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Pictures courtesy of IES

US Ambassador to NATO at IES on EU-US Relations and NATO's role as a global security provider

On 16 October 2007, the Institute for European Studies had the pleasure of hosting Her Excellency **Victoria Nuland**, US Ambassador to NATO. Amb. Nuland gave a clear and compelling lecture on NATO as a global security provider. In her speech, she called for a strong NATO, a strong EU and a strong relationship between them.

Strengthening EU capacities is, to Nuland, a prerequisite for a strong liberal-democratic zone. For this, the US is looking more and more to the EU as an institution. In her view, both EU and US have to work together to manage the global challenges such as terrorism, aids, poverty and corruption, while both continents have to also address a changing approach toward emerging powers such as China and Russia. She welcomed the EU's growing potential to handle common actions, yet regretted that to date this is done merely through 'soft' power. While US military spending has gone up over the past decades, the

EU chose to downscale its military capacity after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Allegedly, 'hard' power is also necessary to address the security threats that emerged after 9/11.

Nuland argued that NATO remains the only full-time transatlantic consultation mechanism that tries to identify and solve collective security challenges and called for (1) strengthening the alliance as a global security provider in order to be able to undertake missions such as in Afghanistan, (2) strengthening NATO in its capacity to provide security in our home lands; (3) complete NATO's missions in the Balkans, and (4) enhance NATO as the core of a global community of democracies that work together in the security field.

A flamboyant Nuland answered to questions from the audience. A transcript of her speech can be downloaded from the IES website, where you can also find a QuickTime movie of the event.

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



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New IES Book: Politics Beyond the State



In "*Politics beyond the state: actors and policies in complex institutional settings*", Prof. Dr. **Kris Deschouwer** and IES Senior Fellow Prof. Dr. M. **Theo Jans** (eds.) aim at capturing the changing nature of politics both within and beyond the state. They argue that the presence of multiple tiers of government re-orientates policy processes and affects actors and policy outcomes at all levels. The volume clarifies that the central state continues to guide our understanding of politics but that it needs to be complemented with ample attention to both the sub- and the supranational tiers of government.

Politics Beyond the State can be ordered via the website of VUBPress Brussels University Press (<http://www.vubpress.be>). ISBN 978 90 5487 436 2, Brussels 2007.

Eva Gross on EFSP in Brussels ...

Senior(s) Corner

From
17-20
October
2007 IES
Senior Re-
search Fellow **Eva**

Gross participated in the 'European Foreign and Security Policy Studies Programme (EFSPS)' Conference, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the EU institutions. The Conference was designed to bring together the three cohorts of this program and in particular to showcase the research output of the first cohort, which received funding from the program in 2005-2007.

A former fellow and member of the first cohort, Eva Gross participated in two publication workshops: the first workshop was designed to work on a publication proposal for members of the EU Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management (EUCPCM) Research Group.

The planned publication will involve papers presented at the Final Conference in Brussels in July 2007; the workshop was used to discuss a number of overarching themes that tie the papers together, and to agree on a time schedule for publication of the volume. It was agreed that a publishing proposal would be

prepared and submitted before the end of 2007 in order to work on the full manuscript in 2008. As editor and contributor to this project, the two EUCPCM conveners Eva Gross and Dr. Ana Juncos, will work together over the coming months to realize this work schedule.

Eva participated in a second publication workshop as a potential contributor to a volume made up of contributions from members of the first cohort of the EFSPS Program.

... and in The Hague

Eva also participated on 11-12 October 2007 in the 37th Asser Colloquium on European Law on the topic '*The European Union and International Crisis Management: Legal and Policy Perspective*'. The Colloquium brought together scholars and practitioners working on EU crisis management from a political and legal perspective.

Eva spoke on the panel 'Learning by doing: ESDP missions' and focused her talk on crisis management in the Western Balkans.

Emphasizing both the historical significance for EU crisis management operations in the Western Balkans as well as the potential contradiction inherent in the dual and at times conflicting EU policy priorities in the Balkans – that of eventual stabilization and of eventual accession – Eva identified five challenges

arising for EU crisis management based on its experience in the Western Balkans. They include the need to define 'European' crisis management and how this differs from the approach of other organizations; drawing up mandates appropriate for the stabilization task at hand; improving co-ordination of different EU instruments applied in Brussels and in the field; improving coordination with other institutional actors, notably NATO and the UN; and, finally, the need for member states to make available the appropriate personnel – both in terms of numbers and improved training.

Based on this analysis Eva argued that the Capability-Expectation Gap has been closing and that the EU is increasingly living up to expectations and by pointing out that the security challenges facing the Western Balkans have changed since the creation of ESDP to include organized crime as well as the unresolved status of Kosovo.



Eva concluded her presentation by stating that given the increasing number of ESDP mission

launched the EU now faces the task of defining success, in the Western Balkans and beyond – whereas initially success was defined as much by the EU's ability to launch and complete ESDP operations, analysis of ESDP operations now must focus on the local impact of these missions.

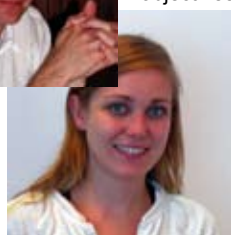
The proceedings of the Colloquium will be published by TMC Asser Press in the course of 2008.

ASCEE Project Meeting in Oslo

As part of the consortium working on a EU-funded project on sustainable consumption policy ("ASCEE"), IES researchers Harri Kalimo, Katja Biedenkopf and Ölþf Söebeck participated in the second progress meeting on 2/3 August in Oslo. The IES team presented its work on identifying innovative policy instruments for sustainable consumption and greening of the market in seven European countries. In the meeting, the first version of a tool that the IES Team had developed for analyzing policy instruments was also tested. The next ASCEE project meeting will take place in Berlin in December.



The ASCEE Research consortium consists of IES, Germany-based IÖW (Institute for Ecological Economy Research) and Norwegian SIFO (National Institute for Consumer Research). The Project started in February 2007 and will be finalised by September 2008. The main objectives of ASCEE are (1) identifying



and assessing especially innovative instruments, approaches and best practices for sustainable consumption and greening of the market and (2) developing a workable guideline/toolbox for (European) policy makers on

public and private policy measures. For further information please visit: <http://www.ies.be/node/220/>

Bart De Schutter in Bucharest



IES President **Bart De Schutter** presented a keynote contribution on "*Sharing and Protecting Law Enforcement Information: How the EU and the US have a different approach*" in a meeting of the Southeast European Prosecutors Activity Group together with the Center (Regional Center for Combating Transborder Crime) held in Bucharest on 25-26 October. Both organisations have a mixed membership of EU member states (4) and non-EU states (8) and aim at increased police and judicial cooperation, similar to Europol and Eurojust. In his presentation, Bart particularly stressed the need to address the issue of data protection adequately.

UACES conference in Portsmouth

Members of the IES research cluster 'European Foreign and Security Policy' presented ongoing research at the UACES conference held in Portsmouth from 3 to 5 September 2007.

Senior Research Fellow Dr. **Eva Gross** presented a paper on the contradictions inherent in simultaneous pressures for leadership and legitimacy in European security and defense cooperation. After giving an overview of different notions of legitimacy – input legitimacy understood in terms of parliamentary oversight, accountability and transparency; and output legitimacy understood in terms of the impact of crisis management missions where they are deployed and the EU's evolution into a security actor – her presentation analyzed ongoing and completed crisis management operations with a view specifically to ques-



tions surrounding output legitimacy. **Sevidzem Kingah** presented a paper which he co-authored with Prof Dr Stefaan Smis, which analyzed the new security clauses that have been introduced in the Revised Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) signed by the European Community (EC) and the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP). The argument raised in the study pertains to the fact that the inclusion of the counter-terrorism measures in a development cooperation agreement could make sense given the challenges posed by the terrorist threat. However the rationale for the incorporation of the provisions is open to debate mindfully of the indeterminacy in which the words of new provision on anti-terrorism is couched. In addition the integration of such clauses may only deplete respect for civil liberties in both the EC and the ACP countries.

It's not one thing, it's many ...



Senior Research Fellow **Harri Kalimo** speaking at the Nokia Public Affairs Management Summit in Brussels.

Public affairs management - formerly known as lobbying - has been a household activity in the corporate world for quite some while now. The challenges posed by the globalizing public affairs environment have, however, not ceased to grow. In order to meet the challenges, successful companies such as Nokia involve key people from differ-

ent functions and from different regions of the world in the management of public affairs. On October 8, Nokia's key public affairs people convened in a workshop in Brussels to share their expertise and to get fresh insights from external experts. IES Senior Research Fellow Harri Kalimo, who is in charge of the course 'The EU and the Stakeholders of the Economy' at VUB's Euromaster course, was amongst the lecturers at the Nokia summit. He spoke on the topic 'Influencing in a complex environment', and summarized his points on the required skills and tools along the lines of a recent Nokia TV commercial: public affairs management is "not [just] one thing, it is many".

Oberthür on Climate Change in Luzern



IES Academic Director **Sebastian Oberthür** participated in a panel on "Climate change as a global challenge" at the University of Luzern

on 25 September 2007. His presentation discussed the current status and the prospects of international climate policy. Prof. Oberthür in particular provided an overview of the possible elements of an international agreement on climate change for the period beyond 2012 and mapped the interests of various actors with respect to these elements. He argued that the conditions for progress on international climate policy have never been better than at present. At the same time, he cautioned that it is unclear whether these improved conditions are sufficient for reaching agreement among the world's governments on effective climate protection. Some 50 participants attended the panel discussion, which inaugurated a multi-disciplinary lecture series on climate change at the University of Luzern.

New publications

The IES is proud to announce the recent publications of Senior Research Fellow Dr. **Eva Gross**. Together with Michael Emerson (Centre for European Policy Studies) she wrote a book on "Evaluating the EU's Crisis Missions in the Balkans", published as CEPS Paperback, Brussels, 2007.

Eva also published an article entitled "Germany and European Security and Defense Cooperation: the Europeanization of national crisis management policies?" in Security Dialogue, 38 (4) 2007: 501-520.

IIEP Senior Fellow and former IES Senior Research Fellow **Marc Pallemmaerts** and **Armelle Gouritin**, a doctoral research fellow at the IES, have published an article on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, discussing its background, development and implementation from the Göteborg European Council in June 2001 to the renewal of the Strategy in 2006, entitled "La stratégie de l'Union européenne en faveur du développement durable", Courrier hebdomadaire du CRISP, n° 1961, 45 pages, October 2007.

Lecture series on the external relations of Euro-

October 2nd 2007 saw the launch of the IES autumn lecture series which was devoted to the external aspects of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), now frequently referred to as policies relating to an area of justice freedom and security (which echoes the wording of the Amsterdam Treaty.)

Since the Tampere European Council in 1999 and the Hague Declaration five years later, issues in this policy area are in the forefront of European decision making. In spite of the fact that most of the question – immigration, asylum, the fight against illegal drugs, anti-terrorism measures and cooperation on both civil and criminal law – fall under the jurisdiction of interior ministers or ministers of justice, the external dimension is obvious. This is because of the notion of external borders introduced into EU policy making in the 1990's and the urgency and high public profile of the matters under review. Furthermore, the EU has become a major actor on the international stage and cross-border cooperation with third countries.



Professor **Servaas van Thiel**, Director of the IES-VUB's LL.M *Programme on international Legal Cooperation* opened the two part debate. He outlined the history of justice and home affairs policy development from tentative inter-governmental beginnings as a spin-off from Jacques Delors' single market programme and its 300 measure White Paper (the prime mover behind which was Adrian Fortescue who later became the first Director General of the DG Justice and Home Affairs). He described the genesis of the Schengen Agreement and the passport free zone and the lead up to the pillar structure of the Treaty of Maastricht. He further described the nine areas (outlined above) set out as being of common interest in that treaty and the lead up to the Tampere European Council.

Servaas van Thiel was followed by a presentation from Dr **Bernd Martenczuk** of the European Commission's Legal Service. Martenczuk described the main institutional issues surrounding the external implementation of JHA policies. Contrary to popular mythology, the EU is not a monolithic actor. The current pillar structure (due to be phased out if the Reform Treaty can be agreed and ratified) means that the decision making powers of the EU are very fragmented in this field. Whereas, the Community method is used for pillar 1 EEC is-

issues, for pillars 2 and 3 it is the Union personified by the Presidency (plus as appropriate the High Representative for Common and Security Policy currently Javier Solana). There has been a gradual shift since the Amsterdam Treaty towards the Community method for JHA. All this has an effect on who negotiates; there can be mixed negotiations and mixed agreements with third parties. In addition, the fact that there is "variable geometry" regarding certain policy areas that is opt-ins by the UK and Ireland and opt-outs by Denmark as well as variable membership of the Schengen agreement creates legal and negotiating complications in the external arena.

The talks were followed by brief commentary by **Richard Lewis**, Senior Research Fellow at IES and a question and answer session chaired by IES Academic Director **Sebastian Oberthür**.



On 9 October, **Bernd Martenczuk** spoke on "EU Common Visa policy", while **Fabrice Filliez** from the Swiss Ministry for Foreign Affairs lectured on "The Association of Switzerland with Schengen and Dublin". The lectures aimed at clarifying the complexities of the EU's Common Visa policy. Switzerland was used as an illustration of how non-EU countries are associated with the Schengen and Dublin Regimes.



Prof. Martenczuk explained how the EU has come a long way since the initial signature of the Schengen convention in 1985, both in the extension of the Schengen regime to ever more countries, and in incorporating the Schengen acquis into the European Union law. Initially, "Schengen" was an agreement concluded outside the realm of Community law.

The delicate nature of European visa cooperation is due to the existing difference in treatment between the granting of short term visa's, and long term visa's. Whereas for short term visa's, nearly all issues have been brought into the realm of Community legislation and Community decision making, issues related to long term visa's & residence permits remain

intergovernmental.

Fabrice Filliez explained how Switzerland's position is complex for a number of reasons: there is its geographical place in the middle of the Union, but there is also the complexity of the country's international agreements, which influences greatly the way in which it is associated with, and in other case participates in, various international cooperation structures. The non-ratification of the EEA-agreement by Switzerland (the sole EFTA-member not ratifying the agreement) forced the Swiss government to conclude sectoral agreements. Furthermore, the position of Liechtenstein, which has a Customs Union with Switzerland but did not ratify a number of agreements with the EU, forced the Swiss and the Commission to come up with creative legal agreements, some of which were explained during the lecture.

On 17 October, the issue of the EU's immigration policy could not have been analyzed from two more contrasting view points than those of **Madeline Garlick** from UNHCR and **Martin Schieffer** from the European Commission.



Madeline Garlick is the head of UNHCR's liaison office in Brussels. She highlighted the risks and opportunities the EU's approach towards refugee protection as laid down in the

Geneva Convention of 1951 encounters in the framework of the EU's re-enforced attempt to control illegal immigration. Garlick expressed UNHCR's concern in three specific areas, namely readmission agreements with third countries, the approach of managed entry into the EU under the framework of the so-called "regional protection program" and the EU's external border management.

Readmission agreements are bilateral agreements with third countries where the latter agree to take back their own nationals and even other nationals when they served as transit countries for immigrants arriving in the EU. UNHCR is questioning whether the demands of the asylum seekers in the EU are investigated sufficiently before they are returned, and in case they are repatriated whether these countries are as well equipped as the EU to deal with asylum seekers or in the worst case whether dismissed asylum seekers are not sent back to persecution. With respect to the regional protection program as endorsed by the EU in 2004, Garlick highlighted that efforts to keep refugees in their regions of origin must be guided by a spirit of

European Justice and Home Affairs

genuine burden sharing and not implemented in order to shift responsibility for protection of refugees away from the member states and back to the regions where they come from. In the matter of external border control Madeline Garlick underlined the importance of ensuring that somebody who might qualify as a refugee has access to the territory and the procedures for asylum demands.



Martin Schieffer from the Commission's DG Justice, Freedom and Security examined the development and efficiency of the EU's re-

admission agreements in more detail. First bilateral agreements have already since the 1980s and 1990s existed, but with the Treaty of Amsterdam they became a community competence. The Commission obtained the mandate to negotiate with various countries in the world, some of these agreements are by now operational. Others, such as negotiations with China, Morocco and Algeria could still not be concluded. The fundamental reason for reluctance of some third countries to sign is that the agreement's benefit is exclusively on the EU side, therefore the readmission agreements are very difficult to sell. In some cases the EU could use alternative incentives to persuade the signatory states, but especially in the Southern Mediterranean countries the situation has developed considerably over the years since the beginning of the negotiations. These countries have gradually evolved from countries of origin to transit countries for immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa, and refuse responsibility for these migrants.

It became evident during discussions with the audience that the number of asylum seekers is not only steadily decreasing in Europe, but also that states in the neighborhood of source countries have a much larger burden to carry than the EU, while they often do not dispose of the financial means to do so properly. Even though in the Geneva Convention a refugee is clearly demarked from an illegal immigrant, the application of this definition varies from EU member state to member state.

The lecture series on 30 October 2007 featured two lectures: "*The External Relations of Europol*" by **Dick Heimans** (EC, formerly Europol) and "*The EU and the International Fight Against Drugs*." by **Han Vos** (EU Council of Ministers). Han Vos spoke both about the magnitude of drug use as well as its economic implications, and about EU strategy to combat drugs. He emphasized three particular

characteristics of EU drug policy: balanced, multidisciplinary and action-based. The EU framework for discussing drug policy since its foundation in 1997 has been through the horizontal working party that meets 1-2 days per month and that includes a health, law enforcement and external relations component. Importantly, the approach will remain after the Reform Treaty enters into force. Mr. Vos then outlined country-specific approaches and inter-institutional cooperation towards Afghanistan (the main supplier of heroin) and Latin America (the main supplier of cocaine). He concluded by contrasting US and EU approaches towards the fight against drugs, highlighting that the EU is a key player in the counter-narcotics field.



Dick Heimans gave a lecture on Europol, highlighting both Europol's creation and institutional mandate – for example, it is not an agency of the EU but an international organization that can enter into international agreements – and its role and tasks as a criminal intelligence organization that functions as a support organization rather than a European FBI. On the question of oversight, Mr. Heimans highlighted that the control of the organization rests with Europol's management board and the Data Protection Control Agency. He also explained the implementation rules for receipt of information from third parties; external relations with 3rd states; transmission of personal data; and relations with EU-related bodies. Lastly, Mr. Heimans spoke about cooperation with the United States, referring in particular to the post-9/11 period that had highlighted the need for an international response and the need to formalize agreements as quickly as possible.

The IES Autumn Lectures Series welcomed on November 7th two complementary lectures on EU anti-terrorism policy and its implications on the right to data protection. The lecturers selected to tackle the polemic issue were **Gijs de**

Vries, former EU Anti-Terrorism Coordinator and currently working at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, and Prof. Dr. **Paul de Hert**, from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). The

discussion was chaired by IES President Prof. Dr. **Bart De Schutter**, who underlined that the subject is nowadays high on the agenda and who was to actively contribute to the debate with his first-hand experience on data protection problems.

Under the title "*The EU and the Fight against International Terrorism*", De Vries offered a detailed overview of the current state of the threat of international terrorism, to so-called 'causes of terrorism' and the evolving role of the EU in the field. He assessed both the impact of terrorist attacks and the first results of anti-terrorist efforts, highlighting that although terrorists have undoubtedly not achieved their main objectives, the fight against terrorism has also partially failed. In this sense, De Vries stressed the need for all to cooperate in this fight on the basis of human rights. Non-respect of human rights dramatically undermines the credibility of any effort to defend democratic values, he recalled. Regarding the EU policy in the field, the former Anti-Terrorism coordinator stressed that the Member States bear the main responsibility in the area and that the EU role is to be defined accordingly. Such role consists therefore mainly in facilitating cooperation through different means, the exchange of information being one of them. De Vries celebrated progress in this direction and welcomed the adoption of the Reform Treaty, which he expects to speed up further more pertinent decision-making.

Prof. De Hert's lecture focused on the legislative framework required to guarantee a satisfying level of protection of personal data in the context of increasing data exchanges at EU level and beyond. Titled "Data protection, the fight against terrorism and EU external relations", the presentation reviewed historical developments of the international protection of personal data. De Hert gave particular attention to the design of the data protection legislative framework in the area of EU Justice and Home Affairs, a framework that needs to be efficient not only internally, but also for external relations. The polemic issue of how to deal with data transfers to third countries was



especially examined. Is the 'adequacy' criterion, imported from first pillar data protection legislation, a valid approach? Is a uniform regime for the JHA area to be sought? Should judicial and police data needs be treated differently?

The questions were examined in detail and their discussion provided the audience with a clear vision of the main challenges ahead in the area.

Research Corner

Mehmet in London

IES Researcher **Mehmet Tezcan** was in London on October 6. He made a presentation on "A complex systems critique to mainstream IR theory: A case study of foreign policy integration in Europe as a complex system".

Mehmet's presentation took place within the framework of a British International Studies Association (BISA) workshop *IR after postpositivism: Still a Social Science?* The co-organisers of the workshop, Colin Wight of University of Exeter and Marjo Koivisto of LSE wished to kick-start the new BISA working group International Relations as a Social Science (IRSS) with a high-profile workshop.



They also intendedly and proudly came to hold this workshop at the LSE, a long-time home to and the powerhouse for the IR thinking in Britain. The ambitions of the working group are very high: it aims at no less than a new thinking on possibilities for 'a scientific IR without positivism'. It is hoped that the working group will become a lively forum for interested parties 'to collaborate and develop a productive dialogue surrounding distinctive non-positivist approaches to social science within the IR community'. It was to Mehmet's great pleasure to be involved in such a cutting-edge project.

Ruben in West-Flanders

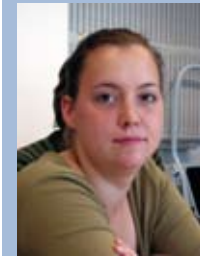
During the month of October 2007, IES researcher **Ruben Lombaert** conducted a series of lectures in a considerable number of schools in the province of West-Flanders. In Flanders, a basic knowledge about European Integration is a part of the curriculum of high schools (12-18y olds).

Stressing tangible results of European integration, Mr. Lombaert builds his lectures on concrete, everyday examples of European Cooperation. He explains European integration with examples from international trade, transborder traffic, common production standards, and youth- and student exchange programs.



Europe will become very concrete for some of these students later on in the year: some will do their professional stage in an EU-funded project to coordinate railway management software. Others will travel to Strasbourg or to another EU Member State.

Media and Information at the IES and beyond



PhD Researcher **Karen Donders**, who is researching European media and information societies policies at the IES, went to a Seminar on Audiovisual Content Online between 7 and 9 October in Lisbon.

The conference was organised by the Portuguese Presidency and dealt with the future opportunities and bottlenecks with regard to the development of a European information society. Within the framework of different workshops – all dealing with concrete policy issues, such as video on demand, mobile television, transparency of the audiovisual industry and online film distribution – participants and invited speakers discussed the different pitfalls and bottlenecks for the fastly developing information economy. Amongst the impressive list of participants were European Commissioner for Information Society Viviane Reding, the Director of the European Audiovisual Observatory André Lange and many other senior officials from European and international agencies.

Attention went in particular to prying items, such as piracy, copy rights issues, the development of new business models and the lack of facts and figures about the content industries.

Karen also participated in an ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association) Symposium on 'Equal opportunities and communication rights: representation, participation, and the European democratic deficit'.

The Conference, held on 11 October, was organised by ECREA and supported by the European Journalism Centre and Vesalius Collge. It took place in Brussels at the Residence Palace where various keynote speakers (MEP Ruth Hieronymi and Uwe Hasebrink of the Hans-Bredow-Institut für Medianforschung) introduced the different topics covered within different sessions of the Symposium.

Karen presented a paper, co-authored with Prof. Dr. Caroline Pauwels (Member of the Board of the IES and president of the Centre for Media, Information and Telecommunication Studies), titled 'Is Public Service Broadcasting a Battlefield? An Analysis of European State aid rules and the Public Service Remit of Public Service Broadcasting in a Digital Age'.

IES Policy Forum

On 16 November, the IES and the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) organised an IES Policy Forum on "Climate Change: The EU's Strategy for Bali and Beyond".

Artur Runge-Metzger from the European Commission's DG Environment presented the EU's strategy for reaching a comprehensive global climate agreement for the period post-2012. As a further input to the discussion, **S. Jacob Scherr**, Director of the International Program of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), added a US perspective on the issue.



Both presentations highlighted the recent and unprecedented changes in the international climate change debate; the issue has been increasingly raised at top governance levels, major scientific contributions to addressing Climate Change are now internationally recognized, and Climate Change initiatives are emerging from bottom-up pressure in the US. Despite diverging EU and US approaches,

these positive changes are seen as major opportunities for the upcoming negotiations. The UN Climate Change Conference, which IES Academic Director **Sebastian Oberthür** will attend, will be held in Bali, in December 2007. One of the major expected outcomes is a roadmap and a launch of negotiations in view of a future comprehensive post-2012 agreement, which could be finalized by the end of 2009.

According to the EU perspective, key elements to be treated include an ambitious overarching long-term mitigation goal, the modalities of the extension of the number of participants and subsequent extension of the Carbon market, clean technology transfer strategies, addressing new sectors (aviation and maritime transport), and emerging issues such as emissions from deforestation and adaptation strategies. A new US government, expected to be installed by spring 2009, is seen as a major opportunity and milestone for reaching an ambitious global agreement.

EU-China Forum

On 27 November the IES hosted the seminar “**Corporate Social Responsibility in China in the Light of the 2008 Olympic Games**”, co-organized with the Brussels China Forum and Human Rights in China (HRIC).

The Beijing Olympics next summer are a window of opportunity to further the awareness of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in China, said keynote speaker **Sharon Hom**, executive director of HRIC. That the Olympics matter tremendously to Beijing is a leverage point for the promotion of the ideas of CSR and human rights in China which should be used not only for the time the games actually take place, but also induce improvements beyond 2008. CSR, however, cannot serve as a substitute for a comprehensive demand for human rights in China. This becomes especially clear with reference to China's regulations on State Secrets that severely decrease transparency and effectively undermine good governance and the rule of law. Such circumstances also create problems for foreign enterprises investing in China.



Tom Dodd from the Corporate Social Responsibility Team in DG Enterprise and Industry echoed the remarks on China's legal system, which can be classified as rule by law instead of rule of law. He underlined that CSR cannot be the only answer to a problem that is mostly rooted in some countries' lack of good governance, which is not only the case in China. According to the seminar's chairman **Jan Wouters** from the *Katholieke Universiteit Leuven*, the EU does so far not envisage creating a binding regulatory framework for CSR;

businesses apply standards only on a voluntary basis.

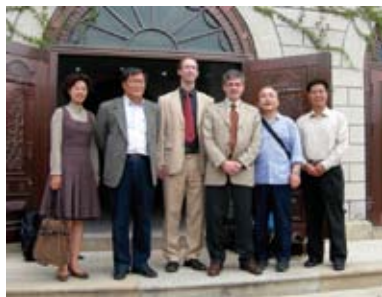
Bernard Dewit from the *Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce*, underlined the reasonability of the EU's soft approach on CSR, by arguing that forcing a strict framework on businesses would decrease their willingness to comply. For European businesses in interaction with China CSR is an issue on several fronts. An exceptionally good treatment of Chinese workers by foreign companies, for example by increasing their salaries, is often discouraged by Chinese authorities. The authorities fear a negative impact on social cohesion, since it creates wage imbalances with Chinese employed by domestic companies. Similarly, strict environmental standards can lead to the close-down of factories if the latter are unable to comply with the laws. Subsequent unemployment

raises new problems for the livelihood of Chinese workers. A positive development in China's cities is the rise of a more affluent middle class. These consumers start to be concerned about issues such as product safety, which is already a first step to developing a better CSR framework within China. However, a serious challenge is the wide development gap between cities and rural areas.

According to conference host and IES scholar **Sigrid Winkler**, Progress leading to a real system change in China is slow, the country needs time for its development. Until change can be accomplished more Chinese domestic and international efforts need to be undertaken to improve the situation.

Executive Director visits China

Between 3 and 9 November, IES Executive Director **Anthony Antoine** attended several meetings in China. Accompanying Prof. Dr. **Gustaaf Geeraerts**, Director of the Brussels Institute for Contemporary China Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Science, he met up with **Zhang Xiaojin**, Dean of the Centre for European Studies at Renmin University, Beijing, and with **Xinning Song** and **Francis Baert** of the United Nations University *Comparative Regional Integration Studies* centre. Together with other experts, they discussed the future of the VUB-Renmin exchange programme that has been successfully going on for the past four



years, but of which European funding has now come to an end.

Traveling through China, Anthony also met up with the Vice-Dean of the European Studies Centre of the University of Xiamen, and with the Dean of the International Office of Shenzhen University, Prof. **Gao Litian** and his associates. Shenzhen, a booming city that grew from a mere 3.400 inhabitants in the mid-80s to over 14 million people today, is likely to have its university sign a cooperation agreement with VUB. With an average population age of 27, Shenzhen is at the academic forefront of China.

New faces at the IES



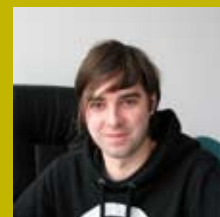
Following the departure of Nele Fasseel as secretary of the Institute, some reshuffling at the IES secretariat

has taken place. External vacancies were launched to assume positions of management assistant and general secretary. As a result, **Laïla Macharis** will henceforth assist management in its daily duties, while newly appointed **Hilde Vanderheyden** will assume the function of general secretariat. Prior to working at the IES, Hilde held positions at the International Relations and Mobility Department of VUB and at VUB-Press, University's publishing house.



Visiting us from the Research Centre on Transformations of the State at the University of Bremen is **Alexia Herwig**.

Alexia, who received a grant under the GARNET mobility scheme, started her research at the IES in September and will stay for about one year. Her postdoctoral research project is entitled “Services Trade under the GATS – Does Good Post-national Governance Require a Post-national Social Model?” and aims at focusing on how WTO and EC law on trade liberalisation of services link with social protection policies in such fields as labour law and public services.



IES Management and secretariat benefit since September from the assistance of **Basil Vynck**, a final year history

student at VUB. Basil will help out at least until the the beginning of the new year.

New lecture series on Media and Communications

The Institute for European Studies is proud to announce its new lecture series on "The Changing Media and Communications Environment - Rethinking the Policy Frameworks?". This spring lecture series, which will start on 27 February, will be organized in collaboration with the IBBT/SMIT department of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* and with the *Turku University* (Finland).

It focuses on

- (1) the changes affecting the media and communications sector and
- (2) the way EU policies and regulatory re-

gimes try to cope with such changes, be it in a proactive or reactive manner.

The lecture series aims at uniting high level policymakers, academics, industry representatives, as well as advanced students from national and EU levels to discuss several aspects of the central theme.

In the first introductory session, the focus will be on the changes the media and communications sector are undergoing. The second session intends to be a high level, overall introduction to how the EU policy and regulatory frameworks adapt to the changes, comple-

mented with some academic comments and preliminary insights.

From the third session onwards the series tries to focus on distinctive parts of the policy and regulatory framework in order to provide a global and critical view on all the changes at hand. It cuts across different policy areas, such as competition policy, R&D policy, copyright issues and DRM....

The lecture series will lead to a publication in the IES lecture series books.

Registration is free of charge but compulsory. Please register via email to ies@vub.ac.be.

The IES Calendar of Events 2008

The IES is organizing a lecture series entitled "The changing media and communications environment". Starting 27 February 2008, we are inviting experts in the field to give a two-hour lecture on various aspects of EU's media policy. The lectures take place (in principle) every week in lecture theatre D.2.01 of the VUB. Please register via the IES website.

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| Wednesday 27 February '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "A changing media and communications environment", by Commissioner Viviane Reding (invited) and Timo Ruikka (Nokia) |
| Wednesday 5 March '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "Re-thinking the policy framework" |
| Wednesday 12 March '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "Civil liberties in the information age" |
| Wednesday 19 March '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "The audiovisual media services directive" |
| Wednesday 9 April '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "Competition: anti-trust and mergers" |
| Wednesday 16 April '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "The PSR reconsidered? State aid and PSB" |
| Wednesday 23 April '08 VUB, 18:00 | Lecture series on Media and Communications in the EU "Standards and immaterial rights" |
| Thu 24 - Sat 26 April '08 Egmont Palace | International IES/GARNET Conference: The EU in International Affairs For details: see http://www.ies.be/conference2008/ |

If you wish to register for one of the events described above, please write to ies@vub.ac.be or contact us directly on +32(0)2/629.1222 (or fax +32(0)2/629.1809)

Conversely, if the IES can co-operate in an EU-related activity, please let us know!

Updated information can be obtained from our website, at <http://www.ies.be/>