IES moves to Karel Van Miert Building

In March, the IES moved from Pleinlaan 15 to the newly named Karel Van Miert Building on Pleinlaan 5. It was our third and biggest move ever.

The moving process was complicated and well-planned but took quite a while. Ground-breaking began on the 11th of February with a less than impressive site of a boxed-up IES. An enormous crane, attached to a 78-ton truck, aptly named “Mighty Tiny”, unfolded itself in front of our doorstep on Pleinlaan 15 and helped us move one third of our walls and doors that were to be refurbished in the new premises. “Mighty Tiny” moved 2 tons per trip from the rooftop to the ground floor, where our movers unloaded a total of seven cargos—14 tons in total (all of which was manually moved from the 5th floor to the rooftop via the staircase)!

Suddenly Pleinlaan 15 was an awkward sight, as walls, doors and furniture had been emptied. But the temporary setup, with a large researchers room and a few offices still in place, was not all that bad. It was seen as a preparation phase for the “flex office” that we would have in Pleinlaan 5.

The new premises indeed came with a different working modality. In the Flex Office setup, researchers dispose of a variety of working places, adjusted to their needs of the day. The Institute thus accommodates a large “silent area” - a library-like facility where talking is restricted, several “solo-rooms” for concentrated work, a “talking zone” where phonecalls can be held, four dialogue rooms for teacher-student meetings, three conference rooms, two classrooms, two lounge areas, a kitchen and six meeting rooms. The different desk setups give everybody the chance to work in the best environment for the type of work they are doing. But no, nobody has its “own” office anymore, a novelty that is not always easy to digest by everybody. But with a growing institute and a high request of visiting fellows, the new setup gives a modern answer to the space restrictions that we face.

A big thank you goes out to the IES Executive Director and his Supporting Staff who coordinated the moving activities in both Pleinlaan 15 and 5.
Nudges and other innovative ways to make consumption greener

A key challenge in moving towards a sustainable consumption society is the so called value-action gap. While consumers may already have a rather good awareness of what is sustainable and what is not, the awareness does not translate into greener behavior.

There are various reasons for the gap: daily routines are difficult to break away from, and social pressure on kinds models of behavior may be strong. Converting good intentions into concrete positive actions is a challenging task, however. Traditional command and control regulations appear ineffective, as do purely informational campaigns. Thaler and Sunstein (2008) have suggested “nudges” as a new means of overcoming the policy challenge.

Nudges are positive incentives that softly and voluntarily guide consumers to make better choices. Making the most environmental alternative the default option, is a good example of a nudge. Environmental messages may be framed in terms of their concrete gains to the consumer, such as money saved in energy bills over a slightly longer period when purchasing a more energy efficient refrigerator. Smart canteens that rearrange sustainable and healthy food in a way that is more attractive and easier to access has proven much more effective than merely informing the consumers on what constitutes an unhealthy diet.

Nudges and other new strategic ways to influence the consumers’ behavior were the subject of a one day expert hearing organized by the Centre d’Analyse Stratégique of the French Prime Minister on March 2.

In the hearing, professor Harri Kalimo from the IES provided, together with five other experts, the audience of 80 experts and 20 journalists insights on the latest research conducted at the IES regarding the latest trends and tools in sustainable consumption policies in Europe.

More information can be found on the “knowledge brokerage” Website CORPUS http://www.scp-knowledge.eu, developed at the IES by Harri, Ólöf Söebech, Klaas Chielens, Jamal Shahin and Alex Daniell.


CORPUS

Enhancing the Connectivity Between Research and Policy-Making in Sustainable Consumption

The IES is a partner in CORPUS, a European FP7 project, which aims to unite the policy-making and research communities in the field of sustainable consumption through a series of workshops and a web platform. The objective is to stimulate ideas and information sharing and to create a self sustaining process of knowledge management.

The IES is responsible for building and running the CORPUS website www.scp-knowledge.eu which is under constant development and improvement. Once registered to the site users can tailor it to their preferences and access the latest information on SCP, scientific publications, policy documents, listings of upcoming events and a fast growing community of users. Additionally, the platform provides an online space for networking and community building where registered users can create a profile, share information, ask questions and upload publications.

We are working on CORPUS with a consortium of 11 organisations that cover a broad area of expertise from research institutions, independent evaluators to government ministries.

Working on this project at the IES are Alex Daniell, Ólöf Söebech, Klaas Chielens and Harri Kalimo.

The CORPUS project runs from January 2010 to January 2013. www.scp-knowledge.eu


The panel discussion was jointly hosted by the Grantham Research Institute and the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Other panelists included Michael Jacobs, Visiting Professor at the Grantham Research Institute and Special Adviser to Prime Minister Gordon Brown from 2004 to 2010, and Peter Betts, Director for International Climate Strategy at the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

The panel discussion focused on the prospect for advancing climate protection at the global level between the two climate summits of Cancun, Mexico in December 2010 and Durban, South Africa in December 2011 and explored the importance of and prospect for agreement at the UN level.

Sebastian Oberthür provided an overview of the EU’s role in Copenhagen in 2009 and Cancun in 2010 and argued for the EU strengthening its domestic ambition for the reduction of greenhouse gases to at least 30 percent by 2020 as well as a reinvigoration of attempts by the EU and others to drive the international talks towards a binding international framework. Under current circumstances, such a binding international framework for the time post-2012 would have to consist of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol and a complementary new protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change covering action in particular by developing countries.

**EFSP in the media**

Members of the cluster were requested to contribute their expertise on Libya, but also on the EU’s reaction to the revolts in Egypt in Tunisia, in Flanders – and beyond. On 29 March Alexander gave an interview about the ongoing military campaign in Libya, which was broadcast live on Flemish public television in the evening news show Ter Zake. On the same day the Los Angeles Times cited Luis in an article on the European reaction to the Libya crisis. On 15 February, Eva was interviewed by the Austrian Daily ‘Der Standard’ on the EU’s reaction, and particularly the role of High Representative Catherine Ashton, to the revolts in Egypt and Tunisia – as well as the EU’s future role.

Anna Stahl attended a number of meetings related to her PhD research. On 28 March she attended a Policy Dialogue on “Emerging players in Africa: what’s in it for Africa-Europe relations?” organized by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) in Brussels. On 22 March she attended a Briefing Seminar on “The role of the EU and China in ACP countries” organised by the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS) in Brussels. From 10-16 March, Anna also attended a seminar on “Cultural Diplomacy in Africa” that was organized by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) in Berlin (10-16 March), where she submitted a paper comparing Chinese and European activities in Africa.

Finally, on 29 March Eva participated in the Final INEX Conference that was hosted by Associate Senior Fellow Peter Burgess at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), and presented a summary of her work undertaken in the framework of the INEX project during a presentation on ‘Implementing the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.’

In addition to academic conferences, the cluster also provided input into ongoing policy debates, particularly those surrounding Afghanistan and the launch of the European External Action Service.

On 17 February, Eva spoke at the European Policy Center (EPC) in Brussels during a policy workshop on ‘The EEAS and the challenge of crisis management’.

Eva also contributed her expertise at an expert seminar on ‘Afghanistan 2011-2014 and beyond: transforming international support operations for sustainable peace’. Co-organized by the Carnegie Endowment for international peace and the EU Institute for Security Studies, the seminar was held in Washington D.C. on 22-23 February 2011. It addressed the most critical questions confronting the international community with respect to the impending transition of Afghanistan from a military-led international response zone to a sphere characterised by responsible local ownership of peacebuilding. Eva’s intervention addressed international efforts at training the Afghan National Security Training Forces (ANSF). Among the participants at the seminar were the Afghan Minister of Defence, General Abdul Rahim Wardak, Senior Deputy US Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Frank Ruggiero, and NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Martin Howard.
The Migration & Diversity Cluster of the IES, together with the Fundamental Rights Centre of the VUB Faculty of Law, organized a lunchtime policy forum on Tuesday 29 March, entitled “Reasonable accommodation of religion in the workplace. A legal, sociological and philosophical approach”.

Reasonable accommodation is the term used when employers provide facilities for their staff to practice their religion during working hours, for example the provision of halal food in canteens. The concept has become a topic of importance in the current discourse on the integration of immigrants into host societies.

Speakers included Dr. Julie Ringelheim (UCL), Dr Ilke Adam (IES, VUB) and Prof. Gily Coene (RHEA, VUB). The policy forum was chaired by Prof. Paul De Hert (FRC, VUB). The presentations and discussions were based on a recently published research report on practices of reasonable accommodation for religion in Belgium directed by Ilke Adam (IES) & Andrea Rea (ULB).

http://www.ies.be/research/MigrationandDiversity

Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Ilke Adam attended the International Political Science Association conference in Sao Paulo Brazil held from February 16th-19th. The conference, entitled “Whatever happened to North-South?” was wide-ranging and split into three themes: regional integration; political regimes and democratic consolidation; economic trends and political, social and cultural changes. Ilke presented a paper in the Migration, Citizenship and Democracy section of the last of these themes which was entitled ‘Sub-state nationalism and immigrant integration entwined. Theorizing the nexus.’ The conference papers are available on the conference website.

http://saopaulo2011.ipsa.org

Postdoctoral Researcher Dr Selen Sarisoys Guerin has completed a study on the Policy Coherence of EU’s Development Objectives with its Trade Policy. This study was conducted for the Committee on Development of the European Parliament. The study highlighted several inconsistencies between EU’s trade policies towards developing countries and its commitments under the TFEU Art. 208., i.e. the long-run eradication of poverty.

Selen has also completed another study on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows in the Central Eastern European Countries: An Institutional Approach” at the ECEE conference in Talinn, Estonia in June. He has also participated in several training seminars organized by the VUB PhD school and was submitted a paper on “The impacts of FDI on Productivity: A panel data analysis” to the ICEF 2011 Conference in Istanbul, Turkey (May, 2011).
In this issue of the IES newsletter, we take the opportunity to publish a profile of one of our members. Trisha Meyer is a Belgian-American who joined the IES in October 2009.

Trisha graduated with a Master’s degree in Communication Sciences from the VUB in 2009. In 2008 and 2009, she also interned at the center for Studies on Media, Information and Telecommunication (IBBT-SMIT, a close research partner of the IES), where she collaborated on a research project concerning creative content online. Shortly thereafter, she joined the IES to work on her PhD which deals with ‘anti-piracy’ policy in the EU.

In her PhD, Trisha studies three online copyright enforcement policies (the European Union, France and the United Kingdom) to gain some insight into the future of the Internet.

Copyright is a temporary exclusive right to enable creators and creative industries to earn revenue off their investments with the higher aim to encourage learning (Davies, 2002, ‘Copyright and the public interest’). Copyright, however, has been difficult to enforce on the Internet, which has led to loss of revenue and calls for stronger public policy by copyright holders. As a result, the EU has harmonized certain civil aspects of the enforcement of intellectual property rights (Directive 2004/48/EC) and set up an anti-counterfeiting and piracy consorotry to facilitate information gathering and sharing (in 2009). Within the EU, copyright is mainly dealt with by the DG Internal Market. Individual member states have not remained idle either. In 2009 and 2010 respectively, France and the United Kingdom passed stringent legislation introducing a graduated response mechanism to deter online copyright infringement. Under this mechanism, Internet users are monitored, and when caught infringing copyright, are repeatedly warned and (in the French case) ultimately sanctioned through a fine, imprisonment or suspension of Internet access.

The Internet has high public interest value as it promotes open communication: it is a tool of many-to-many communication, allowing an abundance of information to be shared and received; it is also an engaging tool of communication, allowing its users to participate and interact widely. At the same time, however, it is also quick to be controlled and wielded in ways that benefit the more powerful in capitalist society (Mansell, 2004, (Political economy, power and new media) in: New media & society). As information has gained importance in our economy and society, control over the Internet’s architecture and content is greatly sought for political, cultural and economic reasons. The theory of political economy of communication studies mechanisms of control in the production, distribution and consumption of media, starting from a sense of injustice that the media industry (including the Internet) has become part of the wider capitalist order (Mansell, 1994, ‘The new telecommunications network: a political economy of network evolution’; Mosco, 1996, ‘The political economy of communication’).

In her research, Trisha studies the interactions between copyright and the Internet from a socio-communications viewpoint. She analyzes (1) to which extent and for which reasons copyright and the Internet are converging or conflicting (interacting) in the digital era and (2) which consequences this interaction has for the public interest of the Internet.

Copyright and the Internet are valuable tools for communication and creativity in society. There are, however, significant differences in the political economies underlying these two tools. While copyright seeks to encourage creativity by protecting content, the Internet facilitates widespread distribution of content. The first objective of her PhD then is to study if and how this old tool for protecting communication (copyright) and this new tool for facilitating communication (the Internet) are interacting and changing in online copyright enforcement policies.

Building on this first objective, the premise to be verified in her PhD is that the online copyright enforcement policies of the EU, France and the UK have a detrimental impact on the public interest of the Internet. The Internet has great democratic potential, as it facilitates open communication. The second objective of her PhD is to study if, how and why the private interest of creators and creative industries are prevailing over the public interest in online copyright enforcement policies.

Trisha is currently in the second year of her PhD and aims to finish by October 2013. In the coming months she will focus on theoretical aspects of her research: gaining and testing insights from theories on open communication networks, political economy of communication, and surveillance studies, and analyzing the ideas, interests and institutions underlying copyright and the Internet. The research is useful, because it studies the influence of copyright on the Internet through policies aimed at protecting copyright on the Internet, rather than the more conventional reverse approach of changes to copyright due to the Internet. Furthermore, there is great value in understanding and explaining the underlying policymaking processes which have led to the current online copyright enforcement models. These policies raise important societal questions about open communication, public and private interests, surveillance, and ultimately the future of the Internet.

In February and March Trisha had the opportunity to share her research with students through three guest lectures, entitled “The green global networked information economy” and “Graduated response and the emergence of a European surveillance society” (this last presentation was based on a journal article she published with her advisor Leo Van Audenhove in Info last autumn). In May she will present a paper based on the first analysis of her French case study, entitled “Surveillance and regulating code: An analysis of graduated response in France” at a cyber-surveillance conference in Toronto.
**E-learning & Training**

**EUSA Conference Boston**

On 3-5 March 2011, IES Researcher Alexandra Mihai attended the EUSA (European Union Studies Association) Twelfth Biennial International Conference that took place in Boston, USA. As the largest conference so far, this EUSA conference brought together more than 500 researchers and practitioners, from over 150 institutions across the world, together to share their research results in the field of European Studies and to network with their peers.

The three day conference offered around 140 parallel panels, round tables and keynote speeches focusing on various research areas related to European Studies: European history, culture and identity, institutional issues, theories, research methods, as well as different policy fields such as foreign policy, migration, economic policy, etc. Alexandra attended various panels tackling institutional reform after the Lisbon Treaty, as well as panels that looked into the functioning of the European Parliament, its increased role and its image in the media. Moreover, she attended the panels that dealt with methods of teaching European studies.

Alexandra was featured as a presenter in the session: “Mapping Teaching Tools in EU Studies: Methodologies and Hypotheses”. The session brought together four presentations looking at various methods of teaching EU studies, from Problem Based Learning (promoted by the University of Maastricht) to e-learning, blended learning and the use of social networks, at the Free University of Bolzano, Italy. Despite the early hour (8:30 am on a Saturday), the panel was quite well attended. The diverse mix of teaching experts from both Europe and the U.S. guaranteed a very productive debate. Alexandra’s presentation focused on the use of a blended learning approach in teaching European Studies, including the challenges involved, and the great potential of the blended approach. The main message of her session was that the key is to explore what are the needs of the learners and the aims of the teaching process from a pedagogical point of view and to find methods that are best suited to reach those aims. Subsequent to the panel, Alexandra was asked to contribute a chapter on blended learning and the IES experience to a book on “Teaching European Union Studies: Patterns in Traditional and Innovative Teaching Methods and Curricula”, (to be published in 2011).

Overall, the conference provided Alexandra with a great opportunity to get up-to-date with the latest EU studies research in her areas of interest, as well as an invaluable platform for networking with like-minded people and set the ground for possible future collaborations.

**Hendrix students in Brussels**

For the third year in a row, a group of U.S. students (from Hendrix College), came to Brussels for a semester abroad with the aim of learning about how the European Union works and experience it first hand through direct contact.

For the first time, the IES joined forces with Vesalius College in order to offer the ten students a comprehensive and enjoyable introductory week that took place between the 10-15 January. The students were given an overview of their new surroundings- Brussels and the VUB campus, respectively- as well as introductions concerning their study and internship programmes. A visit to the European Parliament aimed to give them a first taste of how the EU institutions work, while the day-trip to Brugge opened their eyes towards one of the many attractions of their new host country.

Annie, Jess, Al, Zach, Elana, Connor, Will, Dylan, Julie and Emma will be staying in Brussels until the end of May, where they are currently taking courses at the IES and at Vesalius College, as well as doing internships in Brussels-based organizations.

**EU in Close-up**

On 9-11 February the E-learning and Training Unit organized the first 2011 session of the “EU in Close-up” intensive seminar on EU institutions and policy process. As in previous years, the seminar attracted participants from various backgrounds, ranging from the corporate world and non-governmental organizations to international organizations, European institutions and academia.

During the in-depth three day seminar, topics such as the functioning of European institutions, the inter-institutional decision-making, comitology, and lobbying were discussed in detail by academics and practitioners. The training takes an interactive approach, illustrating the theoretical knowledge with practical examples and case studies.

Moreover, the last session, was opened to a larger audience as a stand-alone event “Communicating in the EU”, offered a hands-on guide to dealing with the various EU information sources, and featured Leigh Phillips (EUobserver) as a guest speaker who commented on his own experiences with reporting in the EU.
New IES book Publication on THE EUROPEAN UNION AS AN INTEGRATIVE POWER?
Assessing the EU’s ‘Effective Multilateralism’ towards NATO and the United Nations
by Joachim Alexander Koops

This book offers a comprehensive analysis of the European Union as an International Actor and of its foreign policy of ‘effective multilateralism’ in both theory and practice. The core argument is that the EU has fostered integrative links - not only between states, but more recently also among international organisations. The study highlights the successes and critically examines the weaknesses of the EU’s effective multilateralism with NATO and the United Nations and offers concrete proposals for strengthening the EU as an inter-organisational security actor and Integrative Power in the short- and long-term.

The first part of this study analyses major theories of multilateralism and takes stock of 40 years of scholarship on conceptualizing the EU as a distinct foreign policy actor. In this context, this book introduces the new concept of the ‘European Union as an Integrative Power’ as a core feature of the EU’s nature and impact in international affairs.

The second part of the book examines the successes and drawbacks of the EU’s cooperation with NATO and the United Nations in the field of peace, security and international crisis management. With the help of detailed case studies of the EU’s CSDP operations in Macedonia, Bosnia and the Democratic Republic of Congo as well as the first detailed analysis of the EU’s relations with the Standby High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG), this study provides a thorough assessment of the integrative as well as adverse impacts of the EU’s approach to EU-NATO and EU-UN ‘effective multilateralism’.

This book will provide a valuable resource for graduate students, academics and practitioners interested in the EU as an International Actor, ‘effective multilateralism’ and the growing phenomenon of inter-organisational relations.

Other Publications by IES authors


ISA Montreal 2011 - Conference

On 16-19 March 2011, several IES members attended the 52nd Annual ISA Conference that took place in Montreal, Canada, entitled ‘Global Governance: Political Authority in Transition’, with program chairs Matthew A. Baum and Kristian S. Gleditsch.

The largest ISA conference so far, the 4-day event took place within three central Montreal hotels, and consisted of 217 theme panels on the program, bringing together 1,094 panels and roundtables, with thousands of researchers and practitioners, from hundreds of institutions across the world. ISA is truly the international forum for political and social science par excellence, with 5400 members and 25 sections and Caucus, and six regional sub-units, so presenting one’s ideas there is a true engagement with a world community of scholars on international affairs. Of the 25 sections, those of most relevance to Amelia Hadfield’s work on the European Union, international relations, and foreign policy analysis, as well learning and teaching developments include: ‘Active Learning in International Affairs’, ‘Diplomatic Studies’, ‘Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Studies’, ‘FPA’, and ‘International Security Studies’.

Throughout the conference, Amelia attended panels on the EU, security issues, and international diplomacy; she also attended panels that touched on energy security, and methods of teaching European studies (undergraduate and graduate). On Wednesday evening, Amelia spent a few hours with Professor Valerie Hudson of Brigham Young University (Utah, USA), a colleague, previous co-author, and current co-author of an FPA paper. Amelia and Valerie had been coordinating on this paper since January 2011, and used the time to go over the conceptual, methodological and geographical differences and similarities.
between US and European schools of foreign policy analysis. After the preparations were completed, they both agreed that after ISA, they would work to complete and perfect the paper in order to submit it to a high quality, peer-reviewed scientific journal (e.g. FPA).

On Thursday, 17th March, Amelia presented two papers in two Foreign Policy Analysis Roundtables (the first at the response to an external invitation). The first was entitled ‘A Transatlantic Dialogue on Foreign Policy Analysis’, at which she and Valerie Hudson co-presented the paper, in a 30 minute presentation in which the two moved back and forth across key points in an effective dialogue. This was followed by contributions by A. Cooper Drury, Klaus Brummer and Cameron Theis, and ably chaired by Professor Tim Dunne (Queensland). The panel was exceptionally well attended, and prompted a great deal of lively Q&A with the audience, many of whom were supportive of the perspectives that Amelia and Valerie had suggested. This gave further assurance to pursuing the joint publishing venture.

The second panel, entitled ‘European Developments in Foreign Policy Analysis’, was a panel that Amelia herself put together, on the basis of an original gathering of scholars in Frankfurt in summer 2010, under the leadership of Knud-Erik Jørgensen, with the support of a number of notable German stellung. Here, Amelia presented a second, extended and reworked version of the paper first presented in Frankfurt, entitled ‘Pastures New? Or up the Garden Path? How a Neoclassical Realist approach to the Analysis of Foreign Policy may provide a mid-range solution’. Along with 5 other panelists from a range of German universities (Munich, Frankfurt) and beyond, Knud-Erik as discussant provided some insightful feedback. The paper will likely – depending on Knud-Erik and his colleague Gunther Hellmann (Goethe Institute) – translate into a book, with a spring deadline for converting the paper into a chapter. This panel too was very well attended (although the room itself was too small!), and provided an equal amount of good and clear feedback on the European attitudes to, and orientations of FPA.

IES researcher Katja Biedenkopf participated in a workshop organised by the Environmental Studies Section of the ISA prior to the annual convention and presented two papers at the conference itself. The workshop with the title ‘Global Environmental Politics on a New Earth’ provided a discussion forum for about 40 senior and junior academics. With close to 7 billion people on the planet, patterns of consumption and systems of world-spanning commerce and interaction have changed and put pressure on the ecological foundations of the planet like never before. The themes of discussion revolved around this new situation that the earth and humanity are facing. Questions revolved around issues such as: “How can international organisations and regimes respond to the new planet?” and “As the global resource base shrinks, sinks fill, and landscapes degrade, how will humanity live together?”.

Katja presented a paper with the title ‘The Multi-Level External Effects of European Environmental Policy’. This paper argues that the EU chemicals legislation does not only reform European chemical governance, but it also affects extra-EU chemical policy at various levels of governance – the international, national and subnational levels. EU law can be a model that other jurisdictions can learn from or that they could emulate. Its externalities can alter the parameters of chemicals policy reform in other jurisdictions. The chemical data that is produced in the EU can be used by a variety of European and external actors. A second paper presented by Katja addresses the ways in which non-state actors can be affected by external policy and the ways in which they use external policy examples.

IES Researchers Alina Christova and Alexander Mattelaer presented a joint paper entitled ‘In Between Improvisation and Doctrine: Planning EU Civilian Crisis Management Operations’ on the second day of the ISA conference in the framework of the panel Peacekeeping and Nation Building. The paper presented a state of the art regarding the way the European Union plans and conducts civilian crisis management missions. It firstly described the planning process taking into account recent institutional changes, focusing on the creation of the Crisis Management Planning Directorate (CMPD) and the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). Secondly, the paper analysed the delineation of competences within the current institutional set-up and the extent to which a common planning methodology is emerging. Thirdly, the paper showed that although past mission experience is characterized by a significant amount of improvisation, a parallel process of doctrinal codification is taking place on the basis of best practices evaluations. Nevertheless, the paper highlighted that a number of challenges remain, such as staffing issues, planning timelines and the discrepancy between political ambition and operational constraints.

The paper provides valuable basis and support regarding the teaching undertaken in the framework of the EU in Close-up, particularly the session on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) encompassing the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and the planning, launching and conduct of civilian crisis management operations. In addition, she is preparing a lecture on CSDP Operations for the Hendrix students, which will deal in an in-depth manner in particular with the planning of civilian missions and the various challenges encountered within that process and manifesting in the subsequent operation phase. Moreover, a respective session can be included in the CFSP training to be organized in the second half of 2011.

Overall, the conference provided them with a great opportunity to get updated with the latest research in their field, as well as an invaluable platform for networking with like-minded people and set the ground for possible future collaborations.
The IES and the Fundamental Rights & Constitutionalism Research Group (FRC) organised a Policy Forum on 8 February. The guest speaker was Jukka Viljanen from Tampere University, Finland.

The academic discourse over the interpretative framework of the European human rights system requires new perspectives. The Council of Europe was founded on the aim “to achieve a greater unity between its members”. In addition to its basic work as ruling over individual human rights applications, the European Court of Human Rights has at same time endeavored to develop and elucidate the rules of the European Convention on Human Rights and has a harmonisation role within the European human rights system. This idea to decide over European human rights standard was confirmed in the leading case of Opuz (2009). The Strasbourg Court emphasized the principle idea that case-law has consequences beyond the respondent state in question. The Court considers whether the national authorities have sufficiently taken into account the principles flowing from its judgments on similar issues, even when they concern other States. The success story of the Strasbourg Court was based on the idea of like-minded nations with a common heritage of political traditions, ideas, freedom and the rule of law and cases that were more like fine tuning rather than the most severe human rights violations. This has changed in the community of 47 increasingly heterogeneous states and the wide spectrum of violations, including the most severe cases of torture and forced disappearances. The difficulties related to increase of case load (139 000 applications pending, 61 000 new applications in 2010) overshadow the need for doctrinal reform after the enlargement.

Since the Tyrer case (1978) the Court has referred to the Convention as a living instrument. Is it still possible to keep the Court’s interpretation in light of present day conditions? Does the Court continue to have a harmonization role? And can we still continue the quest of European standard in the field of human rights? The Court turned a new page regarding the doctrinal discourse with the leading evolutive approach case of Christine Goodwin in 2002. The continuum on the rights of post-operative transsexuals starting from 1980 had become obsolete due to a continuous finding that in light of present day condition there was no sufficient consensus between Member States on this issue. The Court used the spirit of the Convention and the evidence of international trend based on the NGO report (Liberty) as good reasons to make a departure from the established interpretative continuum.

There is no evidence of a fundamental shift towards evolutive approach in the aftermath of the Christine Goodwin case. However, the use of more elaborate international comparison can be identified from the Court’s subsequent case-law. Even in the recent case of M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece (21.1.2011) concerning so-called Dublin cases and returning asylum seekers to Greece, the Court notes the existence of a broad consensus at the international and European level. The finding of a violation under Article 3 (also in conjunction to Article 13) is based on the Geneva Convention on status of refugees (1951), the UNHCR activities and standards set out in the European Union reception directive. Finally, it is interesting to note that the established consensus does not always have consequences on interpretation. The ECtHR did not take into account an existing European consensus in the Irish abortion case (A, B, and C 2010), because the case concerned “profound moral views” of the Irish people. The minority judges disagreed with the rare finding. According to them the identified consensus should narrow the margin of appreciation left on states. This is commensurate with the “harmonising” role of the Convention’s case-law. According to the dissenting judges the one of the paramount functions of the case-law is to gradually create a harmonious application of human rights protection.

Five positive answers can be identified to the doctrinal development and quest for the European standard within the current community of 47 contracting states. First of all, the Convention interpretation has to be object oriented. The object and purpose will mean forward looking approach to new human rights problems. The Court has emphasized the idea of human rights standard as being intrinsically progressive and dynamic (Selmouni 1999). This means that even in the framework of increasingly heterogenic community of contracting states the European standard cannot move downwards.

The second positive answer to the quest of European standard can be linked to the spirit of the Convention as a meta-principle. The spirit referring to effective protection of rights of individuals will be decisive choosing the interpretative tools in hard cases. The famous example is related to the evolutive approach chosen in the above mentioned case of Christine Goodwin.

The heterogeneous community of states requires thirdly that the Strasbourg Court adjusts its doctrines and makes a conscious shift within the comparative method towards international trends and strengthening the use of global sources. This would mean putting less weight on the traditional comparison that relies on achieving consensus amongst the European countries. New and advanced solutions can be identified with the help of international trends and relying on the use of global sources providing modern international human rights trends not just from universal or regional level but also from national jurisdictions outside of Europe. At the same time there is also another interpretative trend towards which the Court should be very cautious. The Court should avoid too contextual approach in its judgments. The context oriented approach is not in accordance with the objective of harmonization of human rights protection. It is dangerously easy to distinguish a case by referring to its particular context. However, despite referring to Turkish or Latvian context the same principle can later transfer to another context as general principle. For example in the secularism continuum the influence of the original Turkish context is left ambiguous.

Finally there is a clear need to find new solutions and keep the treaty interpretation creative. And therefore the fifth positive answer is related to the idea of network of human rights instruments and the active dialogue between different actors in the field of human rights protection. This means interaction beyond traditional actors and instruments. The relevant case to be mentioned is the D.H. and others v. the Czech Republic (2009) concerning right of Roma children to have non-discriminatory education in the Ostrava region. The Court found e.g. indirect discrimination doctrine from the Luxemburg Court (ECJ) and its equal treatment case-law and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. At the same time also other supervisory mechanisms and expert bodies were taken into account as a part of the contemporary European human rights network. Rather than considering the Convention as an isolated regional instrument it should be regarded as a key actor in the network that contributes to the global human rights protection system.
On 15 February, this year’s IES Spring Lecture Series on the ‘EU as a Diplomatic Actor: Policies, Processes and Performance’ kicked off with an introductory lecture by one of the co-organizers Joachim Koops, and by a lecture on inter-organizational aspects of the EU as a Diplomatic Actor, delivered by Prof. Dr. Rafael Biermann of the University of Jena, Germany.

Joachim Koops explained the rationale for the lecture series and highlighted the importance of examining in more detail the EU’s actual negotiating processes and overall impact across four broad policy-fields: security, finance and trade, human rights and climate change. Given the seismic changes in international politics in these fields (with the financial crisis, the failed climate deal of Copenhagen and the persisting global challenges of international peace and the promotion of human rights), the EU as a whole is required to tackle these issues in a coherent and effective manner. It was underlined that much conceptual and policy-oriented work remains to be done to delve more deeply into the mechanics, pitfalls and actual processes of the EU as a Diplomatic Actor. Leading to Professor Biermann’s lecture, Joachim Koops highlighted a rather neglected, but increasingly pressing issue in international politics: the need for creating coherent cooperation schemes between the EU and other organisations.

Prof. Dr. Rafael Biermann’s lecture focused on this specific aspect of the European Union in international affairs: namely, on the competition and cooperation between the EU and other major international organizations, particularly in the field of international security governance. Biermann highlighted in impressive detail the dense network and array of cooperation partners with which the EU has had to relate to since the end of the Cold War. Organisations, such as the Council of Europe, the United Nations, the OSCE and NATO are not only potential cooperation partners, but increasingly also major rivals competing over resources and over the attention from member states. At the end of the lecture it has become clear that if the EU wants to play an effective and coherent role in International Diplomacy, it needs to find ways to harness inter-organizational rivalries and rather promote coherent cooperation schemes between itself and other organization partners.

On 22 February, professor Michael H. Smith from Loughborough University delivered an inspiring lecture on “The European Union as a Diplomatic Actor in The Post-Lisbon Era: Robust or Rootless Hybrid?” Professor Smith first pondered on the question of what constitutes a diplomatic actor and the changing context within which these actors operate to then move to conceptualizing the EU as a diplomatic actor. Professor Smith argued that many of the activities of the EU are diplomatic in nature and the EU constitutes a diplomatic system in and for itself, yet the EU continues to struggle with issues of representation, coherence and consistency. The intense internal coordination and diplomatic continues to affect the effectiveness and adaptability of the EU in the world of the ‘21st century diplomacy. Furthermore, Professor Smith added that the changes brought about by the Lisbon Treaty were a response to internal problems and the desire to see the EU more effectively represented in the international arena, rather than being a response to the changing external pressures and environment.

Professor Smith’s lecture was followed by a very stimulating intervention by Dr. Steven Everts from the Cabinet of the High Representative Ashton. Dr. Everts gave an overview of the ongoing efforts in the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and the creating of the European External Action Service whilst stressing the importance of getting the active support and engagement of all Member States. Dr. Everts argued that it is of vital importance for its success to conceive the EEAS as co-owned and co-shaped by the Member States rather than as a rival competing for supremacy with the other 27 national diplomacies. Furthermore, Dr. Everts stressed the importance of identifying key strategic partners for the realization of EU objectives and established a clear and limited number of priorities in order to be successful in the 21st century diplomacy.

On 1 March Niels van Willigen and Antonio Missiroli spoke at the third lecture evening, where the subject of negotiation and diplomacy were raised. As part of this, Niels van Willigen discussed an assessment of the performance of the EU on the diplomatic scene. He used the lecture to present an approach of evaluating this process. The bulk of his material for the case presented came from research carried out on evaluating the Dutch government’s performance of diplomatic activity in the process of negotiating treaties on landmines. In a rather graphic description, Dr. van Willegen stated that the EU might have a big foot, but suggested that perhaps the foot’s print is small: this can be seen, he stated, in the fact that the EU’s influence in other international organisations has not been consistent, etcetera.

Dr. van Willigen outlined several pitfalls in evaluating the EU’s performance. The first concerns ‘linear performance measurement’, which often looks at input/output considerations. This does not take into consideration the richness of issues involved in diplomacy. The second pitfall concerns the tendency to collide different foreign policy instruments: economic, military, diplomatic, etc.

Importantly, and of particular relevance to the current political crisis situations on which many scholars are questioning the role of the EU, Dr. van Willigen states that most diplomacy takes place in non-crisis situations. This also linked into the presentation by Antonio Missiroli, who raised issues of EU representation. He stated that the EU comprises of up to one third of the UN Security Council members and has more than 30% of voting rights in the IMF and World Bank. Benelux countries have more voting rights than China in the IMF/WB. This leads to a perhaps counter-intuitive conclusion that EU is over-represented in International Organisations, but under-performing in them. On the topic of the Lisbon Treaty, it was discussed during the Question and Answer session that it has
had very little impact on issues of external representation. Lisbon tried to bring together Defence, Development, and Diplomacy, and one of the key questions posed in the room were: are these 3Ds enough to characterise foreign policy in today’s world?

On 8 March Dr. Drieskens made a presentation with the title “EU Representation at the UN in New York: on messengers, messages and audiences”. The presentation focused on the recent reform brought by the Lisbon Treaty with regard to the external representation of the EU, the impact this reform had on the decision-making process in the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council and the EU initiative in search of an enhanced status. Dr. Drieskens came to the conclusion that the EU has given a rather institutional answer to the external challenges it faces with a priority given to form over content (it’s more important who speaks on behalf of the EU instead of to whom and about what) and that the Lisbon Treaty does not support the representation of the EU in the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Gúimarães’ presentation focused on the practical aspects of the EU’s diplomatic engagement in the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly. He stressed that the external representation of the EU in multilateral organisations is a challenge for the EU, and that it is of crucial importance for the EU to strengthen its position in these forums. The Lisbon Treaty brought a positive change with regard to this question by giving the EU a legal personality. Nevertheless, progress in this area is expected to take place at a very slow pace.

On 15 March Prof. Dr. Joachim Koops gave a lecture about the public diplomacy of the European Union’s Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) missions. He explained that the European Union aims to achieve influence and loyalty both abroad and at home in these forums. The Lisbon Treaty brought a positive change with regard to this question by giving the EU a legal personality. Nevertheless, progress in this area is expected to take place at a very slow pace.

On 29 March, Dominik Tolksdorf, Vesalius College and Global Governance Institute and Tobias Flessenkermer, European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina were the speakers of the lecture, entitled ‘The EU as a Diplomatic Actor in the Western Balkans’.

The challenges with which the EU is confronted in the western Balkans are multiple. Post-conflict tasks of peacekeeping, political reconstruction, and economic development are a few to name. These challenges though pose at the same time opportunities for the EU. In particular with regard to security issues the EU has the chance to establish itself as a regional/global actor and regain credibility. For a long time, the EU showed little determination and coherence in its reactions to the violent dismemberment of the former Yugoslavia. This was mainly the result of serious differences among important member states. However over time the EU developed a shared analysis of the problematique in the Western Balkans. This shared analysis was related with important events leading gradually to a common set of EU interests and solutions.

The EU developed a more coherent and comprehensive approach to its Balkan policy by adopting the ‘Regional Approach’ to cooperation with the states in the western Balkans in 1996, the Stability and Association Process and the Stability Pact in 1999. Important was in addition the political impetus which derived from the Thessaloniki agenda which offered for the first time a membership prospect to the countries in the area.

Despite these achievements the problems remain and in the long-term, the challenge lies in the establishment of functioning democracies. The development of democracy and market economies is seen as the unconditional prerequisite for eventual EU membership (i.e. Copenhagen criteria). The problems facing the region however with regard to human rights violations, uncompetitive economies, corruption, nationalism and matters of political instability constitute serious impediments for future progress and the attainment of these objectives.

An example is Bosnia-Herzegovina, a country in which a plethora of problems hinder the application of effective policy solutions. The objective of establishing a functioning multiethnic state in which Croats, Serbs and Bosniaks each with different policy preferences co-exist has been a challenge during the last years. The conditionality politics of the EU are not sufficiently adapted to the local contingencies hence becoming often ineffective due to the low degree of policy coherence with the Bosnian policy initiatives. This stabilisation dilemma of the EU’s Balkan policies describing the anomaly and incoherence of the EU conditionality approach remains an important challenge and a domain for further improvement.
New faces at the IES

Lisanne Groen will be working as an intern for the environment cluster. She studied ‘European Union in a Global Order’ at the University of Amsterdam, Graduate School of Social Sciences; and did her thesis on ‘EU Actorness under political pressure at the UNFCCC COP15 climate change negotiations’.

Researcher Mathias Holvoet will pursue a four year doctoral dissertation project in the School of Law under a GOA Project entitled, “Constitutional European Criminal Law after Lisbon and Stockholm. In Search of a Foundation Respectful of Human Rights.” He will also work part-time on migration related legal issues.

Karolina Babická is a visiting doctoral researcher pursuing her PhD studies at the Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague with a project entitled “Irregular Migrants in the European Union- do they enjoy the rights contained in the UN Migrant Workers Convention?”

Julian Flamant is one of the new interns who has recently joined the IES e-learning and training unit. He is currently expanding the prestigious E-Modules marketing program as well as assisting the team in updating its online contents through EU research. Julian received a BA in Political Science from Concordia University in Montreal and is currently pursuing an LLM with International Relations at University of Kent, Brussels.

Dusan Radivojevic provides research assistance to Prof. Dr. Hadfield, writing and analysis in the field of post-Lisbon EU foreign policy and energy security as well as research monographs, articles, chapters, briefing notes, briefing papers and website updates. He received a B.A. and M.A in Political Science/European, Russian and Eurasian Studies from University of Toronto. He worked as a Research Assistant at the University of Toronto, the United Nations Institute for Regional Studies – Brugge and the European Parliament.

Runa Anand is a visiting researcher from India. She completed her MA in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2005 and continued a M.Phil. in the same University. She is now a Ph.D candidate at the Center For European Studies at J.N.U., doing research on “European Union’s energy Security and Russia”.

IES Calendar of Events

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<td>The EU’s Role and Performance within the G20 in light of the Financial Crisis success</td>
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<td>12 April</td>
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<td>The European Union as an International Trade Negotiator</td>
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<td>19 April</td>
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<td>The EU’s Human Rights Diplomacy: practice and challenges</td>
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<td>28 &amp; 29 April</td>
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<td>Policy Forum: Recalibrating the European Neighbourhood Policy: Whither EU Diplomacy towards the ‘Southern Mediterranean’?</td>
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<td>The ‘one voice’ problématique: a critical assessment of the EU as a Diplomatic Actor at the UN Human Rights Council</td>
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<td>Diplomatic Impact in Reverse: The Influence of International Institutions on the EU as a Diplomatic Actor</td>
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