations between the Institute, Faculty/faculties and the VUB. The (proposed) Organic Regulation in addition places the emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature and confirms the Institute as an autonomous body that must report directly to the Board of Governors of the VUB. This option, if ratified by the IES and the VUB, must however be approved by the Minister, as a number of provisions of the current management agreement concerning the embedding of the Institute in the Law Faculty will no longer apply. In view of the findings of the evaluation committee, however, it is not desirable to wait with these reforms until the new management agreement takes effect.

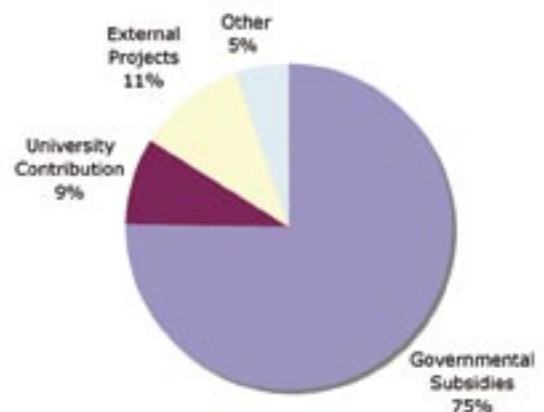
# Financial Report



# Financial Report (summary)

	2004 Budget	2004 Income/Expense
<b>Voorziene Inkomsten</b>	<b>€ 1,954,135</b>	<b>€ 1,894,029</b>
1 Governmental Subsidies	€ 1,426,000	€ 1,426,000
2 University contribution	€ 157,382	€ 162,707
3 External Projects	€ 219,753	€ 207,510
4 Scholarships	€ -	€ 698
5 Tuition Fees	€ 70,000	€ 45,241
6 Conference Fees	€ 61,000	€ 17,525
7 Intrests	€ 20,000	€ 13,023
8 Courseware	€ -	€ 19,223
9 Various	€ -	€ 2,101
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>€ 92,753</b>	<b>€ 71,765</b>
<b>Running Costs</b>	<b>€ 490,240</b>	<b>€ 355,303</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>€ 1,076,453</b>	<b>€ 887,133</b>
<b>Reserves and provisions</b>	<b>€ 1,330,796</b>	<b>€ 1,363,220</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 1,659,446</b>	<b>€ 1,314,201</b>

Origin of funds



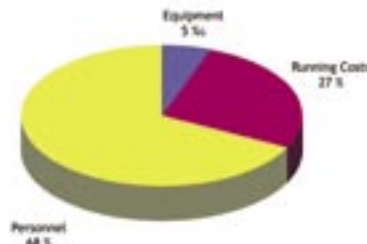
The accounts of the IES have been managed autonomously since 1 January 2003. The Institute thus is not part of the global VUB accounts. The present figures were checked by an external auditor.

In general it can be said that the IES's financial situation is a healthy one. Revenues anticipated in the 2004 budget have been almost completely generated and the expenses remained within budget. On the revenues side, above all the share of external projects increased.

On the expenses side no big differences can be seen in comparison with 2003. The percentage of investments (equipment) fell slightly compared to last year (5% instead of 6%) whilst the operating costs fell from 32% to 26% and the personnel costs - as anticipated - rose from 62% to 69%. Personnel costs should stabilise at around 70%.

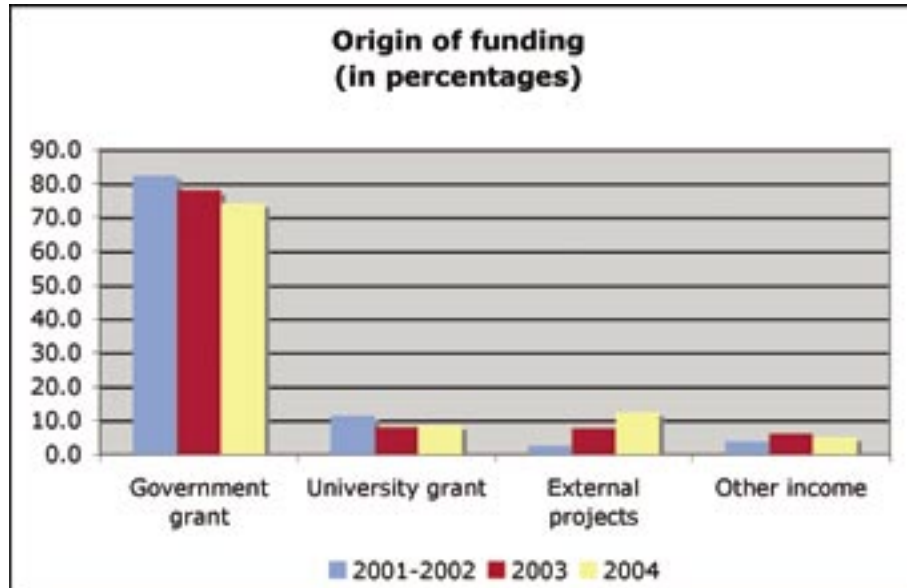
Above all the operating expenses remained under the planned budget. On average 78% of the planned expenses were spent in 2004. In the first place this is due to a number of projects starting later than planned. Thus two IES projects planned on the 2004 budget did not start in the summer of 2004 but in the spring of 2005. An average of 70% of all the research credits for the researchers and promoters were used.

Distribution of expenses



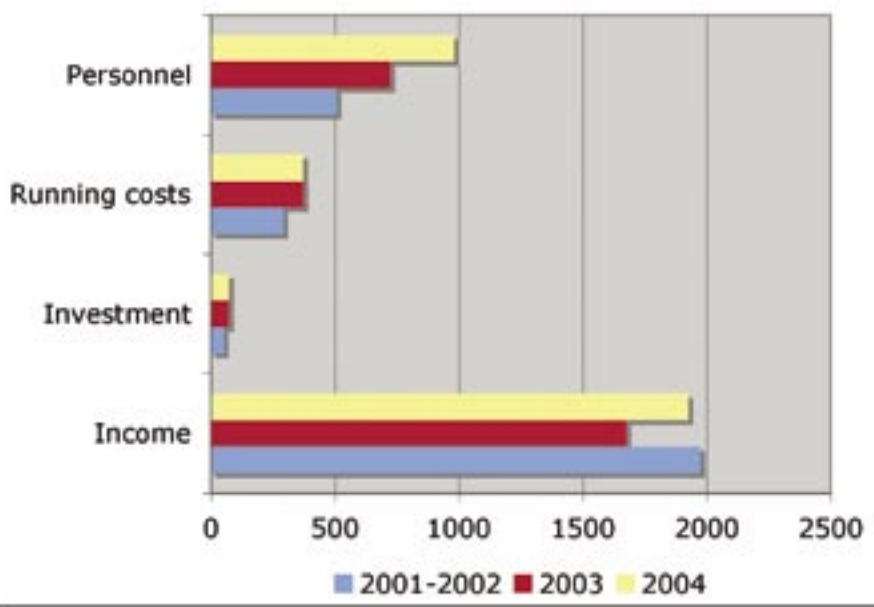
The project reserves, built up in 2001/2002 and further increased in 2003 were not used in 2004, but in the future will be used to further finance our own IES projects. Here, too, the main reason is that a number of projects started later than planned and one IES research project ended prematurely. As indicated in the policy plan the IES is systematically decreasing the reserve built-up whilst also looking for other sources of financing.

The budget surplus for 2004 (€ 180,792) is 9.38 % and thus remains under the 30% permitted.



Although over the past few years, the government funding rose slightly, its impact on the overall budget diminished. A similar trend can be seen with the funding IES receives from University. This is primarily because the share of external projects nearly doubled from € 124.936 in 2003 to € 238.546 in 2004.

### Income and expenditure per year





Vrije Universiteit Brussel

**Institute for European Studies  
2004 Activity Report**

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All pictures courtesy of IES & VUB.





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